

32nd Annual MARS Drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Events - 2011

In case of inclement weather, please call the individual event for information. For parade information, visit the Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester's website at www.greaterwestchester.com for up-to-date information or call 610-696-4046.

*Advance tickets recommended or required. Limited capacity for many events – see event description for details.

Event Descriptions

***12 Days of Christmas:** Follow our search for the perfect Christmas gift in this danced production for all the young and the young at heart by WC Dance Works! Saturday, 1:30pm & 4:00pm at West Chester United Methodist Church, 129 South High St. \$7 general admission; \$6 groups of 10 or more. For tickets call 610-692-3398

***Advent Workshop:** Celebrate the season with crafts, dinner, and hot chocolate before the parade. Friday, 5:30 – 7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 130 West Miner St. Admission \$5 adults, \$2.50 children. Dinner served beginning at 6pm. Register online at www.firstpreswc.com/register. 610-696-0554

B. Reed Henderson Honors's Chamber Orchestra: Under the direction of Mrs. Cynthia Ann Cox, the orchestra will present seasonal music and light classical selections. Friday, 6:00 – 6:30pm at Church of the Holy Trinity, High and Union Sts.

Bayard Rustin Orchestra: Under the direction of Mrs. Cynthia Ann Cox, the orchestra is pleased to perform holiday and light classic music for your listening pleasure. Friday, 6:45 – 7:15pm at Church of the Holy Trinity, High and Union Sts.

Bill Hake: Talented acoustic guitar player and singer will entertain all night long. See you there! Friday, 7:00 – 11:00pm at Nonna's Restaurant, 116 East Gay St. 610-430-0203

Brandywine Christmas Minstrels: With 3-part harmonies, mandolin, guitar and bass, this toe-tapping trio plays Christmas tunes for all ages. Friday, 6:15 – 7:15pm at Fox Chase Bank, 137 North High St.

The Brandywine Singers: Join Chester County's premier vocal ensemble, The Brandywine Singers, as they sing your favorite holiday carols before and during the Tree Lighting. Friday, 7:00 – 7:30pm on the Courthouse Steps (High & Market Sts.)

Breakfast & Photo with Santa: Santa will host a pancake and sausage breakfast for children and adults, plus have a free photo with Santa! Saturday, 7:30 – 11:00am at the West Chester Area Senior Center, 530 East Union St. \$6 adults, \$3.50 children 12 & under. 610-431-4242

***Breakfast with Santa:** Full hot breakfast and treats for the children. Make reservations early for this one – two seatings! Saturday, 8:30am and 10:00am at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St. Reservations required, \$12/person – call 610-436-9010

The Bryn Mawr Mainliners Barbershop Chorus: Enjoy the harmonious melodies of this Championship Men's Chorus, starting at Penn's Table and strolling up and down West Gay Street between High and Darlington Sts. Friday, 5:30 – 7:15pm on West Gay St.

Candlelight Christmas Concert: A beautiful service of readings and music for the season presented with instruments and harp – all in Victorian costumes. Sunday, 4:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, 130 West Miner St. 610-696-0554

Cartoon Christmas Trio: Performing the music of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and other classic holiday favorites. Friday, 6:00 – 8:00pm at Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, 3 West Gay St. 610-738-9600

The Chancel Ringers: These talented ringers from First Presbyterian Church will play festive music of the season. Come listen before the parade! Friday, 6:00 – 7:30pm at Senator Andrew Dinniman's office, corner of Church & Market Sts.

Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center: Get in the holiday spirit! Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, shop our vendors and listen to WCU Gospel Ministries perform. Sunday, 1:30 – 4:30pm at the Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center, 501 East Miner St. 610-692-9291

Chester County Choral Society: Under the direction of Gary Garletts, members of the Choral Society will share holiday carols and lullabies from the Americas and beyond. Friday, 6:30 – 7:15pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St.

Chester County Youth Orchestra Pops Concert: Seventy-five member symphony orchestra performs music by Holst, Dvorak and Ireland, as well as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and seasonal music. Saturday, 7:30pm at the Church of the Holy Trinity, High and Union Sts. Free; please bring non-perishable food items. 610-524-0943

Children's Book Reading: Enjoy a reading by CCHS President, Dr. Robert Lukens, along with his daughters. Friday, 5:00 – 5:30pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St. 610-692-4800

Christmas Caroling: Come join the West Chester Area Community Chorus singing Christmas carols...we take Requests!! Friday, 6:30 – 7:30pm at DNB First, 2 North Church St.

Christmas Rock and Pop Songs: Stop by and enjoy performances by Build-A-Band at Lisa Wolfe Music. Performing will be *Costal Streak*, *Element*, *Peace Makers*, *Sock Monkeys*, *Tuesday Night* and others. Friday, 5:30 – 7:30pm at the Masonic Lodge, 10 South Church St.

The Christmas Story told through Rod Puppets: The Biblical narrative of Christ's birth, illustrated with large rod puppets. A wonderful family tradition to keep Christ in Christmas. Saturday, 7:00pm, and Sunday, 7:00pm at the Reformed Presbyterian Church, 312 West Union St. (at S. New St.) Free admission. 610-696-3482

***Christmas Tree Train:** Train departs Market St. Station promptly at 8:00am for Wiggins Tree farm to cut your own tree and return. Sunday, 8:00am from train station on East Market St. (200 block). Visit www.westchesterRR.com for more information and to order tickets online.

Dually Noted... 3 CC Artists Present Their Paintings: Join us with Michael Traines, John Suplee and Richard Chalfant for the opening of this show. Food and wine will be served. Saturday, 5:00 – 10:00pm at H.L. Chalfant Antiques, 1352 Paoli Pike, WC.

Forty Niners Chorus: Enjoy a selection of songs from the Forty Niners' annual Christmas Show, which can be seen Dec. 8-11 at Henderson High School. Friday, 6:30 and 7:00pm at Oscar Lasko YMCA Youth Program Center, 1 East Chestnut St. Visit their website for more information at www.49erschorus.org

***Gingerbread House Making:** Create a child-sized real gingerbread house! All materials will be supplied. Saturday, 2:00 – 4:00pm at the West Chester Municipal Building, 401 East Gay St. Limited to first 30 people to pre-register. \$9/person, 610-436-9010

Handel's Messiah: Handel's beloved Messiah, performed by singers from the community, area churches and the Greenleigh Chorale with soloists and orchestra. Sunday, 3:00pm at St. Agnes Church, 211 West Gay St.

Have a Merry iPad Christmas: Taylor's will perform seasonal favorites on Kawai Baby Grands...with an iPad! There's an "App" for that! Friday, 6:00 – 6:45pm at Taylor's Music Store, 116 West Gay St. 610-696-1812

Holidays at the Halladays: Please stop by and enjoy local artists' work and our live holiday music. Friday, 6:00 – 9:00pm at Halladay Florist, 29 South Church St. 610-696-5200

Holiday Craft Make & Take: Bring your children to the Oscar Lasko YMCA Youth Program Center to make and take holiday crafts for children ages 3 to 10. Friday, 5:30 – 7:00pm at the YMCA, 1 East Chestnut St. 610-696-9622

Jazz-O-Poppin: Christmas carols meet old-time jazz, with a few sentimental surprises (sponsored by Beam's Music). Friday, 6:00 – 7:30pm at Fulton Bank, 116 West Market St.

Je Ne Sais Quois (Terry McGrath, Fred Frayer, Andy Andrews, Jim Klingler): Bring the kids early, before the parade, for holiday folk music and sing-a-long. Friday, 6:00 - 7:00pm at 1N Bank, 9 North High St.

JINGLE ELF RUN: Sponsored by **First Niagara Bank**, the 3rd Annual Run is for adults & children. Awards given to runners and best elf costume! To add to the fun, pre-registered participants will receive an elf hat with bells to wear while running! Friday, start times – 6:30pm - 200m dash (kids 6 & under); 6:35pm - ½-mile run (kids 7 to 12); 6:45pm - 2-mile run, 6:45pm - 1-mile walk; 7:15pm – Awards at High & Market Sts. Register on-line at www.runcrs.com or call 610-696-0115. On-site registration at First Niagara Bank, 16 East Market St. at 5:30pm

Jingle Juggling: Stop by to enjoy an evening of juggling, music, and general tomfoolery with "Randini the Remarkable." Friday, 6:00 - 6:45pm at Susquehanna Bank, 15 East Gay St.

Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus: The children will present selections from their annual holiday concert happening at West Chester University on Dec. 17 at 7:30pm. Friday, 6:00 – 6:30pm and 6:45 – 7:15pm at the Knights of Columbus, 110 West Market St.

Kid's Make-and-Take Craft @ The Library: Create your own holiday ornament to hang in a window or on the tree! Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm at the West Chester Public Library, 415 North Church St.

Kreutz Creek Winery Art & Music: Got wine? We do! Acoustic Duo "Now and Then" will be playing and Dalissa Reeder will be displaying her art. We're pet friendly and BYOF! (Bring Your Own Food!). Friday, 7:00 – 10:00pm at Kreutz Creek Winery, 44 East Gay St.

Kreutz Creek Winery Art & Guitar: Mark Oppenlander will be strumming his Classical Guitar and Dalissa Reeder will be displaying her art. We're pet friendly and BYOF! (Bring Your Own Food!) Saturday, 7:00 – 10:00pm at Kreutz Creek Winery, 44 East Gay St.

Little Lincolns - Gettysburg Address Contest: WCASD middle school students recite Lincoln's famous "Four score" speech in the 13th annual competition for prizes, sponsored by WC Borough HARB. Friday, 5:45-6:30pm - Finalists will speak from the Lincoln Building balcony at the Chester County Community Foundation, 28 West Market St.

Luminaria Around the Park: See and enjoy the magic of the candlelight glow of 400 luminaria lining the perimeter of historic Marshall Square Park. Friday, 6:00pm until midnight on East Marshall St. between Matlack and Franklin Sts. (assisted by BSA Troop 14)

The Many Moods of Christmas 10th Anniversary Concert: Family friendly concert...adult & children's choirs, orchestra, handbells, and organ. No admission charge, but tickets required Sunday, 2:00pm & 5:00pm at Calvary Lutheran Church, 730 South New St. Contact 610-696-2475 or schutte5322@verizon.net

***NAACP 5th Annual Holiday Bazaar:** Shop for holiday gifts from local vendors, homemade crafts, jewelry, ornaments, jellies & gift baskets. Book signing from two local artists. Lunch available for a modest cost. (12-3pm). Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm at the Masonic Lodge, 10 South Church St. 610-696-3231

Nathaniel Vito and Noah Gershwin Duo: Nathaniel Vito's collaboration with guitarist Noah Gershwin blends the unique sounds of jazz vibraphone and guitar, with some holiday spirit. Friday, 6:30 – 7:30pm at Penwick Design, 132 North High St.

Old Fashioned Christmas @ Chester County Historical Society: Meet & Greet new CCHS President, Dr. Robert Lukens (4-5pm); Children's book reading by Dr. Lukens (5-5:30pm); Concerts featuring Rustin HS Concert Choir and Chester County Choral Society (6:00-7:15pm). Friday, 4:00 – 8:00pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St. 610-692-4800

Old-Fashioned Christmas Concert: The West Chester Area School District Select Strings, directed by Mrs. Katrina Kelly along with the Church of the Holy Trinity Choir, directed by Mr. Andrew Hauze present a Christmas Concert. Thursday, 7:30pm at the Church of the Holy Trinity, corner of High and Union Sts.

Old Fashioned Christmas Soup & Sandwich Parlor: Serving assorted hot and cold sandwiches, soups, snacks and desserts at family prices while you enjoy music by the Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus (6:00 – 7:15pm). Friday, 5:45 - 9:00pm at the Knights of Columbus, 110 West Market St.

Old Fashioned Christmas Walking Tours of Historic West Chester: Take a traditional OFC walking tour. Explore with us the historic crossroads in the heart of West Chester. South tours will leave at 5:00 & 5:20, and North tours at 5:10 & 5:30pm on Friday from The Lincoln Room, 28 West Market St. \$2 per person (each tour limited to 20 people, no reservations required).

PARADE: The 32nd Anniversary of the MARS Drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade ushers in the festive Christmas season! **Friday, NEW START TIME at 7:15pm**, beginning at Market and New Sts. **ROUTE:** opposite direction of traffic flow (from Market, north up New to Gay, Gay to Matlack, Matlack to Market, up Market back to New). **Adam Joseph and Cathy Gandolfo, from the 6abc News Team**, will be the commentators on the corner of Market & High Sts. at the Historic Courthouse. Over 14 marching bands from around the region will perform! Visit www.greaterwestchester.com for map and line-up. 610-696-4046

Pennsylvania Academy of Performing Arts Chamber Choir: Group will perform a collection of holiday standards sure to get you into the Christmas spirit! Friday, 6:00 – 7:00pm at Wells Fargo Bank, 17 North High St.

The QVC Singers perform Holiday Favorites: Enjoy the familiar holiday songs sung by the QVC Singers. This event is sure to put you in the holiday spirit! Friday, 6:15 – 8:00pm at Sovereign Bank, 50 West Market St.

Rustin High School Concert Choir: Come hear some of Rustin's finest singers as they perform selections inspired by the holiday season. Friday, 6:00 – 6:30pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St.

Santa's Express: Take a ride with Santa while listening to live holiday entertainment aboard West Chester Railroad. Treats for all the kids! Train departs Market St. Station, 230 East Market St., Sat. & Sun., 11:00am, 1:00 & 3:00pm for a trip to Glen Mills and back. \$20.00 for adults, \$12.50 for children ages 2-12 and \$5.00 for toddlers not on adult laps. Santa's Express runs every weekend beginning Nov. 25 through Dec. 18. Visit www.westchesterRR.com for more information and to order tickets online.

Self Guided Tours of the Historic Lincoln Building: Stop by to take a tour of the historic Lincoln Biography Building (c. 1833) and enjoy refreshments. Friday, 5:00 – 6:30pm at the Chester County Community Foundation, 28 West Market St.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY: Come watch the lighting of the 23-foot community Christmas tree prior to the start of the parade! Friday, 7:00pm on the corner of High & Market Sts. at the Courthouse.

***Trial By Jury and Carol Sing:** In this 40-minute Victorian-era musical comedy, Angelina takes Edwin, a playboy, to court for breach of promise; presented by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Chester County. **NEW LOCATION** - Courtroom 1, Chester County Justice Center, 201 W. Market St., Thursday, 8:00pm, Friday, 5:30 & 6:30pm, and Saturday, 2:00 & 8:00pm. Advance tickets: \$10 adult, \$8 senior (60+), \$5 student/child (6-21); Door tickets are \$2 more, www.gsschesco.org or 610-269-5499

Walt Kinsey and Friends: This singing group will be strolling and caroling along the streets of West Chester. Look for them and carol with them! Friday, 5:30 – 7:15pm along the streets of West Chester.

***West Chester 23rd Annual Charity Ball:** Event proceeds benefit Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children. Live entertainment, dancing, live and silent auction, dinner stations and open bar. Saturday, 6:30 to 11:00pm at the West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 West Ashbridge St. Admission is \$150 per ticket. To purchase tickets, call 610-431-3598 ext.219 or go to www.friendsassoc.org and click on Special Events.

***WCU 90th Annual Holiday Program:** A holiday festival of choral music in a traditional program. Saturday, 3:00 and 7:00pm at the Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, corner of South High St. & University Ave. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens and students. One free ticket to WCU students with their ID (must show ID with ticket at the door). Send a SASE to Attn: Ticket Office, WCU Holiday Program, Sykes Student Union Service Center, West Chester, PA 19383 or call 610-436-2266

West Chester University Baroque Ensemble: Back by popular acclaim from last year, this small string ensemble performs on period instruments in Baroque costumes. Sunday, 3:00pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St.

The WCU Gospel Ministries: Angels of Divinity (Liturgical Dance), Unlimited Praize, (Mime Group), and Vizion 323 (Gospel Hip Hop) will all perform traditional and non-traditional Holiday favorites for Santa and friends. Sunday, 2:00pm at the Charles A. Melton Center, 501 East Market St. 610-692-9290 or call Grace Kelly at 610-436-6974.

The West Chester University Gracenotes: You are invited to enjoy a night of harmony as we celebrate Old Fashioned Christmas in the traditional barbershop style! Friday, 6:45 – 7:15pm at Susquehanna Bank, 15 East Gay St.

***YWCA 40th Annual Holiday House Tour:** A self-guided tour of Chester County area homes decorated for the holidays. Saturday, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Tickets are \$35, \$30 for seniors, \$25 groups of 10 or more. Begins at WC Friends School, 415 North High St. For info email hht@wcfriends.org or call 610-696-2820

Thursday, Dec. 8th

Sounds of the Season Holiday Concert: Join us for an evening of holiday music with the West Chester Concert Band and the West Chester United Methodist Chancel Choir. Thursday, Dec. 8th, 7:30pm at WC United Methodist Church, 129 South High St. \$10 adults; \$7 seniors & students; children under 6 are free. 610-692-5190