

The Central Massachusetts Convention & Visitors Bureau Presents

The November 2005 Monthly Mailing/Newsletter

*** MEDIA UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES ***

What's New -----

The Official Central Mass & Worcester Visitors Guide-The NEW Spring/Summer edition of our Guide is into creation. This edition will be our second of the widely successful completely redesigned, digest size guide with updated sections & editorial, new photos & layout! Don't miss out! This is the CMCVB's premier fulfillment piece that is sent to every inquiry, travels to shows and event and distributed nationally and internationally! Approximately 125,000 copies will be distributed in 2006. TOURISM IS MASSACHUSETTS' THIRD LARGEST INDUSTRY, visitors are offered many choices, so make sure that your business stands out. If you are only choosing one marketing piece, this is THE ONE to make your dollars count. AND if you book both Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter editions, you will receive a **10% rebate** from the CMCVB. It's a win/win!! **Pricing sheets are attached!** Purchase your ad today, and drive customers to your door! Contact Jeannie Hebert at jhebert@worchester.org or call 508-755-7400 x 222 for more details.

Massachusetts Getaway Guide - The contracts are coming in! This year the CMCVB has increased our display ads in all of our publications. Let's continue this trend with the Massachusetts Getaway Guide, MOTT's premiere fulfillment piece. This is the absolute last call. If you have not spoken with either Jeannie Hebert, here at the CVB, or Kristin Gillespie at the Guide, you must do so immediately. **Don't miss out!**

Great Escapes - This magazine is sent to 500,000 American Express Card members and promoted through MOTT and MLA. At the end of December the 2006 edition will be mailed out. **Deadline extended to December 5th!!!** We are offering one sweet deal!! ***UPDATE! The CVB will provide a **10% rebate (!)** to any CVB member who places a display ad in this prestigious publication. You may purchase by the block at \$1,100 per 2" X 2.5" block.

Group Tour Magazine - It was the consensus of the Group Tour Committee to look into continuing our collaboration with Group Tour Magazine. This publication provides viable leads to our members who desire more group business. Get on board! Kevin Scully will be contacting you and look for our e-mail intro of details and fee structure.

Pre-Print Spring Insert - Now getting underway! Hard to believe that the successful Fall insert has already been distributed and we are working toward our Spring Insert. Information, details and price structure will be forth coming.

Yankee Travel Guide to New England - One of our most popular and successful publications! Chris DePiero will be contacting you (if he has not already) to offer you the opportunity to "get on board" with our co-operative advertising program. A 5% rebate will be given to all CVB members who participate.

CMCVB Annual Event Page - We are happy to report, that after several requests, a colorful one-sheet has been designed, containing all of the major events occurring throughout the year in Central Massachusetts. If there are any events not listed, please contact Julie Zomar at jzomar@worchester.org.

Ongoing -----

Telegram & Gazette Regional Travel Newsletter - This is a great opportunity offered at a low price to promote your property! And the Telegram & Gazette supplies free editorial for Central MA. If you have not done so already, **Call Jay Valencourt** at (508) 793-9100 **today** to take advantage of this economical way of having a presence in one of THE most read dailies in Central Massachusetts! It's a great offer to CMCVB members and an affordable way to obtain an ad **in color!** ** Remember we submit your event listings free of charge. Send in any events or offers via email to Julie Zomar at jzomar@worchester.org for consideration.

"What's New" and "Special Packages" Section of our Website - We are always looking for new, exciting things to feature in these sections. If you have any ideas for how we can play up these two sections, please email all information in Word format to jzomar@worchester.org. This is a wonderful way to bring your property to **top of mind status!**

Update -----

Boston Spirit - The CMCVB has put together a cooperative advertising program for Boston Spirit Magazine. We have created a one-page spread. The ad was designed in house and will be published in December/January edition. This is the fastest growing publication in New England directed toward the Gay and Lesbian community. The CMCVB is offering to its' members a unbelievably affordable way to target this lucrative market. We are already taking orders for space in the February/March issue. If you have a romantic getaway package or Valentine special this is the place to be! Call or e-mail Jeannie for more details.

Radio Campaigns - Update - WBZ News Radio 1030 exceptionally successful Rush Hour Rewards ran from August 29th through September 29th in partnership with the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Offering radio, TV, web and print coverage for both monetary and in kind partners. On September 29th the MTA distributed 30,000 coupons to toll patrons. Full partners included Wachusett Village Inn Wachusett Mountain, OSV, and Davis Mega Maze. Coupon partner was Blackstone Valley's October Event "Footsteps in History". On Labor Day, CMCVB spots ran continuously. It has been a great partnership for all.

WBZ Best Gifts - The WBZ Best Gifts have just closed! This is a multi media campaign based on the success of Rush Hour Rewards. We have 8 partners who will receive radio, tv and internet exposure. Our members are amazed at the great deals we have negotiated with New England's most listened to radio station. Billing will not happen until January '06.

Chain of Lights - It must be the Holiday Season if we are offering our gift of The Chain of Lights insert free to CVB members. This year's Central Massachusetts Chain of Lights schedule will be printed in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette on November 25th and December 2nd. Chain of lights information is also available in full color on our website: http://www.worcester.org/chain_of_lights.html

*** REGIONAL NEWS ***

Worcester Airport to have ALLEGIANT Air

Beginning Dec. 22, the new flights will operate four times weekly, with service Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. From Jan. 2 through Feb. 9, 2006, flights will operate twice weekly on Thursday and Sunday, resuming four-day-a-week service Feb. 10. Flights will depart Worcester at 11:10 a.m. arriving in Orlando at 2 p.m. Flights leaving Orlando will depart at 7:40 a.m. arriving at Worcester at 10:35 a.m. (all flight times are local.). The low-fare carrier will celebrate the convenient new service to the Sunshine State, with introductory fares as low as \$39* each way, when booked at www.allegiantair.com.

AHL Sticks in 2006!! – ONLY 4 WEEKS LEFT TO PLEDGE

The City of Worcester and SMG have committed to bring professional hockey back to Worcester for the 2006 / 2007 season. **We need your help!!** THERE ARE ONLY 4 WEEKS LEFT TO PLEDGE! Only **YOU** can bring the American Hockey League (AHL) back to Worcester! Time is running short - this opportunity may never exist again... better dates, improvements at the DCU Center, great family entertainment... **THE TIME IS NOW!** 3,000 Season Ticket Pledges by 12/31/05 will guarantee a Hockey Team for '06! It's not just about the hockey - it's about family time; it's rooting for the hometown team; it's about economic development and most importantly it's right for the region as a whole. Reserve your seats today!!! To get more information or to secure your season tickets contact Donna McCabe at dmccabe@worcester.org, or 508-755-7400 x223. Visit our website for more information. **You can bring it back. The puck is in your hands.**

*** SPECIAL EVENTS & CONFERENCES ***

CVB Upcoming Special Events

- * **FAM Tour** – 10 Chinese Tour Operators – Sturbridge Area Dec. 2nd and 3rd.
- * **FAM Tour** – 13 Brazilian Tour Operators – Sturbridge November 26th -27th
- * **December Hospitality Social** – December 14 @ 5:30 pm (**For Committee members only**)
- * **Membership Drive** – March 2006! Tee up your team and have your rolodex ready.
- Tentatively set for the DCU Center, Jim Moughan is currently working on dates
- * **Annual Golf Tournament** – May 2006
- * **Annual Lobster Bake** – June 22, 2006
- * **Annual Meeting** – September 21, 2006

CVB Upcoming Conferences:

- * **Tourism Massachusetts Marketplace** – Boston Hynes Convention Ctr. -November 30, 2005.
- * **ABA** – Nashville, February 3-8, 2006
- * **19th Annual Governor's Conference** – Springfield, March 28th – 30th
- * **POWWOW** – Orlando, May 6-10, 2006
- * **National Tourism Week** – May 13 – 21, 2006

NTA Update from Jeannie Hebert:

"I've literally just now returned from NTA and happy to report that I had a full schedule of appointments and was able to meet with many operators new to the region who are interested in visiting the Central Massachusetts area. Along with our other Central Mass attendees we were able to join forces and "tag team" in order to gain maximum marketing potential of the region. Responses were very favorable and I will be forwarding these leads to all of our members very shortly."

Tourism Summit Update:

On October 28th, the Central Massachusetts Convention & Visitors Bureau in conjunction with Fallon Community Health Plan and Wachusett Mountain Ski Area hosted a Tourism Summit. This 1st ever event, was held at Wachusett Mountain and hosted an array of executives from both the Tourism and Professional sector, including individuals from the manufacturing and health care industries, etc. Our goal was to portray how tourism impacts all businesses and on a number of different levels. This luncheon included a presentation by nationally recognized author, Gary Sherwin, President and CEO of Believable Brands, a recognized leader in developing successful brands for organizations, associations, companies and communities for the past 20 years. With an overview of industry connections given by Gary Vaillancourt, Sherwin was able to use both local and international case studies to provide a better understanding of the dynamics of working within a multifaceted regional tourism industry and why we need private sector stakeholders. This was the first stage of many as we, the CVB, embark on our branding campaign!

*** DECEMBER CHAIN OF LIGHTS 2005 ***

Central Massachusetts, The Heart of New England, welcomes you home for the holidays and invites you to experience the joyous holiday season in quaint New England surroundings. Visit our 60 cities, towns and communities and join in the festivities. Our Annual Chain of Lights events highlight the beauty of the season and the spirit of the holidays! For more information on how to have fun, visit www.centralmass.org or call 800-231-7557.

BARRE

November 26 – December 22

Town Common

'Have a Merry Beary Christmas in Barre'

Kickoff your holiday November 26th in Barre. Visit the Town Common and other select locations throughout the town for the best Holiday experience ever! Festivities throughout the month include: carriage rides, theatre & concerts, tree lightings, wine tastings, Teddy

Bear Teas, and MUCH MORE! For more information, visit www.barrebusiness.com or call 978 355 4920.

December 4

Steven's Farm B&B - 749 Old Coldbrook Road

Christmas in Barre - Open House – 1pm-7pm

You are invited to an 18-century farm-house, each room tastefully decorated for the holidays. Take a tour of this warm and inviting New England country home. Enjoy homemade mulled

cider, a holiday buffet with old-fashioned pastries, and live entertainment. Treat yourself to this unique experience. Call 978-355-2227 or visit www.stevensfarminn.com.

BOLTON –

December 3

Nashoba Valley Winery – 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road

Holiday Lighting – 4pm-7pm

Kick off the holiday season with our traditional holiday lighting at the orchard. Enjoy relaxed holiday shopping, award-winning holiday wines, evening hay rides through the orchard and cheerful holiday music. With a special visit from Santa for the kids at 4:30pm. A New England Tradition! Free admission and parking. Visit www.nashobawinery.com/festivals/lighting.

BOSTON

November 25 - December 30

The Opera House – 539 Washington Street

Boston Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

Special Discount on *Nutcracker* Tickets: \$7.00 off! (10 performances from which to choose!) Call Ticketmaster at 617-931-2787 and mention CODE: **NUTNP7**. Visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/20038> for performance details.

BOYLSTON

November 25 – December 30

Tower Hill Botanic Garden – 11 French Drive

Holly Days – “Winter Wonderland” – Tues.-Sun. 10am – 5pm

On display will be magnificently decorated trees, wreaths, and swags adorned with gleaming lights and creative hand-made natural ornaments depicting winter themes and woodland creatures. Admission rates: \$8 Adults, \$5 Seniors (65+) and Youth (6-18), children under 6 and Members admitted FREE. Call 508-869-6111, or visit www.towerhillbg.org.

GRAFTON

December 4

Town-wide Businesses participating as Grafton Celebrates the Holidays

Grafton Chain of Lights – 12pm-5pm

Bring the whole family and celebrate the Holidays in Grafton. Local businesses, churches and organizations will open their doors with special events for all ages. Visit all 18 Frosty stops and see what your community has to offer!

LEOMINSTER

November 30

Four Points by Sheraton Leominster – 99 Erdman Way

Sixteenth Annual Holiday Concert – 7pm-9pm

Share the spirit of the holiday season with your family and friends, featuring the United States Air Force Liberty Pops! Special appearance by Santa & Mrs. Claus! Complimentary refreshments! Donations of canned goods, used clothing, or unwrapped toys will be distributed to local charities. Contact 978-534-9000 for more information.

MILLBURY

December 4

Town of Millbury

Chain of Lights Holiday Festival – 10am-4pm

Free trolleys, NEW chain raffle, fairs, gifts, festivities & fun! For more information, email dxcampbell@millburycu.com or call 508-865-8717.

December 4

Asa Waters Mansion – 123 Elm Street

Chain of Lights Holiday Festival – 10am-5pm

Enjoy all of your favorite holiday traditions at this enchanting festival! Refreshments, entertainment, grand raffle prizes, and more! Visit www.asawaters.org or call 508-865-0855.

December 13 - 14

Asa Waters Mansion – 123 Elm Street

Afternoon Tea – 2pm-4pm

See this historical estate decorated in splendor for the holidays while visiting with friends or meeting new acquaintances. Admission is \$7.00 for tea, coffee, pastries, all presented from silver service, or \$10.00 includes tea and refreshments along with a guided tour of the Mansion. Visit www.asawaters.org or call 508-865-0855.

NORTH GRAFTON

December 4

Willard House and Clock Museum – 11 Willard Street

Annual Christmas Tea - 2pm-4pm

Visit the historic Willard House which will be decorated for the holidays in the Colonial tradition. Enjoy tea and pastries, museum tours, children's activities and clock making

demonstrations. *Free admission, courtesy of Koopman Lumber and AG Edwards & Sons.* Reservations are requested, but not required, please call (508) 839-3500.

PRINCETON

December 18

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area – 499 Mountain Road

Polar Express Christmas Celebration

See Santa arrive in a helicopter! Hear the classic story - The Polar Express by story teller Katie Green. Enjoy hot chocolate, holiday cookies, sampling by Polar Beverages and holiday tunes! Visit www.wachusett.com.

SOUTHBRIDGE

December 1

Jacob Edwards Library – 236 Main Street

Holiday Ornament Making & Tree Lighting – 5pm-7pm

Drop by to make an ornament to hang on the Children's Holiday Tree. Then enjoy the tree lighting at 6:45 pm. Registration is not required.

December 2 – 4

Notre Dame Church/Hall – Main Street

8th Annual Festival of (Giving) Trees

Food, beverages, entertainment, raffles and more! All proceeds will be donated to Breast Cancer & Cancer Research. For more information call 508-347-2904.

December 5

Jacob Edwards Library – 236 Main Street

The Polar Express Reading – 6pm-7pm

Hear two versions of this favorite story! Be on board in time to see where we can go. Registration is required.

December 12

Jacob Edwards Library – 236 Main Street

Gingerbread Houses – 6pm-7pm

You bring your ideas; we'll supply the building materials. Registration is required.

December 22

Jacob Edwards Library – 236 Main Street

'Twas the Night Before Christmas – 6pm-7pm

Hear Clement Moore's famous poem, and other heartwarming stories. Registration is required.

SPRINGFIELD

December 27

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1000 West Columbus Avenue

Get Moving With Ronald McDonald

Educational program for children about the importance of making physical activity a part of every single day; using storytelling, magic, music & games. FREE with paid admission. www.hoophall.com.

December 28

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1000 West Columbus Avenue

Basketball Clinic & Meet & Greet with Donny Marshall on UCONN Day

Springfield, UCONN Huskies Alum and NBA player, Donny Marshall, will hold a basketball clinic and meet and greet appearance at the Hall of Fame during UCONN Day. FREE with paid admission. www.hoophall.com.

December 29

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1000 West Columbus Avenue

Boston Celtics Day with Boston Celtics Mascot Lucky the Leprechaun – 1pm-2pm

Kids of all ages will enjoy the antics of Lucky the Leprechaun and the Slam Dunk Team as he performs a dunk show on Center Court and signs autographs during Celtics. Win tickets to the Celtics. FREE with paid admission. www.hoophall.com.

STURBRIDGE

December 1 – January 1

Old Sturbridge Village – 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road

Spirit of the Season – 9:30am-4pm

The festively decorated Village explores – when and from where Christmas came to 19th-century New England. Daily tours of the Center Village, holiday performances, and special craft activities are offered. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides are offered on the weekends, and visitors are invited to bring skates and take a spin around the ice-skating area on the Common. Contact 800-SEE-1830 or visit www.osv.org.

December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 (Fridays and Saturdays)

Old Sturbridge Village – 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road

Christmas Traditions by Candlelight – 5pm-9pm

The Center Village is bathed in candlelight, with special activities, musical performances and demonstrations, offering samples of mulled cider, gingerbread, and roasted chestnuts. Father Christmas greets visitors at Bullard Tavern, and Santa hears Christmas wishes and sits for photos. Admission is \$12 per person (free for children under 3). Tickets are available for advance purchase at www.osv.org/spirit.

December 3

**Publick House Historic Inn – Rte. 131 - On the Common
Gingerbread House – 10am-noon**

For 27 years, visitors have been coming to the Publick House to see our magnificent 10 foot Gingerbread House. This year, we've added a treat. On **Saturday**, guests will decorate a 10-inch tall gingerbread house to take home and enjoy! Enjoy cookies & cider, games, and Christmas movies. Only \$20 per house. Call 508-347-3313.

December 3 – 4

**EJ Candies - 1 River Road Exit 2, off I-84
Gingerbread Holiday Weekend – 9am – 8pm**

Ron Hebert and his staff invite you to continue the holiday tradition. Chocolate covered ginger treats, ice cream and all your holiday favorites. Complementary hot chocolate. All who visit Santa receive a free candy treat every Saturday and Sunday Nov. 26th through Dec. 11th, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information, contact 508 347 3051.

December 4

**Publick House Historic Inn – Rte. 131 - On the Common
Teddy Bear Tea – 2pm**

This Teddy Bear Tea is to Benefit Toys for Tots. Enjoy a finger sandwich buffet luncheon. Children are encouraged to bring a favorite Teddy Bear to share a special holiday tea. Adults \$16.95, children 12 and under \$9.95 or free when they bring a Toys for Tots donation (new and unwrapped). Please call 508- 347-3313, ext. 400.

December 10, 11, 17, 18

**Publick House Historic Inn – Rte. 131 - On the Common
Breakfast with Santa – 8:30am**

Round up the kids! Santa Claus is coming to town; and he'll be at the Publick House Historic Inn for breakfast. Watch the magic come alive through a child's eye and feast on a hearty Yankee breakfast buffet. Adults are \$16.95, Children 3-12 are \$9.95, and children under three are complimentary. Please call 1- 800-PUBLICK, ext. 400.

December 26 – January 1

**Old Sturbridge Village – 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Family Vacation Week (9:30am-4pm)**

The last week of December brings special activities for school vacation week, including parlor games, candlemaking, and a Christmas trivia game. Call 800-SEE-1830 or www.osv.org.

December 27

**Old Sturbridge Village – 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Families Cook – 4:45pm-8:45pm**

This unique evening offers families an opportunity to prepare – and eat! – a complete dinner using 19th century receipts (recipes), tools, and techniques. \$85 per person; \$75 for OSV members. Reservations are required; call 508-347-3362 x 274.

December 27-29

**Old Sturbridge Village – 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Discovery Camps: Winter Adventures in History – 9am-3pm**

Participants in this three-day program dress in period costume and learn about everyday life in early 19th-century New England. The winter session features seasonal activities, including hearth cooking, New Year's parlor games, crafts and more. Register at www.osv.org/discovery.

SUTTON

December 3

Keown Orchards

"A Taste of Historic Sutton" - Chain of Lights Celebration – 9am-5pm

Once again our selection of the very special and odd varieties of apples will be set out to tempt you. Christmas Trees, roping and Jane's handmade wreaths are in! Call 508-865-0434 for more information.

December 3

**Vaillancourt Folk Art – 145 Armsby Road
Open House**

Vaillancourt Folk Art, one of America's premier Santa Claus studios will be having an open house. See our display of over 500 different Santas made in antique chocolate moulds. Hot drinks and entertainment in our outside pavilion. www.valfa.com.

December 3

Town of Sutton

Chain of Lights Celebration – 10am – 4pm

Explore the picturesque community of Sutton aboard a free trolley. Church fairs, craft shows, antiques, farm tours, chocolate-making, a Revolutionary War encampment, hayrides, a visit with Santa, studio tours, and a blacksmith shop are only a few of the events, ending with a tree lighting and caroling. For more information, call (508)234-6953, or, visit our website: www.suttonchainoflight.com.

WEST BROOKFIELD

December 2, 4, 9, 11, 13, 23, 30, 31

Salem Cross Inn – Route 9

Fire Place Feast – 6:30p.m. hors d'oeuvres, 8p.m. feast begins

Join a series of 1700's style feasts, prepared on the open hearth of a fieldstone fireplace. Relax or browse the wide collection of antiques. Be sure to catch a sleigh ride through the Inn's pristine 600-acre woods. \$75 per person. www.salemcrossinn.com.

December 3, 4, 10, 11, 18

Salem Cross Inn – Route 9

Christmas Memories (varying times)

Join the 19th century costumed performers as they present a play based on Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales". Feast on a Traditional New England Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, and Santa's helpers are always on hand to help folks choose a gift certificate. Reservations required. Adults \$45, Children under 12 are \$22. www.salemcrossinn.com.

December 4

Rt 9 (Main St.) and nearby streets, many around the Town Common

13th Annual "White Christmas in West Brookfield" – Noon – 8pm

Come for an old fashioned New England tradition with hayrides, crafters, shopping, open houses and music. Tree lighting and Christmas Carols at 6pm on historic town common, followed by a Yuletide Concert in town hall. Presented by Browse the Brookfields. Admission is free. For more information 508-867-4201.

WORCESTER

November 25 – December 30

Salisbury Mansion – 40 Highland Street

"Home for the Holidays" Colors of the Season

Worcester Historical Museum invites you "Home for the Holidays." Join us at Worcester's only historic house museum for a very special Victorian themed holiday. Candlelight tours, and learn about the Salisbury holiday traditions. Free to members. Thursday 1pm – 8:30pm, Friday and Saturday 1pm – 4pm. Visit www.worcesterhistory.org.

November 30

Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street

Brown Bag Concert – 12-1pm

Annie Burns hailing from Ithaca New York will be performing. Annie is a member of the folk trio, the Burns Sisters. Her songs are astonishing and her voice is angelic. She is touring behind her recent solo project, "Days in Italy". For information call 508-752-5608.

December 1

Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street

Glenn Beck Christmas Show – 7:30pm

Tickets: \$26, \$21; 508-752-0888.

December 2

Worcester Common – Main Street

Festival of Lights – 4pm-8pm

Kickoff on the Common with Holiday Tree Lighting and Light Show! Enjoy horse drawn hayrides, youth chorus performances and a parade down Main Street. Artists and Performers showing and selling their creations inside! Worcester Windows Art Show! Food Fun! www.worcestermass.org/culture

December 2 – 23

Foothills Theatre Company – 100 Front Street, Suite 137

A Christmas Carol

This production breathes new life into Worcester's family tradition, while remaining faithful to and fully inhabiting Dickens' story. With a cast of Foothills favorites, led by TV's Eddie Mekka! Book seats online at www.foothillstheatre.com or call (508)754-4018.

December 3

Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street

Music Worcester Inc. Presents Messiah

The Worcester Chorus & Worcester Symphony Orchestra – 8pm

Tickets: \$34, \$31; 508-754-3231 or 508-752-0888.

December 3

ORC-FM Oldies 98.9

COMMERCIAL FREE CHRISTMAS MUSIC - 12:00am-11:59pm.

Oldies 98.9 will play your favorite Christmas and holiday favorites from the 60's, 70's and beyond...COMMERCIAL FREE all day long, in honor of the Sutton Chain of Lights! Holiday music at home, in the car, while you shop... you asked for it, you got it! For information call Amy Wiifong at (508) 752-1045 x258.

December 3

Holiday Inn Worcester – 500 Lincoln Street

Holiday Company Mixer

Join us for our festive Holiday Company Mixer! Includes dancing, scrumptious dinner buffet, and raffle prizes. For more information call 508-852-4000 or visit www.holiday-inn/worcesterma.

December 5

DCU Center – 50 Foster Street

Neil Diamond – 8pm

America's best-selling touring solo artist, will bring his **World Tour 2005** to the DCU Center for his **ONLY** New England appearance! Diamond will perform his hits and more, joined by his original touring band, including a horn section and backup singers for dynamic new stage show. Tickets are \$76.25 & \$43.75, call Ticketmaster at 617-931-2000 or 617-228-6000 or visit ticketmaster.com.

December 7
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Brown Bag Concert – 12-1pm

The U.S.A.F. Band of Liberty is back again for their annual Holiday program, be sure to come early because this one "picks the house". Both inspirational and entertaining this concert is a treat for young and old alike! Free to the public. For information call 508-752-5608.

December 9
DCU Center – 50 Foster Street
City Boyz presents Cam'ron and the Diplomats - 8:00PM

The DCU Center is going hip, with rapper Cam'ron and the Diplomats bringing hip hop and rap together. With the Diplomats "on fire," and Cam'ron's "razor sharp lyrics," they're sure to bring some powerful music to Worcester. Tickets: \$36.00; \$41.00 day of the show

December 10
Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary – 414 Massasoit Road

Holiday Nature Crafts Open House – 1pm-4pm
Drop by our visitor center to view our tree decorated with wonderful ornaments handcrafted from all-natural materials, and then join us in the program room to make your own. We'll provide some holiday goodies and music. (Snow date December 11th) For more information, contact 508-753-6087.

December 10
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Mass Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert – 8pm
Tickets: \$39, \$34; 508-752-0888.

December 11
DCU Center – 50 Foster Street
Boston Pops Holiday Concert with Keith Lockhart – 2pm-5pm
Ring in the holiday season with an annual tradition at the DCU Center by spending a magical afternoon with Keith Lockhart and members of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, and New York Voices, the Grammy Award winning vocal ensemble renowned for their excellence in jazz and the art of group singing. Tickets are \$61.25, \$56.25, \$46.25 & \$36, call Ticketmaster at 617-931-2000 or 617-228-6000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

December 11
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Dance Prism Performs The Nutcracker Ballet – 1pm-5pm
Tickets: \$20 adults, \$14 children & seniors: 508-752-0888. Group discounts available: 978-371-1038.

December 13
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Jim Brickman Holiday Concert – 7:30 pm
Tickets available: \$43, \$38; 508-752-0888 VIP Tickets Available. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit the Worcester country food bank.

December 14
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Brown Bag Concert – 12-1pm
Organ virtuoso, Frederick Jodry, plays the historic Hook Organ in a concert of holiday themes and favorites. For more information or to purchase tickets call 508-752-5608.

December 15
Worcester Art Museum – 55 Salisbury Street
Young Friends – Holiday Shopping Sale/Wine Auction – 5:30pm-8pm
Join the Young Friends of the Worcester Art Museum, art lovers between the ages of 21 and 45, for an evening featuring a gallery tours, appetizers, and a cash bar. Admission is free for members, \$10 nonmembers. For more information call 508.799.4406 or visit www.worcesterart.org.

December 17
Mechanics Hall – 321 Main Street
Taubl Family 4th Annual Christmas Concert – 7pm
Tickets: Advance - \$10 or \$5 for groups of 25+; Door - \$12.

December 18
Worcester Art Museum – 55 Salisbury Street
Holiday Concert: St. Paul's Cathedral Choir
Choirmaster Ian Watson directs this annual yuletide performance in the Museum's Renaissance Court. The concert is Free with Museum admission. For more information call 508.799.4406 or visit www.worcesterart.org.

December 10-11, 17-18
EcoTarium – 222 Harrington Way
A Polar Bear's Journey (12:30, 1:30, 2:30pm program times)
Chris Van Allsburg's winter tale *The Polar Express* comes to life on EcoTarium's Explorer Express train in this fun holiday "journey" for families with young children. Enjoy a special holiday storytime, meet Santa and board the Explorer Express train to visit EcoTarium's North Pole, home of Kenda. Warm up after with hot cocoa and cookies. Call (508) 929-2703 for reservations. Cost: \$5 plus museum admission. 60 minutes. www.ecotarium.org.

December 31
Downtown Worcester
First Night Worcester – 1pm - midnight
Over 100 non-stop performances and activities in 20 indoor locations at First Night Worcester 2006 Arty Gras Festival, tribute to New Orleans Gospel, Dixieland brass, Jazz, Blues and Zydeco. More info at www.firstnightworcester.org or 508.799.4909. Purchase your button! \$8 from 12/1 - 12/25, \$10 from 12/26 - 12/3, \$12 at the door, Children 10 & under free.

***** FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER *****

Congratulations to our October New Members:

- Special Olympics
- Rovezzi's
- 1790 Restaurant
- Upper Deck Sports Bar & Lounge
- Pine Ridge Snow Park
- Old Time Photo Parlor
- Borelli Music
- AV Presentations

NEW! We are looking for stories! Often, at the last minute, publications request stories and anecdotes from us. We would like to be prepared to respond by having written pieces from our members. If you have anything that you would like to share, please e-mail us! We will let you know when and if we have the opportunity to submit it! jhebert@worchester.org

***** MEETINGS AT A GLANCE *****

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|--------------------------|--|
| December 12, 2005 | Worcester Sales Task Force (Closed Meeting)
3 pm; DCU Center |
| January 25, 2006 | Hospitality Host Committee – Everyone Welcome!!
8 am; Crowne Plaza – Worcester |
| January 26, 2006 | Hotel Association Meeting (Closed Meeting)
12 Noon; Publick House – Sturbridge |