



Make This Your Best Christmas Yet

The holiday season is upon us. Everyone has holiday traditions that they've either deliberately created or just happened on by chance. One of my traditions is that I have some movies that I must watch during the holidays and would watch all year long if TV permitted. I watch the new standards such as Christmas Vacation, A Christmas Story, Home Alone and Elf. But I've never watched or learned to appreciate the classics.

Friends of mine cannot believe that I haven't seen White Christmas or It's A Wonderful Life. So I've made a solemn vow that I will watch them this year. But not in the comfort of my own home. I intend to watch these gems on the big screen of the Majestic Theater. The Majestic celebrated her 95th birthday on November 14 and I can't think of a better way to pay my respects than to see It's a Wonderful Life and White Christmas, showing December 12/13 and December 19/20 respectively.

Another event I have to look forward to this holiday season is a Wine and Paint night at the Adams County Arts Council. The subject of paint night, the Gettysburg Christmas Tree. This tree, oh this tree. As the Chairperson of the Christmas Committee for GARMA, I am tasked with scheduling all the activities that occur before, during and after the tree is placed in our center square. Over the last five years the tree has been a great source of joy and headache for me! It's quite the undertaking to look after this tree. All joking aside, I do truly enjoy my tree duties which is why I can't wait to paint my rendition of it thanks to the Arts Council.

If you're interested in starting a new holiday tradition, why not make it a point to donate to Toys for Tots. New, unopened toys are in high demand for area children who may not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. Nerd Herd on York St. is a Toys for Tots collection spot. You can find fantastic gifts for kids there and also at Purple Piggy on Chambersburg St. So many unique and exciting toys await at these two local favorites.

There are so many things you can do to make the season merry and bright, even during the craziest of times. Enjoy our little town and all that it offers. Make new traditions and continue the old. Shop our local merchants and keep your dollars local. Don't know what to get someone? Gift certificates always make a great gift. You can purchase store specific gift certificates or let your recipient decide where to spend them by giving a GARMA gift certificate. Our gift certificates can be redeemed at over 60 downtown shops, restaurants, and venues. GARMA gift certificates can be purchased at Artworks on York St., Gettysburg Heritage Center on Steinwehr Ave. and Goin' Postal at the Outlet Shoppes. For a complete list of where to redeem them, visit www.gettysburgretailmerchants.com.

Stay safe, strong and support each other.

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