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// EDITOR'S PAGE //



Dear Readers,

As we're wrapping up the winter issue of *At The Lake*, the cold, gray days of November have settled in. Yet with snow falling and sleet pelting my office window, I'm not the least bit bothered. My eyes are drawn to my desk covered with pages filled with photos of stunning summer weddings. It's an odd juxtaposition, but one I'm relishing. I can chase away winter's chill by taking another look at our 10th annual wedding guide, which begins on page 53. Its invaluable tips and resources are supplemented by photo galleries of local weddings featuring gorgeous gowns, decadent desserts, fabulous florals and blue sky days, ideal for celebrations at the lake.

However, winter has its own beauty and as we head into the holidays our snow-covered scenery gives each community a Christmas card-like feel. Elkhorn, though, is the only true "Christmas Card Town," an honor bestowed upon it for paintings commissioned to depict its holiday spirit and small-town charm. We're pleased to present a selection of this festive artwork that's been reproduced as Christmas cards for decades.

During the months ahead, The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva will be filled with winter sports enthusiasts. Shelby Deering shines a spotlight on how the resort and a nonprofit foundation help troubled youth through lessons on the slopes. If reading is your idea of a winter sport, check out John Halverson's profile of Emily Kornak, the director of the Lake Geneva Public Library, who shares her views on ways libraries can stay relevant.

Winter also offers time for reflection. This issue of *At The Lake*, like all, includes a story that touches on the history of the Geneva Lakes area and those who came before us. Writer Lisa Schmelz delves into the life and times of Armen Avedisian, a successful Chicago industrialist, who lived on Geneva Lake's south shore and was tapped to lead the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission — an honor not lost on this son of immigrant parents.

Welcome to our winter issue. We think it offers something for everyone — we hope you do, too.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb".

Barb Howell, Editor



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GENEVA LAKES AREA MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER & EDITORIAL

PUBLISHER

Barbara Krause
bak@ntmediagroup.com

VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Becky Peck
bpeck@ntmediagroup.com

EDITOR

Barb Howell
bhowell@ntmediagroup.com

ART DIRECTOR

Chris Livieri
chris@ntmediagroup.com

PHOTOGRAPHER & IMAGE EDITOR

Holly Leitner
holly@ntmediagroup.com

DIGITAL DIRECTOR

Kristen Rouse
krouse@ntmediagroup.com

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Kristin Dvorak
kdvorak@ntmediagroup.com

SALES

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Deann Hausner
deann@ntmediagroup.com

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Julie Schiller
julie@ntmediagroup.com

SALES SUPPORT

Kerri Melchiorre
kerri@ntmediagroup.com

ACCOUNTING

Kristin Hovestol
accounting@ntmediagroup.com

CIRCULATION

Ray Konopka
distribution@ntmediagroup.com

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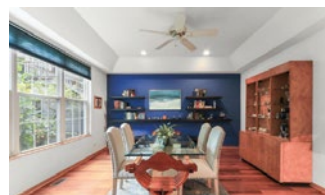
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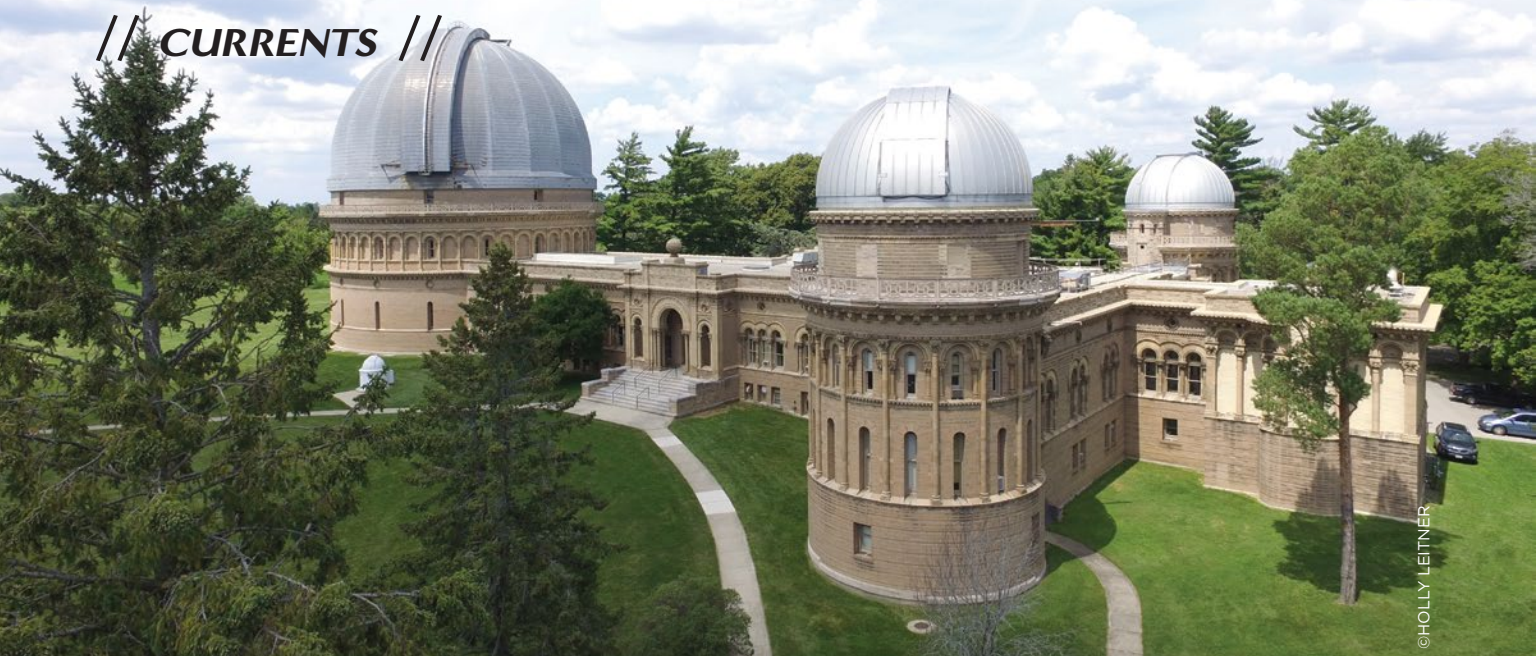


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TRANSFER OF YERKES OWNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

The University of Chicago and the Yerkes Future Foundation (YFF) have announced an agreement in principle for transfer of ownership of Yerkes Observatory and related property in Williams Bay to YFF. “Over the next several months, both organizations will be closely working on all aspects of the proposed transfer,” according to a statement released by both parties.

The university’s announcement in March 2018 to cease operations at Yerkes prompted the formation of YFF, a nonprofit group, led by Williams Bay resident Dianna Colman, with a mission to reopen the observatory to the public.

When reached for comment, Colman stated, “The Yerkes Future Foundation plans on preserving the iconic structure, honoring its history and legacy, and reopening the site to visitors, scientists, astronomers, educators and students. We’re very excited about the future, but we recognize there is much to do to ensure the observatory lasts for many generations.”

Since Oct. 1, 2018, when the observatory closed to the public, students and faculty in the University of Chicago’s Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics have continued to do educational and research work there. Upon completion of the transfer to YFF, the university will end

its involvement with the observatory, the announcement stated.

CLINIC TO EXPAND DENTAL SERVICES

Open Arms Free Clinic (O AFC) in Elkhorn is closing in on its fundraising goal of \$250,000, the amount needed to purchase an adjacent building and expand its dental services to hundreds of new patients.

According to Executive Director Sara Nichols, O AFC receives about 10 calls a day from Walworth County residents seeking dental care, a service it started offering on a limited basis in 2015.

O AFC provides medical and supportive care services to local residents who are uninsured or underinsured and live in a household with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The volunteer-driven organization received a dental grant in 2017, which allowed them to hire paid staff to assist their dental personnel. In 2018, O AFC began accepting Medicaid for children who require access to dental care.

The building adjacent to O AFC currently houses Family Dental Arts, which is moving its practice and paving the way for Open Arms to create a new six-chair dental suite. An affiliation agreement is in process with Marquette Dental School, and

donated equipment is ready to move in, according to Nichols.

“Every five years the county does a community health improvement plan, and access to dental care is continually in the top five needs,” Nichols says. “This will allow us to provide free dental care to qualified adults and children under one roof.”

Nichols says Open Arms plans to announce its completed fundraising efforts during its annual Birthday Gala on Dec. 6, which will mark O AFC’s seventh year of operation. The dental clinic opening date could be as early as January, added Nichols. For information, visit openarmsfreeclinic.org.



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Members of the Water Safety Patrol book committee include, from left, Anne Morrissy, Kelly Curin Otzen, Tara Kincaid Schreiner, WSP Operations Director Ted Pankau, WSP President Leigh Otzen and Maggie Green Cambria. Not pictured is WSP Assistant Director Sean Slattery.

WATER SAFETY PATROL BOOK UNVEILED

Almost 100 years after Simeon B. Chapin founded the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol, about 75 people gathered in mid-October at his former Lake Geneva home to celebrate the organization's milestone anniversary.

The gathering marked the formal launch of the newly released title "Running the Reds,"

a book documenting the nonprofit's history dating back to 1920. The Safety Patrol's 100 Committee enlisted former patrol member Anne Morrissy to write the book and chose Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc. to design it.

"The Water Safety Patrol is a one-of-a-kind organization," according to Operations Director Ted Pankau. "It's very unique, and it's kind of hard to explain to

people exactly what we are, where we come from and how we got to where we are today. This book does an excellent job of kind of putting that together in a story with pictures. Anne did a phenomenal job showing who we are and how important we are to the community."

Kelly Otzen, 100 Committee chairwoman, says many former patrollers attended the launch party and "their reaction to the book was super special." ... "It was a celebration of the organization and the people who have given many of their summers to it. Most importantly, the book highlights the number of lives the Water Safety Patrol has saved as it fulfills its role in keeping Lake Geneva safe," she adds.

"Running the Reds" is available at Cornerstone Shop, Flemings Ltd., Geneva Lake Museum, McCullough's, Delaney Street Mercantile, Daniels Food Sentry, Waterfront Store in the Abbey Resort & Spa, Gordy's and online at watersafetypatrol.org. See the calendar of events beginning on page 112 for dates for author book signings.



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ICE CASTLES MOVES TO GENEVA NATIONAL

Lake Geneva will again be transformed into a magical winter wonderland as Ice Castles, LLC returns with a larger and more interactive attraction.

Although the company's first appearance on Lake Geneva's Riviera Beach last year drew thousands, Ice Castles Marketing Director Melissa Smuzynski says the new location at Geneva National Resort & Club will allow for more space to expand the icy paradise with additional slides, crawl spaces, slot cannons and more. "Ultimately, what we can create is entirely dependent on Mother Nature," Smuzynski says. "Sometimes she's really nice to us and allows us to build something really grand, and other times she can be a little more challenging to work with."

Leslie Johnson, vice president of sales and marketing at Geneva National, says the ice castle attraction will be located on the driving range near the clubhouse. The gated community plans to bring in additional security during the heavy traffic times, especially for weekends and holidays.

"We're very excited that they wanted us to be their location this year," Johnson says. "We think the backdrop we have against Lake Como will be beautiful, and the ability for people to get in and out will be better."

Smuzynski expects the ice castle to take up about an acre of land, or about double the size of last year's, meaning it should be able to accommodate more guests at once.

Guests are encouraged to reserve a time slot online at icecastles.com/lake-geneva. Weather permitting, the attraction is scheduled to open in early January. ▲



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A TRANSFORMATIVE PRESENCE

Emily Kornak's vision for the Lake Geneva Public Library is ever-evolving, ensuring this community resource stays relevant

BY JOHN HALVERSON

The view from her office is stunning. Two massive floor-to-ceiling windows look out on Geneva Lake. From there she can watch seasons change and people strolling the Shore Path awash in lake views and daydreams.

Anyone else would be so entranced by the view to the point of distraction. Not Emily Kornak, director of the Lake Geneva Public Library.

"I'm so busy I don't even have a chance to enjoy it," Kornak says with a smile. She speaks with a quick, upbeat lilt. The speed of her cadence is in line with the pace at which she works.

Yes, Kornak has heard people say she has the best office in Lake Geneva because of its view. But she would rather give up that view and give it to library patrons.

Her vision, and that of the library board, is to expand the library's already expansive lake views that make it so attractive. The board is currently contemplating a number of upgrades which include repurposing the director's office into a place where others can admire the view.

Those changes would be in line with what James Dresser had in mind when he designed the library in 1954. Dresser was a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, whose Prairie style architecture emphasized bringing the outside in as the library's panoramic windows do. The hope is to incorporate that philosophy with today's needs — which is actually akin to the form-follows-function mantra Wright and his disciples championed.

But it's a far cry from 1894 when Mary Sturges deeded her small cottage and the land around it to the city to be used as a library and park in perpetuity.

Today, people surf the internet for information and order books via websites like Amazon and Barnes & Noble — conveniences Mary Sturges couldn't begin to imagine. And reference desks, once staples of libraries, are nearly as useless as card catalogs.

REINVENTING AND REIMAGINING

Adapting to new times, however, is the key to the future, explains Kornak. "My vision for the future of libraries keeps changing as I see more and more innovation from libraries around the country and around the world," she says.

Since Kornak took over as director three years ago, the library has increased programming and expanded its network with other libraries to provide access to more than a million items, which can be delivered nearly as quickly as they can by Amazon.

People can also check out items from the library that have nothing to do with books: Wi-Fi hotspots, cake pans, portable CD and DVD players, a metal detector, cassette converter, iPad with preloaded movies, Playaway audiobooks (and audio cables to connect them in your car), thumb pianos, a mini steel drum, ukuleles, bocce ball sets, American Girl dolls and birdwatching kits.

"It's not just about technology," Kornak says, "it's also about community, connections, and working and learning and the space where all of this can take place."

The library was one of the first to eliminate fines for most overdue materials and has added Sunday hours in the winter and spring. The vision is for the library to evolve into a community gathering place.

Making the library more popular is especially important as its funding comes from the county and is based on the number of items checked out. The city's lack of free parking puts it at a disadvantage with other libraries in the county.

"I think libraries are still in their era of transformation where what we do is shaped both by staff anticipating community needs and the community telling us what they want," Kornak says.

The people who work in libraries have changed, too, from the days when the stereotype of the librarian was someone who "shushed" patrons. Now, at the Lake Geneva Public Library, you're likely to be greeted with an inviting smile and a "How can I help you?"

"Over the past couple of years, we have made a concerted effort to focus on customer service, library programs and events, and our service offerings to patrons in general," Kornak explains.

"My vision for the future of libraries keeps changing as I see more and more innovation from libraries around the country and around the world."

EMILY KORNAK, DIRECTOR, LAKE GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY

She's been pleased with the reaction from patrons who have appreciated the changes, but she wishes more people would visit. Free library cards and a seamless checkout process make the library one of today's best bargains.

"This is such a valued community resource, and the love of reading and learning that we see every day in our regular visitors makes my librarian heart very happy," she

says. "But I also think there are a lot of people who either have forgotten or don't realize the value of using the library, and there is a challenge for us in reaching those people to let them know that this is their library, and that we're here for everyone."

HER JOURNEY TO LAKE GENEVA

Kornak's life journey could be a book in itself. She was born in South Korea and was adopted by an American family before her first birthday. She grew up outside of West Bend where she frequented the West Bend Public Library and got her first taste of the library experience.

"I remember story times there and my favorite children's librarian," she says. "She was quite a storyteller."

Her favorite books from childhood? The "Anne of Green Gables" books, the "Black Stallion" series, "Where the Red Fern Grows," "The Wind in the Willows" and "Charlotte's Web."

"My parents are readers. I used to borrow my mom's library books when I wanted

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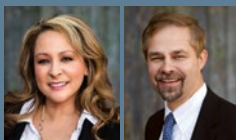
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something new to read, and my dad is a collector of books.”

She had an early connection to Lake Geneva because she had extended family that lived in the area. “I have some early memories of visiting Lake Geneva over holidays and other occasions to see my grandparents,” she says. “The lake is stunning, the downtown is charming, the people are warm and friendly — what’s not to love?”

Kornak didn’t start out to become a librarian. She studied international relations at UW-Madison in hopes of working for the United Nations. “I found political science fascinating, and the added international aspect even more so. I still do, but working for the UN is no longer on my list of career goals.”

Her first job after college was with the American Chamber of Commerce in Frankfurt, Germany. Later, she worked in marketing for a manufacturer of ultrasonic welding machinery, at Walgreens headquarters and for a stainless-steel manufacturer. “The companies I worked for tended to have fast-paced, demanding environments. I liked that aspect,” she says. “I don’t mind pressure and deadlines, and there’s a lot of both [in the library].”

She started wanting to do something where she could actually help people directly. “Libraries had never occurred to me,” she says, “but when I started considering moving back into non-profits, suddenly public libraries popped up on my radar and I thought, yes — this! This is what I’d like to try. I’ve never looked back.”

Her first library job was at the Barrington Area Library in Barrington, Illinois, where she started part time as a library assistant. She worked there while she got her master’s degree in library and information science from UW-Milwaukee. As soon as she finished graduate school, a full-time position as a librarian opened up at Barrington and she became their first Business Liaison Librarian. After that she worked at the Waukesha Public



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Library and then became director at the Sharon library.

"My favorite thing about libraries is that the staff is encouraged to try new things and not be afraid to fail, because it shows that we're always learning and adapting," she says. "And instead of profit or shareholder value as the bottom line, it's our value to the community that we need to constantly assess and strive to improve."

Kornak lives with her husband, Pierre, and three rescue dogs in the Town of Sugar Creek.

Her hobbies? Reading, kayaking, walking with her dogs, and she and her husband recently discovered foraging for wild mushrooms. "I have a lot to learn still, but I find it enormously satisfying to be able to pick my dinner from the backyard," she says. "I made puffball mushroom pizza the other evening for the first time."

"I play piano, but I'm very rusty because I don't practice enough, so I usually don't tell anyone that," she says.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM A READER

Of course, she's carried her childhood passion for reading into adulthood. Her favorites: "The Complete Sherlock Holmes," "All Creatures Great and Small," and "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë.


Recent books she's liked well enough to recommend to friends: "This Is How It Always Is" by Laurie Frankel, anything by Julia Keller, and the "Three Pines" mystery series by Louise Penny.

"I love mysteries, because I like how the questions drive the plot forward and keep me reading, and if the book is good, reading way too late at night," she says.

It's no mystery where you'll find those books — right outside Kornak's office, the one she wants to give up so more people can enjoy the view. ▲

Editor's Note: In the interest of full disclosure, the author is a member of the Lake Geneva City Council and the council's representative to the library board.

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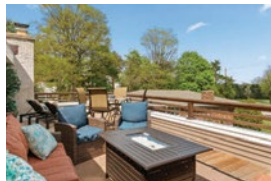
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A PATRIOT'S STORY

Lake Geneva resident and son of immigrants,
Armen Avedisian was driven to achieve
success and lead the efforts to restore our
nation's symbols of freedom

BY LISA SCHMELZ

Standing before the city's skyline, Chicago industrialist and longtime Lake Geneva resident Armen Avedisian never forgot his immigrant roots.



WHAT DO LAKE GENEVA and the Statue of Liberty have in common? Armen Avedisian, a first-generation Armenian-American, who paved thousands of miles of roadway in Illinois, owned a bank in Lake Geneva, and was tapped by President Ronald Reagan to chair the commission for the restoration and

preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

A successful entrepreneur and longtime summer resident on Geneva Lake's south shore, Avedisian's quarries and patents made him millions. He retired at 49, but not really. When Citizens National

Bank in his beloved Lake Geneva became available in 1980, he purchased it. Today, his legacy is an enduring testament to the power of the immigrant story — a story of first-generation Americans, who realize their grandest fortune is the freedom to succeed or fail as spectacularly as they wish.

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For Avedisian, the choice was always clear: He would succeed.

“He had a burning desire to be an entrepreneur,” said his son, Guy Avedisian, in a Nov. 23, 2000, *Chicago Tribune* obituary about his father. “He believed very strongly in someone owning a business. He thought that one of the greatest things about this country was to be an individual entrepreneur.”

Committed to the American dream, owning a bank was a labor of love for Avedisian, says Lake Geneva resident Roger O’Neill, a longtime friend of Avedisian and his wife, Dorothy. “He was good for the town because he had access to the local businessmen, and he knew them, and he knew the area and he knew what they were facing,” says O’Neill.

Today his children recall a father for whom money was not the greatest treasure.

“He’d update his resume and bio frequently, and one-third of it was dedicated to his kids. He had a lot of pride in his kids,” recalls son Vann, a private equity consultant. “He was very accomplished in business and civics, and yet, his children were front and center.”

LAKE GENEVA WINDOW & DOOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGANTE-WILSON ARCHITECTS

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POSTER: "ARMENIANS IN AMERICA: CELEBRATING THE FIRST CENTURY"

Avedisian’s mother survived the brutality of the Turks of the Ottoman Empire before emigrating to the U.S. Posters like this asked U.S. citizens to contribute to Near East relief efforts.



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FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

That his own three children were front and center may have been as much parental instinct as it was gratitude for the chance to raise them on free soil. His own parents, and his first wife Dorothy Donian's parents, came to America as refugees. Fleeing the Armenian genocide, the systematic slaughter of as many as 1.5 million Armenians by the Turks of the Ottoman Empire, their escapes were harrowing.

"I don't know much about the journey of my father's father here to the U.S., but my father's mother, I know survived the Armenian genocide. Her family was all killed. She got diphtheria and was in Aleppo in an orphanage. Her picture appeared in an advertisement in a magazine in Detroit, for the Detroit area, and a relative saw her photo, and it was asking for money, of course, and they saw her, and recognized her, and that's how she came to the U.S.," explains daughter, Donna, who resides in Portland today.

What role do the Avedisian children think their grandparents' experiences in the genocide played in their father's life? "We're all products of our parents and their experiences," reflects Vann. "And it's hard to really know, when you escape something like that, how it would shape you. My guess is that it was pretty important for Dad to work hard and be studious and be goal-oriented, which he was."

THE FIRST GENERATION

Armen Avedisian was a first-generation American, who grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois. His immigrant father was a civil engineer with the State of Illinois. Avedisian received an engineering degree in 1949 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Following his graduation, he worked as an asphalt and paving superintendent. Just a few years later, he was working for a rival firm as their vice president. Before he was 30, he had his own company, Lincoln Stone Quarry Inc. in Joliet.

PHOTO: "ARMENIANS IN AMERICA: CELEBRATING THE FIRST CENTURY"



Armen Avedisian, son of Armenian immigrants, served as chairman of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. He's pictured here on the stage in front of the Statue of Liberty during Liberty Week events in July 1986.

In 1952, he would marry his first wife, Dorothy Donian. (They divorced in 1996.) By the late 1950s, Avedisian owned his own road construction company. By 1976, he was the chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and sole stockholder of Avedisian Industries, a holding of six corporations centered in the quarrying and heavy construction industries. In 1979 he sold his companies, and a crucial patent to Commonwealth Edison. Not even a year later, though, he needed something to do. Always on the prowl for a good investment, Avedisian, also a globally renowned backgammon player, purchased Citizens National Bank in Lake Geneva and its \$25 million in assets.

"He was very driven," recalls Donna. "Once he retired from the business of road building and owning quarries and mining limestone, he got advice from a member of the Chicago business community that he shouldn't retire and should look into some options. Suggestions were made on what to look at, and they heard of the bank in Lake Geneva being for sale."

Helping other entrepreneurs also appealed to him. In a 1986 *Lake Geneva Regional News* story, a friend offered this on Avedisian's motives for banking: "He wanted to help people," recalled the friend, John Elasarian, a Lake Geneva restaurant

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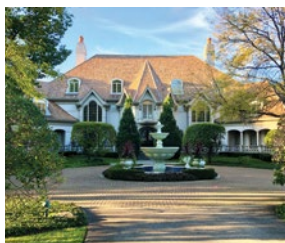


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PHOTO COURTESY: LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS

Throughout his life, Armen Avedisian rubbed shoulders with heads of industry as well as politicians. This photo, taken at a private event, shows him with son Guy and Ronald and Nancy Reagan before Reagan's election in 1980. In 1982, President Reagan appointed the senior Avedisian to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission and in 1986 appointed him chairman.

manager. "When he was young and had ambitious ideas, he went to banks to borrow money, and in many cases, he was turned down."

PRESERVING LADY LIBERTY

Patriotism also appealed to Avedisian, and in 1982 the lifelong Republican had been appointed by President Reagan to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission and Foundation. The commission's aim was to restore and protect the aging statue and raise funds to preserve Ellis Island. On his first visit to Ellis Island, according to press reports, he simply stood silently in the deteriorating building, wondering what his "young, bewildered" immigrant parents "who could not speak English," thought as they were processed in this very space.

As a committee member, Avedisian was taking a week off from his bank each month to fly to New York and apply what the *Chicago Tribune* dubbed "liberal elbow grease" to the fundraising effort.

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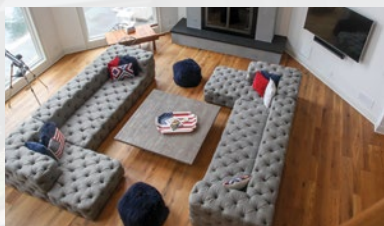


Why not have the government pay for the restoration? “We wanted it to be a private endeavor to build patriotism around the country and deepen appreciation for what the statue and America are all about,” explained Avedisian in a June 20, 1985 story with the *Lake Geneva Regional News*.

His children say their father was as thrilled with the buckets full of change from school children as he was with the six-figure donations from titans of industry. In 1986, President Reagan named Avedisian to head the commission replacing Chrysler Corporation Chairman Lee Iacocca.

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ARIAS on Geneva Lake

While Armen Avedisian raised funds to restore the Statue of Liberty, his wife, Dorothy Donian Avedisian, raised funds to bring the musical arts to Lake Geneva area schools. A classically trained opera singer, she was one of the cofounders of the Lake Geneva Floating Opera. The Avedisians were major benefactors of the Lyric Opera in Chicago and brought world-renowned opera to Lake Geneva one night a summer aboard *The Lady of the Lake*. Ticket prices were a then-steep \$100 or more, but proceeds gave area children access to touring opera companies.

"It was beautiful," says Sue Larkin, a longtime neighbor and friend of the Avedisians. "It was a beautiful event, and Dorothy was a singer herself and loved the arts. All of the arts."

"Why do we want to give opera to children?" she was asked in a June 18, 1998 *Lake Geneva Regional News* story. "Because opera has everything. We all need creative escapes to keep our minds and souls and bodies intact, and this is one of those escapes."

The Floating Opera had a successful run for over two decades. Today, Dorothy Avedisian is in her 90s, and resides in Illinois. For years, her family summered in Lake Geneva. The Samuel Donian Wetlands Preserve, between West Main and Center streets, was donated for public use by her family and named for her father, who also escaped the Armenian genocide as a stowaway on a ship.

Pictured at their Lake Geneva home are the Avedisian children and their mother, Dorothy, a classically trained opera singer and cofounder of the Lake Geneva Floating Opera. From left: Vann, Donna and Guy.

Fundraising efforts netted over \$256 million dollars from individuals, schools, civic groups and private companies, and corporate sponsors. Reagan shared his gratitude in this letter to Avedisian:

"The work of the commission has exceeded our fondest expectations. As a member of the commission since 1982 and its chairman for the past year and a half, you've done yeoman's work ... The unprecedented outpouring of affection and generosity on the part of the American people in response to this historic undertaking will always remain a highlight of my years as president. Again, thank you for giving of your time and talents. Your dedication over the years has been a source of inspiration to me and the American people."

THE SECOND GENERATION REFLECTS

Only two generations removed from genocide, the Avedisian children are keenly aware of how divided America is today. What do they think their father, a conservative Republican, would make of that division? "I don't think he would have a very positive view on the nationalistic bent that seems to exist now," says

Vann. "He was very patriotic, but not a nationalist. He knew (nationalism) fuels genocide."

Donna agrees. "He aligned with what would favor hard work and perseverance, and what would enable entrepreneurs to be entrepreneurs. I think he would be in favor of some commonsense immigration policies," she reflects. "And he knew what his parents went through in the Armenian genocide."

Of course, we can't ask Avedisian what his thoughts would be about today's political climate. Gone for 19 years, we can only speculate.

However, we get a sense that this actual bridge builder was, in every sense of the word, a uniter. Giving an address to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Apostolic Church in America at Ellis Island in 1998, he offered these words:

"Some years ago, I was privileged to be part of the restoration of Lady Liberty and Ellis Island. During the course of that labor of love, we learned that the Lady was much more than just metal plates supported by an iron frame. This great hall was much more than mere bricks and mortar. And, the people who entered America through these portals represented much more than flesh, blood and bone. These twin icons, and the people drawn to them, were imbued with an indomitable spirit and sense of hope. Not mere symbols, they were the embodiment of humanity's unwillingness to succumb to oppression and hatred. They stood in stark counterpoint to the evil that has plagued mankind since the beginning of time." ▲

Editor's Note: Stories steeped in history are never reported alone. At The Lake wishes to thank the children of Armen and Dorothy Avedisian for helping us tell this story through their own memories, and with papers and artifacts held by the family. To learn more about the Armenian Genocide, which is still not acknowledged by the Turkish government as a genocide, visit armeniangenocidemuseum.org.

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LAKE GENEVA

capturing the spirit of the **season**

Commissioned artwork depicting this Walworth County community is a holiday tradition

BY BARB HOWELL

Holiday cards, still in vogue for many, were once the only way to express season's greetings to distant family and friends. Finding just the right card to convey a personal message could be as important as finding the perfect Christmas tree. For some, though, these beautifully illustrated cards have given way to a quick email, Instagram or Facebook post, or a family photo accented with a holiday design and printed for everyone on your mailing list in a matter of hours.

No one can argue with these conveniences, but the importance of traditional Christmas cards has been in the forefront for

one Walworth County community — Elkhorn — for years. With its quaint downtown square, charming homes, festive holiday decorations and bucolic setting, Elkhorn has been the subject of artists for decades as they've created Christmas cards depicting its small-town charm. Printed by the thousands and mailed throughout the world, these cards have given Elkhorn the unique moniker of the "Christmas Card Town."

The honor was bestowed on the community years ago and the story brings with it a bit of holiday nostalgia. According to Chris Clapper, executive director of the Elkhorn



"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE ... IN ELKHORN"

T. James Carson
2014



**A SCENE OF ELKHORN, WISCONSIN,
“THE CHRISTMAS CARD TOWN”**

Cecile Johnson
1958 (Printed as a Christmas card in the 1960s)

Chamber of Commerce, a 1952 TV series called the “March of Time” featured the city of Elkhorn during the holiday season and put the town in the national spotlight.

As a result of the show, the community gained the attention of artist Cecile Johnson who was commissioned by Ford Motor Company in 1958 to create six watercolor paintings illustrating a small town to accompany an article in their monthly publication, the *Ford Times*. Later, a major publishing house used five of the six paintings for Christmas cards, distributing them nationwide and further bolstering Elkhorn’s image as an idyllic Midwestern town.



**A BEAUTIFULLY PRESERVED BRICK RESIDENCE —
ELKHORN’S FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE**

Cecile Johnson
1958 (Printed as a Christmas card in the 1960s)

The tradition of capturing the city’s Christmas spirit resumed when the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce commissioned local artist Jan Castle-Reed to create a series of 15 oil paintings, the last one appearing as the 2011 Christmas card. In 2012, T. James Carson succeeded Castle-Reed with his watercolor paintings, which have graced Elkhorn’s Christmas cards ever since.

Beginning with the artwork at left and continuing on the following four pages, we’re pleased to present a sampling of artwork from Elkhorn’s famous Christmas card collection. Whether it’s the beauty of a fresh snowfall, the hustle and bustle of holiday shoppers

or the solitude of a church beneath a starry sky, all depict familiar sights and the simple joy that a special holiday greeting can deliver.

All designs within the Elkhorn Christmas card collection are available for purchase at the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce, Matheson Memorial Library and the following Elkhorn businesses: Stillwater Coffee, Pharmacy Station, Friends on the Square and Frank’s Piggly Wiggly.

You can also view the original paintings used to create the cards. Cecile Johnson’s work is on display at Elkhorn’s City Hall. The remaining paintings can be viewed at Elkhorn’s Matheson Memorial Library. ▲



COMPOSITE VIEW OF SEVERAL FARM SCENES. IN THE CENTER, THE WILLIAM YURS FARM.

Cecile Johnson
1958 (Printed as a Christmas card in the 1960s)



"A CANDLE IN EVERY WINDOW"

Jan Castle-Reed
1996



"ROOM AT THE INN"

Jan Castle-Reed
1997



"CHRISTMAS MORNING GREETING"

Jan Castle-Reed
1998



"THE SLEIGHRIDE"

Jan Castle-Reed
2000



"WINTER VISITORS"

Jan Castle-Reed
2001



"CHRISTMAS AT THE WEBSTER HOUSE"

Jan Castle-Reed
2002



"THE GLOW OF CHRISTMAS"

Jan Castle-Reed
2003



"IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO CHRISTMAS SHOP"

Jan Castle-Reed
2004



"CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FANTASY"

Jan Castle-Reed
2005



"ELKHORN'S 25TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE"

Jan Castle-Reed
2006



"SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS"

Jan Castle-Reed
2007





"A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS"

Jan Castle-Reed
2010



"A HOLIDAY STROLL TO REMEMBER"

T. James Carson
2018



"THE SOUND OF MUSIC BY THE ELKHORN BAND"

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A **BREATH** *OF FRESH AIR*

Grand Geneva Resort partners with a nonprofit foundation to give inner-city Chicago kids the opportunity to experience snowboarding as well as personal growth

**BY SHELBY DEERING
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLY LEITNER**

EVERY WINTER, THE BUS ARRIVES FROM CHICAGO full of kids who are visiting The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva for the first time. Many gaze in awe at the hill as if they are looking at the Rocky Mountains. That's how Chad Hart, director of Ski Area Operations at Grand Geneva Resort, describes the moment when the participants of Burton Snowboards' Chill Foundation take their first steps onto the snow.



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It is absolutely amazing to see the reaction of the youth every year when they arrive at the ski area,” Hart says.

Based in Burlington, Vermont, the Chill Foundation chose to headquarter their Midwest programming at Grand Geneva Resort, where this season they plan to host over 100 kids ranging in age from 10 to 18. In a six-week period in January and February, 40-50 kids at a time will come for three-hour, twice-weekly sessions. They'll learn to snowboard with the best of them and learn a lot about themselves in the process.

AN IMPACTFUL PROGRAM

The Chill Foundation was started in 1995 by Jake and Donna Carpenter, the founders of Burton Snowboards. “Youth largely drove the growth of snowboarding and Burton, and they wanted to have a way to give back and provide opportunities for all kids to participate,” says Alex Bornstein, executive director of the Chill Foundation.

The nonprofit foundation has taught 25,000 participants to snowboard, but it's not just about hitting the slopes. The program, with national and international sites, centers around a value-driven curriculum made up of experiential learning activities, reflection and discussion while paired with boardsport lessons.



Chill's six core values, which are patience, courage, persistence, responsibility, respect and pride, provide kids with a foundation and structure for learning and growth, supported and developed through on-board progression and adult mentorship, as Bornstein explains. All equipment and programming are provided at no cost to participants, he adds.

Transporting kids from underprivileged areas to ski hills filled with sparkling snow and supportive people introduces them to an environment that is a world away from their everyday surroundings. Bornstein shares that program participants are located through social service agencies, foster care programs, mental health agencies, community schools and juvenile justice programs.

Chill Chicago was established in 2001 with the goal of developing a program in the Midwest, and in 2014, they reached out to The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva. The program immediately piqued Grand Geneva's interest, and the first sessions were held in 2015.



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"They were looking for a home for their winter sports program in the greater Chicagoland area," Hart says. "We instantly saw it as a great fit into our area and the ski culture we like to support and promote. We are proud to be a community-based ski area. We have always said, 'If you can, you should,' meaning if you have an opportunity and the resources to be a positive part of the community and help support great causes, you should. Chill is a great example of that," Hart says.

Bornstein reflects on Grand Geneva's involvement in the Chill Foundation, saying, "The Grand Geneva staff is incredibly supportive, and they are outstanding teachers and mentors. The mountain itself is the perfect size for beginners while offering plenty of challenges for our youth as they progress as snowboarders. Its proximity to Chicago is also a huge bonus."

CHANGING KIDS' LIVES

Bornstein says that the Chill Foundation provides kids who are facing significant life challenges with "a safe and inclusive space where they can be themselves, physically removed from their day-to-day realities." Something that can give participants a fresh start, a sense of hope and the chance to discover who they are.

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ON THE SLOPES

"Chill is important to me because it taught me to work with others."

"Chill helps me take all the stress away and get my mind off of things. It helped me learn to not give up and keep trying."

"Now I am more confident to try other things out."

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It also invites kids to travel outside their comfort zones into what Bornstein calls “their growth zone.” He explains that as participants take on new experiences and work to overcome their challenges and fears, their comfort zones will expand. Their growth zone will eventually be included in their comfort zone, something that’s far from what may originally have been their “danger zone.”

It just so happens that snowboarding is a perfect activity for those looking to challenge their comfort zones. In fact, the sport is an ideal vehicle for the program’s values-based curriculum that weaves in coping mechanisms and socialization skills.

“Snowboarding, and all boardsports, are physically and mentally challenging and they require resilience and persistence every time you get on the board, regardless of how long you’ve been doing them. It’s a great analogy for life — you need to challenge yourself at your own pace, but in order to grow, you need to constantly progress as an individual,” Bornstein says.

The bus ride from Chicago to Grand Geneva is treated as “classroom” time in which the program’s adult mentors talk about the values and themes of

“BOARDING” SCHOOL

In cooperation with Burton Snowboards (the same company that is at the helm of the Chill Foundation), Grand Geneva offers the Burton Learn to Ride (LTR) program. Geared toward newbies, the equipment is designed with beginners in mind and is available for kids and adults. It’s a progression-focused way to learn that doesn’t throw participants in the deep end right away. Instead, it meets people where they are and works seamlessly with their abilities, and that means a lot more fun and easy learning for participants. If you’d like to learn to snowboard this winter, visit grandgeneva.com/ski-snow-sports.



Chill. For instance, in a video featured on the Chill website, Chicago participants are asked to tear a sheet of paper in half. On one half they’re instructed to write the ways they can learn to be responsible during Chill sessions and on the other half ways they can be responsible outside of Chill, at home and beyond.

Hart explains what takes place after the bus arrives at the ski hill. “We have our PSIA (Professional Ski Instructor Association) trained instructors along with the Chill Chicago staff teaching the groups how to ride through a series of lessons that are based on our progression-teaching techniques and using the Burton Learn To Ride system and equipment that we supply.”

Hart communicates a similar outlook to the one Bornstein shared on how snowboarding can teach life lessons: “Snowboarding can be like anything new. It’s out of most people’s norm; it can be intimidating, it can be scary and it can feel at the time like it’s an unachievable goal. However, just like everything in life, if you take it one step at a time, look at all challenges in a positive light, work

hard and respect the path in front of you, you soon will be shredding the slopes on the hill and ready and confident to take on any challenge in life.”

Or, as a second-time Chill Chicago participant puts it, “Chill helped me to keep going and then I got it! I learned some of the tools I need to be successful and positive.”

STOKED FOR SEASONS TO COME

The Chill Foundation’s reach goes well beyond the borders of the United States and Canada, to faraway places where there are kids who also benefit from the program.

In addition to their United States and Canada-based programming, Bornstein says, “There are currently programs in Italy, Austria, Czech Republic and Japan that are affiliated with Burton Snowboards but not included under Chill’s umbrella. That will soon change. This consolidation will lead to program

growth in those countries as well as the gradual expansion of Chill programming to new countries in Europe and Asia.”

Here in the Lakes Area and in other Chill locations, generous funding spurs on the efforts of the program. Bornstein says, “Chill has thousands of generous individuals and corporate and foundation donors that support our programs through cash and in-kind support.”

Hart elaborates, saying, “Each location is sponsored by Burton and throughout the year they put on fundraising events to support operations. At Grand Geneva we hold an end-of-season party where a portion of every lift ticket goes to support Chill here.”

The 2020 season at Grand Geneva is sure to bring new experiences, along with a range of emotions, to Chill participants as they tackle The Mountain Top’s slopes. One thing is for sure: When boarding the bus to return home to

Chicago, they’ll take with them more than snowboarding techniques.

If the new season is anything like the others, Hart says, “It will be absolutely heartwarming and inspiring to see the kids’ progress.” It starts, he explains, “From the very first conversations with them as they express how unsure they are about trying to snowboard; how they’ve never tried anything like it or they’ve never seen anything like it close-up. But before you know it, they’ve completed their last session and they’re snowboarding from top to bottom by themselves.”

“To see the progression of everyone and to see the self-confidence build and be supported is what it’s all about,” he adds. “It’s amazing to be able to give people the ability to expand their confidence to build their horizons — not only in snowboarding, but in life, and also to give them confidence that they can do and be anything they want to be in life through hard work and determination.” ▲

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To help you build your vendor team, we asked each couple for a list of the industry professionals they turned to — everything from bakeries to bridal boutiques. In addition, we’ve included

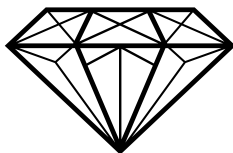
complementary display advertising throughout the guide to provide you with even more local resources to consider. We know there are dozens of choices and even more questions to ask before you make your final decisions, so be sure to review our tips for selecting essential vendors like florists to photographers beginning on page 56.

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Wedding Planner

WHAT TO KNOW:

Plan on hiring a full-service planner at least 12 months from your wedding day. Choose your wedding planner first to have their guidance during the entire wedding planning process. Your planner will be your experienced counsel for every vendor interview, contract and scheduling question.



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Q:** How do you charge? Per hour, lump sum, percentage of total budget?
- Q:** Are there specific vendors you like to use?
- Q:** What is the process of selecting and hiring vendors?
- Q:** Can I use other vendors?
- Q:** What is the process of paying vendors? Is that done through you or direct to vendors?
- Q:** Do you handle vendor services, contract and payment processing?
- Q:** Do you handle guest list coordination and RSVPs?
- Q:** What is your specialty?
- Q:** How many meetings will we have together? In person, via phone?

Photography

WHAT TO KNOW:

Plan to book a photographer 11 months from your wedding date. Since photography businesses are most often run by a single person or small teams of creative professionals that work one wedding per day, it's important to book early.



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Q:** What is your primary style of photography? Traditional or documentary?
- Q:** How independent are you? Do you want to know all the shots I'd like or will you shoot all the moments of the day at will?
- Q:** Will you be the one to shoot my wedding?
- Q:** How long after the wedding will the photos be ready?
- Q:** What happens if you are ill on the day of my wedding? What are your backup procedures?
- Q:** What is included in your pricing? Albums, hours of coverage, engagement session, etc.?



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Floral

WHAT TO KNOW:

Plan on choosing your floral designer about eight months from your wedding day. With the help of your planner, you and your floral designer can select a color palette, make note of blooms you love (or hate!) and lay out a proper budget for the arrangements you'll need created. Knowing what styles you like before going into a consultation is very helpful.



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Q:** What is your style?
- Q:** What is your process?
- Q:** Have you worked at my venue before?
- Q:** How do items get returned after the wedding? Will you pick up?
- Q:** Do you offer rental items—vases, trellis, decor—or must they be supplied via a rental company?
- Q:** Can my guests take centerpieces home?
- Q:** Do you charge for mockup centerpieces before my wedding or is that included?
- Q:** How can I stay within my budget without having small bouquets and arrangements?
- Q:** Dahlias are my favorite kind of flower. Will they be in season for my wedding?

Hair & Makeup

WHAT TO KNOW:

Plan on hiring your hair and makeup artist team about six to eight months from your wedding date. Does your stylist do bridal updos? Many don't. That's where on-site teams come in. Your beauty vendors will likely only be able to serve one full bridal party per Saturday. So book them sooner rather than later.



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Q:** How far in advance should I book my appointment?
- Q:** I'd like to book with my bridesmaids. Will you be able to accommodate all of us?
- Q:** How much time should I allow for hair and makeup on my wedding day?
- Q:** Is there an extra charge for airbrush makeup and/or false eyelashes?
- Q:** How much should I expect to spend?
- Q:** Is a down payment required to book an appointment?
- Q:** Do you offer consultations and trials?
- Q:** My hair is fairly thin. Do you offer hair extensions?
- Q:** Do you offer onsite services? How far will you travel?
- Q:** Can you accommodate sensitive skin?
- Q:** Do you offer a touch-up kit or touch-up services?

Wedding Cake

WHAT TO KNOW:

Plan to hire a baker six to eight months in advance. Get on their schedule in advance by signing the wedding cake contract. It's likely you'll have your tasting a bit later in the process, but reserving your spot early ensures you get the cake baker you like the best. Before your tasting, research what types of frostings and finishes do best in your style venue.



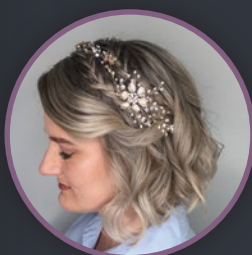
QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Q:** Are you licensed by the state health department?
- Q:** How does delivery work? And what happens if something is damaged on the cake in transit?
- Q:** What are the options for cake flavors and fillings? Fondant or Buttercream?
- Q:** What is your average cost per slice?
- Q:** Will you design a custom cake or do you have preset styles to choose from?
- Q:** Is the cake stand provided by you?



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Erica + Derek

JULY 6, 2019





The Details

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ideal Impressions Photography, Lake Geneva – Joel Smith and Kevin Scott

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUES: Grand Geneva Resort Ski Chalet, Lake Geneva

OFFICIAL: The Rev. Ann Brown, My Best Ceremony, Lake Geneva

FLORAL DESIGNER: Tommi's Garden Blooms, Lake Geneva

JEWELER: Bejeweled Custom Jewelry, Grayslake, IL

GOWN: All About the Gown by Judy, Lake Geneva

BEAUTY (MAKEUP/HAIR): Luca, Lake Geneva (Hair) and Danyl Fuller, Lake Geneva (Makeup)

CATERER: Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva

DESSERTS: Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva

ENTERTAINMENT: DJ Dale Henry, Chicago, IL

TRANSPORTATION: Grand Geneva Trolley

GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva

Lake Geneva native Erica has spent countless summers enjoying the lake, hiking the Shore Path and enjoying all the other activities the area has to offer. So, after she accepted Derek's marriage proposal during a romantic getaway to Italy, her vision for their wedding day became crystal clear. She knew she wanted to be surrounded by family and friends in the place she holds so dear. And The Mountain Top Ski Chalet at Grand Geneva Resort served as the perfect venue. Erica insists she was an unconventional bride and shunned the "glitz and glam" of most weddings, instead choosing a chic, yet comfortable, rustic theme — even serving guests mouth-watering donuts instead of a traditional wedding cake. Local vendors assisted every step of the way from Erica's dress, hair and makeup to the flowers in her bouquet and those adorning a beautiful trellis made of white birch branches.





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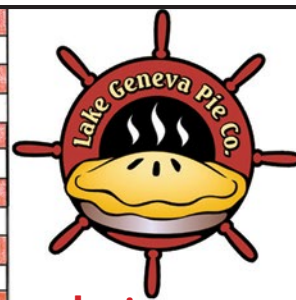
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Kelsey + Brent

JUNE 29, 2019





The Details

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ideal Impressions Photography, Lake Geneva - Ryan Bensheimer and Kevin Scott

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUES: Geneva National Resort & Golf Club, Lake Geneva

REHEARSAL DINNER: The Ridge Hotel, Lake Geneva

OFFICIANT: Matt Stapleton, friend of the couple

FLORAL DESIGNER: Countryside Flower Shop, Crystal Lake, IL

JEWELER: Blue Nile Jewelry (bluenile.com)

GOWN: Volle's Bridal & Boutique, Lake Zurich, IL

BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES: David's Bridal (Locations nationwide)

BEAUTY (MAKEUP/HAIR): Refeyance V Makeup & Hair (refeyance5.com)

CATERER: Geneva National Resort & Golf Club, Lake Geneva

CAKE/DESSERT: Julie Michelle Cakes, Harvard, IL

ENTERTAINMENT: A Personal Touch DJ, Oak Creek, WI

GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: The Ridge Hotel, Lake Geneva

Brent and Kelsey's love for golf blossomed into a love for each other as they attended medical school in Omaha, Nebraska. So, it was only fitting that their favorite pastime would be incorporated into their wedding day. Geneva National, a familiar location to Kelsey who is from the Chicago suburbs, was the ideal venue with its championship golf courses serving as a dramatic backdrop. The practicing physicians — she's a pediatrician, he's an internist — kept the décor simple to let the natural beauty of the Wisconsin countryside take center stage. They did infuse hints of the game with name cards placed in golf tees and guest tables designated with signs highlighting famous courses like Augusta National, Pebble Beach and Medinah. Cousins of the couple even picked up on the theme and decorated a golf cart to ensure the newlyweds could take a celebratory ride in style.





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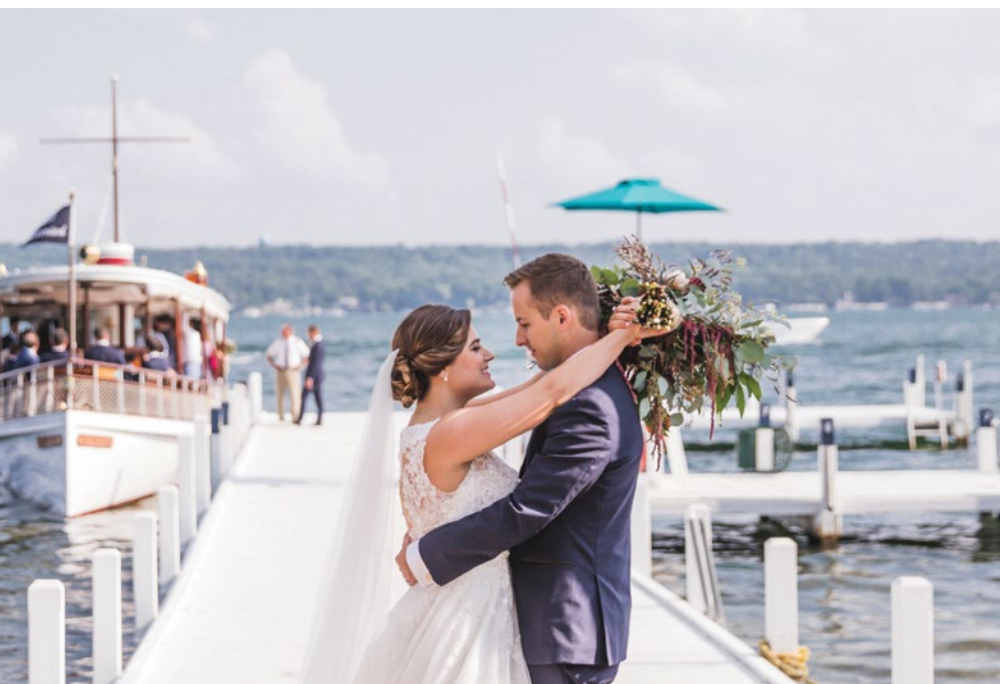
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Caroline + Chris

AUGUST 25, 2018





The Details

PHOTOGRAPHER: Matt Mason Photography, Lake Geneva

REHEARSAL DINNER: Café Calamari, Williams Bay

CEREMONY: St. Benedict Catholic Church, Fontana

OFFICIANT: Rev. De Block, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, West Dundee, IL

RECEPTION: Lake Geneva Country Club, Lake Geneva

FLORAL DESIGNER: Forget Me Knot Flowers, Walworth

JEWELER: M.J. Miller & Co., Barrington, IL

GOWN: The Crystal Bride, Geneva, IL

BEAUTY (MAKEUP/HAIR): Simply Perfect Bridal Artists, McHenry, IL

WEDDING COORDINATOR: Hayley Peterson, Something Blue Lake Geneva

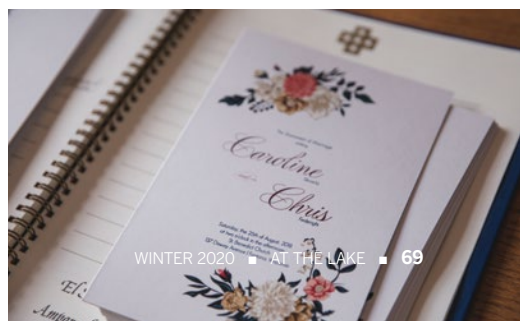
CAKE & DESSERTS: Julie Michelle Cakes, Harvard, IL

ENTERTAINMENT: David Rothstein Music, Chicago, IL

TRANSPORTATION: Presidential Limousine Services, Madison and Lake Geneva Cruise Line, Williams Bay

GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva, The Abbey Resort, The Cove of Lake Geneva

Together for over 10 years, Chris and Caroline's relationship has stood the test of time — from their high school days in the Chicago suburbs to college in South Bend, Indiana, where he attended the University of Notre Dame and she studied at St. Mary's College, to the start of successful careers upon graduation. Through life's transitions, one constant has remained: summer weekends at Chris's parents' home on Geneva Lake. Their love for the lake and its iconic sites were incorporated seamlessly throughout their wedding day. They chose St. Benedict Church for their ceremony and Yerkes Observatory for photos. At the pier at George Williams College, the couple and their wedding party and friends boarded the elegant yacht *Polaris* for a sun-splashed cruise across the lake to meet their remaining guests at Lake Geneva Country Club.



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Gabby + Ben

AUGUST 24, 2019





The Details

PHOTOGRAPHER: Matt Mason Photography, Lake Geneva - Matt Mason and Brook Cervanka

CEREMONY & RECEPTION: The Abbey Resort, Fontana

OFFICIANT: Zac Meyer

FLORAL DESIGNER: Branching Out Chicago, West Dundee, IL

JEWELER: Ames Silversmith, Ames, IA

GOWN: All About the Gown by Judy, Lake Geneva

BEAUTY (HAIR): Mia Faccia, Lake Geneva

WEDDING PLANNER: Simply Detailed Wedding Planners, Lake Geneva

CAKE/DESSERTS: Kilwins, Lake Geneva

ENTERTAINMENT: Bluewater Kings Band, Chicago

EQUIPMENT RENTALS: Forever Birdy, Harvard, IL; La Tavola Fine Linen Rentals, latavolalinen.com; Tablesapes Event Rentals, tablesapes.com

GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: The Abbey Resort, Fontana and Comfort Suites, Lake Geneva

Gabby and Ben wanted a weekend-long wedding celebration with a destination feel and The Abbey Resort in Fontana beautifully accommodated their plans from start to finish. The festivities got underway Friday night in the Harbor House with a welcome/rehearsal dinner and concluded in the same location on Sunday with "Bagels & Bloody's." In between, Gabby and Ben's wedding day dawned with a picture-perfect, blue sky day — ideal for a boat ride on Geneva Lake. So, before the late afternoon ceremony, the couple and their wedding party departed The Abbey Harbor for a short cruise to Williams Bay, where they posed for a few photos before returning to their guests. The harborside wedding was followed by cocktails on the patio and a reception in the West Shore Pavilion.



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Kellie + Chris

MAY 25, 2019





The Details

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Matt Mason Photography – Matt Mason and Brooke Cervenka

REHEARSAL DINNER: Pier 290, Williams Bay

CEREMONY: Maxwell Mansion, Lake Geneva

RECEPTION: The Riviera Ballroom, Lake Geneva

FLORAL DESIGNER: Tommi's Garden Blooms, Lake Geneva

JEWELER: DaValle Jewelers, Chicago

GOWN: Luxe Bridal Rack, Chicago

BEAUTY (HAIR/MAKEUP): Sophia Bella Bridal, Chicago

WEDDING COORDINATOR: Stephanie Lynn, Lake Geneva

CATERER & BEVERAGE: Zilli Hospitality Group, Waukesha and Drink Inc., Burlington

CAKE: Julie Michelle Cakes, Harvard, IL

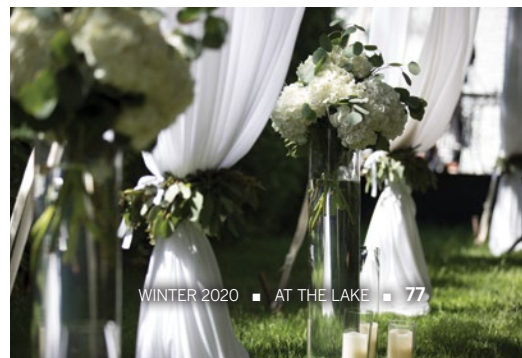
ENTERTAINMENT: The Hemispheres, Chicago and Gabriel's Horns, Shorewood, WI

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: Step it Up, Hebron, IL; AAA TentMasters, Kenosha; and Elegant Presentations, St. Charles, IL

TRANSPORTATION: Lee's Classic Cars, Middleton, WI and Van Galder Bus, Janesville

GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: Maxwell Mansion and Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva

Kellie, born and raised in the Chicago area, and Chris, a Wisconsin native, may disagree about which NFC Central team is better — Bears or Packers — but they'll always agree on one thing: Lake Geneva was the perfect setting for their Memorial Day weekend wedding celebration. During the early planning stages, Kellie and Chris knew they wanted elements of the city's historic past incorporated into their new beginning, so they selected Maxwell Mansion and The Riviera for their ceremony and reception. Elegant décor highlighting a neutral color palette of navy blue and white, a classic 1938 Cadillac limousine for the bride and groom and the timeless sounds of Soul, Motown and classic R&B filling The Riviera ballroom only added to the vintage vibe.



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What Was Old Is **New Again**

**Stebnitz Builders' Remodeling
Expertise Puts a New Spin
on a Fontana Home**

To move or not to move — that is the question many homeowners are asking as they consider whether to upgrade their existing residence or pack up and find a new one. And it was that exact question that Mike McKay and his wife discussed as they evaluated their traditional two-story home in Fontana.

Built in 2001, this cedar-sided 3,500-square-foot home features five bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, and a full basement.

"We had contemplated downsizing and/or relocating but as we determined that Fontana was the center of our universe with children, grandchildren and business interests nearby, we concluded that we should stay and remodel our home to meet our current and future needs," McKay says.

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Experienced home remodelers have a sixth sense when it comes to what goes into a successful living environment. Although it's your home and it naturally reflects your personality, interests and outlook on life, it still takes a strong vision of remodeling professionals along with your decorating style to pull all of the elements together. That's why after the McKays met with Jeff Auberger of Stebnitz Builders and their daughter and interior designer Julie Hults of Paper Dolls Home Furnishings in Lake Geneva, they concluded they were looking for an open concept living space where family could gather during meal prep.

During renovation projects like the McKays', Stebnitz has the ability and flexibility to work with many different architectural styles. The company's main focus is to work with clients to get a good sense of their personal style and what features they're most attracted to, and balance those with the fundamental principles of good design — function, balance, proportion and flow — to make sure that they have a unified vision for the home.

After extensive demolition of the kitchen, family room, master bath, laundry room, powder room, master bedroom and adjacent hallways, the Stebnitz team began transforming the space into one that the McKay family could truly utilize in an all new way.

In addition to installing structural beams to support the second floor loads and pushing out two non-structural walls in order to enlarge the master bath, the renovation team installed a new kitchen island, added quartz countertops in the kitchen and master bath plus installed new Kohler sinks, toilets and accessories in the kitchen and bath.

Underscoring the belief that an open great room should offer a welcoming environment, the renovated space now offers an inviting haven for the homeowners and their guests. The open family room boasts a new gas fireplace complete with custom surround, mantel and bookcases. Underfoot, American walnut hardwood floors add warmth to the home's interior. Continuity is achieved throughout the first floor by accenting posts, handrails and spindles all with the same rich walnut.



A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Known for their superior quality, innovative designs and award-winning craftsmanship, the Stebnitz team integrates a service-oriented approach in every project. At the heart of this family-owned and operated business remains an unwavering commitment to their clients. The company and its team of skilled craftsmen are deeply rooted in providing the utmost quality, craftsmanship, value and attention to detail in each of its exceptional remodeling projects — which is evident throughout the McKay's renovation.

A perfect example of the company's commitment to best practices is their dust control system, which uses BuildClean HEPA Filters. Stebnitz Builders is one of only two contractors in Walworth County using this cutting-edge technology that eliminates 90% of airborne dust, even on the most challenging job sites. For the McKay project, Stebnitz utilized the HEPA Filter Dust Control System and received high marks from the homeowners. "Because we chose to live on the second floor during construction, dust control and cleanliness were of utmost importance. And Stebnitz did a terrific job in this regard," McKay says.

As McKay explains, Stebnitz offers what he would call a well-honed process — taking client from start to finish in the renovation process, communicating extensively along the way. Homeowners

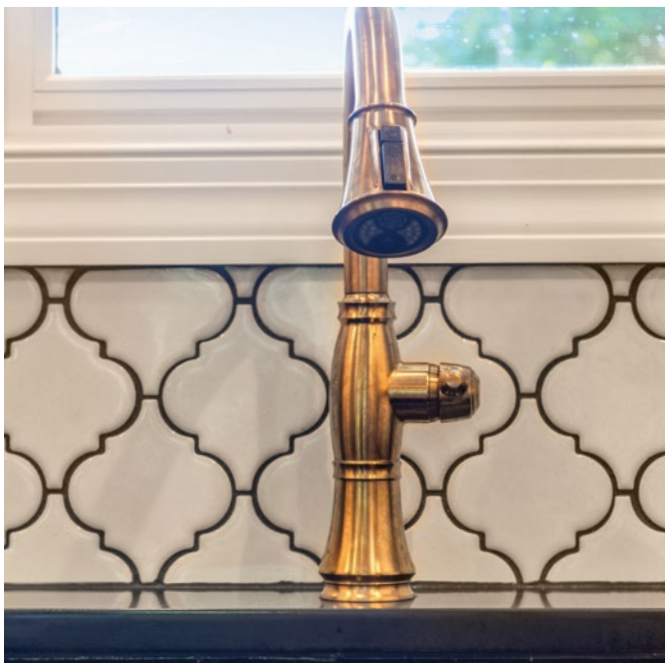
initially work with a Stebnitz design consultant to determine the overall scope of activities along with a broad selection of materials. After narrowing down a homeowner's wish list, rough drawings and broad pricing budgets are formulated.

After detailed material selections and work-scope activities are agreed upon, the final working drawings, along with a detailed estimate is furnished.

"After minor adjustments and clarifications, the final documents were prepared and reviewed by us, the design consultant and top management — line by line, word by word," McKay says. "When complete, each party thoroughly understood their responsibilities."

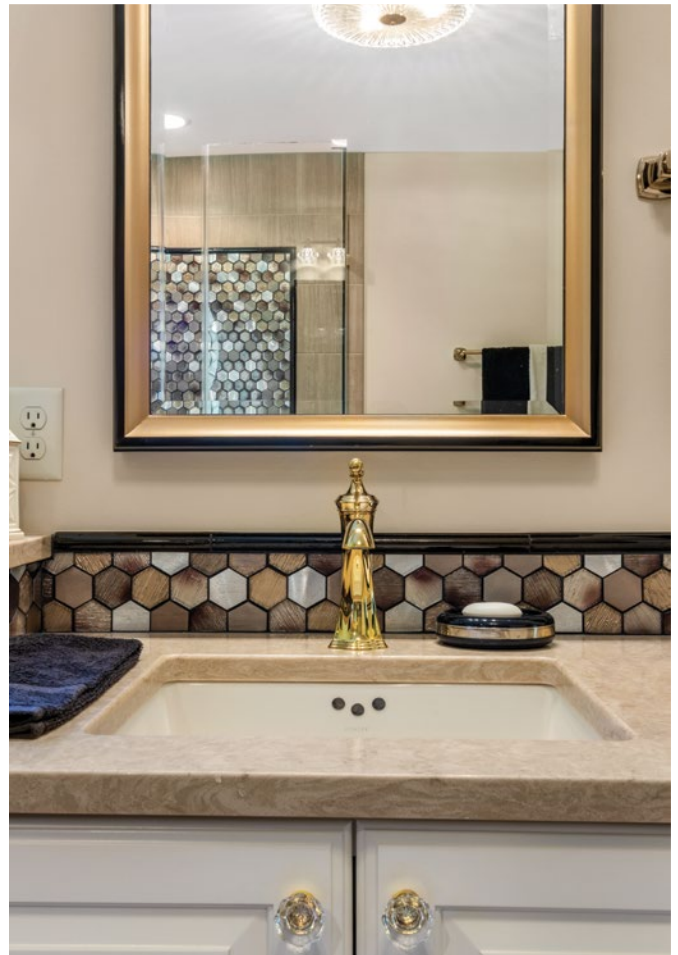
Throughout the project, the homeowners were indebted to Ryan Hibl, the production manager for Stebnitz as well as Scott Bray, the master carpenter who was assigned to the project from start to finish.

"Further thanks and compliments to Stebnitz for allowing us to utilize proven subcontractors of our selection for the staining, painting, hardwood flooring, and HVAC," McKay says. "The end result of our project is that we are delighted with the outcome and marvel at the beauty and quality of the workmanship, decorating and furnishings and how it all melds together even better than expected." ▲



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// CUISINE //

HEALING WINTER SOUPS

Rich with therapeutic foods, these easy-to-make soups will help fight what ails you

BY BILL TURNER



Does the photo at right look familiar? We all know someone who is bound to come down with the flu or a bad cold this winter. This is the time of year for a good bowl of soup, especially one that can actually make you feel better. The fact is that some soups are extremely therapeutic and can make a difference. On top of that, they are really good tasting. Below, I'll tell you how to make two healing soups — the classic chicken noodle soup and the surprisingly effective curried lentil soup. Both are quick and easy to make, and both will bring a smile to the face of someone who is under the weather.



THE IMMUNE BOOSTERS AND GERM FIGHTERS

So, what is the science behind all of this? These healing soups are a powerful mucus stimulant that helps clear nasal congestion as well as thin mucus. They also provide liquids which are fundamental in fighting flu and colds. Most importantly, they contain foods that have special healing powers.

Everyone has their favorite healing foods and here are my four favorites for soups. The recipes below incorporate these immune boosters and germ fighters.

1. **Garlic:** A proven antioxidant, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer ingredient. Since ancient times, garlic has been a popular folk remedy for a vast range of ailments, including the common cold and flu. In 1858, Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria died when exposed to garlic. More recent research has shown that garlic's antibacterial and antiviral activity against infections comes from allicin, a compound found to be present when garlic is crushed or chopped. According to the website healthwithfood.org, it's best to consume garlic when it's crushed, raw or minimally cooked.
2. **Carrots:** We've all heard about the beta carotene in carrots to fight cancer and prevent night blindness, but during flu season, "carrots are helpful in preventing upper respiratory infections and inflammatory lung problems," states the blog "Make Time for Wellness."
3. **Onions:** According to a variety of researchers, onions aid in ridding the body of viruses. They are one of the best natural sources of quercetin, a bioflavonoid that has shown promising potential for suppressing the rhinoviruses, which are the underlying causes of the common cold.
4. **Turmeric:** Either alone or in curry powder, this herbal root has numerous health benefits, including antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer compounds combined with plenty of antioxidants. Curcumin is the active ingredient.

THE PLACEBO EFFECT AS A SECRET WEAPON

If someone, perhaps mom, spouse or friend, prescribes soup when you are sick because they say it will make you feel better, this creates an expectation. For something as well-known as chicken noodle soup, the expectation has some credence. A 2016 Harvard University study indicated, "This expectation activates reward pathways in the brain, in turn stimulating the release of

substances called endorphins, which are chemically similar to opiates like morphine. Like morphine, these endorphins bind to opioid receptors and cause pain relief. Therefore, in response to positive expectations of treatment, your brain becomes flooded with its own supply of natural painkillers. ... In fact, placebos are so good at causing pain relief that the placebo effect is stealing the spotlight in recent clinical trials for new pain medications."

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP: THE AMERICAN CLASSIC

This recipe for classic Chicken Noodle Soup has some non-traditional twists and some heat, which will stimulate kidney function and make you sweat. It has tons of vitamins and minerals, plenty of protein and is guaranteed to produce some quick improvements in the patient.

The key to this soup is that it has enough red pepper, black pepper and garlic to make the ailing person sweat. It also is surprisingly soothing on the throat. If you are willing to get yourself in motion, you can have this wonderful potion on the table in a little over one hour.

Time Required: About 1 hour

Servings: 12-15 (*Freeze what you don't use.*)

The Gear: Large stockpot

Ingredients:

2 boneless skinless chicken breasts – cut into ½" cubes
 2 Tbsp. olive oil
 2 cups onions – diced
 6 cloves garlic – minced or chopped fine
 1 jalapeño pepper – seeded and chopped fine (For a strong cold, try 2 jalapeño peppers.)
 3 cups carrots – coarsely diced or chunked
 3 cups celery – coarsely diced or chunked
 8 cups chicken stock
 1, 8 oz. bag spinach.
 1, 8 oz. pkg. of frozen sweet corn
 ½ lb. egg noodles – and no more – too many noodles ruin the soup

Spices:

½ tsp. black pepper
 ½ tsp. salt
 2 tsp. crushed red pepper (Feel free to add more.)
 2 Tbsp. of fresh rosemary – chopped
 2 Tbsp. each oregano, parsley, dill or anything else that sounds good



Directions:

- Turn the heat to medium high. Add the olive oil to an 8 qt. stockpot and sauté the onions for about three minutes.
- Add the garlic, salt, black pepper, crushed red peppers and the jalapeño; mix well and cook for one minute.
- Pat the chicken with paper towel until dry and add to the pot. Brown the chicken for about four minutes, stirring continually.
- Add the carrots and celery and cook for about 5 minutes until the vegetables soften a little.

• Add the chicken stock, spinach, corn and herbs. Stir well and bring to a boil; turn the heat down and simmer for 20 minutes, covered. (At this point, the soup can be kept in the refrigerator for up to a week until you are ready to serve. Alternately, you can freeze in quart containers and be ready for the onslaught of the flu season. Don't add the noodles until you are ready to serve – they become mushy otherwise.)

• When ready to serve, add the egg noodles, and cook on a simmer for another 10 minutes, covered.

• Add water as needed if the noodles absorb too much liquid.

You can serve the soup with some crusty bread or, my favorite, homemade cornbread. This soup definitely increases body temperature and sweats out the toxins attacking the body – and you can prepare it in only one hour.

CURRIED LENTIL SOUP: THE INDIAN HEALER

This curried lentil soup recipe introduces the patient to the healing powers of curry

powder with its blend of cumin and turmeric. Curry powder also includes a hot element such as paprika or chili powder to stimulate sweating and kidney function, all of which we need to purge the body of toxins.

Lentil soup is one of my favorites. You don't have to soak the lentils, plus you can experiment with ingredients and almost never make a bad batch. And you can prepare the soup in under one hour – just 20 minutes for prep and 40 minutes for cooking.

You can make the soup with any kind of stock: chicken, vegetable, beef or veal. Buy a good quality brand at the supermarket or really have some fun and make your own.

Lentils can be a little bland, which is the major reason to add curry powder — this gives just the right amount of personality. Here's how to make this great soup:

Time Required: Prep 20 minutes, cooking 40 minutes

Servings: 10-12 (Freeze what you don't use.)

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The Gear: Large stockpot

Ingredients:

2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. curry powder (Penzey's is a great choice.)
1 cup celery diced
1 cup carrot diced
1 cup onion diced
1 cup leeks diced
4 cloves garlic, minced
¼ cup parsley, chopped
1 Tbsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
1 cup tomatoes, peeled and roughly chopped
1 lb. lentils
8 cups stock – chicken, beef, veal or vegetable

Directions:

- Dissolve the curry powder in ¼ cup of water and cook in a large pot until it starts to become fragrant and slightly thicker.
- Add the olive oil and butter and stir while the mixture is heating over medium heat.

- Add the onions, leeks, garlic, salt and pepper, stir well to coat with the curry oil mixture and cook for about 4 minutes.
- Add the carrots, celery and parsley; stir well and cook for another 4 minutes.
- Add tomatoes, lentils and stock. Bring to a boil, turn down to a simmer and cook for 30 minutes. Test for doneness and add more cooking time if necessary.
- Test for salt and pepper (you usually need more) and serve.

You can serve the soup with a dollop of crème fraîche. If you can't find crème fraîche, make your own. Buy a six-ounce package of cream cheese and add 3-4 Tbsp. of heavy cream. Stir until you get a nice consistency. Add a little fresh dill, finely chopped, if you really want to get sassy.

You can make an interesting breakfast or even a lunch or dinner by putting the lentil soup, which is really quite thick, over a bed of rice. Top with one or two eggs, made any way and you have an extremely healthy meal.

One of my favorites is to serve it with cornbread on a chilly fall or winter day. I like to break up the cornbread into the soup. This is a great choice for the grandchildren. They generally love this soup if you serve the cornbread with it. Add some hot sauce to really get your day going.

For more soup ideas, visit athelakemagazine.com and select the Cuisine archive for "Chili 101," featuring a variety of recipes for this cold weather staple. Check them out, I bet you'll find another chapter in your winter soup adventures. ▲



**JERRY
KROUPA**

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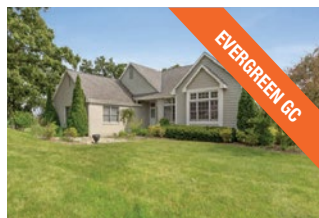


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HOW TO GET THROUGH THE FLU

Area doctors share tips to prevent and minimize the effects of influenza

BY SHELBY DEERING

We've all been there. First, there's that pesky tickle in your throat. Then, you wonder if someone is playing with the thermostat, because you're suddenly overheating and just as quickly chilled to the bone. Next, a wave of dizziness and exhaustion forces you to pause for a moment or two or three ...



Finally, you face reality: You've got the flu.

The flu isn't a pleasant experience for anyone, but you can take comfort in the fact that you're far from alone. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, during the 2018-2019 flu season (running from Sept. 1 through May 18), there were 17,210 reported cases of the flu statewide. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported between

37 to 43 million flu cases. Wisconsin is comparable to other states.

"Ultimately, people need to be aware that the flu finds its way to just about every state, making it tough to avoid," says Dr. Andrew Morton, family medicine physician at Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center-Walworth.



in Lake Geneva, explains why fall and winter are synonymous with flu season. “People are indoors more often during the winter. They are in close contact more often and this promotes transmission from person to person,” he says. Another reason he cites is cold temperatures that lead to dry air, “which may dehydrate mucous membranes, preventing the body from effectively defending against respiratory virus infections.” In addition, there’s a lack of sunlight. “Vitamin D production from ultraviolet B in the skin changes with the seasons and affects the immune system,” Gallegos says.

During this time of year, the flu is spread by miniscule droplets created when people cough, sneeze or talk. Gallegos explains, “Once in your body, the flu virus travels through the respiratory tract and binds to cells lining your lungs. They hijack these cells to make more viral particles of their own and spread to other areas.”

The benchmark symptoms of the flu include fever, chills, body aches, fatigue, a runny or stuffy nose and a cough or sore throat. These are inconveniences for many of us. For some, they are enough to cause further complications. These can include dehydration and pneumonia. Ear and sinus infections are often seen in children.

The flu can also worsen long-term medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes.

From Sept. 30, 2018, through May 11, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported 126 influenza-associated deaths in the state. Gallegos adds, “Of that total, 85 of those were patients 65 years old and older.”

These statistics are enough to make anyone a little nervous, especially since flu is easily contracted. That’s why it’s imperative to do what you can to protect yourself against the illness.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

What’s the first line of defense against the flu? The flu shot, of course. “It is

very important to get a flu vaccine,” Morton says. “Not only could you avoid getting the flu but being vaccinated will protect our community by inhibiting spread of the illness.”

He notes that it’s best to get the vaccine before the flu becomes widespread. Getting vaccinated before the end of October is ideal, but he says that “vaccinating later than that can still be beneficial.”

Gallegos agrees with this line of thinking, saying, “Getting vaccinated is the most effective way to ward off the virus, and in the event you still get sick, having the vaccination often makes symptoms much more mild.”

In addition to getting a flu shot, there are other ways to fend off the illness, such as covering your mouth while coughing and sneezing, avoiding contact with those who have the flu and frequent handwashing.

Gallegos advises, “Strengthen your immune system by eating well, staying physically active, managing your stress levels and getting enough sleep.”

HOW TO EASE SYMPTOMS

Let’s say you’ve done your due diligence and you still end up with the flu. It is possible, but hopefully your preventative measures along with some self-care will lessen the severity of the symptoms.

“Act fast if you begin to show symptoms,” Gallegos says. “If you develop a fever, chills, body aches, cough or sore throat, it’s a good idea to see your doctor.”

“Symptomatic care directed by a clinical professional can help alleviate certain symptoms,” Morton adds.

The rule of thumb is that if you’re sick, stay home to avoid infecting others. Morton typically recommends the standard care plan of “plenty of rest and fluids.”

Medication is an option as well. “Some individuals can benefit from antiviral

Even though it’s “tough to avoid” as Morton says, you can arm yourself with knowledge and learn how to raise your defenses against it.

FLU BASICS

Dr. Javier Gallegos, family care physician at Aurora Health Care

medication, but only if it is caught early enough," Morton says. "You should ask your primary care physician if you would be a candidate."

Gallegos also shares thoughts on treating the flu with medication, saying, "Medications work best when taken within 48 hours of symptoms starting. Over-the-counter medications can lower fever and relieve aches and pains, but if you have a higher risk of complications, your doctor may prescribe an antiviral drug to treat the flu."

For most people, the flu lasts from five to seven days. "Flu symptoms usually appear one to four days after being exposed to the virus," Gallegos says. "For people who've had a flu shot, the symptoms may last a shorter amount of time or be less severe."

AN EVER-CHANGING VIRUS

You might be wondering, "Why are there different strains of the flu? And why do some seasons last longer than others?" Gallegos says, "Flu viruses are

constantly changing, which is why the severity of the flu — and the vaccines used to prevent it — are different year to year. Slight genetic changes in viruses over time create different strains and are why people can get the flu more than once. This is also why the flu vaccine must be updated each year to keep up with these evolving viruses."

"Flu viruses are constantly changing, which is why the severity of the flu — and the vaccines used to prevent it — are different year to year."

DR. JAVIER GALLEGOS, AURORA HEALTH CARE, LAKE GENEVA

The virus changes every year, which can make it more difficult for people's immune systems to recognize it and fight it off quickly. "Typically, your immune response is more effective against viruses and bacteria that you've already encountered. The mutations on the flu virus act like a mask allowing

the virus to take hold before it is recognized by your immune system," Morton says.

Although peak flu season runs from December through February, the virus can survive well into spring. Gallegos says, "According to the CDC, the 2018-2019 flu season, at 21 weeks, was the longest flu season in a decade."

The varying length in flu seasons isn't fully understood, but there are some theories. One is tied to temperature. "Generally, cold weather keeps more people indoors and in close proximity with each other and that is at least part of the reason the virus is able to spread so much in the cold months," says Morton. "It may not be until the spring before we start to see fewer cases of influenza."

The moral of the story is that with good lifestyle habits, regular handwashing and an annual flu shot, you just might be able to sidestep this year's wave of influenza. ▲

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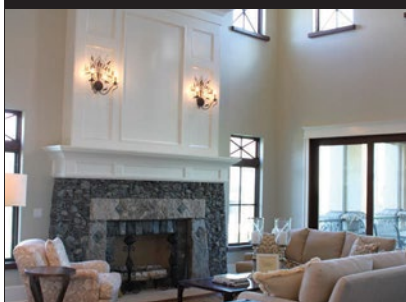


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Members of the 2019-2020 Badger High School ProStart Culinary Team, from left, Madison Toflinski, Gracie Frederickson, Nathaniel White and Benjamin Grueter in the high school's kitchen.

Badger High School trains the next generation of restaurant and hospitality leaders

BY ANNE MORRISSY

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, Badger High School Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher Jamie Lutz and the 10 students in this year's competitive ProStart Culinary 1 and 2 classes gathered around the school's industrial-sized ovens to bake cookies. When they were finished, they had baked 120 dozen — that's 1,440 cookies — in a single day.

The cookies were the result of a wide-reaching community partnership between Badger High School's ProStart Culinary program and the local restaurant and hospitality industry. Former FACS teacher Russ Tronsen started Badger's culinary program 18 years ago as a way to engage the hospitality and tourism industry in the area and create career paths for Badger students. "My background was in food service and hospitality and then I got my teaching certification through UW-Stout," Tronsen says. "I was familiar with the area and I thought it was a great opportunity to start a strong ProStart program." In fact, the program he started at Badger has gone on to become one of the strongest in the state, even earning national awards and accolades.

Now back to those 120 dozen cookies. The weekend after the bake-a-thon this year, the ProStart students

delivered them to Alpine Valley Music Theatre in East Troy for Farm Aid 2019, a star-studded benefit concert. "It's a lot of work, this class," explains

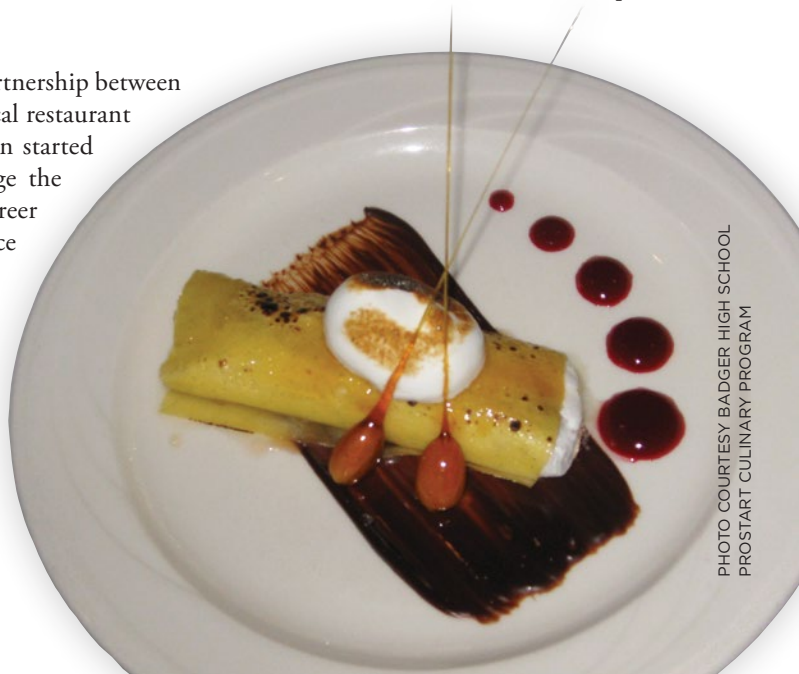


PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HIGH SCHOOL PROSTART CULINARY PROGRAM

Lutz. “The students in the program do catering events outside of the class – I require three events a semester. For Farm Aid, students could choose from two different shifts. “We were helping the chefs there, serving as an extra set of hands, working to measure and prep food, whatever was needed,” Lutz continues.

It’s this kind of real-world, hands-on experience that sets the ProStart Culinary program apart from other high school classes. The rigorous curriculum is drafted by the National Restaurant Association’s Educational Foundation with the hope that ProStart students will serve as the next generation of leaders in the restaurant and hospitality industry. It is a popular and influential program. Today, ProStart reaches more than 150,000 students in more than 1,900 high schools across the country.

STRIVING TO BE THE BEST

The selection process for admission into the program at Badger is difficult and competitive. Lutz and other teachers review applications, including letters of recommendation from community members attesting to the students’ work ethic. “We need to make sure that they are ready to commit the time that this program will require, both in school and after school,” she explains.

Through the ProStart curriculum, students learn everything from complex culinary skills to proper food storage to restaurant management skills. “Our program is broken into two years,” Lutz explains. “Each year they learn about management: how to get employees to get along, how to market your restaurant, how to set up a new restaurant space. And they also learn culinary skills.”

Throughout the school year, the Badger ProStart students work toward the ultimate goal of competing in the ProStart Invitational, a statewide competition held in Milwaukee every March. At the competition, teams of five students representing about 25 schools compete in two categories. “For the culinary side of things, the teams get one hour to make an appetizer,



PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HIGH SCHOOL PROSTART CULINARY PROGRAM

Badger High School’s ProStart Team has had tremendous success over the years, including a trip to the National Competition in North Carolina, where this undated photo was taken. Pictured in the front row, from left, TJ Clement, Heather Pecha, Caitlin Crowley and former Badger FACS teacher Russ Tronsen. In the back row: Joe Aitken and celebrity Chef Guy Fieri.



PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HIGH SCHOOL PROSTART CULINARY PROGRAM

After competing in the ProStart National Competition in San Diego, Badger team members, from left, Clayton Maricle, Kendall Kelly, Jessica Bania and Mike Pane, receive a visit from Christina Machamer (center), the season four winner of the popular TV show “Hell’s Kitchen.”

entrée and dessert using only two burners and no electricity,” Lutz says. “For the management portion, they have to design a restaurant concept including menu and prices, and present that concept to the judges, who then ask tough questions that a restaurant manager might get in a job interview.”

At Badger, the process of preparing for the ProStart Invitational begins in September, when tryouts are held for the five spots on the team. “It’s heavily skill based,” Lutz explains. “All the students come to tryouts and make the same dish.” The results of that single dish determine who makes the team. ProStart team practice begins in the fall and continues throughout the year. By January, the team will be practicing twice a week. By February, three and four times a week. Two weeks before the event in March, the team will be practicing five days a week.

The time and dedication Badger students devote to this preparation frequently pays off. Tronsen says that between 2001 and 2017, the team won the ProStart Invitational state competition in either culinary or management 11 times, more than any other high school in

Wisconsin. A win at the state level earns entry into the national competition in Washington, D.C. Twice, the Badger team went on to win the national title.

“All the ProStart programs in the state have modeled themselves after

Badger,” Lutz explains. “At the state competition, everyone has upped their game because of how good Badger is.”

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Every year as part of the preparation process, Badger team members work with a coach – generally a restaurant and hospitality professional from the community. This year’s coach is Nelly Buleje, executive chef at Grand Geneva Resort’s nine restaurants and 11 kitchens. Buleje is a Badger alum himself, though he graduated before the ProStart program was implemented. He is excited about the opportunity to coach today’s students. “I really want to open up the youth in our community to the industry and the way it’s quickly changing,” he says. “I want to show students how the changes in the kitchen reflect the changes we see in the world. I want them to understand that although it’s hard work and labor intensive, it’s still fun.”

Lutz, who joined the Badger staff this year after spending 12 years at Westosha High School, says these partnerships with local industry professionals and businesses are the best part about working at Badger High School. “A lot of people think it’s just that the [ProStart] program has a really strong curriculum, but Badger is so supportive of everything we want to do as teachers,” she says. “And it’s not only the school support and administrative support, but the support we’ve gotten from the community. Everyone I talk to in the industry wants to know how they can help the program.”

Part of that community support includes fundraising. Every May, the Ridge Hotel hosts the Burger Throwdown, a charity event in which local chefs from throughout the area compete to be crowned the Burger Champion. Proceeds from the event, which generally sells out weeks in advance, benefit the Badger ProStart Culinary program. “Without the businesses helping us, we wouldn’t be able to do half the things we do throughout the year, including buy the latest equipment for our program,” Lutz says.



PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HIGH SCHOOL PROSTART CULINARY PROGRAM

The team prepares rigorously for the ProStart Invitational held every March in Milwaukee. Here, former FACS teacher Russ Tronsen is shown at the event with Clayton Maricle, Kendall Kelly, Jessica Bania, Mike Pane and former state Rep. Tom Lothian.



“I want to show students how the changes in the kitchen reflect the changes we see in the world. I want them to understand that although it’s hard work and labor intensive, it’s still fun.”

CHEF NELLY BULEJE, EXECUTIVE CHEF, GRAND GENEVA RESORT

©HOLLY LEITNER

When asked what made him decide to coach the ProStart Culinary team this year, Executive Chef Buleje says the connection between the professional kitchen and the classroom is an important motivator. "I wanted to make a difference in the community and this is one way I hope to leave a lasting legacy."

Lutz says that for her, the hard work is worth it, especially when she sees many of the ProStart students go on to culinary school or hospitality management degree programs. "It's definitely a labor of love," she says. "When the kids actually get to go to the [ProStart Invitational] competition, their eyes are just gleaming. They're interacting with some of the most well-known chefs throughout the state. When they get a compliment on their dish, they're just so excited. Exposing the kids to new ideas and new cooking strategies, letting them have experiences they've never had before...that's what makes this program so successful." ▲



PHOTOS COURTESY BADGER HIGH SCHOOL PROSTART CULINARY PROGRAM

Between 2001 and 2017, the Badger ProStart Team won the ProStart Invitational state competition in either culinary or management 11 times, more than any other high school in Wisconsin.

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key

B: Breakfast **Br:** Brunch **L:** Lunch **D:** Dinner **NC:** No Credit Cards Accepted **\$:** Mostly Under \$10
\$\$: Mostly Under \$20 **\$\$\$:** Mostly Under \$30 **¥:** Full Bar **♪:** Entertainment **☞:** Fish Fry **☾:** Late Night (10 p.m. & later)
PR: Private Room **📞:** Reservations Requested **🌊:** Lake View **☀:** Outdoor Dining **👶:** Kids' Menu

AMERICAN / CONTEMPORARY

ALPINE VALLEY RESORT W2501 County Road D, Elkhorn; 262-642-7374. alpinevalleyresort.com. Full menu in the Alpine Dining Room; sandwiches in the Valley View Lounge. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

B.J. WENTKER'S 230 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-758-6112. bjwentkers.com. Innovative menu. Extensive wine list. Bar open past 10 p.m. Closed Sun. L, D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

THE BLACK SHEEP 210 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater; 262-458-4751; eatatblacksheep.com. Menu and specials are updated regularly to incorporate fresh, in-season, local foods presented in a delicious new way. Poultry, fish, pork, lamb, gluten-free, and vegetarian entrées. Closed Sun. L, D, \$-\$\$\$. **¥** **☞**

CLUBHOUSE SPORTS BAR & GRILL Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. lakelawnresort.com. Offering picturesque views of our golf course, and serving a classic bar and grill menu in a cozy and relaxed atmosphere. B, L, D, \$.

CRAFTED AMERICANA The Ridge Hotel, W4240 State Hwy. 50, Lake Geneva; 262-249-3832. craftedamericana.com. Contemporary menu incorporates premium, locally sourced ingredients. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

THE DUCK INN N6214 State Hwy. 89 (intersection of County Rd. A and State Hwy. 89), Delavan; 608-883-6988. duckinn.delavan.com. Roast duck, filets, ribs. Closed Tues. D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞**

EGG HARBOR CAFÉ 827 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-1207. eggharborcafe.com. Gourmet breakfast and lunch creations served from 6:30 a.m. daily. B, L, \$.

FIDDESTICKS BISTRO 101 W. Evergreen Parkway, Suite 7, Elkhorn; 262-743-2233. fiddiesticksbistro.com. Casual American bistro featuring global influences and creative twists to menu items. Closed Wed., B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞**

FORK IN THE ROAD 215 N. Rochester St., Mukwonago; 262-363-7849. forkintheroadrestaurant.com. A unique twist on American cuisine. Closed Sundays. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ **☞** **¥** **☞**

FRONTIER RESTAURANT Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. lakelawnresort.com. Innovative American Heartland Cuisine served in the style of New American Cooking, which takes familiar comfort foods and adds sophisticated culinary

twists. Our menu features only the finest regional ingredients from local Wisconsin farms including our own homegrown herbs and fresh honey. L, D, Br (Sunday only), \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

THE GRAND CAFÉ Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. grandgeneva.com. Contemporary American cuisine in a casual setting. Breakfast buffet seasonally; Fri. & Sat. night prime rib and seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

THE GRANDVIEW RESTAURANT N2009 S. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-248-5690. genevainn.com. Enjoy lakeside dining and spectacular sunsets. Offering perfectly prepared seafood, beef, poultry and pasta entrées. Menus are subject to change based on product availability and seasonality. B, BR, L, D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞**

JONATHAN'S ON BRICK STREET 116 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-725-7715. jonathansonbrickstreet.com. Casual fine dining featuring small plates, appetizers and a diverse entrée selection of fresh fish, seafood, hand cut steaks and salads. Open daily. D, \$-\$\$\$\$ **¥** **☞**

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SIMPLE CAFÉ 525 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-3556. simplelakegeneva.com. Fresh farm-to-table food. B, L, \$-\$\$\$ **☞**

SOMEPLACE ELSE 1 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn; 262-723-3111. someplaceelserestaurant.com. Fresh seafood, sandwiches, soups. Closed Sun. L, D, \$ **¥** **☞** **PR**

SOPRA: AN AMERICAN BISTRO 724 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-0800. soprabistro.com. Contemporary American twist on Bistro classics. D, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞**

TUSCAN TAVERN AND GRILL 430 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-0888. thetuscantavernandgrill.com. Specializing in Italian classics, mouth-watering charbroiled steaks and artisan brick oven pizzas. L, D, \$-\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

240° WEST The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana; 262-275-9034. theabbeyresort.com/dining. From small plates packed with flavor to unexpected entrées with an unexpected twist. B, D, Br on Sunday, \$-\$\$\$\$. **¥** **☞** **PR**

THE WATERFRONT The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd, Fontana; 262-275-9034. theabbeyresort.com/dining. Casual/Burgers, BBQ. L, D, \$-\$\$\$. **☞** **¥** **☞**

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BEIJING GARDEN 464 S. Pine St., Burlington; 262-767-1188. Chinese. Closed Monday. L, D, \$ **☞**

CHINA GARDEN 136 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-749-3111. chinagardendelavan.com L, D, \$, beer and wine. Closed Monday. **☞** **PR**

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CHONG YANG CHINESE RESTAURANT 541 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-275-5200. Chinese. L, D, \$.

DRAGON CITY 98 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva; 262-249-8867. Eat-in or take-out Chinese cuisine. Closed Tues. L, D, \$.

GOLDEN DRAGON 2763 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-5518. Closed Mon. L, D, \$.

HAPPY CAFÉ 526 S. Wells St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-8181. Chinese and American. B, L, D, \$, beer and wine. **☞**

MOY'S RESTAURANT 3 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-723-3993. moysrestaurant.com. Authentic Chinese cuisine. Dine-in and carry-out. Closed Mon. L, D, \$ **¥** **☞** **PR**

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FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION 727 Main St., Hwy. B, Genoa City; 262-279-5200. fitzgeraldsfishboil.com. Ribs, fish boil, and chicken. Closed Mon.-Tues. D, NC, \$. ☹☹☹

FLAT IRON TAP 150 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-812-4064. flatirontaplg.com. Gourmet burgers, specialty sandwiches, soups and salads, over 100 beer and wine selections. Closed Mondays. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹

FLIPPY'S 401 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-6754. flippysfastfood.com. Casual fast food. L, D, \$. ☹☹☹

FORK IN THE ROAD 215 N. Rochester St., Mukwonago; 262-363-7849. forkintheroadrestaurant.com. A unique twist on American cuisine. Closed Sundays. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹

FRED'S PARKVIEW 596 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-8370. freds-burgers.com. Meat and buns fresh from local grocer Gooseberries every day. L, D, \$. ☹☹☹

GABBY'S PALACE 356 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-4363. Sandwiches, daily specials. NC, \$. ☹☹☹PR

GORDY'S BOAT HOUSE 336 Lake Ave., Fontana; 262-275-6800. gordysboats.com. Casual dining, Geneva Lake view. Steaks, pizza, seafood, sandwiches. Weekend Bloody Mary bar. Boat dock, valet parking. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹PR

THE GRAND CAFÉ Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. grandgeneva.com. Contemporary American cuisine in a casual setting. Breakfast buffet seasonally; Fri. & Sat. night prime rib and seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹PR

GREENIE'S CLUBHOUSE At Delbrook Golf Course, 700 S. 2nd St., Delavan; 262-728-1339. greeniesclubhouse.com. Pasta, steaks and sandwiches. \$☹☹☹

HARBORSIDE CAFE 100 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-3835. Late night happy hour. B, L, D, \$\$ ☹☹☹☹

HARPOON WILLIE'S PUB & EATERY 10 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay; 262-245-6906. harpoonwillies.com. Sandwiches, salads and house-smoked meats. L, D, \$☹☹☹

HAWK'S VIEW GOLF CLUB W7377 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9900. hawkviewgolfclub.com. Sandwiches, homemade soups. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹

HEART & SÓL CAFÉ 264 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-812-4035. Specializes in organic, non-GMO, locally sourced food, drinks and smoothies. L, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹

HOGS AND KISSES 149 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-7447. hogsandkisses.com. D.J. and dancing. Closed Mon. L, D, \$☹☹☹

INN BETWEEN 1522 Beckman Dr., Delavan; 262-728-9824. L, D, \$☹☹☹☹

ISLE OF CAPRI CAFÉ Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. lakelawnresort.com. Choose from a variety of items including espresso drinks and made-from-scratch breakfast sandwiches in the morning, to gelato, Italian-inspired grilled sandwiches and sophisticated wood-fire pizzas into the evening. B, L, D, \$.

JACKSON'S HOLE 1798 Genesee Rd., Springfield; 262-248-1995. Pizza, sandwiches, appetizers, entrées. L, D, NC, ATM, \$☹☹☹☹PR

JO JO'S PIZZA & PASTA 308 State Hwy. 50, Delavan; 262-728-5656. jojospizzadelavan.com L, D, \$-\$\$.

KC'S CLUBHOUSE W3731 Club House Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-203-5320. Appetizers, sandwiches, steaks, ribs, fish. L, D, \$\$ ☹☹☹☹

LAGRANGE GENERAL STORE W6098 U.S. Hwy. 12, Whitewater; 262-495-3327. Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee, smoothies, ice cream. L, D, \$.

LAKEHOUSE BREAKFAST BAR & GRILL N7073 State Highway 12/67, Elkhorn; 262-742-3300. lakehouseelkhorn.com. Closed Tues. B, L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹

LAUDERDALE LANDING W5625 West Shore Dr., Elkhorn; 262-495-8727. lauderdalelanding.com. Beautiful lake views, Waterfront Tiki Bar serving weekends and holidays. Access the restaurant via boat. Serving homemade pizza, sandwiches and burgers. Open 11 a.m. daily. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹☹

LEFTY'S CHICAGO-STYLE HOT DOGS N7033 U.S. Hwy. 12, Elkhorn; 262-215-8266. Hot dogs, beef, brats. Carry-out. L, D, NC, \$.

LINDEY'S ON BEULAH W1340 Beach Rd., East Troy; 262-642-2600. Pub fare. D, \$☹☹☹☹☹☹PR

LOOKOUT BAR & EATERY Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. lakelawnresort.com. Offering picturesque views of the lakefront, and serving classic pub fare in a relaxed atmosphere. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹☹

LOPEZ'S ANCHOR INN 1325 Racine St., Delavan; 262-728-2391. Burgers, Mexican food, ice cream. Carry-out only. Closed Mon. L, D, NC, \$☹☹

LUKE'S MARKET STREET ITALIAN SANDWICHES 117 W. Market St., Elkhorn; 262-723-4676. Sandwiches, shakes, burgers. L, D, \$. ☹☹☹

MAD DAN'S RESTAURANT 200 Main St., Twin Lakes; 262-877-2586. maddans.com. L (weekends), D, \$-\$\$ ☹☹☹☹

MANNY'S SNACK SHACK 404 S. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes; 262-877-4442. Sandwiches, burgers, salads. B, L, \$. ☹☹☹



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NEXT DOOR PUB 411 Interchange North (State Hwy. 120), Lake Geneva; 262-248-9551. nextdoorpub.com. Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups, pastas. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. L, D, \$, ¥📞

OAKFIRE RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA 831 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-812-8007. oakfirelakegeneva.com. Specializing in wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizza. Also serving paninis, flatbreads and salads. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$. ☀️🍷🍺🍻

PIER 290 1 Liechty Dr, Williams Bay; 262-245-2100. pier290.com. Focus on clean flavors and fresh ingredients. Heated indoor and outdoor bar. Accessible by land and water. Boat parking available. L, D, \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. 🍷📞🌙🍺☀️ **PR**

POPEYE'S 811 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-248-4381. popeyeslkg.com. Burgers, salads, ribs, chicken. Lobsters, steaks, sandwiches. L, D, \$-\$\$\$¥☀️🍷🍺🍻

RED DOGS 99 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay; 262-245-1330. Chicago style sandwich shop that is dog friendly — even offering a dog menu so your pet can eat with you on the deck. Open Tues.-Sun \$

SAMMY'S ON THE SQUARE 105 Madison St, Walworth; 262-275-3739. Steaks, sandwiches. B, L, D, \$. 🍷📞

SECOND SALEM BREWING COMPANY 111 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater; 262-473-2920. seccondsalem.com. Brewery, full menu of appetizers and brew-house favorites. L, D, \$, ¥☀️🍺🍻

SEIMER'S CRUISE-IN BAR & GRILL 107 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-275-9191. Sandwiches, pizza. L, D, \$, ¥☀️🍺

SPERINO'S 720 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-723-2222. sperinos.com. Full bar, wine, beer, pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads. Closed Sun. L,D, \$-\$\$\$. ¥

SPRECHER'S RESTAURANT & PUB 111 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-7047. sprecherspub.com. Steaks, sandwiches, salads, pastas. Happy hour specials. L, D, \$-\$\$\$¥☀️📞🌙🍺🍻 **PR**

SWEENEY'S PUB 103 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-275-5560. Pub snacks. L, D, NC, \$. ¥

10 PIN PUB 121 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-394-4300. 10pinpub.com/pub. Nostalgic 8-lane bowling alley with pub food and handmade pizza. Closed Mon.-Tues. \$ ¥ **PR**

THE WATERFRONT The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd, Fontana; 262-275-9034. theabbeyresort.com/dining. Casual/Burgers, BBQ. Live entertainment on weekends in the summer. Outdoor BBQ. Call for hours. L, D, \$-\$\$\$. ☀️🍷🍺🍻

2894 ON MAIN 2894 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-9600. 2894onmain.com. Farm-to-fork café. Also offers take out. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$¥

TOUCH OF CLASS 121 S. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes; 262-877-3340. Sandwiches. L, D, \$. ¥🍺

UPPER CRUST PIZZERIA AND PUB N1070 County Rd. H, Pell Lake; 262-279-2233. Pizza, sandwiches, appetizers. Closed Mon.-Tues., L, D, NC, ATM, \$. ¥📞

WATERFRONT 408 State Hwy. 50, Delavan; 262-728-4700. waterfrontdelavan.com. Burgers, flatbreads, pasta, steaks, seafood and salads. L, D, \$. ¥☀️🍺

COFFEE HOUSE

AVANT BICYCLE & CAFÉ 234 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-203-5141. Coffee bar with bakery items plus full-service boutique bicycle shop. Open daily, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. \$.

BEAN & VINE COFFEE BAR The Ridge Hotel, W4240 State Hwy. 50, Lake Geneva; 262-249-3800. ridgelakegeneva.com. Featuring coffee, tea, bakery treats, wine, beer and sandwiches. Open daily. B, L, D, \$-\$\$.

BOXED & BURLAP 2935 State Hwy. 67, Delavan; 262-374-5497. boxedandburlap.com. Custom roasted coffee, espresso bar plus a selection of tea and pastry items. Open daily. \$.

CAFÉ GELATO Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. grandgeneva.com. Serving Starbucks coffee, bakery treats and gelato. B, L, D, \$.

CAFÉ LATTE The Abbey Resort & Spa; 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana; 262-275-6811. theabbeyresort.com. Starbucks coffee, breakfast treats and grab-and-go foods. B, L, \$.

COFFEE MILL 441 Mill St., Fontana; 262-275-0040. coffeemillfontana.com. Featuring Fair Trade certified Anodyne coffee, Rishi teas and baked goods from Swiss Maid Bakery in Harvard, IL. \$.

GROUND 116 N. Dodge St., Burlington; 262-763-8261. Coffee drinks, espressos, lattes & cappuccinos. \$.

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PERKUP 27 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-723-1287. perkupelkhorn.com. A variety of coffees, iced drinks, frappes, and smoothies. Colectivo and Door County coffee sold in bulk plus baked goods and cereals available. B, L, \$-\$.

REMEMBER WHEN COFFEE BAR 313 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-728-8670. rememberwhenllc.com. Serving coffee drinks, espressos, lattes & cappuccinos. Closed Wed. \$.

STILLWATER COFFEE COMPANY 1560 N. Country Club Pkwy., Elkhorn; 262-723-2301. stillwatercoffeecompany.com. Fresh roasted coffee, sweet treats and savory bakery items plus other light menu choices. Open daily. \$

DINER

DADDY MAXWELL'S 150 Elkhorn Rd., State Hwy. 67, Williams Bay; 262-245-5757. daddymaxwells.com. B, L, D (Fri.), Closed Tues., NC, \$, beer. ☺☺

ELIZABETH'S CAFE 322 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-728-3383. Steaks, salads, sandwiches. Breakfast served all day. B, L, D, \$☺☺

GUS'S DRIVE-IN 3131 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-2929. gussdrivein.com. Cruise night with classic cars. L, D, \$.

HARRY'S CAFE & PLACE 808 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-3494. B, L, D (Fri.-Sat. only), \$. ☹☹

JESSICA'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 140 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-473-9890. Breakfast all day, daily specials. B, L, D, \$. ☹☺

LAKE AIRE RESTAURANT 804 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-9913. Breakfast all day. Beer and wine, good selection of desserts. L, D, \$. ☹☺

JONI'S DINER 111 Wells St., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9565. jonisdiner.com. Full breakfast menu plus soups, salads, sandwiches and burgers. B, L, \$. ☹☺

LUCKY STAR PUB AND EATERY 864 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-763-2155. eatatluckystar.com. American, Tex-Mex, Mexican and Italian food. B, L, D, \$-\$. ☹☺☺

OLYMPIC RESTAURANT 748 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-6541. Open 24 hours Friday and Saturday. B, L, D, \$. ☹☺

PRINCESS CAFÉ 2695 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-5905. B, L, D, \$, beer and wine. ☹☺☺

FRENCH

SOPRA: AN AMERICAN BISTRO 724 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-0800. soprabistro.com. French, Italian and Spanish cuisine with the occasional Asian influence. D, NS, \$\$. ☹☺

ICE CREAM/ FROZEN TREATS

ADRIAN'S FROZEN CUSTARD 572 Bridge St., Burlington; 262-763-8562. Homemade custard since 1974. Hot dogs, desserts. Carry-out. L, D, NC, \$☹☺

BLUE HEAVEN ICE CREAM 105 W. Main St., Fontana; 970-319-8911. Offering 24 flavors of hand-dipped, premium ice cream from Wisconsin vendors: Chocolate Shoppe and Purple Door. Open daily 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., \$.

COLD STONE CREAMERY 859 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-4900. coldstonecreamery.com. Ice cream, ice cream cakes, shakes and smoothies. \$.

DIP IN THE BAY 105 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay; 262-607-3032. dipinthebay.com. Offering over 25 dairy fresh real hand-dipped ice cream flavors. \$.

FUNKY KUP 120 Broad St., Lake Geneva; facebook.com/funkykup. Over 50 toppings and revolving yogurt flavors. Open daily 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., \$.

J. LAUBER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR 2010 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3679. Authentic 1920's-style ice cream parlor with old-fashioned ice cream treats. Accepts credit cards. \$.

KILWINS CHOCOLATE AND ICE CREAM SHOP 772 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-4400. kilwins.com/lakegeneva. Homemade fudge, candies and ice cream. Open daily. \$.

YOGEEZE FROZEN YOGURT 253 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-203-5550. yogeeze.com. Build your own yogurt creation using 15 changing yogurt flavors and over 40 different toppings. \$.

IRISH

FOLEY'S W3905 State Hwy. 50 (at Hwy. 50 and Chapin Rd.), Lake Geneva; 262-245-6966. Full Irish fare Wed.-Sun. in the dining room, Pub open 7 days a week. L, D, \$-\$. ☹

ITALIAN

CAFÉ CALAMARI 10 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay; 262-245-9665. cafecalamari.com. Up-scale Italian. Extensive wine list. D, \$-\$\$\$; dressy casual attire requested. ☹☺☺☺



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GINO'S EAST 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-248-2525. ginoseastlakegeneva.com. Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrées. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥☼

GUS' PIZZA PALACE 139 W. Center, Whitewater; 262-473-3562. Pizza, chicken, gyros. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. D, \$-\$\$\$.

HOLI CANNOLI N7065 U.S. State Hwy 12, Elkhorn; 262-742-2500. holicannoli.com. Home-made, gourmet, Italian cuisine, brick oven pizza. Closed Tues. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

LARDUCCI PIZZERIA 20 S. Washington St., Elkhorn; 262-723-6668. larducci.com. Carry-out only. D, NC, \$-\$\$\$.

LUIS'S PIZZA W3410 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva; 262-248-6810. luisspizza.com. Carryout or delivery of pizza, Italian beef, burgers, wings, and more. Open 7 days a week. (Hours may vary in winter.) L, D, \$-\$\$\$

MAMA CIMINO'S 131 N. Wells St., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9077. mamaciminos.net. Pizza, pasta, sandwiches and wings. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ☹

NAPOLI'S RESTAURANT 132 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-8390. napoliburlington.com. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. Closed Tues. L (Wed.-Fri.), D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥☼☹☹☹

NEXT DOOR PUB 411 Interchange North (Hwy. 120), Lake Geneva; 262-248-9551. nextdoorpub.com. Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups, pastas. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. L, D, \$. ¥☹☹

OAKFIRE RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA 831 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-812-8007. oakfirelakegeneva.com. Specializing in wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizza. Also serving paninis, flatbreads and salads. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ☼☼☼☹

PAISANO'S ON BROADWAY 5614 Broadway, Richmond, IL; 815-678-4500. paisanosonbroadway.com. Authentic Italian cuisine in a casual yet elegant bistro setting. Closed Mon. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥☹

PINO'S LAST CALL 545 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-275-6698. pinoslastcall.com. Pizza, pasta. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. Closed Mon. L (Fri.-Sun.), D, \$.

PIZZA RANCH 28 W. Hidden Trail, Elkhorn; 262-723-7880. pizzaranch.com. Our menu includes pizza, fried chicken, and a full buffet. L, D, \$.

RIGA-TONY'S 5576 State Hwy. 50, Delavan; 262-740-2540. rigatonydelavan.com. Pasta, sandwiches, soups, breads and desserts. Deli. Open Wed.-Sun. L, D, \$.

RISTORANTÉ BRISSAGO Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. grandgeneva.com. Upscale Italian. Extensive wine list. Open Tues.-Sat. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥☹☹ PR

ROMA'S RISTORANTÉ N8416 County Rd. ES, East Troy; 262-642-5353. romaswi.com. Pizza and pastas. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥☼☹☹☼ PR

ROSA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT 180 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-472-9857. eatrosas.com. Italian entrees, pizza. Carryout or delivery. D, \$. ☹

SOPRA: AN AMERICAN BISTRO 724 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-0800. soprabistro.com. Contemporary American twist on Bistro classics. D, \$\$. ¥☼

SPERINO'S 720 N. Wisconsin Ave., Elkhorn; 262-723-2222. sperinos.com. Italian cuisine. Local delivery. Closed Sun. L, D, \$\$. ¥☼ PR

SWEET AROMA RISTORANTÉ W7404 County Rd. X, Delavan; 262-728-6878. Authentic Italian cuisine. Closed Mon.-Tues., D, \$-\$\$\$ ☹¥

10 PIN PUB 121 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-394-4300. 10pinpub.com/pub. Nostalgic 8-lane bowling alley with pub food and handmade pizza. Sat.-Sun. L, D; Mon.-Fri. D, Closed Mon.-Tues. \$ ¥ PR

TOPPER'S PIZZA 325 W. Center St., Whitewater; 262-473-4343. Grinders, pizza, salads. Carryout, delivery. L, D, \$. ☹

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VESUVIO'S LITTLE ITALY 617 E. Washington St., Delavan; 262-740-1762. delavanpizza.com. Carry-out, local delivery. (Open at 3 p.m. Tues.-Sun.) \$.



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MEDITERRANEAN

MEDUSA GRILL AND BISTRO 501 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-8644. medusagrillandbistro.com. Mediterranean Cuisine. Beer and wine. Lounge. Open Tues.-Sat. D, \$-\$\$, ☹️

MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN

DOS AMIGOS 2 2678 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-6446. Southwestern, Mexican. Margaritas and beer. L, D, \$, ☹️

HERNANDEZ EL SARAPE 212 S. 7th St., Delavan; 262-728-6443. hernandez-restaurant.com. L, D, \$, ☹️

LOS COMPADRES 725 N. Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-763-6018. loscompadresburlington.net. Mexican cuisine. L, D, \$, ☹️ PR

LOS TRES HERMANOS 31 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-379-1658. los3hermanos.com. Authentic Mexican cuisine. L, D, \$\$, ☹️

LUCKE'S CANTINA 220 Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay; 262-245-6666. luckescantina.com. Mexican cuisine. B, L, D, \$, ☹️

SPECIALTY

BARRIQUE WINE & BREW BAR 835 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-248-1948. barriquewinebar.com. Specializing in wines, appetizers, soups, salads, flatbreads, desserts. Dog-friendly. D, \$-\$\$, ☹️

BITTNER'S BAKERY 495 Interchange N., Lake Geneva; 262-248-1740. bittnersbakery.com. Featuring traditional bakery favorites, brownies, cupcakes, European pastries, cakes for all occasions. Open Wed.-Sat., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BODI'S BAKE SHOP 306 E. Main St., Twin Lakes; 262-877-8090. Specialty cakes, full service bakery. Open daily until 3 p.m.

THE BOTTLE SHOP 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9463. thebottleshoplakegeneva.com. Wine, craft beer and spirits store carries a selection of over 400 unique wines from over 20 different countries, casual tastings on Saturday afternoons, wine bar offers a selection of wines available by the glass or bottle. ☹️

ELEGANT FARMER 1545 Main St., Mukwonago; 262-363-6770. elegantfarmer.com. Home of the award-winning Apple Pie Baked in a Paper Bag. Offering a wide variety of baked goods, deli items and fresh cider. \$.

GREEN GROCER 24 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay; 262-245-9077. greengrocerlakegeneva.com. Deli menu, dinners to go, catering, boutique wines and beer. L, D, \$.

LAKE GENEVA PIE COMPANY 150 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva; 262-248-5100. lgpie.com. Catering, fresh soups, sandwiches, and pies. Zero trans-fat pies available. Closed Sun. B, L, \$-\$\$.

LAKELAND BAKERY 421 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-723-2923. lakelandbakery.com. A Walworth County favorite since 1957. Open Tues.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Mon. 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$.

RIVER VALLEY RANCH 39900 W. 60th St., Burlington (State Rd 50 and County P); 262-235-2555. rivervalleykitchens.com. Pickled mushrooms, specialty sauces, and produce. Open daily.

SIMPLE BAKERY & MARKET 521 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-2190. simplebakeryandmarket.com. Fresh food and baked goods made with ingredients from local farmers. B, L, \$. ☹️

THYME ON GENEVA LAKE 106 W. Main St., Fontana; 262-394-5292. thymeonthelake.com. Offering order-ahead, hassle-free complete meals ready to pick up. Call for our weekly menu. Closed Sun. and Mon.

WISCONSIN KRINGLE COMPANY W4724 S. Lakeshore Dr., Fontana; 262-394-5888. welovekringle.com. B, L, D, carryout or delivery, \$\$

STEAKHOUSE

ANTHONY'S STEAK AND SEAFOOD HOUSE W3354 State Hwy 50, Lake Geneva; 262-248-1818. D, \$\$\$, ☹️ PR

GENEVA CHOPHOUSE Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. chophouse411.com/geneva. Seafood, chops and steak. Br., D, \$\$\$, ☹️

THE HUNT CLUB STEAKHOUSE AT GENEVA NATIONAL 555 Hunt Club Court, Lake Geneva; 262-245-7200. huntclubsteakhouse.com. Steaks, chops, seafood, award-winning cuisine, fresh pheasant, duck, salmon. D, \$\$\$, ☹️ PR

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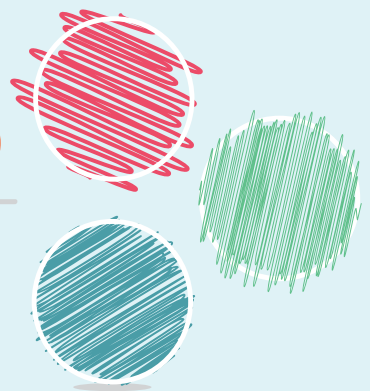
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Our first annual Lake Geneva Kids Expo is the perfect indoor family activity for a cold winter's day. Kids will love our various Play Zones set up throughout Badger High School, including bounce houses, dance and gymnastic demonstrations, food samples, and a fairytale princess sing-a-long... all included in the price of admission (and parking is free!).

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8-9

Wisconsin State
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CHICAGO
FEBRUARY
22-23

Arlington Park

MADISON
MARCH
7-8

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While we do our best to ensure a comprehensive, accurate listing of events, we recommend that you contact each event host ahead of time. If you'd like to include an event in our upcoming calendar, please send the date, time, location and cost, along with a brief description and phone number to bhowell@ntmediagroup.com. Submission deadline for the spring issue is Jan. 13, 2020.

ONGOING EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT GRAND GENEVA

A delicious breakfast buffet and a visit with Santa every Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 30 through Dec. 22, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY

Through Dec. 31 enjoy more than two million illuminated lights and other festive holiday happenings. Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT NORTHWIND

Fresh greens, wreaths, garland, gifts and unusual ornaments. Open Friday through Monday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., through Dec. 15. Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd., Burlington; 262-248-8229 or northwindperennialfarm.com.

GENEVA LAKE AREA MUSEUM

Learn more about the history of the Geneva Lake area at this informative museum. For more information, visit genevalakemuseum.org or call 262-248-6060. Open Tuesday, Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., November-February.

HOLIDAYS AT ROSEWOOD

Holiday-themed, cabaret-style musical productions with state-of-the-art sound, lights and video plus chef prepared, fresh farm-to-table cuisine. Shows run on select days through Dec. 22. Rosewood Dinner Theater, Cty. Hwy. O, Delavan; 262-725-7286 or rosewoodwi.com.

LIVE MAGIC SHOWS

Enjoy 60 minutes of world-class magic, comedy and illusion at the Tristan Crist Magic Theatre. Visit lakegenevamagic.com or call 262-325-5567.

PARADE OF TREES

From Nov. 23 through Jan. 7, Geneva Lake Museum is featuring themed Christmas trees decorated by businesses and organizations in the Geneva Lakes area. Voting for the People's Choice Award will be done by museum guests. Open Tuesday, Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., November-February.

RUNNING THE REDS BOOK SIGNING

Anne Morissy, author of "Running the Reds," will be on hand to sign your copy of this newly released title documenting the first 100 years of the Lake Geneva Water Safety Patrol. Locations throughout the area through February, including Nov. 30, 12-4 p.m., Cornerstone Shop & Gallery, Lake

Geneva; Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Daniels Food Sentry, Walworth; Dec. 22, 4-5 p.m., Gage Marine, Williams Bay; and Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Delaney Street Mercantile, Lake Geneva.

SANTA CRUISE

Through New Year's Eve embark on a magical Christmas cruise to Santa's North Pole Hideaway. Along your lake tour you will be enchanted by holiday lights and displays. Cruises depart on the hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. every evening, beginning Nov. 29 through Jan. 4, with the exception of Dec. 24 and 25. Lake Geneva Cruise Line, Gage Marine - Winter Harbor, 1 Liechty Dr., Williams Bay; 262-248-6206 or santacruzlakegeneva.com.

THE CHRISTMAS BARN

Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts made by local artists. Open Friday-Sunday through Dec. 15. Located at N4403 Cty. Rd. H, Elkhorn. Visit christmasbarnlakegeneva.com for more information.

TUESDAYS @ TWO WORKSHOPS

Interesting and informative workshops based on the local history of the Geneva Lakes area. Held each Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Geneva Lake Museum, Lake Geneva. For topics and reservations, call 262-248-6060 or email staff@genevalakemuseum.org.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Geneva Lake Arts Foundation offers a series of workshops, classes and a gallery of exhibits. Gallery 223, 223 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-7988 or genevalakeartsfoundation.org.

NOVEMBER

[24] ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

Gather family and friends as more than 2 million lights and a grand fireworks display kick off the holiday season, 4:30 p.m.; Grand Geneva Resort; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

[29] TREE LIGHTING

Celebrate the season as Santa arrives in Delavan on a fire truck for the city's Christmas tree lighting, 6 p.m., Tower Park, Delavan; 262-728-5095 or delavanwi.org.

[29-DEC. 30] HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

Garden paths brought to life with animated displays, 750,000 lights, over 100 beautifully decorated trees, 2,000 luminaries, and 600 dangling icicle lights. Family-friendly activities, shopping and more. Select days beginning Nov. 30, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville; 608-752-3885 or rotarybotanicalgardens.org.

[30, DEC. 21] BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT LAKE LAWN

Breakfast, plus holiday-themed crafts as well as the chance to visit with Santa, 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan; 262-728-7950 or lakelawnresort.com.

[30] HOLIDAY CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

Jump-start your holiday shopping as you browse more than 25 vendors, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva, downtown Lake Geneva; 262-248-9181 or visit harborshoreslg.com.

[30] SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Here's your chance to support small businesses by shopping local for that special Christmas gift. Participating retailers can be found in communities throughout Walworth County.

[30] WREATH DECORATING WORKSHOP

Decorate a fresh evergreen wreath, personalizing it with pinecones, ornaments, ribbons, berries and more, 1-3 p.m., Burlington Garden Center, Burlington. Pre-registration required at burlingtongardencenter.com/events.

[30, DEC. 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22] DAYTIME CHRISTMAS EXPRESS

Ride the rails to Santa's workshop located at the Elegant Farmer, where children can have their picture taken with the jolly elf himself. Departures begin at 9 a.m., East Troy Electric Railroad, East Troy; 262-642-3263 or easttroyrr.org.

DECEMBER

[1] PORCH POT WORKSHOP

Decorate a festive holiday container for your front porch using fresh evergreen boughs, red twig dogwood, pinecones, berries and ornaments, 12-2 p.m., Burlington Garden Center, Burlington. Pre-registration required at burlingtongardencenter.com/events.

[5-8] DEAN Z CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Kick off your Christmas season with an evening of soul, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, pop, and rhythm and blues from the internationally acclaimed performer Dean Z, 7 p.m., The Belfry Theatre, Hwy. 67, Delavan; 262-394-6460 or belfrymusictheatre.com.

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[6] BURLINGTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

"It's a Hogwarts Christmas" is the theme of this year's parade, followed by the Christmas tree lighting by Santa in Wehmhoff Square Park and the official opening of his chalet with reindeer looking on, 6:30 p.m., downtown Burlington; 262-763-6044 or burlingtonchamber.org.

[6] OAFB BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the seventh anniversary of the opening of Open Arms Free Clinic, 6 p.m., Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, Lake Geneva. For more information call 262-379-1401 or email development@openarmsfreeclinic.org.

[6] VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Lighted horse-drawn carriage parade, beautiful light displays and townspeople dressed in period costume, 5-9 p.m., Sharon; 262-736-6246 or historicdowntownsharon.com.

[6-7] TREES ON PARADE AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Crafters, vendors, tree decorating contest, gingerbread house contest and kids kornet, 4-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, St. John's Community Church, Twin Lakes; 262-877-2220 or twinlakeschamber.com.

[6-8] O' LITTLE TOWN OF BURLINGTON

A medley of Christmas songs presented by The Haylofters, Malt House Theatre, Burlington; thehaylofters.com.

[7] CHRISTMAS CARD TOWN PARADE

38th annual event, 1:30 p.m., downtown Elkhorn. Visit elkhornchamber.com.

[7] DESIGNING HOLIDAY CONTAINERS

Learn ideas for creating arrangements for holiday containers, 10:30 a.m., Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd., Burlington; 262-248-8229 or northwindperennialfarm.com.

[7] 44th ANNUAL GREAT ELECTRIC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

5 p.m. downtown Lake Geneva; 262-248-4416 or visitlakegeneva.com.

[7] FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

Tube, wakeboard, surf or ski the frigid waters of Geneva Lake to raise money for several local charities in Walworth County. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Gage Marine, Williams Bay. Visit freezin4areason.myevent.com.

[7] HOLLY BALL

The Geneva Lake Conservancy's annual holiday celebration and fundraiser at Big Foot Country Club includes a live band, dinner, auction, and presentation of the Conservation Stewardship and Conservation Leadership Awards. For reservations, call 262-275-5700 or genevalakeconservancy.org.

[7] REINDEER RUN

Annual 5K run/walk or Grinch Sprint to benefit the Elkhorn Park Dedication Fund. 8 a.m. registration, Sunset Park, Elkhorn; 262-723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com.

[7] SANTA PARADE TRAIN

Heated passenger trolleys will pick up riders from the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago and follow the East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Train to East Troy, where riders will disembark for the annual Christmas tree lighting, plus photos with Santa, kids crafts, holiday marketplace and more. For details, call 262-642-3770 or visit easttroywi.org.



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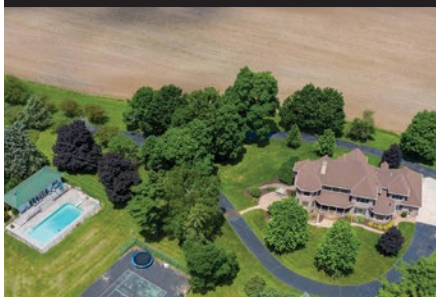
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[7] VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Celebrate the season with entertainment and refreshments — fun for the whole family! 12-3 p.m., Geneva Lake Museum, Lake Geneva; 262-248-6060 or email staff@genevalakemuseum.org.

[7] YULETIDE ARTISAN MARKET

Local artisans selling their creations throughout the store and in the greenhouse, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Burlington Garden Center, Burlington; 262-763-2153 or burlingtongardencenter.com.

[7-8, 14] ETHNIC HOLIDAY DINNER FUNDRAISER

Celebrate the holiday traditions of Mexico and enjoy an authentic four-course meal, along with beverages, decorations and entertainment. Reservations required, Old World Wisconsin, Eagle; 262-594-2922 or oldworldfoundation.org.

[7-8, 14-15] AN OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS

Explore how a rich mosaic of ethnic traditions continues to be a part of our contemporary holiday celebrations. Bake Vanocka — traditional braided bread — and have a family photo taken around the largest Julbocken or Yule goat in North America. Meet Krampus, the mischievous holiday creature from Central European folklore. Guests of all ages will discover the vibrant holiday traditions brought to Wisconsin by immigrants. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle; 262-594-6301 or oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

[7, 14] SANTA IN LAKE GENEVA

Come see Santa, his elves and his reindeer in downtown Lake Geneva; 262-729-9872 or streetsoflakegeneva.com.

[12-15] TWELVE TWENTY-FOUR

High energy, full-scale, holiday rock orchestra delivers a theatrical and memorable Christmas concert experience suitable for fans of all ages, 7 p.m., The Belfry Theatre, Hwy. 67, Delavan; 262-394-6460 or belfrymusictheatre.com.

[13-15, 20-22] A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

A Lakeland Players holiday performance based on the 1965 TV special featuring the gang from the “Peanuts” comic strip. Sprague Theater, Elkhorn; 262-728-5578 or lakeland-players.org.

[14] CHRISTMAS MAKE AND TAKE PROJECT

Choose from several easy projects to make for that special person on your holiday gift list, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Burlington Garden Center, Burlington; 262-763-2153 or burlingtongardencenter.com.

[14] OLD TIME RADIO SHOW

WGTD of Kenosha, part of Wisconsin Public Radio, will broadcast “The Detective Christmas Cavalcade,” a show mimicking the old-time radio shows of the ’20s, ’30s, and ’40s — complete with actors and sound effects from 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan; 262-728-7950 or lakelawnresort.com.

[14] SKI SEASON OPENING DAY

Sign up for a free lift ticket and donate to the food drive at The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

[14] THE NUTCRACKER

Tchaikovsky’s most famous ballet, “The Nutcracker,” is performed by the accomplished dancers from The Dance Factory in Delavan. 12 p.m. Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uw.edu.

[18] IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE

This clever stage adaptation of this holiday classic takes place on Christmas Eve 1945 when a handful of actors from WVL radio brave a blizzard to perform the evening’s broadcast of “It’s a Wonderful Life.” 7 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uw.edu/youngauditorium.

[19-22] FRANC D’AMBROSIO — CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK

Best known for more than 2,300 Broadway performances as the phantom in “The Phantom of the Opera,” Franc D’Ambrosio celebrates the magic of the Christmas season with favorite holiday standards. 7 p.m., The Belfry Theatre, Hwy. 67, Delavan; 262-394-6460 or belfrymusictheatre.com.

[21] HOLIDAY COOKIE WORKSHOP

Learn how to bake classic cookies and biscotti from around the world, then take some home to enjoy with family and friends. 12 p.m., Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva; 262-248-3933 or lakegenivaschoolofcooking.com.

[21] WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE

Enjoy a candlelight hike, bonfire and storytelling from a Native American whose tribe once called Walworth County home, 5-9 p.m., White River Park, Lake Geneva. Sponsored by Friends of White River County Park and Geneva Lake Conservancy. For more information, call 262-275-0579 or genevalakeconservancy.org.

[21-22] NUTCRACKER BALLET SUITE

Delightful vignettes from Tchaikovsky’s most famous ballet feature gifted dancers from Delavan’s Dance Factory, 6 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan; 262-728-7950 or lakelawnresort.com.

[26] ANNUAL AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE

Beginning the day after Christmas, enjoy huge discounts of 40-70% on holiday and gift items, Cornerstone Shop & Gallery, Lake Geneva; 262-248-6988 or cornerstoneshoppe.com.

[27-28] DUELING PIANO SHOW

N.E.W. Piano Guys, Wisconsin’s premier dueling piano entertainers, will perform high-energy shows featuring music ranging from Billy Joel to Britney Spears to Bruno Mars, 8 p.m., Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan; 262-728-7950 or lakelawnresort.com.

[27-31] COUNTDOWN TO 2019

Hands-on cooking classes that focus on the world’s cuisine, Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva; 262-248-3933 or lakegenivaschoolofcooking.com.

[28-29] KIDS HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS

Hands-on cooking class for kids, ages 4-18, where everyone learns the importance of proper nutrition while enjoying a well-balanced holiday themed meal, 12-3 p.m., Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Lake Geneva; 262-248-3933 or lakegenivaschoolofcooking.com.

[30-31] WINTER DAY CAMP

Kids, grades K-6, can take advantage of their holiday break with fun-filled days of winter activities. Covenant Harbor, Lake Geneva; 262-248-3600 or covenantharbor.org.

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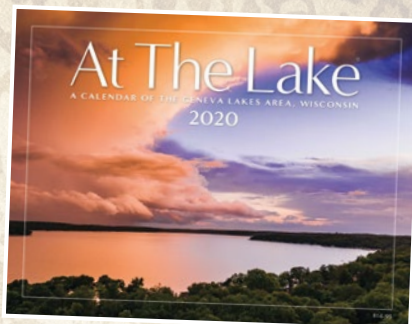
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JANUARY

[1] POLAR PLUNGE

Take part in an invigorating plunge into Geneva Lake, 12 p.m., Williams Bay Beach, Williams Bay.

[4] LAKE GENEVA KIDS EXPO

Activities for toddlers to pre-teens with a variety of play zones, including bounce houses, caricature portraits, face painting, games and more, plus main stage entertainment will include interactive shows, fairytale princess sing-alongs and fun demonstrations. Local vendors and businesses with child-related products will also be on hand. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Badger High School, Lake Geneva; 262-729-4471, ext. 102 or lakegenevakidsexpo.com.

[4] S'MORES AND FIRST HIKE OF THE YEAR

Enjoy the first hike of the year and s'mores over a campfire, 6-8:30 p.m., Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, Hwy. 67, Williams Bay; 266-903-3601 or kishwaukee.org.

[23-26] NATIONAL PIE DAY CELEBRATION

Enjoy free pie tastings and special pie pricing. The Elegant Farmer, Mukwonago; 262-363-6770 or elegantfarmer.com.

[25] LAKE GENEVA BRIDAL EXPO

Mix and mingle with the area's top wedding professional for ideas and inspiration for your special day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Riviera Ballroom, Lake Geneva; lgwinterbridalexpo.com.

[25] SING-ALONG FILM: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Experience this family-friendly movie in a whole new way with lyrics on the screen, so everyone can sing along. 3 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

[26] CINDERELLA

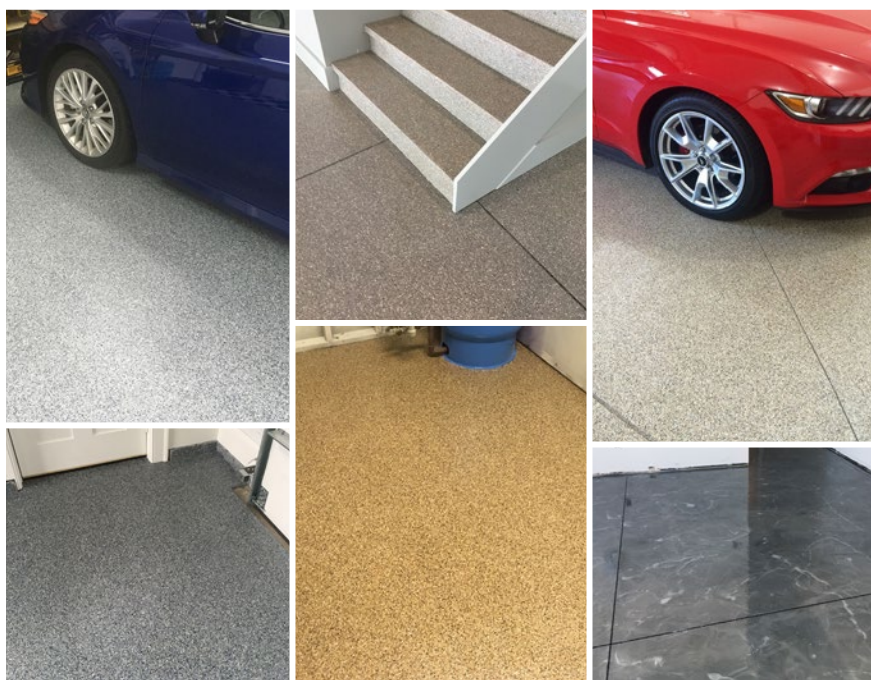
The Florentine Opera presents this amazing children's opera based on the classic fairy tale. 3 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

[29] THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET

Enjoy two separate one-act ballet performances as the elegant dancers of this world-renowned ballet company perform their versions of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Carmen." 7:30 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.



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[29-FEB. 2] WINTERFEST & U. S. NATIONAL SNOW SCULPTING CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

National snow sculpting competition, plus human dog sled races, hovercraft competition, chili cook-off, music, refreshments, helicopter rides, shopping, dining and more. Downtown Lake Geneva; 262-248-4416 or visitlakegeneva.com.

[29-FEB. 2] WINTERFEST BOOK SIGNING

An annual Winterfest tradition continues with a book signing by a notable author. You'll learn the stories behind the book and learn the author's inspiration. Book and date to be determined. Cornerstone Shop & Gallery, Lake Geneva; 262-248-6988 or cornerstoneshoppe.com.

FEBRUARY

[1] LGSO ANNUAL GALA

Annual event celebrates the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra, 7 p.m., Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva. For details and ticket reservations, call 262-359-9072 or visit lakegenevaorchestra.org.

[1] U.S. SNOW SCULPTING CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING

Voting for your favorite sculpture ends at 1 p.m. with the awards ceremony at 3 p.m. at The Riviera, Lake Geneva; 262-248-4416 or visitlakegeneva.com.

[1] WINTER CARNIVAL AT GRAND GENEVA

Carnival and fun and games in the snow plus torch light parade and fireworks, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

[1, 8, 15, 22, 29] ALL THINGS CHERRY

Enjoy tastings of a variety of delicious cherry treats and purchase cherry pie, cherry applesauce, yogurt covered cherries and more, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Elegant Farmer, Mukwonago; 262-363-6770 or elegantfarmer.com.

[11] AXIOM BRASS

Award-winning brass quintet is recognized for their repertoire that ranges from jazz and Latin music to string quartet interpretations and original compositions. 7:30 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

[13] FAMILY VALENTINE EVENT - YAO YAO

This South Korean, family-friendly production is a playful blend of reality and imagination using advanced screen art technology and live music. 6 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

[14-16] SKY CIRCUS ON ICE

Professional kite flyers put on a high-flying extravaganza over Delavan Lake. Other activities include ice and snow sculpting championships and much more, Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan; 262-728-5095 or delavanwi.org.

[16] FINDING NEVERLAND

Based on the Academy Award-winning film of the same name, this breathtaking Broadway show is a timeless story about the power of imagination and spectacular proof that you never really have to grow up. 7 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

[21] MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

All active military personnel with ID receive free lift tickets and rentals plus family members enjoy half price tickets. Veterans are eligible for \$10 lift tickets and rentals, The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

[21-23, 28-29, Mar. 1] BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

Lakeland Player's performance of the Neil Simon classic, Sprague Theater, Elkhorn; 262-728-5578 or lakeland-players.org.

[22] SKI FLASHBACK DAY

Snow-related contests, sledding party, giveaways and raffles with a portion of the lift ticket proceeds benefitting the Chill Foundation, a program serving underprivileged youth, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-248-8811 or grandgeneva.com.

[29] PINOCCHIO

The Missoula Children's Theatre auditions local students for this original adaptation of the classic tale. 2 p.m., Young Auditorium, UW-Whitewater; 262-472-2222 or uww.edu/youngauditorium.

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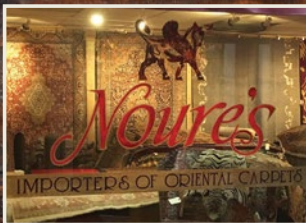
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