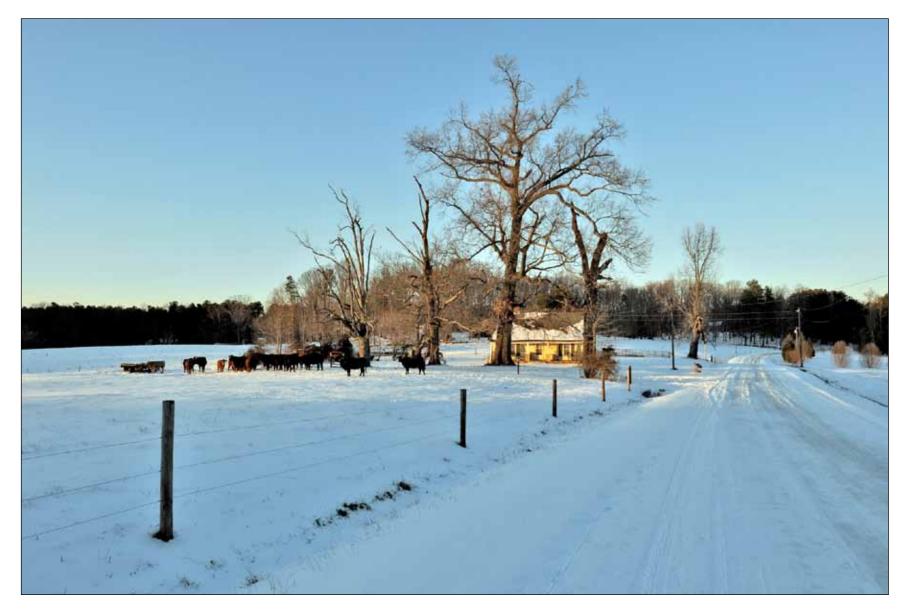


A MONTHLY MUSIC, ARTS AND LITERATURE PUBLICATION OF THE CARRBORO CITIZEN VOL. 4 + NO. 3 + DECEMBER 2010







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Support our local economy

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owned community newspaper.

THE CARRBORO



SANTA'S SECR

WINTER SEASONAL MENU Featuring Fresh Local Ingredients

Celebrate the season at panzane a

Holiday SHOPPER'S SATURDAY SPECIAL

Every **Saturday** through **December 18th**, we will stay **open all day** to provide you with a nourishing break from holiday shopping. On those Saturdays, from **2 - 5 PM**, we'll be featuring a **Holiday Shopper's Special.*** The special includes **2 Cheese Pizzas** and a **Weaver Street House Salad** for only \$**20**. The full bar will be open all day, and all of our coffees and delightful desserts will be available.

*HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S SATURDAY SPECIAL is available December 4th, 11th and 18th, 2010, from 2 – 5 PM. Toppings may be added to the pizzas for an additional charge. The lunch menu is available until 2 PM, and the dinner menu is available after 5:30 PM.

Panzanella will be closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, Dec. 24th & 25th. We will reopen for Dinner on Sunday, Dec 26th, with our regular dinner hours – 5:30 - 9 pm.



Holiday CELEBRATIONS

more. Please ask about our menu options for large parties. To check on availability and plan your special event, please contact **Paola Cisarano** at **919 929 6626**.

Historic Carr Mill at Greensboro & Weaver Streets in Carrboro, NC (919)929 6626 **WWW.panzanella.coop**



We'll be open for Lunch and Dinner on Friday, New Year's Eve, with our regular hours. In addition to our Dinner menu, we will also have a list of specials to celebrate the arrival of 2011.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Live music in Panzanella's dining room

Saturdays, December 4, 11 and 18

IN DECEMBER

After dinner, until 11 pm

Whether you're planning a holiday party for your business or a festive family dinner, Panzanella can help you create a delicious event. Reserve our entire restaurant (up to 90 guests) or make a reservation for any gathering of 6 or large parties. To check on availability and plan

carrborocitizen.com/mill + DECEMBER 2010 MILL



he photo by Jock Lauterer of the snow-dusted landscape on the cover of this issue of MILL is a reminder that not only is winter coming on, but that we seem to be in a climactic stretch in which that really means something.

Given the relative mild and sunny seasons of the past decade or so, it's been a bit of a surprise to see so much snow in the past couple of years. We've had big snows all along, of course, but they tended to be sparse and quickly melted.

Last winter, the Piedmont was a much snowier clime than many of the places up yonder much more closely associated with powder and plow. It was the year of "snowmageddon" and the rather amusing Twitter tag "#snOMG" (that's shorthand for "Snow My God!" old-schoolers). And though there was a corresponding amount of grouching over school delays, traffic snarls and all the grit and slush liberally sprinkled throughout town, it was a wonderful winter to be young or young at heart. Snow angels were made. Sledding occurred and there were nights of quiet beauty that only a snowfall can create. If you get kind of sentimental when the landscape gets all Currier & lves, it was a banner season.

This year, the early predictions are for a somewhat warmer and drier season, but we sit near the line that separates cold rain from its colder cousins, and, frankly, it's hard to tell what normal is anymore.

What can be safely predicted is that right around 6:38 p.m. on Dec. 21, the solstice commences and the Frost Moon comes up over the horizon. That'll make it official, and then Old Man Winter will go about his business. Best to lay in some firewood and wax up the runners on the Flexible Flyer. As recent history has shown, he can be an ornery cuss.



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"ALL HUMAN EVIL COMES FROM A SINGLE CAUSE, MAN'S INABILITY TO SIT STILL IN A ROOM" -BLAISE PASCOL

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK



breakfast if you get up early

brunch if you like to sleep in

WEATHERVANE at A Southern Season

Hours: 201 S. Estes Dr. M-Th 7-9 University Mall F-Sa 7-10 Chapel Hill Su 10-7 919.929.9466

DECEMBER IS FOR THE BIRDS

BY KIRK ROSS

hen it comes to bird watching, the winter season has a few things going for it, mainly visibility and variety.

V V For the avid birder to the curious beginner, it's prime time, a season when waves of species make their way through the Piedmont.

In December, the focus is on the annual Christmas Bird Count, when on consecutive Sundays – Durham, Dec. 19; Chapel Hill, Dec. 26; and Jordan Lake, Jan. 2 – birders get together to collect information for the annual local census.

"The Christmas Bird Count is where I learned to bird watch and what I do to become a better bird watcher," said Tom Driscoll, past president of the New Hope Audubon Society.

Driscoll, who has participated in counts in Duke Forest and his Eastwood Lake neighborhood since moving to Chapel Hill in 1996, said the counts are a great introduction to bird watching because you have a chance to be in the field



PHOTO BY JOHNNY RANDALL

with experienced watchers. It makes bird watching much less confusing, he said, when you're out in the field with people who know the birds and know the calls.

"We'll see 70 species routinely, Driscoll said, adding that counters sometimes encounter some astounding sights. One year, there was a flock of 250 cedar waxwings right in town; another year, he said, a similarly sized collection of American robins. Pileated woodpeckers and owls are often on the list.

Haven Wiley, a professor of biology at UNC, said the count has provided a look into the populations that migrate through the state in the winter and inspired birders.

"The count has done some very important monitoring," Wiley said, "It's also great fun."

If you're interested in participating in the Christmas Bird Count or just learning more about local bird watching, contact the New Hope Audubon Society at newhopeaudubon.org or the Chapel Hill Bird Club at carolinanature.com/chbc

especially on cold, windy days, according to UNC biology professor Haven Wiley.

Cane Creek and University Lake — They're closed for the winter; but bird watcher Margaretta Yarborough says that when they're open, the two OWASA lakes are great places to see all kinds of water birds. Cane Creek's quiet and a large heron rookery on the south end of University Lake make them both worth the trip.

N.C. 54 Impoundment – Plenty of waterfowl along with falcons, rusty blackbirds and woodpeckers are among the many species found along the trails near the waterfowl protection area.

FURTHER RESOURCES ON THE WEB:

Mason Farm website – ncbg.unc.edu/pages/41

Wild Bird Center – Owner Cynthia Fox maintains an active site for local birders at wildbird. com/franchisee/hil

N.C. Birding Trail – Maps and resources for hikers and birders at ncbirdingtrail.org

Chapel Hill Bird Club – carolinanature.com/chbc

New Hope Audubon Society – newhopeaudubon.org



Blue heron on university lake

A SURVEY OF SPOTS TO BIRD WATCH

Orange, Chatham and Durham counties boast some prime bird watching areas. Following is a list of spots compiled with the help of some local enthusiasts.

Mason Farm — The 367-acre Mason Farm Biological Reserve is managed by the N.C. Botanical Garden and features easy trail access through open fields, woodlands and wetlands. With more than 200 species of birds recorded, Tom Driscoll PHOTO BY STAN LEWIS

of the New Hope Audubon Society said it is a prime place for viewing year round, with an abundance of red-headed woodpeckers and migratory species.

Pedestrian Bridge at Bynum – Along with the small state park near the old mill, the bridge is an excellent place to bird watch and a good way to see birds farther up in the trees.

Jordan Lake — All kinds of ducks, gulls and grebes are to be found in the stiller waters of the upper portion of Jordan Lake Reservoir,

HOLIDAY CALENDAR





SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOLIDAYS



As if your dance card isn't already booked solid with shopping mayhem, visiting kinfolk and leafing through the L.L. Bean catalog, *The Citizen* hereby offers a rundown of save-the-dates for this year's holiday season. Topping the list, of course, is the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Look for The Heelraiser, Santa, doggie

SPOTLIGHT

TREKKY CHRISTMAS

Trekky Records will welcome a very special guest to its Dec. 16 Christmas at the Cradle show – legendary local jangle/power-pop band The dB's. The lads will join an impressive array of North Carolina performers for this fifth-annual gala to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, an event that's already well established as a Yuletide classic.

Guests, who will offer original takes on holiday favs, include the can'tmiss Trekky Yuletide Orchestra, The Old Ceremony, Filthybird, Phil Cook and His Feat, The Tender Fruit, Yardwork, Cassis Orange and In the Year of the Pig. Billy Sugarfix hosts.

Tickets (\$8 in advance) go fast. Purchase online at etix.com or at the Cradle box office or any local record store.

drill teams and plenty of marching musicians. The route runs through downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro, offering plenty of room to set up camp and enjoy some hometown fun. This year, the entire parade will be broadcast on The People's Channel.

OTHER EVENTS ON THE HOLIDAY TO-DO LIST INCLUDE:

Symphony Concert

The N.C. Symphony will perform *Deck the Hall! Holiday Pops for Kids*, an hourlong holiday joyride at Memorial Hall, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets and information at ncsymphony.org/kids

A Wonderful Film

A free showing of the film *It's a Won-derful Life* will be held at the Varsity Theater on Dec. 3 at 6:45 p.m. The showing is sponsored by the Community Home Trust as a celebration of home ownership. Donations to the affordable-housing nonprofit are encouraged but not required. To reserve tickets, contact Tamara Watson at twatson@communityhometrust.org or 967-1545, ext. 310.

TREE LIGHTINGS

Carrboro, Dec. 10 - The annual ceremony takes place on the lawn at Town Hall from 6 to 7 p.m.

Southern Village, Dec. 8 — The annual tree lighting visit by Santa and musical performances by Mary Saou of Christ Church and the Scroggs Elementary Chorus runs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FAIRS

Elf Fair (above) at The ArtsCenter, Dec. 11 — The all-day arts-and-crafts show runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and features soap, knit wear, baby stuff, jewelry, soy candles, arts and crafts from Oaxacan artists, music by Billy Sugarfix, holiday movie installations and plenty more.

South Estes Farmers' Market, Dec. 11 — The special Holiday Craft Market runs from 10 a.m. to noon and features artisans and crafters from around the area.

Southern Village, Dec. 5 — The annual holiday craft-and-gift market and benefit runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and features local books, music, jewelry, knit goods, honey and homemade jams and pickles. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable, packaged food items to donate to TABLE, an organization that feeds hungry kids in our community.

HOME TOUR

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill's annual Holiday House Tour is Dec. 11-12 from 1 to 5 p.m. each day and features 10 historic homes and a stop at The Carolina Inn. Call 942-7818 for ticket information or visit chpreservationblog.com

YE OLDE PITTSBORO CHRISTMAS

Carriage Rides and a ficticious walking tour of downtown are among the featured attractions for the annual Candlelight Christmas event in downtown Pittsboro on Dec. 11. Carriage rides through town run from noon to 2 p.m. and the walking tour, led by Emmett Davenport, starts a 4 p.m. Visitors are invited to wear fancy duds and enjoy the sights as well as live music at several local venues from 7 to 11 p.m.





DINNER MON -SAT 5:30 - 10PM late night dinner fri and sat until midnight

America's Top 50 Restaurants "Andrea Reusing cooks to her own tune..." _{Gourmet}

Restaurant of the Year News and Observer, 2008

One of America's 50 Most Amazing Wine Experiences Food & Wine







SPOTLIGHT

Carolina Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker* at Memorial Hall on the UNC campus on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5.

The holiday season staple captures the irrepressible imagination of a child's world in which all things are possible, featuring toy soldiers, dancing snowflakes, an army of mice and the Sugar Plum Fairy. *The Nutcracker* was Tchaikovsky's third and last major ballet.

Carolina Ballet has served the Triangle community since 1997 under the leadership of artistic director Robert Weiss, formerly a principal dancer with New York City Ballet.

Performances are Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$85 and \$10 for students. Tickets for children 12 and under are half price.



SPOTLIGHT

SHIPWRECKED

PlayMakers Repertory Company will present *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* through Dec. 19 in the Paul Green Theatre at UNC's Center for Dramatic Art.

The real-life-yet-tall tale by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Donald Margulies tells the story of Louis de Rougemont, an explorer who traveled the world and told his tales of adventure to breathless audiences in the music halls and scandal sheets of Victorian England. The swashbuckling storyteller, accompanied by his faithful dog Bruno, quickly



garnered fame and fortune, and then fell from grace just as swiftly.

Tom Quaintance, director of the theater's hit presentations of *The Little Prince* and co-director of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, returns to PlayMakers to direct *Shipwrecked*.

Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$10 to \$45. For a complete schedule, more information or to purchase tickets, call 962-PLAY or visit playmakersrep.org

SPOTLIGHT HEARNC MUSIC VIDEO FESTIVAL

Tonight (Thursday) is the night to attend the HearNC 2010 Music Video Festival. It's at Cat's Cradle and begins at 8 p.m.

HearNC is a new organization for N.C. artists aimed at encouraging and motivating North Carolinians of all ages and backgrounds to create their own art and show it to the world on HearNC.com. The festival will showcase North Carolina's most creative artists working with film and music. Awards will be presented for outstanding achievement in various categories.

Doors swing wide at 7. Billy Sugarfix and Bibis Ellison open. A reenactment of the Buggles' "Video Killed the Radio Star" will be presented. A dance party will follow. Tix are \$12.

A GUIDE TO EATING

AGAIN WITH THE TRUCKS

If 2010 has shown us anything, it's that the food truck is not a flash-in-the-pan phenom.

Carrboro, which has enjoyed the mainly Latino fare offered for many years, has recently experienced the same kind of diversification of mobile eateries as Durham, a town where the occasional food truck rodeos draw scores of vendors of wide variety.

If you've been in downtown Carrboro lately, you may have noticed the lines growing longer at the latest addition to the local fleet – this one devoted to those mini-burgers known affectionately as sliders.

Slippin' Sliders, a burger truck business run by Josie Shrum and Amy Davis, has been steadily developing a following since starting weekly visits to Carrboro this fall.

Davis, a 1998 graduate of Chapel Hill High who went through Alamance Community College's culinary program, said business has been brisk at the truck whenever they open up at their regular weekend spot in the parking lot of Cliff's Meat Market.

The pair buy all their meat from Cliff's and their vegetarian fare from the State

Farmers Market near the truck's home commissary in Raleigh.

The menu is varied and includes occasional specials like shrimp po-boys along with a variety of sides for the sliders. Davis says the Carrboro crowd has been partial to the West Coast Burger, which is a combination of ground brisket and sirloin served with bacon and a Cajun remoulade, and the Diablo Burger, which features, among other things, caramelized jalapenos.

Davis and Shrum are scheduled to slide back into town this Friday, starting at the "Velveeta" art opening at Wootini Gallery and then heading over to Cliff's for the duration of the evening.

As with many of the mobiles, you can keep up with Slippin' Sliders'

schedule through Twitter, at twitter. com/slippinsliders

BORDER PROVOCATION

In the ongoing touting of the glaring food truck imbalance between Carrboro and it's larger neighbor directly to the east, there'll be another Food Truck Showcase in the parking lot of Al's Garage in the border region between the two downtowns.

Featured at the Dec. 4 showcase will be Captain Ponchos Tacos, Parlez Vous Crepe, Carrboro Raw and an Indian food truck. The event runs from 4 to 7 p.m.

NYT HEARTS RTP (AGAIN)

Congrats to Sam Suchoff and Chapel Hill's own The Pig for getting a big kiss of ink as part of the recent "Axis of Cool" article in the *New York Times Magazine*.

The article, one of the Gray Lady's many recent nods to the food and arts cultures of the Triangle, also touts the awesome goodness of Only Burger, the much-

burger-andfries operation that opened a stationary location in Hope Valley

Square in mid-

November.

SAUSAGE WAGONEERS

Carrboro's own Jennifer Curtis, who has been an organizer in the farm-to-fork movement, has started a new enterprise called Farmhand Foods, with the aim of connecting local livestock growers and food lovers of the Triangle.

And, yes, a food truck is involved, specifically a "Sausage Wagon" serving handcrafted sausages. The wagon makes its debut at 3 Cups on Dec. 9 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. serving sausages paired with seasonal wines. Visti farmhandfoods.com for more info.

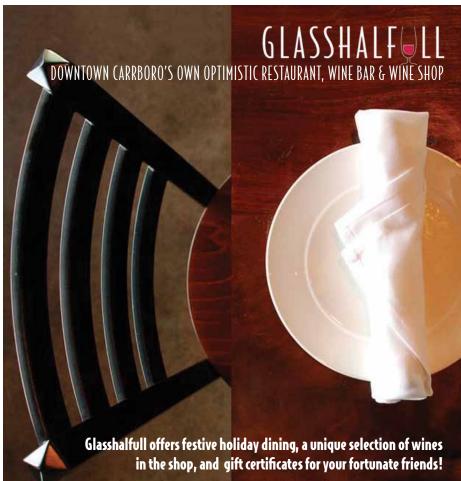
SMALL FARMERS GET A BREAK

Put a parenthetical "maybe" after the above headline, but there's at least some hope that the new food-safety legislation won't be the nightmare for small growers that many have anticipated.

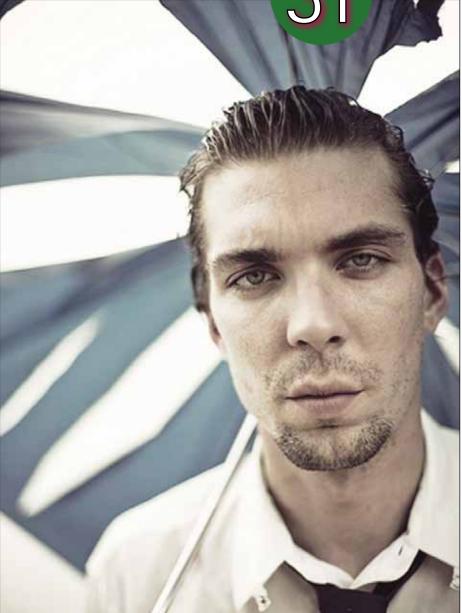
Sen. Kay Hagan's office recently announced that the North Carolina Dem has been able to win approval for an amendment to the legislation, which aimed at strengthening the Food and Drug Administration's ability to conduct food-safety inspections and conduct product recalls. Under the amendment, small producers will continue to be regulated at the state and local level. It applies to small producers who earn \$500,000 or less in annual sales and sell most of their food directly to consumers, local restaurants or retailers within a 275-mile radius or within the same state.

The bill still has to be reconciled with a version passed the U.S. House early last year.





Open Monday-Saturday, Serving Dinner 5-10pm; Lunch Monday-Friday 11:30am-2:30pm; Wine Shop Opens at 11 am 106 South Greensboro Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510 - 919.967.9784 - www.qlasshalfull.net



JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE 12/13 CAT'S CRADLE

DECEMBER SHOWS & HAPPENINGS



HOLIDAY PARADE 12/11 MAIN STREET, CARRBORO

12/3-12/4 6TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY Reservoir

Fri: Monsonia, jokes&jokes&jokes, Blag'ard, Transportation

Sat: Colossus, Backwoods Payback and Caltrop. 9:30pm Free

12/4

SOUTHERN CULTURE
ON THE SKIDSLocal 506ON THE SKIDSWith CottorCat's CradleMount MorHoliday Pig Pickin', BBQ
by Beau Catering.9pm \$12

A benefit for the Food Pantry. With The Forty-Fives and Pinche Gringo 9:30 \$12 adv/\$14 day of

SPIDER BAGS

Local 506 With Bellafea and Whatever Brains 9:30pm Free

12/8

CROOKED FINGERS

With Cotton Jones and Mount Moriah 9pm \$12

12/9-12/10 STROKE IT, NOEL

Cat's Cradle A band of superstars rock a fully orchestrated performance of Big Star's third album. Proceeds to benefit KidZNotes and the New Orleans Musicians Clinic. 8pm \$17 adv/\$20 day of

12/10

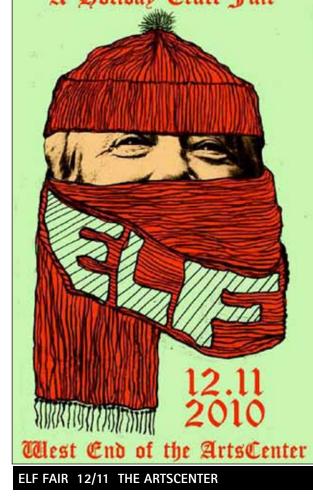
2NDFRIDAY ARTWALK Carrboro







A Holiday Craft Fair





JEFF HART & THE RUINS 12/11 THE CAVE

PIPE

The Nightlight With Caltrop and Double Negative 10pm, \$6

12/11

HOLIDAY PARADE! Carrboro

ELF FAIR The ArtsCenter Local crafters and artists selling their

handmade wares. Also, live music, holiday film, hot grog and cider. 11am-5pm

GENE WEEN (SOLO) Cat's Cradle

With Billy Warden and the Floating Children 9pm \$17 adv/\$20 day of

TRANSPORTATION Local 506

With Wesley Wolfe and Fan Modine 9:30 \$5

JEFF HART & THE RUINS

The Cave With Tripp and Adrian Krygowski. Late show \$5

12/13

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE Cat's Cradle With Caitlin Rose 8pm \$15

12/16

TREKKY RECORDS **CHRISTMAS AT** THE CRADLE Cat's Cradle Hosted by Billy

Sugarfix. A benefit for MS Society. 7:30 \$8 adv/\$10 day of

12/18

LUEGO Local 506 With Don Dixon and

BJ Barham 9pm \$6 12/19

7TH ANNUAL EVIL WIENER XMAS SHOW The Cave \$5



The Cave 8pm \$5

12/23

12/22

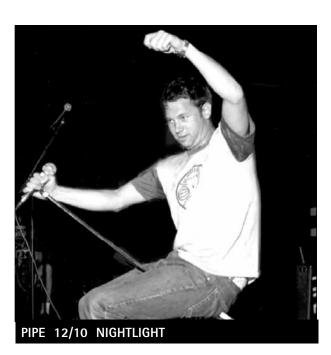
WYATT EASTERLING Cat's Cradle 8pm \$15

12/31

ARROGANCE **Cat's Cradle** New Year's Eve Party. With No Eyes and Dogbreath 9:30 \$20

THE MOANERS

The Nightlight With Veelee and Los Naturales 9pm





MILL CALENDAR

LITERARY

CARRBORO BRANCH LIBRARY

Ongoing Events — Storytime, Saturdays, 10:30am; Computer Classes, Saturdays, 10am

Chapel Hill Public Library

Ongoing Events – Story Time, for ages 3-6; Junior Book Club, for readers grades 1-3; Time for Toddlers, for stories, songs and activities; Baby Time, for children between 6 and 18 months; Teen Book Club, for teens in grades 6 and up; Bookworms Club, for grades 3-6. Knitting for Charity. Family Movie Nite. Dates and times vary. chapelhillpubliclibrary.org

Pajama Story Time – Dec. 29, 7pm

MCINTYRE'S

John T. Edge – celebrates *The Southern Foodways Alliance Community Cookbook* on the garden terrace with dinner and discussion. Dec. 3, 5pm sfaatmcintyres. eventbrite.com

Misha Angrist — to read from *Here Is a Human Being*. Dec. 4, 11am

Garland Tucker — to read from *The High Tide of American Conservatism*. Dec. 5, 2pm Elizabeth Hudson – to discuss *Our State* magazine: past, present and future. Dec. 10, 2pm

Georgann Eubanks — *Literary Trails of The North Carolina Piedmont*. Dec. 11, 11am Donald Davis — Holiday Storytelling. Dec. 18, 11am

Bland Simpson – discusses *The Coasts of Carolina*. Dec. 19, 2pm

FLYLEAF BOOKS

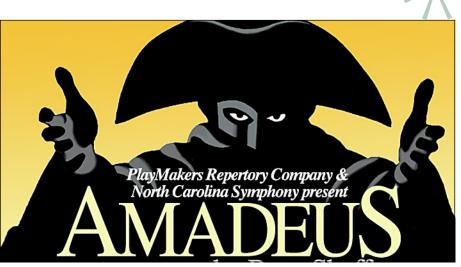
Saturday Morning Storytime – first Saturdays. 10am

Preschool Storytime – Dec 16, 10:30am Pajama Party Storytime – features Donna L. Washington. Dec. 17, 7pm Bowman Gray – discusses his collection of photographs for James Allen's *As A Man Thinketh*. Dec. 2, 7pm

Deborah Krasner– discusses Good Meat: The Complete Guide to Sourcing and Cooking Sustainable Meat. Dec. 6, 7pm Linda Sue Park – A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story. Dec. 13, 7pm Bland Simpson – discusses The Coasts of Carolina: Seaside to Sound Country. Dec. 14, 7pm

Book Lovers Club – discusses *City of Thieves* by David Benioff. Dec. 15, 7pm





INTERNATIONALIST BOOKS

Stevphen Shukaitis —discusses his book Imaginal Machines: Autonomy and Self-Organization in the Revolutions of Everyday Life. Dec. 14, 7pm Children's Book Reading — The Asteroid Bunny. Dec. 22, 2pm

THEATER THE ARTSCENTER

Holiday Extravaganza — celebration of the ups and downs of the holiday season with Transactors Improv Company. Dec. 3, 8pm \$14/12 members, \$7 students Charlie and the Chocolate Factory — with the Youth Performing Arts Conservatory. Dec 10-12, 16-19. artscenterlive.org

DSI COMEDY THEATRE

dsicomedytheater.com 200 W. Greensboro St. 338-8150

MEMORIAL HALL

Nutcracker – Dec. 4-5 carolinaperformingarts.org

PLAYMAKERS

Amadeus – Ray Dooley appears as Antonio Salieri, Mozart's scheming musical rival. Dec. 3-4, 8pm Dec. 5, 3pm

Shipwrecked — the true story of an intrepid explorer whose tales of adventure left Victorian England breathless ... until he fell from grace. Dec. 1-19, 2pm and 7:30pm

DEEP DISH THEATER COMPANY

Ho, Ho, Ho! – an evening of short readings from humorous seasonal pieces. Dec.3. deepdishtheater.org

CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Check, Please – CCCC acting students present this dinner-and-date comedy benefitting CORA, the local food pantry. General Store Café, Pittsboro, Dec. 15, 6:30pm

DANCE PARTICIPATORY

SEYMOUR SENIOR CENTER

Ballroom – fourth and fifth Thursdays. 7-9:30pm \$2. 968-2070

BALANCED MOVEMENT STUDIO

Carrboro DanceJam — freestyle dance. First Fridays, 8pm 968-8776

TRIANGLE STARDUSTERS

Ballroom — couples and singles are welcome. Fred Astaire Dance Studio. Second Saturday of every month, 8-11pm \$7/ StarDusters members and students, \$12/ others 942-7232

GENERAL STORE CAFÉ

Shag Dancing — every Monday, beginner class at 7pm, dance at 9pm. Free lesson first Monday of the month. 6pm

CARRBORO CENTURY CENTER.

Contra Dance – various times. tcdancers. org

PLEASANT GREEN COMMUNITY CENTER.

Square Dance – Dec. 11, 7:30pm nc-squares.com



Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

CONJURING A WHAT-IF WORLD

BY VICKY DICKSON



feel children's fiction is the most important fiction written," says John Claude Bemis, "and the most entertaining."

As a person who majored in elementary education at UNC and then spent more than 12 years teaching fourth and fifth grade, the Hillsborough author is well acquainted with the impact that books can have on a young person's life. Growing up, he'd always been a voracious reader, but didn't think seriously about writing as a career until he'd begun to teach.

"I suppose I approach my writing the same way I approached the classroom: It's better to offer students questions rather than answers," Bemis explains. "I want my stories to make readers curious about history, folklore and the world at large."

Being a songwriter and performer as well as an author, Bemis naturally understands the power of entertainment to engage curiosity. It's a lesson that was taught to him early on, in the stories his grandfather told of hopping trains and hoboing all over the country during the Depression. "I don't know if half of what he told me was true," he says, "but I didn't care. They were great stories."

Those railroad stories no doubt helped inspire Bemis to set his *Clockwork Dark* trilogy at the end of the 19th century, a time when steampropelled trains were a vital mode of transportation. Since the author is a big fan of fantasy-adventure stories and wanted to write one set in America, it's not surprising that he also found inspiration in the fantastic claims and incredible performances of the medicine shows that were so popular back then.

And because, for Bemis, writing means answering the question "what if?," it's not hard to see how some of his characters might arise from asking, "What if ... a medicine show's performers had superhuman abilities?" A Mexican girl who talks to the copperhead she carries up her sleeve, a black man with the strength to stop a train, an Indian who walks through fire and a siren who controls men by the power of her songs are among the enchanting answers.

Bemis' interest in folklore led him to the premise of *The Clockwork Dark*, when he asked himself what might have happened if the legendary John Henry hadn't died after defeating the steam drill. And when the author pondered the magnetic qualities of lodestones, imagining one that could lead a boy to his lost father, his young hero began the epic journey detailed in the trilogy, comprised of *The Nine Pound Hammer, The Wolf Tree* and the forthcoming *The White City.*

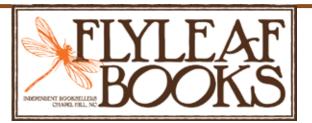
It's an enthralling tale, made more so by the folk legends and hoodoo beliefs that accompany the action: the bottle trees that can swallow up evil spirits and the roots and herbs that heal grave injuries or are carried in a flannel bag as charms to ward off danger. Readers – adults and children, alike - will find themselves so swept up in Bemis' stories that they may not even realize how much American history and folklore they've learned. They won't be able to help realizing, though, how eager they are for next spring's arrival of the trilogy's conclusion.

* * *

December's turning out to be a fine month for literary events of all kinds. This coming Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m., check out the Outdoor Gathering at Fearrington Village, celebrating the new *Southern Foodways Alliance Community Cookbook*. The book, featuring recipes from great Southern cooks of the past and present, should be as fun to read as it is to cook by. Contributors John T. Edge, Bill Smith and Sheri Castle will be on hand to discuss the cookbook, and attendees will enjoy freshly shucked oysters, fried chicken and hot apple cider. The event costs \$45, including a copy of the cookbook, or \$25 for the gathering alone.

Next up is an appearance by *All Things Considered* co-host Michele Norris at UNC's Carroll Hall on Dec. 6 at 3:30 p.m. At the Bull's Head-sponsored event, Norris will read from her new memoir, *The Grace of Silence*. The book was inspired by Norris' wish to uncover hidden conversations about race in America.

Lee Smith is hosting her annual Women's Center benefit, "Tea with Lee," at Foster's Market on Dec. 9 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Smith's guests this year are Jill McCorkle and Samia Serageldin, and all three authors will read from their works of short stories before signing books. Tea, coffee and wine will be served with finger sandwiches and desserts. Go to womenspace.org or call 968-4610 to purchase tickets, which cost \$55 and include a \$25 tax-deductible donation.



Every Thursday @ 10:30am-11:30am Pre-School story time & activity

Mon 12/6 7pm Award-winning cookbook author Deborah Krasner will discuss Good Meat: The Complete Guide to Sourcing and Cooking Sustainable Meat

Mon 12/13 7pm Newbery Award winning Young Adult author Linda Sue Park reads from A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story

Tues 12/14 7pm Bland Simpson The Coasts of Carolina: Seaside to Sound Country

Fri 12/17 7pm-8pm Holiday Pajama Storytime featuring Storyteller and Author Donna L.Washington

752 MLK Jr Blvd (Historic Airport Rd) Chapel Hill Next to Foster's Market & Flying Burrito 919.942.7373 * flyleafbooks.com



TRIM HOLIDAY WASTE! Orange County Solid Waste and Recycling Schedule

There will be NO CHANGE in Curbside Recycling for the Christmas or New Year's Holidays. Please have your bins to the curb **by 7 a.m**. on your normal recycling day!

The Orange County Landfill and Solid Waste Convenience Centers will CLOSE EARLY at 2:00 on December 24 (Christmas Eve) and December 31 (New Year's Eve) and will be CLOSED Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Solo Polo Polo

RECYCLE at Orange County Drop-off Sites and at the curb!



• **Corrugated cardboard:** three layered cardboard with a wavy inner layer. Empty boxes and flatten. 3'x3' and 10 piece limit at the curb. No limit at drop-off sites! Bring packing peanuts to a packaging store for reuse.

• **Mixed paper:** non-metallic wrapping paper (buy recycled), gift boxes, greeting cards (or save them for reuse), junk mail, catalogs. All clean, dry paper can be recycled at the curb, multi-family and drop-off sites. Visit **www.freemymailbox.com** to cancel unwanted mailings.

• Aluminum foil and foil pie tins: are accepted at the curb! Rinse off any food and recycle with aluminum cans and steel food cans.

• Batteries of all types and unwanted electronics: recycle at Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers. Rechargeable batteries save money and reduce waste.

• **Compost food waste:** Compost bins are available for sale at the Solid Waste Administrative Office, 1207 Eubanks Rd. \$50 cash or check. Give unserved foods to the Inter-faith Council 919-929-6380

• **Recycle Curbside and at Drop-off Sites:** glass bottles& jars, plastic bottles & jugs (neck smaller than base), metal cans, mixed paper, newspaper, phonebooks, cardboard, catalogs & magazines.

• **#2 and #5 Non-Bottle Plastics:** recycle yogurt tubs, buckets, cups, plant pots, broken toys and other non-bottle plastics (**#2 & #5 only!**) at drop-off sites except for Hampton Pointe. Please sort carefully!

24-hour Drop-off Sites: Solid Waste Convenience Centers:

- Carrboro Plaza, Carrboro
- Bradshaw Quarry Rd.Eubanks Rd.
- Cedar Falls Park, Chapel Hill
- Hampton Pointe, Hillsborough
- Meadowmont, Chapel Hill
 University Mall, Chapel Hill
- High Rock Rd.
 Walnut Grove Church Rd.

• Ferguson Rd.

Visit our website for site locations, specifications and hours of operation: www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling

Please sort recyclables carefully! Do not leave items on the ground! Happy holidays and thanks for recycling!

Orange County Solid Waste Management 968-2788 or recycling@co.orange.nc.us

ART NOTES

\twoheadrightarrow

IN THE GALLERIES

Openings this month include "Velveta," a show by painter Bruce White at Wootini, on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.; paintings by Steve Wright at the Horace Williams House, Dec. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.; and "Nothing is Still," photographs by Woitek



photographs by Wojtek Wojdynski, at the Carrboro Branch Library, Dec. 5 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Shows include "All Things Bright," works for the holiday season by member artists at The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts; "SoCal Cars," paintings and screenprints by Nuno Gomes at Panzanella; and "Coming Abstractions," artwork in different media, from rugs to collage to paintings, by Chris Beacham, Ben Gunter, Helen Henry, Collan Kneale, Steven Silverleaf, Sydney Sobol, Eric Starke, Karen Stone and Maggi Grace.

ARTSCENTER LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The ArtsCenter has announced a new year-long effort to increase membership. Executive director Ed Camp said the idea is to counter the downward trend in individual giving by adding 1,000 new ArtsClub members. That, coupled with smaller, more targeted fundraising efforts, should bolster the center's bottom line, Camp said.

ArtsClub member benefits include 10 percent off all programs, advance seating for shows and early notification of special programs. Membership is \$75 for an individual and \$150 for two or more persons living at the same address. artscenterlive.org

SMALL WONDERS AT FRANK

There's nothing big featured at FRANK Gallery this month. The gallery drew the line at 20 inches for its featured show, Small Wonders, which runs through Jan. 9. Other wonders on display this month include those by ceramic artist and Chapel Hill native Susan Fillery and textile works by Elaine O'Neill. The gallery will also host a holiday music concert on Dec. 18 by the Mallarme Chamber Players, who will be joined by the KidZNotes children's orchestra. The concert, which begins at 3 p.m., will raise funds for an effort for children in need in East Durham. frankisart.com

HOLIDAY TROLLEY TOUR

Eastgate, Womancraft and FRANK Gallery have teamed up to run a holiday trolley between the Franklin Street gallery and Eastgate Shopping Center, the home of Womancraft, on Dec. 10 during openings and meet-the-artist events at both locations. Four loops that evening, along with refreshments at each stop, are planned, starting at Eastgate at 6 p.m.

TREE SHOW AT THE ARTSCENTER

A show dedicated to the importance of trees with a book to match opens during the 2ndFriday Artwalk with an event at The ArtsCenter on Dec. 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. The book and show by the Paintbrush Forest collective – a mix of 30 local emerging and established artists – will raise funds for the Haw River Assembly. The project was funded by the Orange County Arts Commission.

MUSIC CALENDAR



THE ARTSCENTER

Birds and Arrows, The Lizzy Ross Band (12/4)

CAT'S CRADLE

Andy Hull, Kevin Devine, Gobotron (12/1) HearNC Music Video Festival, Billy Sugarfix, Bibis Ellison (12/2) Steep Canyon Rangers, Madolin Orange (12/3) Southern Culture on the Skids, The Forty-Fives, Pinche Gringo (12/4) Fran Healy (12/7) Stoke It, Noel (12/9, 12/10) Gene Ween, Billy Warden and the Floating Children (12/11) Relient K, Sherwood, Deas Vail (12/12) Justin Townes Earle, Caitln Rose (12/13) Thriving Ivory (12/14) Christmas at the Cradle (12/16) K.O Kid, King Me, Afika NX, The Apple Juice Kid, Evolewtion (12/18) Great Dog Almighty, Baby Copperhead (12/22) Wyatt Easterling (12/23) Arrogance, No Eyes (12/31)

THE CAVE

Jake Hughto (12/1) John Howie jr and The Sweethearts (12/3) Cole Park, The Stars Explode, The Breaks (12/4) Future Ghosts, Vinny Vegas (12/5) Jake Hughto (12/8) Amy Alley, Mumu Tutu (12/9) Dylan Gilbert, Joe Norkus (12/10) Burke, Tripp, Jeff Harts and the Ruins, Adrian Hardkow Krygowski (12/11) Glasgow (12/12) George Tisdale Band (12/14) Jason Myles Goss, George Tisdale Band (12/16) Pagan Hellcats, Penny Prophets, Stella Lively (12/17) Williams and the Cavalry (12/18)

CITY TAP

Marc Brown (12/2) Sarah Shook and the Devil (12/4) Jo Gore and The Alternative (12/9) Andy Coats (12/10) David Quick (12/11)Tracy Wiebeck (12/17) Jo Gore and The Alternative (12/30)

GENERAL STORE CAFÉ

Jazzbeau (12/2) Dmitri Resnik Band (12/3) Kelley and the Cowboys (12/4) See No Weevil (12/10) Tommy Edwards (12/11) Tony Galiani Band (12/16) Nikki Meets the Hibachi (12/17) Triology (12/18)

INTERNATIONALIST BOOKS Boat Burning (12/5)

JACK SPRAT

The Fooligans, Nine Lives (12/8) Chris Reynolds (12/14)

JESSEE'S

Anna Rose Beck (12/3) Andrew Kasab (12/4)

LOCAL 506

Thrill of a Gunfight, Deterrence (12/2) J. Roddy Walston and The Business (12/3) Spider Bags, Bellafea, Whatever Brains (12/4) Crooked Fingers, Cotton Jones, Mount Moriah (12/8) Crowfield, Wylie Hunter and The Cazadores (12/9) Tom Maxwell, Bustello, The Breaks (12/10) Transportation, Wesley Wolfe, Fan Modine (12/11) The Whiskey Smugglers, Gambling the Muse (12/17) Luego, Don Dixon, BJ Barham (12/18) Big Fat Gap, The Dogwoods, Lizzy Ross Band, Greg Humphreys, Michael Holland (12/19)

NIGHTLIGHT

Weathers Glover, Electric Catctus and Weather Machine, Boat Burning (12/2) North Elementary, Gray Young, Wages, Nathan and Patrick (12/3) Xiu Xiu, DJ Skull Vomit, Cheezface, The Ex-Monkeys (12/4) Yohimbe, Hunnie Bunnies, Ski Mask (12/&t0 Pipe,



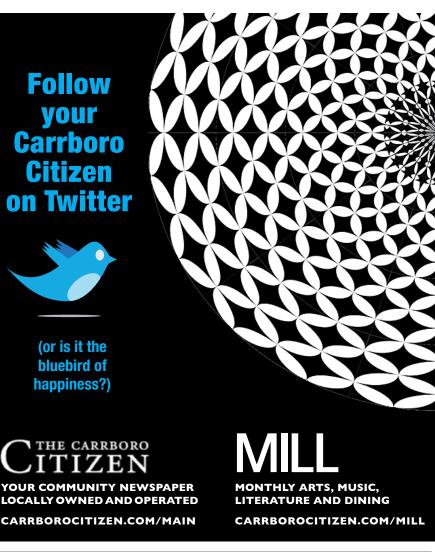
Caltrop, Double Negative (12/10) Woody Sullender and Seamus Cater, The Carribean, John Leseuer (12/11) Spaghetti Western, Dan Kinney, Mephisto Scrugg (12/14) I Am Dynamite, Mumu Tutu, Dirty Slang (12/15) The Moaners, Veelee, Los Naturales (12/31)

OPEN EYE CAFÉ

Pablo and Drew (12/3) Janus 4-14 (12/4) Sarah howell (12/10) Saludos Compay (12/11) Dylan Gilbert (12/18)

THE STATION My Three Sons (12/9)

THE FLYING BURRITO See No Weevil (12/4)





MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

STROKE IT, NOEL

A 3/5

RCHESTRATED

**(\$20) EACH NIGHT

TU 2/1 LISSIE

Bump up against the love for one of the '70s most influence bands, Big Star, and its seminal third album, Sister Lovers. On Dec. 9 and 10, at Cat's Cradle, an all-star lineup will perform Sister Lovers in its entirety with the original string and wind orchestrations, which has never before been done.

"Stroke It, Noel" will feature Jody Stephens (Big Star), Mike Mills (R.E.M.), Mitch Easter (Let's Active), Chris Stamey (the dB's) and Jeff Crawford and Charles Cleaver (the



Tomahawks). Providing orchestration will be Lost in the Trees and members of Birds and Arrows and the N.C. Symphony. Guest vocalists will include members of The Love Language, The Old Ceremony and Megafaun. Additional Big Star and Chris Bell songs also will be performed.

Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 the day of show and are available at catscradle. com or by calling the box office at 967-9053. You'll be hatin' it if you miss this.



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GIMME FIVE









Ashley Melzer writes the Gimme Five! column for The Carrboro Citizen's MILL blog (carrborocitizen.com/mill/tag/gimme-five), in which she asks local bands five probing questions. Below is a selection of favorites from the column to date.

WENDY SPITZER OF FELIX OBELIX

The Citizen: If your band were an abstract art project, what would it be?

Spitzer: It would be this set of instructions: Go to Iona Dau's grave in the Carrboro cemetery at sunset; pick a nostalgic memory from your childhood and wallow in it for 40 seconds; tap the lamb on the headstone three times; walk 12 paces forward; bend at the waist and think about how difficult it will be to do this when you're very old; wallow in that imagined feeling for another 40 seconds; go right 17 paces; look up and pay complete attention to the flight of a single bird; 17 paces in the south-by-southwest direction, there's a nook in that tree. The project that is the band is hidden there; go find it.

BRYON SETTLE OF LUD

TC: How has being a father changed the way you think about (or relate to) music?

Settle: Parenthood requires one to prioritize all things. Time is precious. I no longer want to play tuba and will concentrate on being a better guitarist.

MONSONIA

TC: What can listeners expect from the new record? *Petersen*: Expect a 180-gram vinyl disc of power trio, not bar rock music. The record has eight songs, the artwork looks really good and it's a bit more sonically precise than our previous recordings. Hopefully, the listener will not have expectations. Hopefully, our music creates a mood or soundscape that can surprise and entertain in many ways – with intensity and release, with repetition and agility, and sometimes being awkward and humorous. These are probably the emotions we experience the most playing the songs.

MATT PARK AND GINGER WAGG OF VEELEE

TC: Describe the last time you felt totally at home.

Matt: To me, home is an abstraction. That feeling comes and goes. I could feel totally uncomfortable inside my own house or completely at ease in some strange city. It all depends on what's going on in the environment around me. We just played in Athens and everyone was so nice to us that, even though we had never been there before, it felt kinda like home.

Ginger: I agree, somehow it can sometimes be easier to feel a deep sense of belonging in a place that you've never been before. I know I feel at home when I don't want to leave. In September, we went swimming in Wilmington, N.C. with Maria and Reid of Schooner. The water was the most perfect temperature and I could have just stayed in that ocean.

ORANG	E COUNTY SOCIAL CLU
	<u>9</u> 23
108 E.	MAIN ST. CARRBOR
93	3 • 0 6 6 9
LOC	AL 506
12/2 THU	THRILL OF A GUNFIGHT / DETERRENCE
12/3 FRI	J RODDY WALSTON & THE BUSINESS PATRICK PHELAN (of Luego)
12/4 SAT 12/8 WED	DTH Diversions Presents SPIDER BAGS BELLAFEA / WHATEVER BRAINS Cat's Cradle Presents CROOKED FINGERS
12/8 WED	COTTON JONES / MOUNT MORIAH CROWFIELD / WYLIE HUNTER
12/10 FRI	& THE CAZADORES TOM MAXWELL / BUSTELLO
12/11 SAT	THE BREAKS TRANSPORTATION / WESLEY WOLFE
12/12 SUN	FAN MODINE 506 Music Trivia Night
12/16 THU	SPIRALFIRE/TEMPORARY EMPIRE BRAINBOWS
12/17 FRI	3rd Annual Holiday Honky Tonk with THE WHISKEY SMUGGLERS
12/18 SAT 12/19 SUN	GAMBLING THE MUSE LUEGO / DON DIXON / BJ BARHAM The Big Fat Gap Christmas Revival w/ Big Fat CaP, THE DOGWOODS, LIZZY ROSS BAND, GREG HUMPHREYS
12/26 SUN	and MICHAEL HOLLAND The Merch Holiday Party
1/1 SAT 1/7 FRI	L in JAPANESE Dance Party Hungry Heart of Gold: Neil Young vs Bruce Springsteen Benefit for
1/8 SAT	Family Violence Prevent Center MAYFLIES USA / NORTH ELEMENTARY
1/12 WED	THE LIBRARY THE GHOST OF SABER TOOTH TIGER
1/13 THU	(Sean Lennon & Charlotte Kemp Muhl) HADWYNN
1/14 FRI 1/18 TUE	RAYLAND BAXTER CHRIS PUREKA / NICOLE REYNOLDS
1/21 FRI 1/28 FRI	HOLY GHOST TENT REVIVAL CAPSTAN SHAFTS
1/29 SAT 2/6 SUN 3/8 TUE	Cat's Cradle Presents FRONTIER RUCKUS HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS Acoustic Tour DUM DUM GIRLS
3/11 FRI	WILD FLAG / YELLOWFEVER WYE OAK / LOWER DENS
3/12 SAT 3/13 SUN	WYE OAK / LOWER DENS TELEKINESIS
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