

Cookies for a cause: Holiday bake sale roundup

■ The Old Mission Women's Club is hosting their 7th annual cookie sale at the Peninsula Fire Hall #2 outside TC Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds go to area charitable organizations.

■ The Traverse City Grace Episcopal Church will hold its annual Community Cookie Sale at their church Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale features holiday cookies sold by the pound, with decorative tins available. Hot tea will be served and carolers will be on hand. Proceeds help fund the church's food pantry and community meal program.

■ Interlochen's Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting a "Confections by the Pound" cookie walk at the church Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to until they sell out.

■ Charlevoix' First Congregational Church's Cookie Walk and Bazaar takes place at the church Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be on hand as greeters and shoppers can fill tins of holiday cookies for \$10, \$12 & \$15. Bazaar items will be sold.

■ The Bellaire Lioness Club will hold its annual "Cookie by the Pound Sale" at The Bellaire Senior Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. until

they're sold out. Homemade holiday cookies will be sold by the pound. All proceeds to be used for charitable projects.

■ Trinity Lutheran Church holds their Christmas cookie sale in the gymnasium Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This sale offers variety packs and new items include pete cookies and cinnamon tree ornaments. Proceeds will be used toward school furniture, church kitchen items and their youth trips.

■ The Presbyterian Women's Annual Holiday Cookie Walk takes place at the 701 Westminster St. Church Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday cookies, homemade candy and holiday breads will be available. Cookies will be sold at \$6 per pound and other items will be priced individually. Proceeds support mission projects benefitting women and children.

■ The TC Central High Trojan Hockey team has their fundraising sale in front of the TC Wal Mart Sunday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Trojan Hockey Boosters will sell items from cookies, candy, cakes and pies to jars of dry bread, brownie, soup, coffee and tea mixes. Proceeds help support the Trojan Hockey team.



Traverse City's Trinity Lutheran Church is one of many fundraising bake sales over the holiday season.

Events offer grand time for grandparents and grandchildren

By SHEILA GARRETT
Special to Active Years

Visits from faraway grandchildren and those who live nearby are the highlight of many grandparents' holidays. Special events are being planned throughout the area that promise fun for all, but may be well-suited for grandparents and grandchildren.

For those who enjoy an spectacle enhanced by dazzling costumes and scenery, the Interlochen Dance Ensemble is presenting the beloved ballet "The Sleeping Beauty" at 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., Dec. 13-14, with 1 p.m. matinee performances Sat. & Sun., Dec. 14-15. For reservations, call the Interlochen box office at 800-681-5920 or e-mail at www.interlochen.org

The Petoskey Theatre Festival is featuring an original production of "The Arabian Nights," suitable for all ages, on Dec. 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22. For ticket information, phone 348-7520.

In addition to its regularly scheduled story times, the Traverse Area District Library is sponsoring a special program for children ages 10 and up called "An Afternoon of Unfortunate Events, Featuring Distinguishing Events in Literature." The program will be held on Sat., Dec. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m., and is based on the books of Daniel Handler, also known as Lemony Snicket. For further information, phone 932-8500.

Charlevoix merchants have planned a day of events for Saturday, Dec. 7. Santa will arrive during the Open House celebration by city fire truck in East Park at noon. A free full-length holiday film sponsored by the Charlevoix State Bank will be shown for children at Charlevoix Cinema III, beginning at 2 p.m. While children enjoy the movie, adults will be treated to refreshments and caroling, and shops will be open. Many merchants will have extended hours.

The Great Lakes Children's Museum in Traverse City is hosting Fun Day Sunday every second weekend. The museum, which aims at bringing the Great Lakes to life for visitors, features hands-on activities. Children are encouraged to climb a walk-in lighthouse, steer a make-believe freighter and run the crane that lifts baggage aboard a ship, in nautical costume if they choose. A visual display shows undersea life as it exists in Grand Traverse Bay. A new exhibit centering around the photos of local photographer Ken Scott is the giant walk-in camera, that demonstrates in an unforgettable way how the camera works. For further information on Sunday programs and hours, phone 932-4526.

Another maritime event is "An Old Fashioned Christmas at the Lighthouse," to be held at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse located nine miles past Northport. The popular annual celebration is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 4 p.m. Visitors can tour the keeper's house, climb to the tower to see the breathtaking view of Lake Michigan and operate the Morse code transmitter in the keeper's room. A Flying Santa will drop gifts for children from a Coast Guard plane in the mid-afternoon. There will be entertainment throughout the day, including Christmas music in the Fog Signal Building, and the songs of folk singer Neil Woodward and accordion music by Fr. Wayne Dziekan, pastor of St. Michael's Church of Suttons Bay, in the main building. No fees will be charged for the occasion.

The Elk Rapids Santa Parade will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Town Hall, with children making ornaments for the town Christmas tree. They will parade down the street with a Victorian Santa, "wearing a long beard and a burgundy robe," said Terry Crandall-Kimble of the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce. The firemen will hang a garland decorated with the children's ornaments on the tree.

Hot chocolate and cookies, provided by the Lions Club, will be served. Bell ringers will entertain and there will be carol singing. There is no charge for participating in the event, and no pre-registration is required. The program, which is in its seventh year, will conclude at about 4 p.m.

The Leelanau Sands Casino is offering two holiday family programs. The "Christmas with the Young Americans Dinner Theatre" will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, Monday Dec. 16 through Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. An afternoon program is planned for Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Tables may be arranged to accommodate any party size. Phone 800-271-7980. The Sawyer Brown Christmas show is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Children aged 10 to 17 may enter the casino to attend performance events only.

The Petoskey Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas Open House, with carolers and bands in the street, on Friday, Dec. 6. This annual celebration will include the Christmas tree lighting and an appearance by Santa Claus. Roasted chestnuts and chili will help visitors defy the cold, and huge kettles of bean soup will simmer over wood fires all day. Shops will be open from 6 to 9 p.m.

A package for the skiing family is available at Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thomasville. As in the past, parents can arrange for up to three children, aged 18 and under, to sleep and ski free mid-week. Now, up to four grandparents aged 60 and over can sleep and ski free midweek too, when sharing accommodations with at least two full-paying adults. Mid-weeks covering holidays are excluded, and ski or snowboard rental is extra. For more information on this and all ski packages, call 800-YOUR-MTN or email them at: reservations@crystalmountain.com

Sheila Garrett is a local freelance writer.

Holiday Memories

"My best Christmas memory came when my father was dying of cancer. We didn't know it then, but it would be our last Christmas together. He had been quite ill and up until Thanksgiving had been taking medications that kept him virtually incapacitated. Very much his father's son, he wanted to be strong for his family. Not wanting his quality of life ebbing further away, he stopped taking the medication. By Christmas he was most of his old self, making the holidays once again a very special time for the family. The sight of him that Christmas morning was the best gift I remember receiving. Even more special was him handing my mother a ring, kissing her and saying, "This gift is for you Norita, a wonderful mother, a cherished wife, my best friend and my lover always." That was when I knew the warmth of his love would never leave us."

Phil Murphy, director, Jenkins Group Communications and director/performer, Old Town Playhouse

Downtown Petoskey Brings You Back...



The warm glow of the gaslights. The alluring aroma of hot chocolate. The sounds of the season from Santa to sleigh bells... The inviting boutiques featuring: gifts, artwork, apparel, shoes, sporting goods, books, linens, housewares, music and more. Whether you need snowshoes or champagne, downtown Petoskey offers shoppers a variety of gift items. Charming restaurants. Old-world ambiance. A picturesque setting overlooking Little Traverse Bay.

HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN PETOSKEY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL PETOSKEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 347-4150

Holiday Memories

"I loved Christmas as a kid. When my parents said they were going out to be Santa's assistants (shopping), I really believed them. Mostly, I looked forward to going downtown to see the department store windows. They were full of large moving displays. It was like a real world for a kid and his imagination. There were two excellent department stores in Grand Rapids. You could always visit Santa, but my favorite was Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. You had to stand in line to talk with a deer with a nice lady's voice and a big red nose. She would send you a present down a chute as you were leaving. Another highlight was riding on a train that went around the ceiling of one of the stores at Christmastime. I also remember the late night candle light service at church with lots of choir music. It was beautiful and mysterious. Christmas then was busy too, but I am grateful to my parents for making it a special time for kids and family."

Richard Schneider, manager, Traverse Area District Library

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For a list of extended holiday and Santa photo hours and a complete list of retailers, pick up a holiday directory at Customer Service or at any backlit map location.

