

Gary Knowles' - Getaway Sampler

A selection of events loaded with Real Wisconsin Fun!

November 2016

by Gary Knowles ©

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FOLLOW GARY'S TIPS ON TWITTER: @TravelWisconsin or **Instagram** @OpenAir93

BEFORE YOU GO: Avoid disappointment. Always check for schedule changes before heading to events. For more events- good sources: www.Wisconline.com, www.TravelWisconsin.com or <http://hwy23events.wordpress.com>
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WISCONSIN – On-Going but Catch it While it's Here!

NOW to Dec.31, 2016 The Rhinestone Cowboy Home – Sheboygan

Aiming to style himself as a singing "rhinestone cowboy" modeled after Glen Campbell's song, Loy Bowlin of McComb, Mississippi, became the maker of a remarkable art environment. He embellished his small home with glitter, cut paper, magazine pictures, ornaments, and spangles, and people came from miles around to visit the "Holy Jewel Home," and the Rhinestone Cowboy who lived there. Today, the art environment and his fancy suits, hats, and furniture, stands as the only comprehensively relocated environment in the JMK Arts Center's Permanent Collection. In 2016, the Arts Center will provide unprecedented access to our visitors as staff, preservation professionals, and historians put the house back together again in our galleries. Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-5pm; Tues, Thurs 10am-8pm; Sat, Sun 10am-4pm John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081 PH:920-458-6144 <http://www.jmkac.org/>

NOW – 2016 "The Nose has it!" at special WWII Warbird Art Exhibit – Oshkosh

With the smoke barely cleared at Pearl Harbor, brave, young US servicemen took to the air to take the war to the enemy. Many of the aircraft carried artist painted images and messages on their noses. Now one of the finest collections of authentic, preserved, WWII "nose art" is on display for the first time outside their Commemorative Air Force home museum in Dallas, Texas. The collection honors the people and aircraft of World War II. The artifacts have been designated by the National Trust for Historical Preservation as an official project of Save America's Treasures, which seeks to preserve historic structures, art and published works throughout the nation. It will be on display at EAA throughout 2016. "This collection is simply incredible; there's no other way to put it," said Bob Campbell, director of the EAA AirVenture Museum. "It tells a unique story of the common soldier and airman during World War II, how this artwork was created, what it meant to these young men mostly between 18 and 25 years old, and the individual tales of these aircraft that returned along with those that didn't." As was the custom during World War II, some of the nose art depicts slogans or places, but many of them included drawings of young women in poses from chaste to extremely provocative. The EAA AirVenture Museum is located just off Interstate

41 at the Highway 44 exit in Oshkosh. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the EAA AirVenture Museum at (920) 426-6108 or visit www.eaa.org/museum.

WISCONSIN –Holiday Celebrations!

11-12 Christmas in the Village - Ripon

Kick off the holiday season and discover Ripon's unique shops and restaurants during the annual Christmas in the Village. Those strolling up and down the sidewalks will find unique gifts, clothing, jewelry, furniture and more. Over 20 businesses are participating in the event. Additional activities include carriage rides, a live reindeer display, visits by Santa & Mrs. Claus, and complimentary treats at participating shops. Stroll from shop to shop as you develop your holiday shopping list. Save room for lunch and dessert at one of Ripon's great restaurants. Visit www.downtownripon.com for a complete list of businesses. Enjoy a day encountering the unique shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities that are available in historic Ripon, and discover the charm of small town hospitality. Downtown Ripon - 920-748-6764 - <http://www.travelwisconsin.com/events/shopping/christmas-in-the-village-104338>

12 - Christmas Bazaar - Saint Germain

Start your Holiday shopping early at the November Christmas Bazaar featuring many local crafters, fresh wreaths and garland, a bake sale, children's activities, raffle prizes and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Proceeds from the craft show benefit the Northwoods Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor Program. 10AM-3:30PM St.Germain Community Center - 715-542-2881 <http://st-germain.com/>

12- Holiday Parade - Racine

Holiday lights, costumed characters, marching bands, Santa Claus, Christmas carolers and more. Also enjoy hot cider, roasted nuts and sweet treats from downtown merchants. Stay for music and lighting of the Christmas Tree. 5:30PM Main and Sixth Street - PH:262-634-6002 <http://www.racinedowntown.com/events/downtown-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-ceremony/>

12 - Germantown Christmas Fest

Start this seasonal family fun day with the 5K Candy Cane Run/Walk at the Community Library. Strollers and dogs on leash are welcome! The Christmas Parade theme is "Angels Among Us" honoring volunteers. Following the parade, everyone is invited to the library for the official Tree Lighting activities which include visits with Santa, free carriage rides, caroling, food and beverages available all day, some complimentary and others for purchase, holiday basket sale fundraiser, and more! Parade at 2PM PH: 262-255-1812 <http://www.germantownchamber.org/events/calendar/>

12 - Wisconsin Heights Holiday Craft Fair - Mazomanie

Annual, featuring quality arts & crafts, door prizes, raffles, baked goods, and refreshments. Fundraising event, benefits scholarships, parent groups & school clubs of the district. Food pantry donations welcomed and encouraged. 8AM-3PM Wisconsin Heights High School & Middle School, 10173 US Highway 14, Mazomanie, WI 53560 PH:608-669-4423 <http://wisconsinheightscraftfair.weebly.com/>

12 - Mt.Horeb Holiday Fair

A unique holiday craft fair. Experience Norwegian culture, visit with Julenisse (Norwegian Santa) and Jorgen the Troll, quality crafters, wagon rides, door prizes, raffles, quilts, bake sales and refreshments. This year's Craft Bonanza includes over 50 artist/vendors, a large bake sale (yum), raffle, silent art auction, horse & buggy rides, music, food, Paint your own Troll Holiday ornament craft, donation collection for the **Giving Tree**, Jorgen the Troll, Town Scrooge and Julenisse (Scandinavian Santa). \$2 admission (proceeds go to the Mount Horeb Middle School). 9-4PM <http://trollway.com/event/holiday-craft-bonanza-2-2016-11-14/>

12 – Holiday Parade and Chili Cookoff – Fort Atkinson

A lighted parade in downtown Ft. Atkinson (5:30 pm) culminating with chili sampling in the Municipal Building and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. PH: 920-563-3210 <http://fortchamber.com/>

12-13 Hmong New Year Celebration – Eau Claire

The Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association and UW-Eau Claire will present the annual Hmong New Year celebration. This event brings together Hmong and non-Hmong members from the campus and the Eau Claire community. Play games, watch performances, listen to speakers, and sample traditional Hmong food. The Hmong New Year is celebrated by focusing on casting away old habits and welcoming new behaviors in life. 8AM-4PM At the Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center, 3456 Craig Rd., Eau Claire WI PH: 715-832-8420 <http://www.ecahmaa.org/>

17 Holiday Parade – Oshkosh

Annual Christmas parade featuring floats, marching bands, animals, walking units, giant balloons and Santa Claus. Tree lighting downtown 6pm. Main Street - PH: 920-303-2266 <http://www.visitoshkosh.com/>

18 – Holiday Light Parade – Sauk City

Come join us for a great Holiday Event! At 6:00pm, our Holiday Light Parade starts from the Sauk Prairie Middle School. The parade will head down Hemlock Street to Sycamore Street, and from there it will follow the "Cow Chip Parade Route": running down Sycamore Street to Grand Avenue, down Grand Avenue to 1st Street, and down 1st Street to end right in front of Marion Park. Right after the parade, join us for the Tree Lighting Event at 7:30pm at Marion Park. You'll be entertained by local youth talent and FIREWORKS! Refreshments will be on sale at the Marion Park Gazebo. Join us for this magical evening! PH: 800-683-2453 <http://saukprairieriverway.com/>

18-19 Mable Tainter Holiday Arts Show & Sale – Menomonie

Features the Midwest's finest artisans showing and selling photography, painting, wood and metal sculpture, textiles, pottery and more on all three levels of this magnificent Victorian theater. PH: 715-235-0001 <http://www.mabeltainter.org/>

18-20 Christmas by the Bay – Sturgeon Bay

The weekend kicks off with a tree lighting ceremony Friday 7 pm. Live holiday music, and free horse-drawn carriage rides 6-8pm at the Clock Tower. Sturgeon Bay Holiday Parade Saturday 10 am. Meet Santa after the parade at the Door County Historical Museum from 11am-2pm. Enjoy free trolley and carriage rides 11am-2pm. Join Santa for breakfast Sunday morning at Stone Harbor Resort 9:30-11am. Come to Sturgeon Bay for holiday fun, and make many lifelong memories. Downtown Sturgeon Bay. PH: 920-743-6246 <http://www.sturgeonbay.net/>

19 Downtown Baraboo Christmas Light Parade

See glittering lighted floats and equestrian units, marching bands, and novelty units. Get there early for a great seat as this year there is a special surprise in store. Non-profit groups provide hot drinks and snacks along the parade route as well. A coloring contest is held for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade for the opportunity to ride with Santa on his float in the parade. For parade tips, a map of the parade route, and float application, visit our web site. Sponsored by Baraboo Pizza Ranch. PH: 608-448-3490 <http://www.downtownbaraboo.com/>

19 – The Milwaukee Holiday Parade

Downtown Milwaukee. From its start in 1927, the Milwaukee Holiday Parade remains a cherished holiday tradition featuring approximately 100 units including marching bands, floats, giant helium balloons, local personalities, costumed characters, live animals, specialty vehicles and, of course, Santa Claus! Starts at 9:30AM 262-377-5935 <http://www.milwaukeekeeparade.com/>

19-20 The Polar Express Train Ride – Middleton

Dancing chefs, singing elves and a special gift from Santa himself – all of this awaits you and your family aboard THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride departing from Middleton, just off the Beltline Highway. Join the festivities on this round-trip train ride to the North Pole – in your favorite jammies of course! Step onto the Wisconsin & Southern Train and into the pages of the children's classic story. Each child will receive the first gift of Christmas! Wisconsin & Southern Polar Express Ride Depot, 8420 Market St., Middleton, WI 53562 **Book Tickets by Phone:** 855-487-1430 - <http://www.wsorpolarexpressride.com/>

22 – The 46th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade – Appleton

The 46th annual staging of Wisconsin's largest night time Christmas parade (7:00PM) with more than 100 floats, bands and marching units. Santa Scamper 1-mile run at 6pm. PH:920-954-9112 Downtown Appleton - <http://www.appletondowntown.org/>

25 – Holiday Fire Truck Parade – Sun Prairie

5:30PM - The spectacular Fire Truck Parade ends with a tree lighting in front the historical museum downtown. Music, carolers, cider, treats and a special visit by Santa.

Sun Prairie Historical Library & Museum, 115 E Main St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

PH: 608-512-9743 <http://www.cityofsunprairie.com/535/Downtown-Sun-Prairie>

25 – Holiday Parades Around Wisconsin! Beloit, Plymouth, Portage, Tomah Columbus

Hudson, Burlington, Kenosha, River Falls, Land O Lakes, - for these parades and others visit www.TravelWisconsin.com - "Events"

26 –Christmas Arrives in Minocqua -

Mark your calendars now and plan to bring the whole family for a visit with Santa Claus . Santa arrives downtown Minocqua at 1pm on a horse drawn carriage. Kids of all ages can visit with Santa. At 5pm Santa walks through town with everyone in tow to illuminate Minocqua's holiday lights. 715-356-5266 <http://www.minocqua.org/>

25-27 (Dec 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23, 26-30) Green Bay Botanical WPS Garden of Lights

More than 250,000 lights crafted in flowers, butterflies, and other botanical themes. Walk the .8-mile trail or take a horse-drawn wagon ride (subject to availability). 5-9 PM The purchase of advance tickets is strongly encouraged to save time waiting in line. Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., Green Bay, WI 54303, PH:920-490-9457 <http://www.gbbg.org/>

25-27 The German Christmas Holiday Market – Oconomowoc

Celebrate Wisconsin's German heritage at this family festival -German beer, music, live bands, German cuisine, vendors, Santa and more. Downtown, East Wisconsin Avenue and Main Street Oconomowoc, WI 53066 PH:262-569-2185
<http://www.travelwisconsin.com/events/fairs-festivals/the-german-christmas-market-of-conomowoc-78779>

25-27 - Holiday Lights Waukesha

Country Christmas features over a million holiday lights festively displayed on 40 wooded acres of Waukesha's countryside. After the drive-through experience, visit Christmas Village where you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate while looking at animated scenes and a cuddly cast of characters and an amazing working model train display. Stroll the Streets of Bethlehem, where you will be amazed by the life size Fontanini nativity display. Country Springs Hotel, 2810 Golf Rd., Waukesha, WI 53188, 262-547-0201 <http://www.thecountrychristmas.com/>

26 – The Durand Dazzle Holiday Parade

The 16th Annual Durand Dazzle Holiday Parade will be held on Main Street the Saturday evening after Thanksgiving at dusk. The theme is “Christmas on the Farm.” Crafters & vendors present the entire day. PH:715-672-5709 <http://www.durandimprovementgroup.org/Dazzle-Day.html>

26 – Holiday Tree Lighting & Wassail Concert – Bayfield

Enjoy holiday treats and warm beverages while listening to Christmas carols performed by the talented Rittenhouse Inn Singers at the historic Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion. Then, join in the procession as the crowd moves outside to serenade the holiday tree as it is ceremoniously lit for the season. 4:30-600 PM Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion, 2 East Front Street, Bayfield, WI 54814 715-779-3335 <http://bayfield.org/bayfield-activities/hometown-holiday-season/>

26 – Madeline Island Holiday Boutique – La Pointe

The Annual Madeline Island Holiday Boutique (10-4PM) will feature local artists, craftspeople and retailers. Receive one free return passenger ticket to the mainland with the purchase of any item during this special event. Free return passenger tickets are available only at the Madeline Island Museum and for use the day of the Holiday Boutique. Following the Boutique, the annual Tree Lighting and Sing-A-Long will take place at the pergola on the ferry dock on Madeline Island from 4 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

<http://www.madelineislandmuseumfriends.org/events-calendar/2016/11/26/island-boutique>

WISCONSIN – That’s the Spirit – and Brew! !

12-13 Taste and Toast the Harvest - The Great River Road Wine Trail – WI, MN, IA

Here’s one thing we can all celebrate: the harvest of 2016 is in, and it’s a good one! Head for the eleven wineries along the spectacular Great River Road in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. This

stretch of Mississippi River has thrilled visitors since the first explorers came this way. The dramatic bluffs and rolling hills are as beautiful today as they were centuries ago when the first humans arrived. The Great River Road Wine Trail wineries overlook this marvelous river valley and produce fine wines made from northern-climate-friendly grapes. Make this an entire weekend adventure and visit all eleven wineries. Featured wines and ciders are paired with holiday foods at each winery (\$25). Please have a designated driver (\$10 -no wine tasting for them, but a lot of great food). Each ticket holder will receive a wine trail glass good for free wine tastes and food at each winery. Get tickets at the winery or online.

<https://www.greatriverroadwinetrail.org/holiday-harvest-wine-food-festival/>

17 – Ruby Nouveau Release Day – Wollersheim Winery – Prairie du Sac

Join Winemaker Philippe for a special toast at noon as he taps the Ruby Nouveau barrel. Our Ruby Nouveau is made from our estate-grown Foch grapes and Winemaker Philippe follows the traditional methods of whole berry fermentation. No admission fee. Noon -Open to the public. Wollersheim Winery, 7876 State Hwy 188, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578, PH:800-847-9463
<http://www.wollersheim.com/>

19 – Wine Fest at the Heidel House – Green Lake

Sip and swirl your way through Wisconsin-made wines at Heidel House Resort's second annual Wine Fest. From 1-5PM taste and compare varieties from twenty Wisconsin Wineries --Heidel House Resort & Spa, 643 Illinois Avenue, Green Lake, WI 54941 PH:800-444-2812
<http://www.heidelhouse.com/events/Details/c037e70a-2ac7-42b7-bbec-a50200871952>

26 – Vintage Christmas – Wollersheim Winery - Prairie du Sac

Experience old world charm as you prepare for Christmas. Taste Wollersheim wines paired with festive foods, find unique gifts, plus Christmas carolers will be on hand to set the mood. The winery is a picturesque place to take your family Christmas card photo, so be sure to bring your camera. (No admission fee. Open to the public.) Wollersheim Winery, 7876 State Hwy 188, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578, PH:800-847-9463 <http://www.wollersheim.com/>

WISCONSIN – Feast On!

17 – Hunters' Feast – Rice Lake

12th Annual Deer Hunters feed. Come and enjoy a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans and chips. Purchase raffle tickets for chances to win several guns and outdoor equipment. 37 South Main St., PH: 715-234-2126 <http://www.ricelakechamber.org/>

18 – Venison Feed – Tomahawk

51st Annual Venison feed. For over 50 years Tomahawk has welcomed hunters to the area with free venison burgers with chips and soda served from 11:30am until gone. Downtown Tomahawk – PH: 715-453-5334 <http://www.gototomahawk.com/>

25 – Happy Thanksgiving America!

WISCONSIN – What the Heck? What's Going on Out There?!

11-13, 18-20 - Fall Finds and Barn Tour – River Falls Area

Enjoy a leisurely tour of the beautiful Wisconsin countryside while experiencing a diverse mix of shopping in rustic barns and downtown shops in River Falls Area. Find eclectic & handmade items, fine art, unique gifts, antiques, functional wares, local harvest & preserves, furniture, festive holiday, and garden art. PH: (715) 222-0436

<https://www.facebook.com/Fall-Finds-Barn-Tour-1212335838793327/>

12 - Ice Age Trail Alliance – Full Moon Hike at Point Beach

There's something quite lovely and haunting about a late fall stroll under a full moon, along sand dunes with the waters of Lake Michigan splashing gently at the edge of Point Beach State Forest. The hike will be about a 3-mile round-trip to the Lake Michigan shoreline and back. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Join the Lakeshore Chapter for this one-of-a-kind evening hike along the Point Beach Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. It will be a 2 to 3 mile hike. Hike begins at the parking area on County "O" across from the Park Office. Point Beach State Forest is at 9400 County Road O, Two Rivers, WI 54241. PH: 262-388-5143

<http://www.iceagetrail.org/event/lakeshore-chapter-full-moon-hike/>

12-13 re: Craft & Relic – Franklin

Experience more than 150 of the most unique vendors from across the Midwest, filling their booths with vintage, salvaged, industrial, handmade, hand-forged, modern, antiques, up-cycled, and re-purposed goods for the home and garden. Items include furniture, vintage clothing, jewelry, garden items, artworks, pottery, and more. This is re:Craft and Relic. Milwaukee County Sports Complex, 6000 W. Ryan Road, Franklin, WI 53132, PH: 414-375-2024

<http://www.recraftandrelic.com/>

12-13 Trainfest at West Allis

Join the Fun at Trainfest®, America's Largest operating model railroad show. Find the Adventure this year when kids from 5 to 99 can run the trains at many of the railroads. There are more opportunities to get hands-on than ever before! Build a Memory in the expanded Kids' Activity Zone filled with Free crafts, new make 'n takes and plenty of train-themed fun! Spend hours entertained by over 70 intricately-detailed running railroads. Rounding out this spectacular show are model train manufacturers and retailers from coast-to-coast. Trainfest has something for everyone in its 230,000 square feet of display area. Discounted advanced tickets available online. Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park - 640 S 84th St - West Allis, WI 53214 –

PH 262-820-3566 <http://www.trainfest.com/>

18-20 Holiday Folk Fair International – West Allis

America's Premier Cultural Festival -Explore the customs and traditions of the world's diverse cultures as you sample regional cuisine, enjoy lively music and dance and purchase beautifully handcrafted goods. Experience the sights sounds and tastes of the world right here in Wisconsin! This year's theme, "Celebrate the Culture of Water," will allow Fair-goers the opportunity to learn the ways in which water and its symbolism is incorporated into the music, food, dance, arts, and crafts of Holiday Folk Fair. Special attractions in 2016 include invited international performers and artisans, a Japanese photographic exhibit, the Sisters Cities International 2016 Young Artist and Authors Showcase, the Artisan corner, the Kohl's Color Wheels display, the Wisconsin

Woodturners, and a bonsai exhibit. Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park 640 S 84th St., West Allis, WI 53214 Information: 414-225-6225 <http://www.folkfair.org/>

19 – Cave After Dark – Cave of the Mounds – Mount Horeb

a NEW series of themed events for adults 21 and older at Cave of the Mounds - National Natural Landmark. Each event includes a unique at-your-own-pace in-cave experience and theme-related reception in our Visitor Center with cash bar. These special events do sell out, so reservations are required. Nov 18: "Cheese!" Cheese and wine tasting (Next: Dec 17 – "Cocktails Underground" then Jan 21 – "Blues & Brews") Bring your tastebuds and your photography equipment for this one-of-a-kind experience. Cave of the Mounds, 2975 Cave Of The Mounds Rd., Blue Mounds, WI 53517 PH: 608-437-3038 <http://www.caveofthemounds.com/>

25-26 Hmong New Year Celebration – Madison

The Southern Wisconsin Hmong Association (SWHA) and Hmong Madison Community will celebrate their New Year at this event. The daytime programs include special guest speakers, culture show, food, Flea Market, traditional ball tossing, eating, buying gifts, competitions, and more. The evening programs celebrate the passing of the old year and welcoming of the new with song and dance. Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI 53713 608-267-3976 <http://www.hmongmadison.com/>

26-27 Mid-Continent Railway Santa Trains – North Freedom

Celebrate the holiday season in a uniquely festive way aboard the 23rd Annual Santa Express. Santa will visit as you take in the spirit of Christmas past on our early 1900's adventure. All cars are kept comfortably warm using the over century-old tradition of steam heating or coal-fired stoves, just like at the North Pole. Santa will be on board bringing good cheer!. Seating is limited; reservations are required. Departures at 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, & 2:30pm. Patrons are asked to board 15 minutes before scheduled departure time. E8948 Museum Rd, PH: 608-522-4261 <http://www.midcontinent.org/>

WISCONSIN – Competition!

17-18 State High School Football Championships – Madison

The UW's Camp Randall Stadium is the site for the playoffs to determine state champions. PH: 715-344-8580 <http://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Football.aspx>

WISCONSIN – Arts/ Theater/Film!

9-13 Big Water Film Festival – Ashland

Join us for the 9th annual "Big Water Film Festival" sponsored by the Bay Area Film Society. With a tradition of bringing fine films to the big screen, the Big Water Film Festival will feature new and independent short and feature length films by tomorrow's filmmakers. The festival will again be held at Ashland's historic Bay Theatre, 420 Main St, Ashland. Featuring delicious gourmet snacks and treats, this year's gala reception on Friday evening will take place across the street at The Office Bar. In addition, there will be special off-site showings of certain films on Weds. and Thurs. at Northland College and the Bayfield Carnegie Library. PH: 715-682-3555 <http://bigwaterfilmfestival.org/>

11-13 Go with a Winner! –“Lombardi” – Janesville

“Winning isn’t everything – it’s the only thing!” That 1950 quote by Red Burns, coach of the UCLA Bruins, was made popular by Green Bay Packer’s Coach, Vince Lombardi. Whether your candidate won or lost, you will likely agree. This play is an intimate look inside the Lombardi household, locker room, sidelines and psyche of a man driven to succeed. Lombardi spent twenty years as a high school coach, assistant at Fordham, West Point, and New York Giants before his big break with the Packers in 1959. At age 46 he cast his fate with a losing team in a small snowbound town in Wisconsin. The rest is history. This is Lombardi the coach, the man, the legend. Janesville Performing Arts Center, 408 S Main St. PH: 608-758-0297
<http://www.janesvillepac.org/jpac/>

11-26 Birds in Art – Annual Show – Wausau

Birds in multitudes of mediums and artistic styles fly thousands of miles to come to the Woodson Art Museum every September. They must know something! This year's exhibition will be no exception. The 2016 exhibition presents artworks by 112 artists in total: 2016 Master Artist Karen Bondarchuk, 20 who have been named Master Artists during previous “Birds in Art” exhibitions, and 91 artists whose work was selected by three jurors who reviewed 918 entries submitted by 581 artists. Innovative artistic approaches capture intriguing aspects of the essence, gestures, and surroundings of myriad birds. Chris Maynard, Washington, elegantly portrays a flock of dunlins carved from turkey feathers. Wisconsin artist S.V. Medaris depicts a rebel rooster who invaded her peaceful flock – for a time – in an oversized, hand-colored linocut titled “Chicken Pot Pie.” German artist Eugen Kisselmann hints at the presence of a grey heron via his oil painting of footprints in smooth sand. All-new artwork features dynamic and contemplative interpretations of avian marvels via original paintings, sculptures, and graphics created within the last three years. Birds of the land, sea, and sky always find a hospitable welcome and a refuge from their migrations in the Woodson's galleries, where each painting, work on paper, and sculpture is the Birds in Art equivalent of a Faberge egg - gemlike and precious. Always Free Admission. Tue-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat & Sun noon-5pm. Open Thurs until 7:30pm during Birds in Art. Closed Mondays and holidays. Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, 700 N 12th St, Wausau, WI 54403
PH:715-845-7010 <https://www.lywam.org/>

18-20 The Annual Holiday Art Fair – Madison

This is an excellent showcase of contemporary fine art and craft. This juried show includes more than 90 artists exhibiting ceramics, fiber art, glass, jewelry, paintings, prints, photographs, and more. The festive event will also feature performances by local arts organizations throughout the weekend, holiday refreshments, Rediscovered Arts & Treasures Sale, silent auction, and the popular Gourmet Gallery - treats for every taste. \$5 admission Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State St, Madison, WI 53703 PH 608-257-0158
<http://www.mmoca.org/programs-events/events/holiday-art-fair>

19-20 - The 27th Annual Winter Art Fair Off the Square – Madison

Features 138 Wisconsin artists and craftspeople as well as thousands of their works. Visitors will see paintings, sculptures, jewelry, handbags, mosaics, ceramics, clothing, musical instruments, photography, mixed media, woodwork, graphics, fiber arts, and glasswork –all for sale. Every work has been created by the juried artists and craftspeople who will be present in their booths.

The Fair is produced by the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople, Inc., a group of artists dedicated to producing art fairs to benefit fellow artists. The Winter Fair Off the Square also offers live music, a silent auction, a young collectors corner, a booth which benefits Badger Childhood Cancer, and good food. Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703 PH:608-204-9129

22-27 The Illusionists – Madison

This mind blowing spectacular showcases the jaw dropping talents of seven of the most incredible Illusionists on earth. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions. “A High-tech Magic Extravaganza”—The New York Times Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison, WI 53703 PH:608-258-4141
<http://www.overture.org/events/illusionists>

25-26 - Kristkindlmarket – Turner Hall – Monroe

Patterned after the traditional German Christmas markets, featuring select vendors, including Swiss artisans in scissor cutting, chip carving, and wood carving, also European arts and Swiss baked goods. Swiss Samichlaus (Swiss version of Santa Claus) will be there to visit with children of all ages. Steeped in the Swiss traditions and history of south-central Wisconsin, the Turner Hall of Monroe is a center of Swiss heritage and community activities. Established in 1868, it is believed to be the only Turner Hall of Swiss origin left in the United States, and is likewise one of the oldest, continuously-running Swiss entities in this country. The building, a Swiss Emmenthal-style chalet designed by German architect Max Hanisch, is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is handicapped-accessible. An authentic Old World Ratskeller Restaurant, an elegant Grand Hall with the area's largest wooden floor, and a "retro" 8-lane Family Bowling facility are all part of the Turner Hall of Monroe. Turner Hall, 1217 17th Ave., Monroe, WI 53566 PH:608-325-3461 <http://www.turnerhallofmonroe.org/>

26-27, Dec 1, 3-4, 8-10, 15, 17-18, 22-24 A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas – St.Croix Falls

Facing a dismal winter after a failed year of farming, the Ingalls move to Burr Oak, Iowa to run a hotel. When Mrs. Starr, the wife of a local doctor, takes a liking to Laura and offers to adopt her, Laura becomes certain that her parents will allow it. As Christmas approaches, Laura must decide whether she wants to live with Mrs. Starr or stay with her family. By Laurie Brooks. Tickets are \$26.00 for Adult and \$13.50 for Youth (ages 5-25) Franklin Square Black Box, 125 N Washington St., St. Croix Falls, WI 54024 PH:715-483-3387 <http://www.festivaltheatre.org/>

27 – Moscow Ballet’s Nutcracker – Eau Claire

Bring the whole family for the sweetest Christmas celebration of the season! Experience the exquisite artistry of world-class Russian dancers, playful puppets and the unmatched splendor of hand crafted sets and costumes. Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker is the holiday tradition that brings the Christmas spirit to life! New York Times raves, “Real beauty!” and Los Angeles Times, “Bravura expertise!” Get your seats now for Tchaikovsky’s masterpiece at www.nutcracker.com. Tickets \$38, \$48, \$68. \$102 Gold Circle. Eau Claire Regional Arts Center 316 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire, WI 54701 PH:715-832-2787 <http://www.eauclairearts.com/>

DEC 3 – Candlelight Gallery & Shopping Night – Mineral Point

Like a Stroll through Cornwall –

Give someone “the Dickens!”? Well, yes, enjoy the warm feeling of strolling Jolly Olde England for the holidays, but without that costly plane ticket, or Ebenezer “humbugging” all over town! Well, you can come close! Give a gift of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, Candlelight Shopping Night, December 3. This friendly community was settled by Cornish miners in the 1830s and the whole historic town oozes Old World charm. You’ll find folks roasting chestnuts on the street. Potters, woodworkers, painters, weavers and glass artists open studios and galleries to visitors. There’s a little sweet shop, an old book store, jewelry, collectibles, a typography shop, good dining and not one stop light! Shop all day until 9PM. www.MineralPoint.com PH: 608-987-3201 Even Dickens would love it!

WISCONSIN –Music!

11 – The Revelers at Green Lake Thrasher Opera House

There has to be at least one band in the country that reveres the past and is unafraid about dragging it into the future. Mark down the Revelers as that band, musicians who aren’t afraid of mixing up accordion, fiddles, saxophones and guitars. Sometimes the greasiest gumbo can also be the best, as anyone within earshot of this mess will attest. Founding members of the Red Stick Ramblers and The Pine Leaf Boys joined to form this supergroup which combines swamp-sop, Cajun, country, blues and zydeco into a powerful tonic of roots music from southwest Louisiana. A festival mainstay. Bon ton all night long. Tickets \$22. Thrasher Opera House 506 Mill St., PH: 920-294-4279 <http://www.thrasheroperahouse.com/thrasher/>

12 – Brian Setzer’s Christmas Rocks Show – Appleton

The iconic guitarist, songwriter, vocalist and three-time Grammy-Award winner Brian Setzer and his 19-piece orchestra whip up a huge dose of retro holiday cheer with their Christmas Rocks! Tour presented by SiriusXM. The acclaimed show also features music from their latest Christmas album, “Rockin’ Rudolph,” their three other best-selling holiday albums, as well as original Brian Setzer hits. Consistently cited as one of the world’s greatest living guitarists, Setzer’s trademark guitar work and vocal stylings are matched with the Brian Setzer Orchestra’s rockin’ big-band horn arrangements—an unbeatable combination guaranteed to rock you into the holiday spirit! Fox Cities Performing Arts Center – Appleton – PH:920-730-3760 <http://foxcitiespac.com/>

12 – Veterans’ Day Big Band Salute – Marcus Center for Performing Arts - Milwaukee

This giant tribute will entail 35 local performers! Veterans will march in with their Flags plus a re-enactment of Iwo Jima Flag Raising! Dick Strauss returns with his Many Happy Returns Orchestra with the Radio Rosies and Valery Sarno. 7:30PM Tickets \$38: 414-273-7206 <http://www.marcuscenter.org/show/a-veterans-day-big-band-salute/>

13 – Fond du Lac Symphonic Band Concert – Fond du Lac

A concert of sacred and classical music, performed in the inspirational setting of Fond du Lac 's St. Paul 's Cathedral, seat of the Fond du Lac diocese of the Episcopalian Church by the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band. 3PM St.Paul’s Cathedral 51 W. Division Street – Fond du Lac PH: 920-907-7678 <http://www.fdsymphonicband.org/>

17 – The Subdudes at Thrasher Opera House – Green Lake

American folk, swamp pop, New Orleans rhythm & blues, Louisiana blues, country, cajun/zydeco, funk, soul and gospel. The Subdudes is a living encapsulation of American music, a vibrant cauldron of sounds that stirs together meaty grooves & jazzy dynamics, soulful R&B swagger, easy vocal harmonies, and cheeky rock 'n' roll attitude. Tickets \$35. Thrasher Opera House 506 Mill St., PH: 920-294-4279 <http://www.thrasheroperahouse.com/thrasher/>

19 – Old School Variety Show – La Crosse

The Old School Variety Show was developed in the spring of 2007. The show hearkens back to a time when people created their own entertainment. Every show is brand new and never rehearsed. 7:30-9:30PM (Also Dec 17 and Jan 21, 2017) Pump House Regional Arts Center, 119 King St, La Crosse, WI 54601 PH: 608-785-1434 <http://www.thepumphouse.org/>

19 – Take Me Home – The Music of John Denver – Janesville

The music of the late John Denver is like an old friend, outlasting trends and standing the test of time. Join acclaimed performer Jim Curry for this tribute to the music of one of the most beloved singer/songwriters ever to grace the stage. Tribute artist Jim Curry, whose voice was heard in the CBS-TV movie Take Me Home: The John Denver Story, has performed Denver's music in sold out shows throughout the country and has emerged as today's top performer of Denver's vast legacy of multi-platinum hits. 7:30PM Janesville Performing Art Center, 408 S Main St., Janesville, WI 53545 PH: 608-758-0297 <http://www.janesvillepac.org/jpac/>

29 – A Darlene Love Christmas – Wausau

A Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, Darlene Love has long been recognized as "one of the greatest singers of all-time," bringing her thunderbolt voice to wall-of-sound hits including "He's a Rebel," "He's Sure the Boy I Love", "(Today I Met) The Boy I'm Gonna Marry," and many more. This holiday season, this Sixties legend will bring all those classics and your holiday favorites to The Grand! A Darlene Love Christmas would not be complete without her signature song "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)", which she sang for 28 consecutive years on the Late Show with David Letterman, and of which, Letterman always said, "Christmas doesn't start until Darlene Love sings that song." Grand Theater, 401 Fourth St, Wausau, WI 54403, PH: 715-842-0988 <http://www.grandtheater.org/>

30 – Ladies Must Swing Concert- Madison

Slip on your dance shoes and enjoy familiar tunes from the heyday of live dance music. Tunes' concerts feature the talents of local and regional musicians showcasing a wide variety of musical genres. A cash bar and light fare are available for purchase at 5pm. Ample seating available. A wooden dance floor will be available at all in door concerts. Free. 5:30 – 7PM Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center 1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703, PH: 608-261-4000 <https://www.mononaterrace.com/>

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FREE TRAVEL GUIDES:

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TOURISM- Free: 800-432-8747 (TRIP) <http://www.travelwisconsin.com>
FREE GUIDES: "Activity Guide" Campground Directory, Lodging Directory, Highway Map, Golf, Birding, Attractions
OTHERS IN WISCONSIN: (all free)
Calumet County Guide – 920-849-1442 www.travelcalumet.com
Chippewa County Travel Guide – 866-723-0331 www.ChippewaCounty.com
Door County Visitors Guide – 800-527-3529 <http://www.doorcounty.com/web/contact.asp>
Fox Cities Area Guide – 800-223-6667 www.foxcities.org
Grant County Travel Guide – 608-348-8888 www.Platteville.com
Green Bay Visitor's Guide – 888-867-3342 www.GreenBay.com
Green County Travel Guide – 888-222-9111 www.GreenCounty.com
Kenosha Area Visitors Guide – 800-654-7309 www.KenoshaCVB.com
Kewaunee County Guide – 800-290-4299 www.VisitKewauneeCounty.com
Madison Area Visitor Guide – 800-373-6376 <http://www.visitmadison.com>
Mineral Point Travel Guide – 888-764-6894 www.MineralPoint.com
Minocqua Area Destination Guide – 800-44-NORTH www.minocqua.org
Racine – Real Racine Guide - 800-272-2463 www.realracine.com
Sauk Prairie Visitors Packet – 800- 683-2453 <http://www.saukprairie.com/visitorspacket.html>
St. Croix Valley & Polk County Guides (ask Sue for both) 800-222-7655 www.VisitSCF.com
Superior & Douglas Country Travel Guide - 800-942-5313 www.VisitSuperior.com

OTHERS – NEIGHBORING STATES, REGIONAL, ETC

Chicago Office of Tourism: Free Guide & App - <http://www.choosechicago.com>
Illinois Travel – <http://www.enjoyillinois.com/brochures/>
Iowa Tourism – <http://www.traveliowa.com/> 888.472.6035 or 515.725.3084
Lake Michigan Circle Tour and Lighthouse Map – 1-800-442-2084 or at www.WMTA.org
Lanesboro, Minnesota Visitor Guide 800-657-4972
Michigan – <http://www.michigan.org/>
Minnesota Tourism Travel Counselors at explore@state.mn.us, or 1-888-TOURISM (1-888-868-7476).
Minnesota – Mississippi Valley Bluff Country (on-line) <http://www.ExploreMississippiBluffs.com>
Mississippi Valley Partners (WI-MN) www.mississippi-river.org 1-888-999-2619
Red Wing, Minnesota www.redwing.org 1-651-385-5934 800-498-3444
Wabasha-Kellogg, Minnesota – www.wabashamn.org 1-800-565-4158
West Michigan Travel Guide - 616-245-2217 www.wmta.org/publications-24/
Winona, Minnesota Visitor Guide – (800) 657-4972 www.VisitWinona.com

BEFORE YOU GO: Avoid disappointment. Always check for schedule changes before heading to events. For more events- good sources: www.Wisconline.com, www.TravelWisconsin.com **XXXXX**