Welcome to Culture Connection
Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter featuring the events, stories and people of our community
Tonight - Local Creatives Happy Hour

Nevada County Arts Council and Nevada City Film Festival will host their monthly happy hour for creatives, artists, filmmakers, photographers, writers, designers, entrepreneurs, small business owners and those who are working in the local creative economy tonight, December 5th, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at Nevada City Film Festival at 110 Union Street in Nevada City.

This is an opportunity to learn about projects people are working on, pool resources, develop partnerships, find mentors, and help build a vibrant, creative culture in Western Nevada County. Drinks, noshes, and nibbles will be available.

Martinis & Mistletoe

The Miners Foundry will present the 2nd Annual Martinis & Mistletoe concert on Saturday, December 7th, at 8pm (doors open at 7pm). Martinis & Mistletoe is an intimate, vintage-style evening in the Stone Hall featuring cabaret jazz and holiday pops.
performed by the Swingtime Jazz Combo with Tamara Fouyer. The evening will include a no host full bar offering holiday cocktails and sweet treats for purchase.

Tickets are $30 for general admission seating and $45 for reserved seating. General admission tables seat up to four patrons. Tables are not reserved and groups may be combined. Reserved tables can accommodate up to ten patrons. If you’d like to share a table with friends in the reserved section, please call the Miners Foundry Box Office at (530) 265-5040.

Tickets are available online; by phone, or in person at the Miners Foundry Box Office; or in person at Briar Patch Co-Op.

PURCHASE TICKETS
levels are welcome. Kids and dogs (on leash) are welcome. This is an opportunity to get outside, connect with other photographers, and photograph Nevada City in its holiday finery.

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**Victorian Christmas in Nevada City**

Nevada City will once again welcome the holiday season in style with Victorian Christmas, celebrated on **three Sundays and two Wednesdays in December**:  

- December 8th from 1:30pm - 6pm  
- December 11th from 5pm - 9pm  
- December 15th from 1:30pm - 6pm  
- December 18th from 5pm - 9pm  
- December 22nd from 1:30pm - 6pm  

Nevada City's picturesque downtown transforms into a genuine Christmas card come to life. It’s a magical setting of hilly streets outlined with twinkling white lights and authentic gas lamps, wandering minstrels and carolers dressed in Victorian attire, and a myriad of visitors sharing holiday cheer and good tidings. The enticing aromas of roasted chestnuts and hearty holiday foods fill the air, along with cries of street vendors hawking their wares.
and lamp-lit streets filled to overflowing with authentic Christmas treasures — hand-crafted candy, jewelry, pottery, perfume, dolls, and over 100 different items in all.

At locations throughout downtown, Victorian singers, bagpipers, brass bands and strolling minstrels provide warm Christmas music. Nevada City’s famous Walking Christmas Tree can be found, along with hot roasted chestnuts. Get your picture taken with Santa Claus! $6 for one or two for $10. Santa is in the Old Firehouse at the top of Broad Street.

For information about parking and shuttles, click [here](#).

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**Fungus Foray and Wild Mushroom Exposition**

On **Saturday, December 14th (9am - 4:30pm), and Sunday, December 15th (11am - 4pm)**, the [Yuba Watershed Institute](#) will host the 22nd Annual Fungus Foray and Wild Mushroom Exposition.

Their traditional Saturday morning wild mushroom hunt and identification will wrap up with an afternoon of displayed discoveries and identification workshops. PLEASE NOTE:
Online pre-registration is required to attend this event. The meeting location for the morning mushroom hunt will be provided when you register. Bring a bagged lunch and be prepared to walk in the damp woods. Also useful: collection basket, waxed paper bags, knife, and hand lens. Please carpool if possible. This is a rain or shine event.

Following the collection foray, the group will meet at the Shady Creek Center at 18601 Pathfinder Way in Nevada City to participate in identification discussions, mushroom group organization, and presentations. There will be wild mushroom soups, and other food and merchandise for sale.

Sunday will be the 8th annual Wild Mushroom Exposition. The Exposition will provide presentations, interactive displays, and workshops based on seasonal Sierra mushrooms and their attributes. There will be wild-crafted food concessions, mushroom-themed merchandise available for sale, and lectures and workshops that celebrate fungi.

Admission for Saturday is $30 general; $25 for YWI members and for full-time students (13 and older). Admission for Sunday is $15 general; $10 for YWI members and full-time students (13 and older). For both days, admission is free for children 12 years old and under; however, children must still be registered for the event online.

REGISTER & BUY TICKETS

Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra
On Saturday, December 14th at 7pm and Sunday, December 15th at 2pm the Sierra Master Chorale will present their holiday program. Choral Director and conductor Alison Skinner has chosen a festive and glorious holiday program to include Rutter’s “Gloria” sprinkled with a mixture of new gems and favorite carols. The Sierra Master Chorale always performs with the InConcert Sierra orchestra comprised of local and regional professional instrumentalists.

Performances will take place at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 12889 Osborne Hill Road in Grass Valley. General admission is $38 and $18 for youth ages 5-17 (website purchase includes $4 online fee).

PURCHASE TICKETS
On Christmas Eve, the mysterious Drosselmeyer brings a Nutcracker doll as a gift for his goddaughter Marie. At midnight, the doll comes to life and finds himself in a battle with the Mouse King, while Marie watches in fear.

The Bolshoi’s magical Nutcracker production captivates audiences of all ages and brings them on a whirlwind journey of enchantment with rising star Soloist Margarita Shrainer perfectly embodying Marie’s innocence and joy along with the supremely elegant Principal Dancer Semyon Chudin as her Nutcracker Prince. A timeless holiday classic accompanied by Tchaikovsky’s beloved score.

Admission $15 for adults; and $12.50 for seniors, students, and children 12 and under.

**Nevada City Winter Craft Fair**

The 9th Annual Nevada City Winter Craft Fair will be held at Miners Foundry on Sunday, December 15th from 10am to 5pm. Over 70 of the top local Etsy crafters, designers, and artisans will be selling their hand made home decor, apparel, bath products, stationary, art, food, drinks and more.
The first Nevada City Craft Festival was produced in the summer of 2010 by a group of local young crafters, artists and social do-gooders who were inspired by the independent entrepreneurship and creative talents in their community as well as the success of the Renegade Craft Fairs across the US and Europe. The event continues to grow and to date has introduced over 10,000 attendees to more than 600 local and regional artists, designers and crafters.

The entrance fee is $5 and tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

Cornish Christmas in Grass Valley

Grass Valley's 52nd annual Cornish Christmas will take place on Friday, December 6th, 13th and 20th, from 5pm - 9pm.

Started in 1967 as a way to preserve Grass Valley's Cornish heritage and holiday traditions, Cornish Christmas remains one of their most popular events. Mill and West
Main Streets are closed to motorized traffic and filled with the sights and sounds of an old fashioned Christmas; carolers, jugglers, musicians, magicians, the Grass Valley Cornish Carol Choir, Tommyknocker Cloggers, and Santa Claus. Handmade arts and craft from artists throughout California are displayed on the historic downtown Grass Valley streets. Delicious food and drink can be purchased from a number of Grass Valley restaurants and specialty food vendors.

Pause at the steps of the historic Union Building as the Cornish Carol Choir performs traditional homeland Christmas carols each Friday at 6pm and 7pm. Enjoy the wide selection of holiday music offered by local Grass Valley musicians amongst the trappings of an historic gold rush town. This is a "rain or shine" event and is free to the public.

#GVNCCulturalDistrict on Instagram

Grass Valley-Nevada City is one of 14 districts selected by The California Arts Council to serve as California's inaugural state-designated Cultural Districts. Each one of us is an ambassador of our community, so please help us celebrate our heritage and the people, places, traditions and events that contribute to the quality of life here by sharing your photos on Instagram with #GVNCCulturalDistrict.

Follow these local artists and businesses who are already sharing their images and video: (Click on the name to view their Instagram page; click on the image to view that specific photo on their page.)