



# ELF

Enjoy Life to the Fullest  
in the Monadnock Region!

Thursday, December 4, 2014 • Issue #25

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## Welcome to ELF

Welcome to ELF - Enjoy Life to the Fullest in the Monadnock Region.

ELF is the weekly entertainment and lifestyles publication brought to you by The Keene Sentinel. You'll find lively features about local people, useful ideas for the weekend and information about gardening, pets, healthy living, hobbies, antiques and much more. More than 22,000 copies of ELF are distributed in the area.

In addition to its unusual name, ELF does not follow convention in terms of its content. It's a blend of stories provided both by traditional freelance journalists and submissions from readers and businesses. Once you've read it, please share your thoughts, via email at [elfweekly@keenesentinel.com](mailto:elfweekly@keenesentinel.com).

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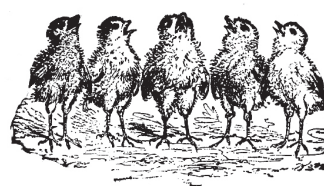
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## On the Cover:



In costume for the upcoming MoCo production of The Nutcracker is Harry Warshaw, 13, of Sullivan, as The Nutcracker, and Teah Bell, 12, of Keene, as Clara. Photo by Michael Moore



NAME THAT  
**ELF Tune!**

"A Christmas bell was crying, and Santa heard it say, 'I just can't seem to jingle; Now I can't go on the sleigh'"

Know what song this is? Email: [ElfWeekly@KeeneSentinel.com](mailto:ElfWeekly@KeeneSentinel.com)

Congratulations to Last Week's Winner:  
Nadine Connors. She guessed "Sleigh Ride."

# Dinner is Served.

**Audrey's CAFE**

Reserve for Christmas Eve Dinner

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays • 4-8pm

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:**

- Short Ribs w/Beef & Portobello Ravioli
- BBQ Pork Shanks • Prime Rib au Jus • Shrimp Catawa
- Fisherman's Feast: Clam Chowder, Sm. Shrimp Cocktail, Fish & Chip Plate

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# SPOTLIGHT

Your weekly entertainment source.

## Tis the Season for Holiday Classics and Concerts

By Nicole S. Colson / Contributing Writer

The holiday season is upon us, which means festive entertainment is not far behind. Whether you prefer Christmas classics or want to add something new to your annual tradition, you'll have your pick of events this year.

The Charles Dickens holiday mainstay, "A Christmas Carol," will be staged in a couple of places. The Walpole Players will present its seventh annual production Dec. 10-13, at 7 p.m. at the Helen Miller Theater at the Walpole Town Hall. Free tickets are available at several Walpole businesses; 100 percent of donations at the door benefit local foodshelves. Call 756-4545 or 756-4861 for more information.

Vermont Theatre Company's version will be performed Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, at 7:30 p.m. (with a 3 p.m. matinee Dec. 14, 17 and 21, at Hooker-Dunham Theater and Gallery, 139 Main St., Brattleboro.) Tickets are \$12-\$15; call 802-258-1344 or email vtcreervations@gmail.com to reserve.

Speaking of classics, MoCo Arts School of Dance will present "The Nutcracker" Dec. 19-21 at Keene State College's Redfern Arts Center. Performances feature guest artists Kathleen Breen Combes and Yury Yanowsky of the Boston Ballet. The beloved story starts Christmas Eve, when the Stahlbaum family await the arrival of their guests. When mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives, he brings young Clara a special nutcracker. Later that night when the clock strikes midnight, the Nutcracker comes alive and takes Clara on an unforgettable adventure.

This version features choreography by MoCo teachers. Get there while you can – the school only offers the performance every other year. Tickets are \$18-\$24 and can be ordered by calling 358-2168.

This is the time to shine for local choral groups, many of which are performing holiday concerts. The Chamber Singers of Keene, featuring uplifting Christmas music through the ages, will present "A Spotless Rose – Music for Advent" Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at the United Church of Christ at the head of the square in Keene. The concert features uplifting Christmas music through the ages by Palestrina, Praetorius, Billings, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov, Howells and Lauridsen. Tickets are \$12-\$15.

The Keene Chorale performs its 36th annual Christmas concert, "A Christmas Quartet" Dec. 14, at 2 p.m., at St. Bernard Church, Main Street, Keene. The program will include Bach Cantata 191, Mozart's "Regina Coeli," Jan Dismas Zelenka's "Magnificat," and Schubert Mass in C, with orchestra and soloists, tenor Ethan Bremner, bass John Salvi, soprano Diana Brewer and mezzo soprano Pamela Stevens – all Keene State College students.

The Keene Pops Choir presents "Light of the Season," choral selections under the direction of Diane Cushing to celebrate the upcoming winter holidays, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. Accompanists are Walt Sayre on piano and brass players from Keene State College. Tickets are \$12 and can be ordered by 352-2033.

Bright Morning Stars, the annual holiday choral concert by The Grand Monadnock Youth Choirs, featuring folk songs, art songs and novelty songs for young voices, happens Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. at the Peterborough Unitarian Church, 25 Main St. Tickets are \$5-\$10.

Rounding out the choral presentations is the Hancock Family Christmas Concert Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. at the Hancock Meeting House, featuring the Junior Mints, the Village Ringers, the Norway Pond Festival Singers and 10-year-old fiddle player Quinn Eastburn.

If you're interested in a worldlier holiday flavor, check out San Francisco-based women's vocal ensemble, Kitka, in a free holiday concert Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Latchis Theater on Main Street in Brattleboro. Kitka will perform its "Wintersongs" program, showcasing seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. Kitka's 35th anniversary edition of "Wintersongs" features a broad range of spiritual and folkloric music from Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Russia, Armenia, Moravia and Yiddish-speaking Eastern European Jewish communities. The rarely-heard seasonal pieces were gathered through in-depth research and travel over 15 years.

Kitka, which has been featured on National Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" and "All Things Considered," will perform these pieces in ancient polyphonic styles in new arrangements created by ensemble members and other composers and arrangers. Program highlights include an old Romanian carol collected by Bela Bartok in the early part of the 20th century and a set of traditional Ukrainian carols.

Reserved tickets are free to everyone at the door or online at [www.KingdomCounty.org](http://www.KingdomCounty.org). Telephone orders can be placed (toll-free) to 888-757-5559.

Or you can sample classical European and Afro-Hispanic music this season with a concert by ensemble Rumbarroco Dec. 7, at 4:30 p.m. at Mariposa Museum and World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Tickets are \$5-\$10.

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The Walpole Players cast of its seventh annual benefit production of the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol." COURTESY PHOTO

## THROWBACK THURSDAYS

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# SPOTLIGHT

## Calendar for December 5th - 11th

### MONDAY 8

#### ETC.

**Monday Night Bingo**, 5:30 p.m., VFW, Winchester Street, Keene. 357-0149.

### TUESDAY 9

#### MUSIC

**Music in the Noon Hour**, featuring works by C.P.E. Bach, 12:30 p.m., Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

**Celtic Jam**, every Tuesday night, 7:30 p.m., Harlow's Pub, 3 School St., Peterborough. 924-6365. [www.harlowspub.com](http://www.harlowspub.com).

### WEDNESDAY 10

#### MUSIC

**Celtic Jam**, open to all acoustic musicians and the listening public, featuring traditional Celtic instrumentals on fiddles, guitars, mandolins and more, beginner jam at 6:30 p.m., open jam from 7-9 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Del Rossi's Trattoria, Route 137, Dublin. 563-7195. [www.delrossis.com](http://www.delrossis.com).

**Open Mic**, 7-9 p.m., Fitzwilliam Inn, 62 Route 119 West. 585-9000. [www.fitzwilliaminn.com](http://www.fitzwilliaminn.com).

**Open Mic**, every Wednesday night, 9 p.m., Harlow's Pub, 3 School St., Peterborough. 924-6365. [www.harlowspub.com](http://www.harlowspub.com).

**Karaoke**, with DJ Scott Salvi, 21-plus, signups start about 8:30 p.m., singing starts at 9 p.m., Lab 'n' Lager, 122 Main St., Keene. 352-0028.

#### DANCE

**West African Dance Classes**, for all levels, 7-8:30 p.m., The Stone Church, corner of Main and Grove Streets, Brattleboro. Sliding scale fee, \$12-\$15. 802-258-6475 or AfricanDanceVT@gmail.com. [www.africandancevt.com](http://www.africandancevt.com).

#### ETC.

**Classics in Black and White Film Series**, "King and Coun-

try," with introduction and post-film discussion by retired Jaffrey educator Bill Johnson, 6:30 p.m., Jaffrey Public Library. 532-7301. [www.townofjaffrey.com](http://www.townofjaffrey.com).

**Artist Kate Gridley: Emerging Adults Portraits**, a visual and verbal collaboration between portrait artist Kate Gridley and two local schools, 7 p.m., Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, Vt. \$10 suggested donation. [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

**Charlestown VFW Bingo**, primary fundraiser for the Fall Mountain JROTC and other community donations and scholarships, early birds start at 5 p.m. with regular bingo 6:30-9 p.m., VFW Post Hall, 365 Lovers Lane Road, Charlestown. Tom St. Pierre, 826-5186 or [cdpost8497@nh.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:cdpost8497@nh.vfwwebmail.com).

### THURSDAY 11

#### MUSIC

**Acoustic Thursdays**, with a hand-picked medley of local musicians, 6:30 p.m., Fritz, 45 Main St., Keene. Reserve a 20 minute spot, Zach, [acousticthursdays@yahoo.com](mailto:acousticthursdays@yahoo.com).

**Open Mic**, hosted by Kevin Parry, visit the Marina any time to sign up for a 20 minute slot, 7-10 p.m., The Marina Restaurant, Putney Road, Brattleboro. 802-257-7563. [www.kevinparrymusic.com](http://www.kevinparrymusic.com).

**Monadnock Waldorf School Winter Choral Concert**, featuring performances by the sixth grade chorus and the seventh/eighth grade chorus, the high school A Capella Ensemble, and the All-High School Chorus, 7 p.m., Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College, Keene. 357-4442. [www.monadnockwaldorfschool.org](http://www.monadnockwaldorfschool.org).

**Bluegrass Jam**, every Thursday night, 8 p.m., Harlow's Pub, 3 School St., Peterborough. 924-6365. [www.harlowspub.com](http://www.harlowspub.com).

**Karaoke**, with DJ Scott Salvi, 21-plus, signups start about 8:30 p.m., singing starts at 9

p.m., Lab 'n' Lager, 4 Stratton Road, Jaffrey. 532-1195.

**Karaoke**, with DJ Ronnie B, 9-10 p.m., Waxy O'Connor's, 401 Winchester St., Keene. 357-9299. [www.waxys.com](http://www.waxys.com).

#### FAIRS & SALES

**Winterfest Craft Fair**, more than 25 local vendors offer crafts including handmade pottery, knitting, woodworking, soap, toys and more, snacks and music provided, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Antioch University New England, 40 Avon St., Keene. Alley Mazzullo, [amazullo@antioch.edu](mailto:amazullo@antioch.edu).

**Holiday Appraisals**, an opportunity to have heirlooms and other treasures appraised by a local agent at downtown Peterborough businesses including Bowerbird & Friends, Tribals, Rugs By Hand, New England Art Exchange, Hobbs Jewelers and Anytime Apparel, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Depot Square, Peterborough.

**Holiday Craft Night**, a festive night for all ages, all materials provided, cookies and cocoa served, drop in anytime between 4 and 6 p.m., Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. 924-8040. [www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org](http://www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org).

#### ETC.

**Pitch**, drop-ins welcome, no commitment, draw for partners, 6:30 p.m., VFW No. 799, 459 Winchester St., Keene. \$3. Vince, 357-0149.

**The Mudroom**, a social gathering featuring local storytellers, the evening's theme will be "Outliers," 7 p.m., AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St., Lebanon. \$5. 448-3117 or [mudroom@avagallery.org](mailto:mudroom@avagallery.org). [www.avagallery.org](http://www.avagallery.org).

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borough. The Boston-based group performs A Latin Holiday Voyage, early music from a Latin perspective. The group showcases how European classical music was – and can be – by adding indigenous Latin and African rhythms and instruments. Rumbarroco will perform Renaissance, baroque and Afro-Hispanic music from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil and Cuba. Tickets are \$25 by calling 924-4555 or at [mariposamuseum.org](http://mariposamuseum.org).

You can enjoy the season from an African-American perspective when Sweet Honey in the Rock: Celebrating the Holidays comes to the Colonial Theater Dec. 12, at 8 p.m. The all-female, Grammy Award-winning African-American a ca-



Harry Warshaw, 13, of Sullivan, as The Nutcracker, and Teah Bell, 12, of Keene, as Clara, rehearse a scene from MoCo's upcoming production of The Nutcracker.

Of course, no holiday season would be complete without Tuba Christmas Dec. 7, at 1 p.m. at Keene State College's Mabel Brown Room at the Young Student Center. The annual performance, a concert of music for tuba (and euphonium) and sing-along, is a free event.

If a funny Christmas is what you desire, there's the comedy show, "Frost Heaves Holiday Hilarity," featuring Yankee Fred Marple, the Speed Bumps band, the Frost Heaves Players and the "fabulous" Christmas tree lights, Dec. 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. at Peterborough Players Theatre, 55 Hadley Road. Tickets are \$18 and can be reserved at [www.frostheaves.com](http://www.frostheaves.com).

Finally, if you need to be part of the holiday action, try participating in the annual Messiah Sing Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the United Church of Christ at the head of the square in Keene. Visit [www.ucckeeene.org](http://www.ucckeeene.org) for more information.



Rumbarroco will perform Dec. 7 in Peterborough. COURTESY PHOTO

ella ensemble expresses its history as African-American women through song, dance and sign language. Tickets are \$35-\$49 and can be ordered by calling 352-2033 or at [www.thecolonial.org](http://www.thecolonial.org).

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