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Holiday

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HOLIDAY EVENTS IN CAPE MAY
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Winter Wonderland at Congress Hall
The magic returns to Congress Hall! Congress Hall is delighted to announce its 13th annual Winter Wonderland—our beloved holiday spectacular that celebrates this special time of year in Cape May. Join us for old favorites like Breakfast with Santa, Congress Hall Express rides, and Santa's Workshop activities.
Sat, November 25th

Small Business Saturday on The Washington Street Mall
Shop small on the Washington Street Mall on Small Business Saturday, a nationally recognized day that encourages people to support small businesses, which are the core of America's economy! Shop the 75+ small businesses, with many featuring great sales and specials, all among festive decor. The Sweet Adelines a capella singers will be on the Mall from 12 to 2 p.m. featuring the sounds of the season, and Santa Claus will be doing some shopping himself and stopping for photos on the Mall from 2 to 5 p.m. In addition, monetary donations will be collected for the Cape May Community Food Closet. The merchants of the Washington Street Mall thank you for shopping small in the cozy heart of Cape May!
Sat, December 2nd 7-9pm

The West Cape May Christmas Parade
Always the first Saturday in December, the WCM Community Christmas Parade sets the stage for the areas holiday season. Now in its 57th year, the parade steps off at 5:00pm sharp from the WCM Volunteer Firehouse and marches South on Broadway, winds East on Perry, and onto Carpenter Lane in the City of Cape May. A small army of volunteers assemble an unforgettable hometown memory each year!
Fri, December 8th 7-9pm

Hospitality Night on The Washington Street Mall
Enjoy the sounds of the season from the Sweet Adelines a capella singers and a strolling musician, the beautiful holiday decor, and a visit from Olde Saint Nick!! Participating merchants will offer discounts and specials along with free lite bites and drinks in the cozy heart of Cape May.



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Holiday safety tips for pets

from The Humane Society of The United States

Learn how to keep your pets safe during the holiday season.

Pet behavior and holiday guests

- Though the excitement of a party may overwhelm some pets, keep your pets inside during cold weather and provide plenty of toys to keep them busy.
- If needed, provide your cat or dog with a quiet room or crate during holiday parties and/or prepare ahead of time to discourage barking.
- Inform your visitors ahead of time that you have a pet.

Skip the table scrap snacks: Foods not to feed pets

- **Bones:** Bones easily splinter and can cause serious health problems (even death) for your pet.
- **Candy:** Particularly chocolate—which is toxic to dogs, cats and ferrets—and any candy containing the toxic sweetener Xylitol.
- **Chives**
- **Citrus and pits:** Keep foods containing citric acid away from your pets. Foods such as cherry pits, peach pits and apple seeds contain essential oils that have the ability to cause irritations, blockages and even central nervous system depression if a significant amount is ingested.
- **Coffee:** Grounds, beans and chocolate-covered espresso beans.
- **Eggs (raw or undercooked)**
- **Fish (raw or undercooked)**
- **Garlic**
- **Grapes and raisins:** These can cause kidney problems.
- **Leaves and stems:** From vegetables such as tomatoes.
- **Meat (raw or undercooked)**
- **Nuts**
- **Onions, as well as onion flakes and powder**
- **Salt**
- **Trash:** Pets who engage in trash-digging can accidentally eat foods that are potentially poisonous to them. Keep trash in tightly sealed containers or hidden somewhere your pet can't access.

Deck the halls: Holiday decorations and pets

- **Christmas trees and holiday greens:** Make sure your dogs or cats do not chew on limbs or droppings from the tree. Ingested pine needles could get lodged in the intestinal tract, puncturing the lining or bunching together and causing an intestinal obstruction.
- **Water base:** The water base of a Christmas tree may contain dangerous chemicals that could harm your pet.
- **Christmas lights and tinsel:** Position your tree's lights and tinsel away from the bottom of the tree where pets can reach them. Some pets climb up or into trees and can even knock them over.
- **Candles:** Don't leave candles unattended. Pets may accidentally knock them over and spill wax or start a fire.
- **Firestarter logs:** Dogs that enjoy chewing should steer clear; these logs contain sawdust and paraffin which can cause an irritated stomach or even intestinal blockage when ingested.
- **Plants:** A number of seasonal plants are poisonous to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly, mistletoe and poinsettias.

By sleigh or sea: Holiday travel and pets

- Carefully consider whether to take your pet with you on a trip (air travel can be dangerous).
- If you leave your pets home while you travel, be sure to choose a pet sitter or boarding kennel wisely.
- Wherever your pets spend the holidays, dogs and cats should all wear collars and tags with ID that offer a way to reach you.

In case of emergency

- Identify your closest 24/7 emergency veterinary clinic before an emergency occurs.
- Write down or store in your phone the number for your veterinarian or pet hospital, as well as the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 888-426-4435. Note that a consultation fee may apply.

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Catch the Spirit of the Holiday Season in The Wildwoods

The Wildwoods host four weekends of holiday fun, with a Holiday Shopping Village, Holidays at HenVile, and Small Business Holiday Shopping. Embrace the festive spirit of the season in the Wildwoods by indulging in small business shopping and exciting holiday events.

The Wildwoods may be a favorite summer destination, thanks to its free white sandy beaches, world-famous boardwalk, and vintage Doo-Wop architecture, but the cooler temperatures signal the transformation of the Wildwoods into a fun holiday destination. Year-round businesses are gearing up for the holiday season with special offerings and personalized service you can't get with the large box stores or from shopping online; and shopping small has an undeniable trickle-down effect. For every \$100 dollars spent at a locally owned business, nearly \$70 stays in the community and contributes to local economic growth. 'Shopping small' also allows customers to get to know the people behind the product or service, which results in unbeatable customer service and personalization. Whether it's fudge, bikes, surf boards, jewelry, clothing, pet supplies, or home décor, you can find the perfect one-of-a-kind gift. For a list of businesses, visit WildwoodsNJ.com.

Small Business Saturday - The Wildwoods' 4th Annual Holiday Shopping Village is back, promising a Small Business Saturday experience like never before. The completely outdoor shopping experience will take place at Byrne Plaza on Saturday, November 25 from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will feature numerous small business vendors offering everything visitors will need for their holiday shopping lists. From handcrafted jewelry to baked goods, holiday decorations and so much more, this year's Holiday Shopping Village is a must-visit for the holidays in the Wildwoods.

Holidays at HenVile - In addition to the Small Business Saturday festivities, MudHen Brewing Company is hosting Holidays at HenVile, a pop-up shopping experience at 127 W. Rio Grande Avenue in Wildwood on Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 10. Holidays at HenVile features plenty of activities for the whole family, including face painting, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot cocoa, s'mores stations, and live music. Visitors won't want to miss the shopping at this favorite annual event. With outdoor pop-up vendors, family activities, and more, this year's Holidays at HenVile will be sure to please.

The Wildwoods know how to celebrate the season, with a festive list of Holiday Celebrations that are perfect for the entire family:


Fri, Dec 1 - Greater Wildwood Jaycees Christmas Parade
Parade registration/check-in begins at 5 p.m. at the North Wildwood Rec Center, 10th and Central Aves, North Wildwood. The Parade lines up along Central Ave and steps off 16th Ave at 6:30 p.m., proceeding along Central Ave, then Pacific Ave to Spicer Ave where the parade will turn and proceed to Byrne Plaza. Awards will be announced for floats and decorated business lighting contest at approximately 7:30 p.m. in Byrne Plaza. (Rain date Dec 3; line-up at 4 p.m. step off at 5 p.m.) For more information call 609-729-5501 or visit www.WildwoodHoliday.com.

Fri & Sat, Dec 1 & 2 - Greater Wildwood Jaycees Downtown Wildwood Christmas in the Plaza
In Byrne Plaza, Downtown Wildwood, enjoy free carnival rides, musical entertainment, and vendors from 5-9 p.m. on Fri, Dec 1, and from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sat, Dec 2. For more info call 609-729-5501 or visit www.wildwoodholiday.com.

Fri & Sat, Dec 8 & 9, 15 & 16 - Wildwood's Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park
The Wildwood Recreation and Fire Department elves and friends are back at it again this year, spreading old-fashioned Holiday Cheer at the Annual Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park. The Park is located at 123 E. Andrews Avenue. The light show kicks off Friday, December 8. Contact the Recreation Center at recreation@wildwoodnj.org or 609-522-5837.

Sat, Dec 9 - 'Pinch the GrYnch' Boardwalk 5K Run
This holiday Boardwalk 5K run and 1-mile walk is fun for all ages! Event starts at 10 a.m. - rain or shine. Participants are asked to register online. Participants are encouraged to dress in festive holiday outfits. For more information, contact 609-849-8887 or visit lynchtoydrive.com/pinch.

Mon, Dec 18 - Wildwood Crest Holiday Lights Walk
Celebrate the season among bright light displays! Starting at 5:30 p.m., walkers will meet at the corner of Rambler Road and New Jersey Avenue and take an approximately 30-minute walk along Sunset Lake and the surrounding neighborhood to view the various holiday and Christmas light displays. The event is free to attend but registration is encouraged. All participants will receive a small holiday gift at the conclusion of the walk. For more information, please email lfarrall@wildwood-crest.org.



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CHRISTMAS IN CAPE MAY

Cape May County always has a ton of fun, family events throughout the holiday season. Some of our favorites are listed below. More info at capemaymac.org.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOURS - Cape May MAC launched its first Christmas tour in 1974 and ever since this tour has been a beloved annual tradition and a highlight of the holiday season in America's only National Historic Landmark City. This self-guided walking tour celebrates the best of Cape May at Christmas, as you travel Cape May's gaslit streets, hear musicians and carolers, and visit homes, inns, B&Bs, churches and hotels where you'll step inside to see both Victorian and more modern interiors beautifully decorated for the holidays. Don't miss Cape May's longest running and most popular Christmas tour.

PHYSICK FAMILY CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR - Take this guided living history tour of the magnificent 1879 Physick Estate, Cape May's only Victorian house museum, decorated in authentic Victorian style for Christmas. Your guide portrays a member of the Physick family in the early 1900s and shares stories and traditions. The tour also includes a visit to the Carroll Gallery to see "An Old-fashioned Christmas" exhibit, a popular annual display featuring a huge Christmas tree, model trains, and an elaborate Dept. 56 Dickens village collection.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS TROLLEY RIDES - Who can resist the twinkle of Cape May's beautiful Victorian homes decorated for Christmas? This trolley ride through the historic streets of Cape May is a delight. Listen to Christmas music and enjoy hearing about the history of many of the Christmas traditions of today. Victorian Cape May is outstanding at Christmas and this is a ride to share with friends and family to revel in Cape May's Christmas spirit. Trolleys are open-air. Blankets are recommended. Cape May MAC blankets are available for purchase at the Washington Street Mall Info Booth and the Physick Estate. Tour begins and ends at the trolley stop on Ocean Street.

'TIS THE SEASON & DINNER AT VINTAGE - Enjoy dinner at Vintage at 5pm followed by the 6:30 performance of *Tis the Season: Missing the Mistletoe*. Fridays, December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd.

The townfolk of Cape May are buzzing with excitement, especially after a fresh blanket of snow brings them closer to the big day. All except for Adeline Baker, the sole heiress of the Baker family fortune, who is quite fed up with being alone. Each

potential suitor has been less promising than the last. Can you help Adeline find love in time for Christmas? Or will she spend another holiday season alone?

LAMPLIGHTER CHRISTMAS TOUR - See inside a selection of Cape May bed & breakfast inns and private homes, specially decorated for the holidays on this self-guided evening walking tour that includes a visit to An Old-fashioned Christmas Exhibit in the Carroll Gallery at the Physick Estate Carriage House.

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST TROLLEY RIDE - Listen to dramatic tales of Christmas woe featuring Victorian ghosts, told by a member of the East Lynne Theater Company, on this ride along the historic streets of Cape May. You'll be happy you live now, not then. Begins and ends at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth and travels through Cape May's historic district.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT THE INN OF CAPE MAY - Share a delicious breakfast with family and friends and welcome special guest Santa Claus, himself, as he visits The Inn of Cape May at 7 Ocean Street. He will meet and greet his fans with time for photos and sharing wish lists. Event is limited. Advance purchase required.

"AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS" EXHIBIT - Enter a holiday wonderland and feel like a child again as you see our extensive Dept. 56 Dickens Village collection beneath the boughs of our giant Christmas tree. All this plus old family photos, trains and more. There's even a place to drop off your letters to Santa!

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR - A virtual experience! (Vimeo On Demand) From the comfort of your home, experience Cape May's Christmas Candlelight House Tour, a beloved annual tradition for nearly half a century, virtually! Watch this virtual tour with family and friends and bring a bit of Cape May at Christmas into your own home for years to come. Featured are 10 Cape May homes, B&Bs and inns decorated for the holidays including interviews with owners and innkeepers. Participating properties include: The John B. McCreary House ("The Abbey"), Angel of the Sea Bed & Breakfast, The Bedford Inn, The Cherry House, The Emlen Physick Estate, Franklin at 721, The Henry Sawyer Inn, The Mainstay Inn, The Mason Cottage and The Mission Inn. The trailer is available to watch online anytime <https://vimeo.com/on-demand/capemaychristmastour>. This presentation is sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank and Brown & Brown Insurance. Proceeds benefit Cape May MAC.

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December in Smithville is a Winter Wonderland!

When you get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, plan a day at Smithville to slow it down, enjoy your family and be reminded of the simpler pleasures of the holidays. Smithville in December is just what your holidays need!

Light Show on the Lake: Everyday in December 5:30-8:30
Over 120 Christmas Trees constructed from over 50,000 Christmas lights, magically float on Lake Meone in the center of Historic Smithville and the Village Greene. The moment darkness falls, an orchestrated show of lights and music is played out across the lake. The lights seem to dance and chase each other to the music all the while reflecting off the water's surface. This show can be seen from either side of the village as well as the bridge.

Dickens Fest: Saturday Nov 25, 1pm and 7pm. Sunday November 26, 1pm
Riddlesbrood Touring Theatre Company brings the Spirit of Christmas to Historic Smithville, 615 E. Moss Mill Rd, Smithville, NJ 08205, with a two day outdoor "Dickens Fest" featuring an original, musical adaptation of "A Christmas Carol", Charles Dickens' heartwarming, classic tale of redemption and transformation. "Dickens Fest" is free to the public and parking is free.

Hospitality Night: Saturday, Dec. 2, 6pm-9pm
Each year the shoppes at Historic Smithville thank their loyal customers with a Hospitality Night of Discounts, Refreshments, Live Entertainment and Raffles.

Girls Night Out: Thursday, Dec. 7, 6pm-9pm
December in Smithville has something for the Girls too! An evening for the ladies to shop and celebrate the Holiday season together. There will be wine and cheese, raffles, discounts and other benefits for evening shopping. Grab your best girl friend and come join us!

Breakfast with Santa at Fred and Ethel's Lantern Light: Reservations needed, Saturday, Dec. 9 and 16. *Reservations needed - Lantern Light 609-652-0544*

S'mores on the Greene: Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the month of December you can find us making s'mores around the camp fire on the Greene. For a small fee you will purchase your own s'mores packet and stick and make delicious yummy treats or just gather with us and enjoy. 5pm - 8pm weather permitting (high winds or rain are the only thing that will prevent this event)

The Magic Talking Christmas Tree: Friday Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Saturday Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23 from 12:00 - 7:00. Sunday December 4th, 11th, 18th, 26th from 12:00 - 6:00 (Free Event)

If you are having trouble locating Mrs. Claus, you can always ask the Magic Tree. You heard me right!! Next to the Smithville Train Station an over sized Christmas tree is brought in from Santa's private forest. This beautifully decorated Christmas tree awakens to talk with you and your children about the upcoming holidays and, well, anything you might want.

Right next to the Magic Talking Tree the Smithville Train has decorated it's tracks for the Holiday's. For \$3.00 per person, you take a 6 1/2 minute ride on the outskirts of Smithville on this fun, whimsical train. Both the train and carousel are open village hours weather permitting throughout the month of December.

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- One 10-ounce bag frozen or fresh cranberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon orange zest plus 1/4 cup orange juice
- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup grated Gruyere cheese
- 48 frozen prebaked phyllo cups or hors d'oeuvre cups
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives

Hint: Try these cheeses in place of Gruyere - Emmental, Jarlsberg, aged Cheddar or Fontina.

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment.
2. Mix the cranberries, sugar, orange zest and juice in a small saucepan. Place over medium heat and cook until the cranberries soften and start to burst, 8 to 10 minutes. Set aside.
3. Combine the cream cheese and Gruyere in a large bowl with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until smooth.
4. Place the phyllo cups on the parchment-lined baking sheet. Spoon about 1 teaspoon of the cranberry sauce into each cup. Spoon about 1 teaspoon of the cheese mixture on top of the cranberry sauce. Bake until the cups are crisp and the cheese is melted and bubbling, 10 to 12 minutes. Sprinkle with chives before serving.

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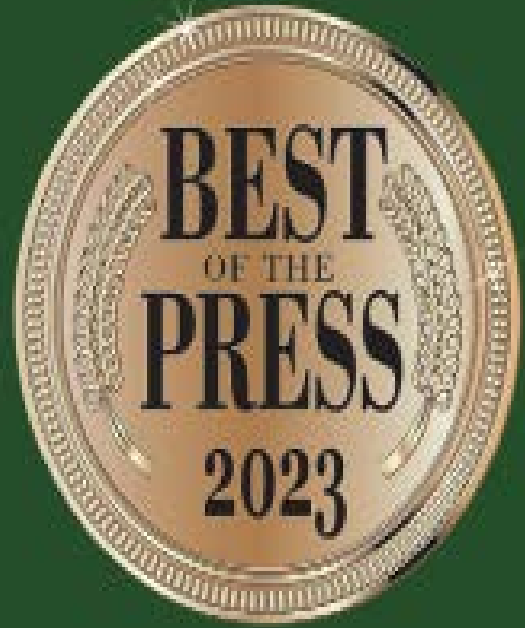
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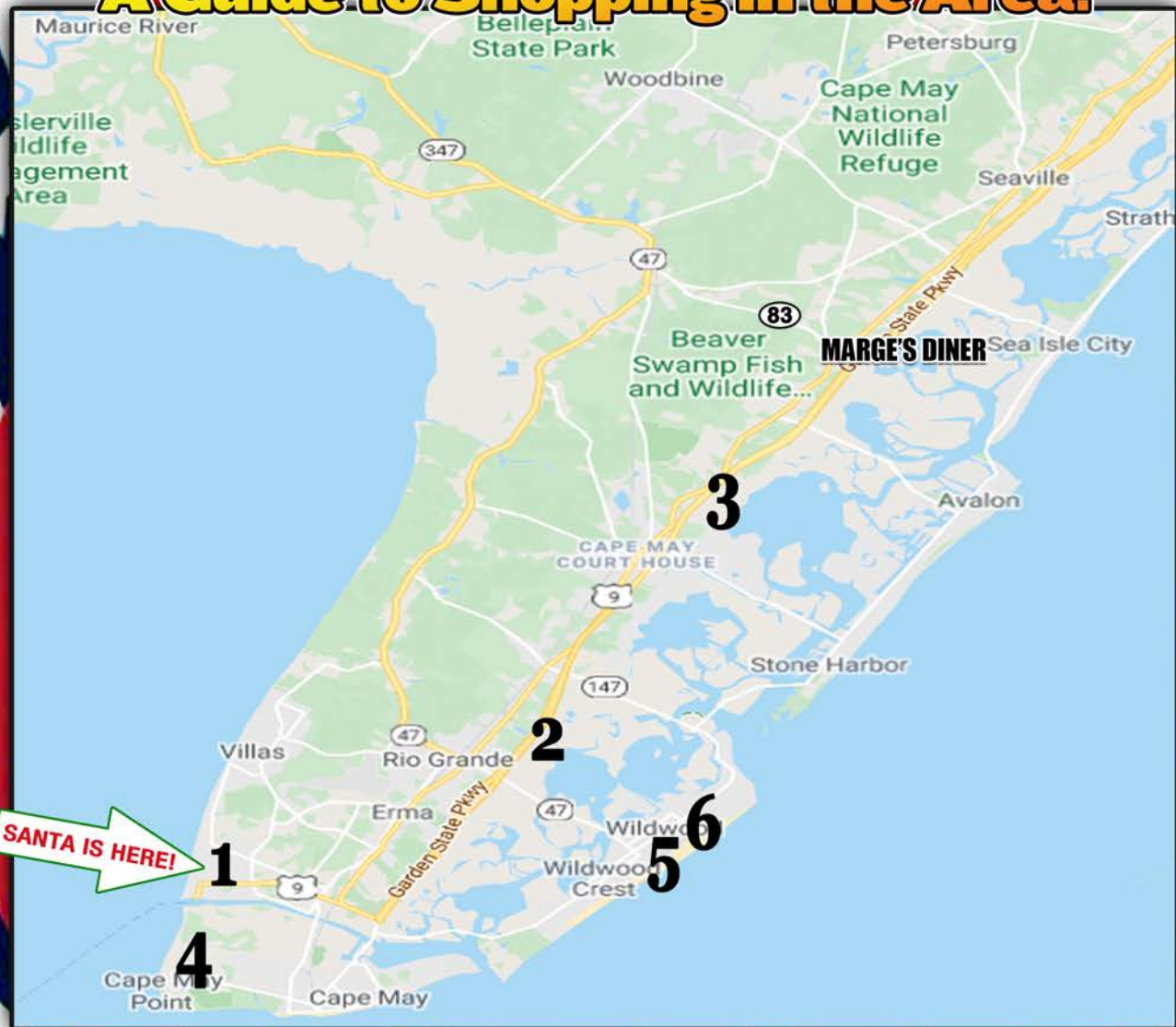
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Try Thrifting This Holiday Season

Cape May and Atlantic Counties have many great Thrift Stores. We recently came upon an article on Guideposts by Life Advice Author Roberta Messner to help you guide your way through thrifting this Holiday Season. Stretch your holiday budget with these helpful thrift store tips for gift shopping.

Would you like to stretch your holiday budget and not have those dreaded bills filling your mailbox come January? You can, if you shop the thrift store way. Thrifting is a great way to stretch your family's dollars and to be a good steward of the resources God has entrusted with you.

Gifts. Holiday fashions. Home décor. It's all there just waiting for your discovery. Here's how to make the most of your efforts:

1. Make a list of hoped-for items. You probably won't find an entire outfit for that Christmas party in one shopping trip, but knowing what you need is a first step to actually procuring it.

2. Get to know the thrift stores in your area and how they operate. Each location has its own system for organizing goods (some are color-coded, for instance, while others are offered according to size). Also, many locations have a seniors' discount day or other promotional. A pair of Miss Me jeans for five dollars for your teen daughter is sweet, but half-price on Wednesday really seals the deal.

3. Study the stores and catalogs, particularly the high-end ones, as these are where the greatest bargains lie. Talbots. Ralph Lauren. BabyGap. Train your eye to recognize these well-known brands, so you can snap them when they appear on the thrift store rack. It's all there waiting to be searched out by none other than you! Reviewing the catalogs will also help you learn what's in style and what those items originally cost. Years ago, a neurosurgeon I worked with me told me that a nurse only sees symptoms they know to look for. It's the same with thrift store shopping. Know what to look for.

4. Maintain an open mind. You might not be in the market in the middle of August for a holiday frock for your six year old, but if you find one with the store tags intact and the price and size are right, scoop it up for later on. The same goes for that book your favorite nephew has been wanting to read. If you're in doubt, place the object in your shopping cart to reassess before leaving.

5. Make sure you actually need what you are buying. And always try clothing on if possible. Remember, it's not a bargain if you can't put it to use. Be creative. Repurposing is one of the great joys of thrifting. (I call it repurposing with a purpose!) Can that vintage skating skirt be transformed into a Christmas tree skirt? What about that patchwork curtain? Maybe it would make a terrific stocking if you and your sewing machine got reacquainted. And if a jacket looks a little plain, consider replacing the buttons with a bit of bling. Simple strategies such as these can take an object from so-so to splendid.

6. Always check for rips, stains, and other flaws. Hold fabrics up to the light for closer scrutiny. There is so much merchandise out there, I stick to brand new or pristine items. They are usually no more expensive than objects past their prime and give you the greatest bang for your buck.

7. Ask for help. Thrift store clerks are familiar with their merchandise and they just might know where that designer purse for Aunt Mildred is lurking among the discards. You won't find everything on your list in one fell swoop, so go often and take your time. When you do run onto a heart's desire, it's more than worth the wait.

8. Keep a thrift shopping journal. Someone wise once said that when you journal, you get to live twice. Looking back is a wonderful way to appreciate how God has blessed you with your new money-saving hobby. Thrifting is an adventure every time, and your journal is a marvelous place to document your travels.

NETFLIX Christmas Movies List 2023

- Best. Christmas. Ever! - Dec 2023
- Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square
- Scrooge: A Christmas Carol
- Christmas Chronicles 1 & 2
- Falling for Christmas
- A Family Reunion Christmas
- Tyler Perry's 'A Madea Christmas'
- A Cinderella Story: Christmas Wish
- Elf Pets: Santa's Reindeer Rescue
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Christmas With You
- Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey
- The Princess Switch
- The Princess Switch: Switched Again
- Happy Holidays From Madagascar
- Father Christmas is Back
- Pee-Wee's Big Holiday
- The Claus Family 1 & 2
- Christmas on Mistletoe Farm
- The Knight Before Christmas
- Operation Christmas Drop
- The holiday
- Klaus
- Holidate
- David & The Elves
- Bad Santa 2
- Wonderland
- A Christmas Prince
- The Holiday Calendar
- Home for Christmas
- How to Ruin Christmas
- A Castle For Christmas
- Angela's Christmas
- Trolls Holiday
- Alien Xmas
- Smart Christmas
- Holiday Rush
- Deck the Halls
- Let It Snow
- Christmas Inheritance
- The Noel Diary
- Single All The Way
- Robin Robin
- I Believe in Santa

DISNEY+ Christmas Movies List 2023

- The Naughty Nine - Dec 2023
- Miracle on 34th Street
- The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Home Alone 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Good Luck Charlie, It's Christmas!
- Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas
- Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
- Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas
- A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa
- The Ultimate Christmas Present
- The Search for Santa Paws
- Santa Paws 2: The Santa Pups
- Richie Rich's Christmas Wish
- The Santa Clause
- The Santa Clause 2
- The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause
- The Santa Clauses
- Mickey & Minnie Wish Upon a Christmas
- Winnie the Pooh: A Very Merry Pooh Year
- Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special
- One Magic Christmas
- The Christmas Star
- Frozen 1 & 2
- Olaf's Frozen Adventure
- Die Hard
- Disney's A Christmas Carol
- Jingle All The Way
- A Muppets Christmas Carol
- Santa Buddies
- Noelle
- Snowball Express
- I'll be home for Christmas
- 12 Dates of Christmas
- Santa's Workshop
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- Mickey Saves Christmas
- Mickey's Christmas Carol
- One Magic Christmas
- 'Twas the Night
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INGREDIENTS:

- 3 clementines, plus 1 very thinly sliced, for garnish
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 2/3 cup cranberry juice
- 1/3 cup lime juice
- 1 1/2 cups vanilla flavored vodka (recommend: Grey Goose)

1. Cut the clementines into quarters and squeeze their juice into a saucepan. Add the sugar, water and clementine flesh and bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat and simmer the mixture for 5 minutes. Pour into a strainer set over a measuring cup, pressing on the solids to remove as much liquid as possible. Discard the solids, cool the liquid to room temperature and pour into a pitcher. Add the cranberry juice, lime juice and vodka and stir well. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Put 6 or 8 martini glasses in the freezer.

2. To serve, pour the mixture into an ice-filled cocktail shaker and shake until very cold. Pour into the chilled martini glasses and garnish each with a clementine slice. Drink up and enjoy!

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CINNAMON ROLL BREAD PUDDING

Combine two favorite desserts
- cinnamon rolls and bread pudding -
and make one crowd-pleasing dish.



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups whole milk
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar plus 1 tablespoon for garnish
- 1/3 cup nut-flavored liqueur (*recommended: Di Saronno or Frangelico*)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 7 cups large dice cinnamon challah (or plain challah or brioche plus 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon) (about 10 ounces challah)
- 1 cup walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees F and arrange a rack in middle.
2. Whisk together milk, cream, eggs, 1/2 cup sugar, liqueur, vanilla, and salt in a medium bowl until egg is broken up and mixture is smooth. Evenly distribute bread and walnuts in a 2 quart baking dish, pour custard mixture over bread, and allow to soak for at least 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, bring about 8 cups water to a simmer over medium-high heat.
4. Evenly distribute remaining 1 tablespoon sugar over bread pudding. Set the filled baking dish into a larger roasting pan and add enough of the hot water to reach halfway up the sides of the baking dish. Bake until custard is set and top is lightly browned, about 50 to 60 minutes. Remove from water bath and let sit 5 to 10 minutes before serving. Serve warm, at room temperature.

**'ROUND THE REGION
HOLIDAY EDITION 2023
with Sharon**



By Sharon Harris-Zlotnick

Hello South Jersey:

The November/December holiday season is always an eventful month. Both Atlantic and Cape May Counties will host a variety of fun activities.

Use this "holiday happenings" guide to plan your activity schedule. Look for updated information this month.



**GIFT CARDS, PROMOTIONS
AND SHOPPING DEALS**

TANGER OUTLET GIFT CARDS- Redeem your Bally Bucks (2:1) at Bally's Boutique in the hotel lobby for Tanger Outlet gift cards for dining, shopping or experiences at all 50 Tanger Outlets. Certain restrictions apply.

WIN A HOLIDAY GETAWAY PACKAGE- Through Christmas Eve, 12/24, visitors may win an Atlantic City holiday getaway package. This mini-vacation includes overnight stays, food & beverage credits, spa treatments and concert tickets. To enter the giveaway, visit AtlanticCityNJ.com

HAMMONTON HAPPENINGS

11/25- Small Business Saturday- all day throughout Downtown Hammonton.

12/2/12/3- Rotary Winter Fest- Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Fairgrounds. This free event invites you to visit with Santa, enjoy festive decorations, a crafter market and holiday goodies.

12/2 (rain date 12/3)- Annual Tree Lighting- 6 p.m.-9 p.m. (rain date 12/3) at the intersection of Central Ave. and Bellevue Ave. This free event includes live performances at 7 p.m. before Santa arrives to light the tree. Then, meet and greet Santa at the Funky Cow Café. Enjoy the Mistletoe Mart art market until 9:00 p.m., which will feature local crafters and artists, wintry fun and festive holiday goodies.

12/9- Hammonton Fire Department "A Country Christmas" Parade- 7:00 p.m. on Bellevue Ave. Free to the public.

12/21- December Third Thursday "Jingle, Mingle & Kringle"- 5 p.m.-8 p.m. throughout the historic Downtown Hammonton District. Take a stroll to enjoy the holiday decorations, photograph the pop-up Winter Wonderland display, enjoy the popular holiday songs performed by carolers and select your favorite wreath during the Wreath Walk. Free to the public.

12/31- New Year's Eve Bash & Blueberry Drop- 11 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Town Hall (100 Central Ave.) Fingers crossed for good weather for this free outdoor event. After an evening in the Downtown District, head over to Town Hall to ring in 2024 with the Great Blueberry Drop and midnight fireworks. Select Hammonton businesses will remain open late.

OCEAN CITY EVENTS

Just over the bridges, Ocean City has a full schedule of holiday events:

11/18- Earlier Than the Bird Extravaganza- Celebrations along Asbury Ave., Ocean City's main commercial street, kick off the season. This annual event features shoppers dressed in pajamas from 8 a.m.-noon. Whether in pajamas or not, shoppers will enjoy early-bird shopping specials at stores between Sixth St. and 14th St., with chances to win special gifts and prizes.

11/23- Annual Fast & Furiest 5K Turkey Trot- Down the Boardwalk, sponsored by the Humane Society of Ocean City. (609) 398-9500, ext. 4, or hsocnj.org

11/24-12/22- "Festive Fridays"- Every week from Black Friday, 11/24, different activities until Christmas Eve.



Black Friday begins with the traditional Christmas in the Downtown- "Our Miracle on Asbury Avenue"- a time for shopping, horse-and-carriage rides, street entertainment, carolers and visits with Santa. After Santa uses an Ocean City Fire Department ladder truck to descend from City Hall rooftop at 5 p.m., he will help illuminate City Hall with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

11/25-12/23- Photos with Santa in a Lifeguard Boat- 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at the Ocean City Music Pier.

11/25-12/23- Visits with Santa in the Downtown- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Mark Soifer Park, 9th St. and Asbury Ave. 11/25- Holidays with the Ocean City Pops- 6 p.m. Conductor Vince Lee will lead the Ocean City Pops with a concert of classic and modern holiday favorites. Sara Maimone will be the featured soloist. Tickets are \$25 and \$20. Online ticket sales and information on in-person purchases at oceancityvacation.com/boxoffice.

11/25-12/23- Free horse-and-carriage rides- Every Saturday and Sunday, from 12 p.m.-3 p.m., visitors may enjoy an old-fashioned freeride throughout the downtown. Riders board the carriages at Sixth St. and Asbury Ave.

12/1- The annual Christmas Parade- 6 p.m. on Asbury Ave. from 6th St. to 11th St.

12/2-12/3- Train Show- Free admission to model train show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

12/8-12/10- 'Finding Nemo JR' Ocean City Theatre Company students in grades 3 to 8 will perform

this Disney classic adaption at 7:30 p.m., 12/8 and 12/9; 2 p.m. on 12/10. Details and online ticket sales available at oceancitytheatrecompany.com.

12/8-12/22- Festive Fridays will continue with shopping, carolers and free horse-and-carriage rides from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

12/31- First Night New Year's Eve Celebration- 4 p.m.-midnight. This 31st anniversary event will feature rides, ice-skating and magicians. Headline entertainment will include Gypsy, the Stevie Nicks tribute band, and the Motown revue Motor City. Schedule information and \$15 ticket sales of all-inclusive admission buttons available at firstnightocnj.com.

1/1/24- First Day Celebration- Preregister at www.ocnj.us/race-events for the 1 p.m. 5K Run on the Boardwalk, a 2 p.m. First Dip polar plunge in the ocean and an all-day shopping extravaganza.

SPECIAL EVENTS

11/22- Foam Party- Thanksgiving Eve at Showboat Hotel's Island Waterpark is the place to experience a new kind of party. The in-person foam party experience will include drink specials, live music and more. Bring a swimsuit to enjoy getting covered in foam at Paradise Island swim-up up bar. Must be 18 or over. Get tickets-no refunds at <https://www.eventbrite.com>.



12/1- The Atlantic City Tinseltown Holiday Experience begins with a tree-lighting ceremony at The Yard at Bally's Atlantic City Casino Resort, decorated as a Winter Wonderland all month.



12/2 and 12/3- Noyes Holiday Market & Gingerbread Village- Noyes Arts Garage in Atlantic City. Month-long gingerbread display.

12/2 (rain date 12/9) Winter Wonderland Holiday Parade- 12 p.m.-2 p.m. with actor Kelsey Grammer as Grand Marshal. Parade route begins at Lloyd Stadium (N. Indiana Ave. at Huron Ave.) and winds through the city to its end on South Carolina Ave.

12/8- 8 p.m.- A Musical Comedy Revue Show- Resorts Casino Hotel will feature many of the best local entertainers to benefit the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots. Doors open in the Superstar Theater at 7 p.m. and a cash bar will be available from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Admission is free to anyone who brings a new, unwrapped toy.

12/9- Luminary Light Festival- Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City. 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. DJ Kelli emcees. Wine and cheese tastings, gift shop specials and more. \$25-per-person donation.

12/9- Steel Pier Holiday Wheel- Atlantic City Boardwalk

12/9- Pastry Series with Chef Thaddeus: Holiday Edition (Hard Rock Hotel & Casino)

12/16- Mistletoe Market (Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall)

Storybook Land- 10 miles west of Atlantic City, the famous family amusement attraction in will become a winter wonderland

11/26 and 11/27- Dickens Festival-Historic Smithville- the retail and dining complex will become a winter wonderland.

Through 12/30- "Christmas Fantasy with Lights" Enjoy Smithville's floating Holiday Light Show

Through 1/5/24- Magical Talking Tree and Christmas Train.

Visit <https://www.actinseltown.com/> for more details. All casinos will host dining, holiday activities and events.

TREE LIGHTINGS

11/28- 6 p.m. Showboat Atlantic City. Owner Bart Blatstein will light its 50-ft Christmas tree on the Boardwalk for the holiday season. Blatstein made history last year as the first to put a live Christmas tree on the Boardwalk. The balsam fir will be adorned with 8,000 lights to illuminate the Boardwalk. Attendees may enjoy free, festive family fun, toy giveaways, games, rides and hot cocoa. Craft vendors and photos with Santa will also be offered.

The ceremony kicks off Showboat's Holiday Extravaganza on the Boardwalk, with new events every Saturday and Sunday throughout the holiday season.

12/1 (Rain date 12/2- O'Donnell Memorial Park in Atlantic City's Chelsea neighborhood- 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Celebrate with festive performances from Dynasty Alliance and DJ Jose. Free face-painting photos with Santa, hot drinks and holiday giveaways.

12/1- 4:30 p.m. The Yard at Bally's- Tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, holiday treats and more at the official tree lighting. Bring a new unwrapped toy to Bally's Toys for Kids toy collection or make a cash donation to 177th FW Spouse Foundation.

12/1- Orange Loop Community Events, 7 p.m.-midnight. Tree lighting at 7:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.-adult events, including an Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl.

12/11- 5:30-8:30 P.M. Deck the Hall - Festival of Trees at Boardwalk Hall- Partnering with the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to support Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties neglected and abused children, the public is invited

to sponsor a custom decorated holiday tree to be exhibited at a private reception. These trees will be displayed throughout the holidays in the Boardwalk Hall lobby. Contact erin.bilton@spectrap.com to sponsor a tree.

Throughout December- Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will showcase both a festive Christmas tree and Menorah to celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah, located in the entry to the property. Festive décor like holiday-themed glitter sticks, Christmas balls, lush poinsettias, green holiday wreaths and garlands will be scattered throughout the property.

LIVE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Casinos throughout Atlantic City have scheduled showroom entertainment and special holidays programs from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Eve. Check each casino's website for more details:

11/24-12/24- Christmas in the Air (Borgata Casino Hotel & Spa)

11/25- Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony (Ocean Casino Resort)

11/25- Atlantic City Ballet: It's a Shore Holiday (Caesars Atlantic City)

11/25- The Sharpe Family Singers (Resorts Casino Hotel)

11/30- Doo Wop Christmas (Tropicana Resort & Casino)

12/7-12/10- Santa's Christmas Wonderland (Harrah's Atlantic City)

12/9- II Divo: A New Holiday Tour (Ocean Casino Resort)

12/9- Holiday Dreams: A Spectacular Holiday Cirque (Golden Nugget Atlantic City)

12/9- A Dickens of a Murder: A Holiday Murder Mystery (Resorts Casino Hotel)

12/9 and 12/10- Cirque Musica: Holiday Wonderland (Tropicana Resort & Casino)

12/10- Swing into Christmas- Benefiting Toys for Toys (Resorts Casino Hotel)

12/15- Lindsey Stirling: Snow Waltz Tour (Caesars Atlantic City)

12/15- Engelbert Humperdinck (Hard Rock)

12/16- Atlantic City Ballet: The Nutcracker (Caesars Atlantic City)

12/16- Matteo Bocelli (Hard Rock)

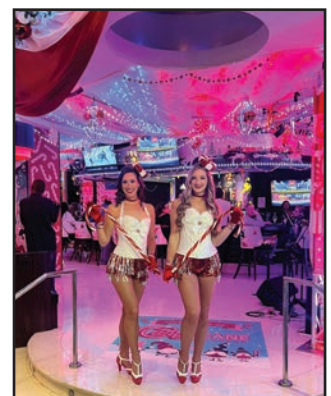
12/16- The Modern Gentlemen: You Make It Feel Like Christmas (Resorts Casino Hotel)

12/16- My Big Gay Italian Christmas (Ocean Casino Resort)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Harbor Pines Golf Club (Egg Harbor Twp.)- 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m., enjoy an a la carte gourmet dinner menu and live music for romantic dancing. Reservations required. <https://www.harborpines.com/rsvp2/>

THE YARD- Bally's in Atlantic City- 9 p.m.-11 p.m. The \$75 package includes and open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Later, ring in 2024 with a cash bar, beer specials and live music from Go Go Retro! Tickets at TicketWeb.com.



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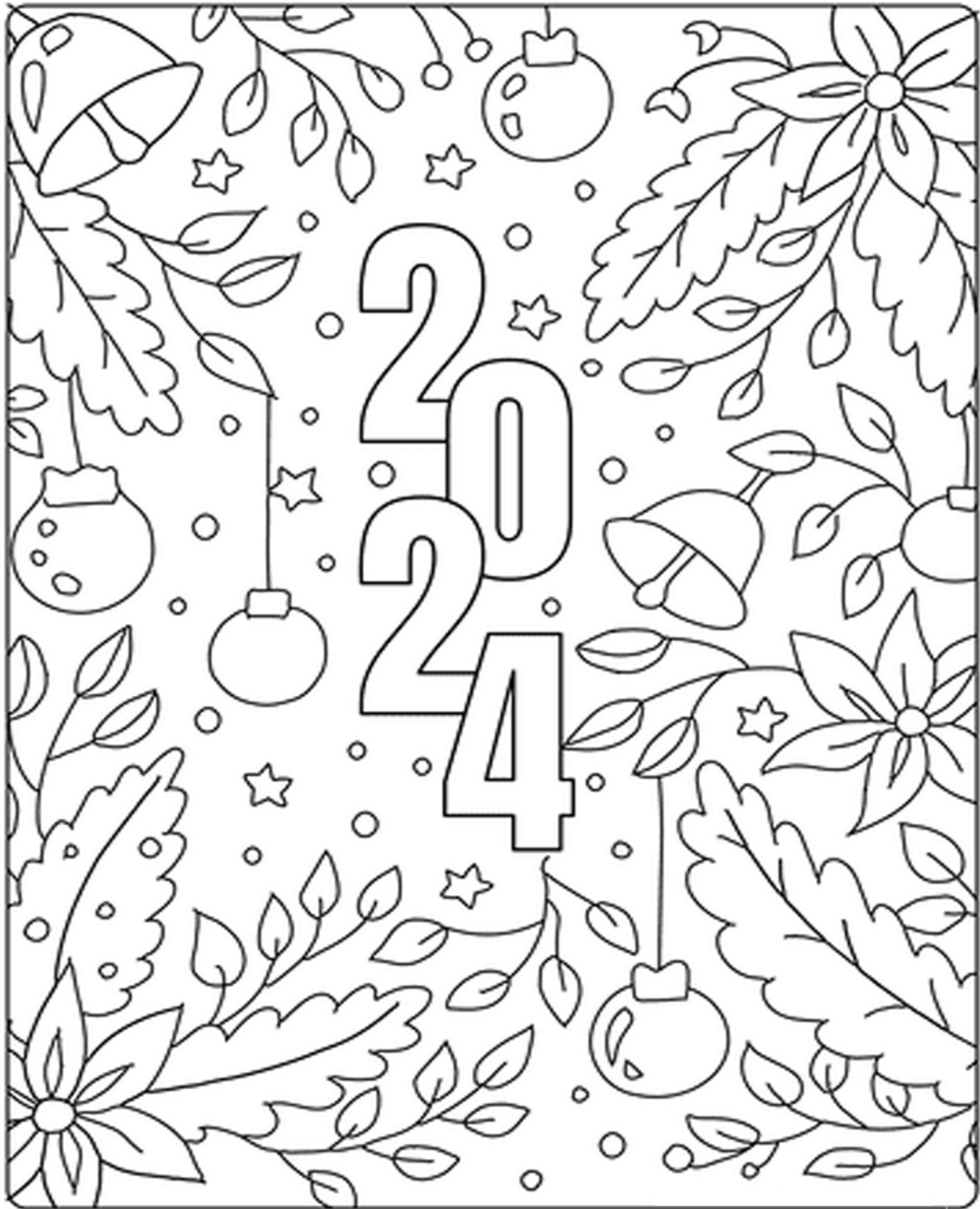
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Jersey Cape & Atlantic County Magazines' 2024 New Year Coloring Contest

How does the contest work? All entries must be received by Wed, Jan 3, 2024. One entry per child. To enter, take a picture of your child holding up their completed coloring page and email it to atlanticcountymagazine@comcast.net with the subject "Coloring Contest." Be sure to include child's name, age and what they are looking forward to and/or goals for this year. ***Are there prizes?*** Yes! The winner will be featured in Atlantic County and Jersey Cape Magazines as "Child of the Week" with their art!

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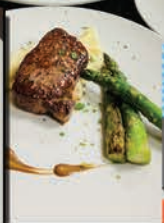
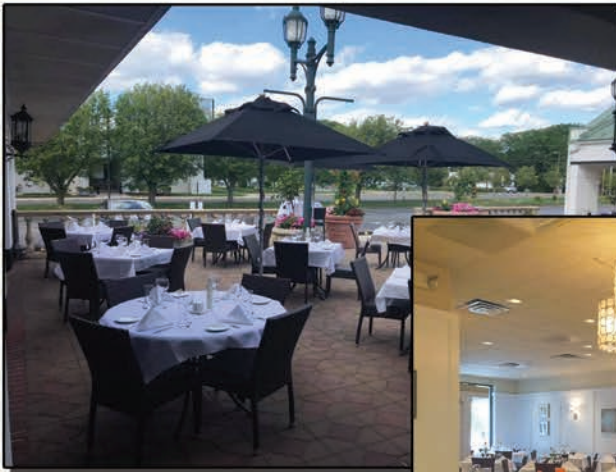
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HOW TO BRING IN THE NEW YEAR IN ATLANTIC CITY

Sip, sip, hooray - it's the final countdown! Time to put your party pants on & ring in the New Year with us in Atlantic City! 🎉 From live music and shows with some of the best names in entertainment, to wild parties with the hottest DJ's around, open bars, champagne toasts, festive cocktails and so much more, get ready to bring on the bubbly!

The Claridge Hotel - Blast from the past NYE party at the VUE Rooftop Bar & Lounge! The Time Warp New Year's Eve bash requests you dress up in your favorite look from the past, present, or future. Enjoy an open bar and refreshing crudites, DJ and perfect spot to view New Year's Eve fireworks along the Boardwalk. December 31 \$50 9pm - 1am.

The Great Gatsby New Years' Eve Bash in the Grand Ballroom promises to be a fabulous night out! Get decked out in 1920s attire and have a roaring good time. Join them for a dazzling night with a lavish, grand buffet, live entertainment, open bar, and a sparkling champagne toast at the stroke of midnight.

Harrah's Resort: The Pool After Dark - The Pool at Harrah's Resort is heating up this New Year's weekend! Marshmallow makes his first pool day club debut on Saturday, December 30! On Sunday, December 31, ring in 2024 under the dome at the Pool after Dark! Enjoy a 3-hour open bar starting at \$65+ from 8pm - 11pm. General admission to the public starts at 11pm and the party continues until 3am with a champagne toast at midnight!

Ocean Casino Resort: HQ2 Nightclub - Celebrate New Years Eve with GATTÜSO at HQ2 Nightclub on Sunday, December 31! The New York City-based DJ and producer takes the stage for an exhilarating night to

kick off the new year! GATTÜSO is known for his collaboration with Disco Killerz, "Million Things", that has topped the Billboard Dance Radio Airplay. Come party with GATTÜSO and dance the night away to his unique take on house music. GA entry after 11pm is \$39+, Hosted Premium Bar from 9pm - 11pm is \$59+.

Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar at Tropicana's The Quarter - Pre-fixe Dinner, DJ and Dancing. Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar will be open for dinner seating's from 3pm - 8pm. Enjoy a pre-fixe dinner with 3 seating's at 9pm, 9:30pm and 10pm (21+ only) for \$125. Includes an elaborate five-course prix fixe menu, featuring a canapé, appetizer, salad, entrée and dessert. Enjoy a Champagne toast at midnight with DJ, dancing and party favors keep your table all night! Drink packages start at a 2-hour open bar for \$50 only available with prix fixe.

2024 Atlantic City Polar Bear Plunge - New Year's Day. Join in on the fun New Year's Day on the Beach in front of Landshark Bar & Grill as Cancer Support Community New Jersey at Gilda's Club (CSCNJ) is thrilled to announce the 32nd Anniversary for the Atlantic City Polar Bear Plunge. The cost to plunge is \$25 per person and includes a commemorative t-shirt. All proceeds from the event go directly to CSCNJ's mission to ensure that no one faces cancer alone.

The plunge will take place at noon on the beach. Participants can begin to register in person at 10:00am inside of the Landshark Bar & Grill and are invited back inside for the after party immediately following the plunge. DJs from WZXL will be on the heated deck playing music and handing out prizes for the First In, Last Out, and Best Costume. To register in advance visit www.cscnj.org or call (609) 926-2699.

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