

holiday GIFT GUIDE

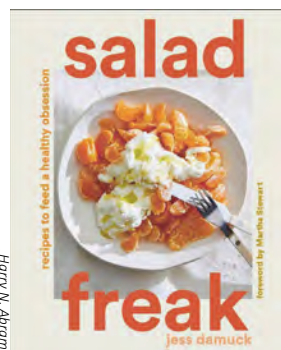
NOVEMBER 2022

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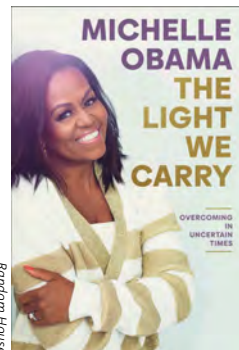


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The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times
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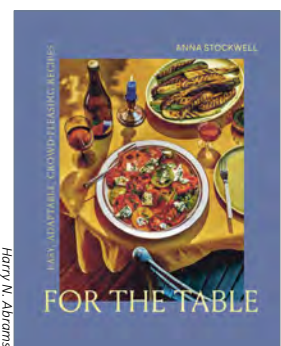
Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light
by Joy Harjo
Fifty poems to celebrate Joy Harjo's fifty years as a poet.



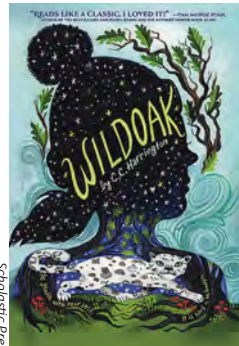
A Book of Days
by Patti Smith
Featuring more than 365 images and reflections that chart Smith's singular aesthetic.



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by Vicky Bennison
Traditional family recipes from Italy's best cooks.



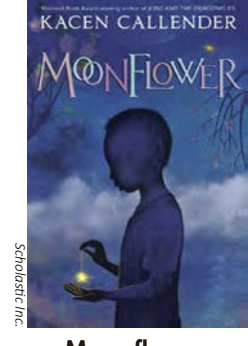
For the Table
by Anna Stockwell
Easy, adaptable, crowd-pleasing recipes for bringing back the ritual of hosting memorable dinner parties.



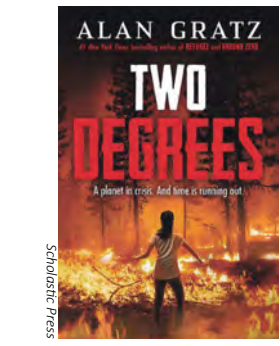
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A brilliantly crafted, hilarious twist on this beloved classic.
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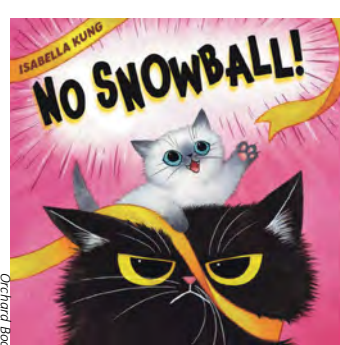
Two Degrees
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Holiday Gift Guide

November 24, 2022

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PHOTO BY ABBY WEBSTER

Find your perfect gift from a local small business inside, like these top five selections from One Mercantile on page 21.

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Local small business shopping is back!

December's holiday season is the perfect time to remember the joy of small town New England living. We're lucky that our vibrant but rural communities also have high end, well curated shops that carry luxuries that rival New York City quality. As Eliza Harris said at the openings of Sister Parish's new Litchfield, Conn., location, "I have better shopping recommendation up here than I do in Manhattan." Skip the online sales this season and shop your neighborhood instead.

For this year's Holiday Gift Guide I asked prominent stores in our Connecticut, New York State and Massachusetts area to pick their Top Five Favorites of the season. The results are an exciting collection of must-haves.

— Alexander Wilburn
Editor

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B. Johnstone & Co. *Upscale trends and vintage outfits* *in Sharon, Conn.*

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 *www.bjohnstoneandcompany.com*

Bartley Johnstone's designer style boutique is busier than ever. With holiday and New Years invitations back on, it's time to shop Johnstone's seamless mix of elegance with effortless cool, pairing timeless pieces with contemporary details. Layering white on black with touches of soft faux fur is Johnstone's look for December parties.

1. Love Token Sweater Vest \$148

"Love Token from California is one of our customers' favorite designers because they're statement fashion items at a great price.," Johnstone said. "This vest is faux fur and wool free so there's no itch."



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2. Vintage Chloé Jacket \$798

“This Chloé jacket is a tropical wool designed in the early 1990s by Karl Lagerfeld in France. It’s really a couture piece. I’d wear it to a holiday party and I’d also wear it with blue jeans.”

3. Linda Richards Genuine Rabbit Handwarmers \$88

“These are our bestselling customer favorite, they can be worn as a fingerless glove or as a cuff on your holiday sweater. They’re rabbit fur, stretchy and cozy.”

4. Linda Richards Mink Slides \$368

“These have an outdoor sole and are the cool trend item for the season.”

5. Vintage Chanel Shoes

“These are a flat spectator loafer with an ankle strap so they’re both fun and walkable. They’re for that Cinderella moment.”



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1. Shepherd of Sweden Slides and Slippers \$85-\$295

"These are super warm Scandinavian slippers made of sheepskin that comes in all different styles," said Christopher Baetz of Westerlind.



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2. Pyrenex Vintage Mythic Down Jacket \$605

“The puffer jackets are always very popular, particularly the lollipop seasonal colors like this fuchsia. This French brand is very well known for how they take care of their geese, so they’re the eco-friendly alternative to Canada Goose and Moncler.”

3. Devold Nasen Sweater \$265

“These Norwegian thick knits are really popular, we have one that we designed for women especially, it’s a split seam,” said Simon Kristoph, Visual Director at Westerlind. “Our exclusive a version of the sweater has a boxier, more feminine cut.”

4. Klong Constella \$175

“These are brass and bendable so you can structure them in different ways, they holds flower vases and tapered candles or tea lights,” Baetz said downstairs in the Westerlind Pantry, where you can buy home items and local produce.

5. Klong Patina Oil Lamp \$295 - 375

“These oil lamps are old fashioned and really charming.”




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PHOTOS COURTESY OF 100 MAIN

100 Main Bunny Williams' signature style in Falls Village, Conn.

📍 100 Main St. Falls Village CT

📷 @100mainst

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A gift from 100 Main isn't just from you, it's a gift selected by celebrated decorator Bunny Williams' impeccable taste. From large scale furniture to a sweet stocking treat, Williams has picked out five gifts to reflect her own country life, from the garden to the dining room.

1. *Bunny Williams x David Shapiro Plant Stand \$1,895*

"Bunny picked out some of her favorite furniture," 100 Main store runner Christina van Hengel said. "This plant stand was modeled after one of her original antiques that customers just loved in the shop. So we have David Shapiro make it locally and painted it in the Benjamin Moore Gothic Green shade that Bunny hand picked."

2. *Tim Jones Black Walnut Dining Table \$4,250*

An irresistibly elegant dining room staple. "I love its gorgeous, sculpted steel legs."



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**3. Celina Mancurti Linen
Napkin in Nude \$32**

“A beautiful, casual linen in a nice neutral nude palette,” van Hengel said. The napkins, which grow softer as they’re laundered are sold as a pair.

**4. 100 Main Faux Bois
Tablecloth \$295**

“We love to pair the linens with our new Faux Bois that Bunny picked out and is produced locally in Goshen, Conn.”

**5. The Punctilious Mr. P's Place
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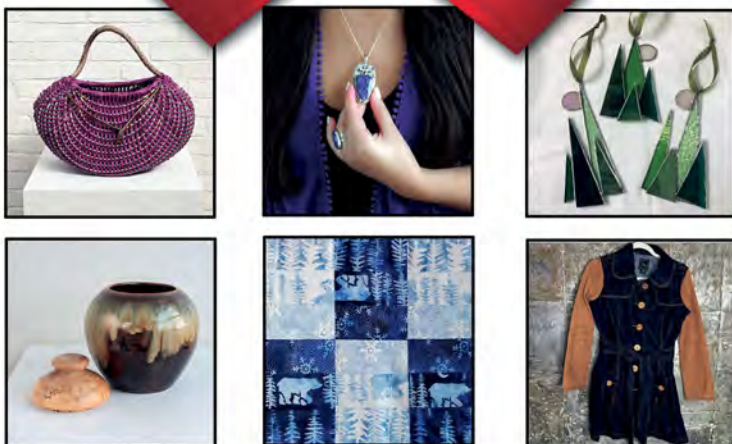
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The New York Times called Sister Parish “The Grande Dame of American Interior Decorating” when she died in 1994 at the age of 84 in her home in the little island village of Dark Harbor, Maine. The reigning queen of ticking stripe and chintz, peony petal pinks and preppy lettuce greens, her legacy lives on in the textile company that bears her name, started by her granddaughter, Susan Bartlett Crater. Now Crater’s

daughter, Eliza Harris, is at the helm as Chief Creative Office, bringing the classic American heritage of Sister Parish into the 21st century with direct to consumer online sales, an active social media presence, and a new brick-and-mortar location in Litchfield, Conn.

Alexander Wilburn:
You’re great grandmother, Sister Parish, a pioneer in

Continued on next page



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... Sister Parish

Continued from previous page

American decorating, did rooms for the Kennedys, for Bunny Mellon. What did you grow up hearing about her?

Eliza Harris: I grew up surrounded by things she either made for herself or passed down to my grandmother and my mother. The houses were always very well decorated, and my mother and grandmother did a great job telling me the stories behind all the furniture and art and decorative objects that we had. I really grew up with a strong understanding of the importance of home and how collecting objects and furniture can make your home a sanctuary.

It was after Sister died that your mom Susan started the fabric line, right?

Yes, after Sister died my mother started the textile line, and all the textiles are designs that Parish Hadley either custom designed for their clients or textiles that my grandmother collected for herself, or that she found while traveling. Now our collection is a bit of a resurrection and a refresher of the Parish Hadley archive, but since I started with the company a couple years ago we're delving more into our own designs and it's evolving more.

There are a lot of trends now that wouldn't have been big in Sister's time, like performance fabric is something people really look to now.

Yes there's all this amazing new technology in textile design. The quote from my great-grandmother that we always refer back to is "Innovation is the ability to reach into the past, and pick out what is good, what is beautiful, and what is lasting." I think it's about refreshing, and remaking, and resourcing how things are made and designed. The performance fabric is definitely a unique



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Continued on next page



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... Sister Parish

Continued from previous page

example of that. It's these classic yarns made of plastic water bottles that are woven in a mill in the United States, and they're soft and beautiful but also performance. You pour a glass of red wine, a chocolate bar can melt on it, and it will resist the stain. That's technology that wasn't out there when my great-grandmother was decorating. We're about to launch another textile called "Rees" and that comes from a textile that she collected while on a trip to Africa. We lived with a bench that had this textile on it in our house of Maine. So there are a lot of interactions of looking to the past while also looking

to the moment, and making sure you're creating something special and unique with the piece of history we've been given.

Speaking of being in the moment, you're in your early 30s, in this prime age group where a lot of couples are buying their first houses and really decorating for the first time. What design ideas do you see that group looking to?

The idea that you can refresh something old and make it new again can really happen on any level, whether you're an AD 100 designer with an unlimited budget, or a 30-something buying their first house, it's all the

same idea — the joy of decorating is being thoughtful about what you're purchasing. The process of design should be what makes you excited. That's the message I'm really trying to relay on our social account, as the voice of the account. For the 30-something in their first house who might not have grown up the way I did, I really want to empower them to say, "Don't be scared." Paint the furniture you inherited or use fabric that might be incongruous with the old furniture, just try it! I want to help people tap into their imagination and their creativity, and see that you don't always have to go



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Did you always think, this is the family business that I will go into one day? This is my destiny?

Yes. I've always loved cultivated creatives. I went to University of St Andrews in Scotland, and during that time at school I ran the student fashion show. There were all these designers from all over Europe that I was helping to become part of the fashion show. Since graduating I've worked in all different areas, interior design, product design, and I think my biggest passion

Continued on next page



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... Sister Parish

Continued from previous page

is lifting other creatives up and bringing out their best. Sister Parish is definitely a collective of amazing makers and textile designers. It's something I've always wanted to do, and having the family business and a name like my great-grandmother's name allowed me to do what I love to do.

You've brought a lot of your own ideas to the fold, from direct to customer sales and the lifestyle collection of home objects like placements and serving bowls. How did some of these ideas come about?

We have a collaboration we just launched with Min-

now Swim, which is a clothing company for parents and children. They have great style that really works well with our patterns, so they were a small American brand that I wanted to work with. We collaborate with brands that I really love, it's very organic in that way, we're trying to allow customers to have Sister Parish in their lives in a different way, like clothing.

Now you have a new location in Litchfield.

For our shop in Litchfield I think having the big bolts of fabric is really important in addition to having the showroom space, which will

show every pattern we carry with a salesperson who can walk you through all your options. I wanted it to be a place where you can pick up products and gifts but also check out these big bolts of fabric, look at these big rolls of fabric and understand how things are made. You can be fully ensconced in the Sister Parish world.

People in New York who might not know Litchfield County well might think it's so rural here, and it is, but you're in the land of interior designers up here.

Yes, yes! The shop is such a fun way to get to know the different designers because

it's not an intimidating place, you can really cruise from shop to shop up here, and the designers I know up here have a lot of fun experimenting.

Your family must have a lot of traditions, what's a Sister Parish Christmas?

My great-grandmother — we always talk about this in our family, but it really is the best way to wrap Christmas gifts — she would get thick shiny white paper, she called it "shelf paper," you really tightly wrap your Christmas presents with the sharp edges and perfect corners, and then use a giant red satin ribbon. I think there's nothing better.



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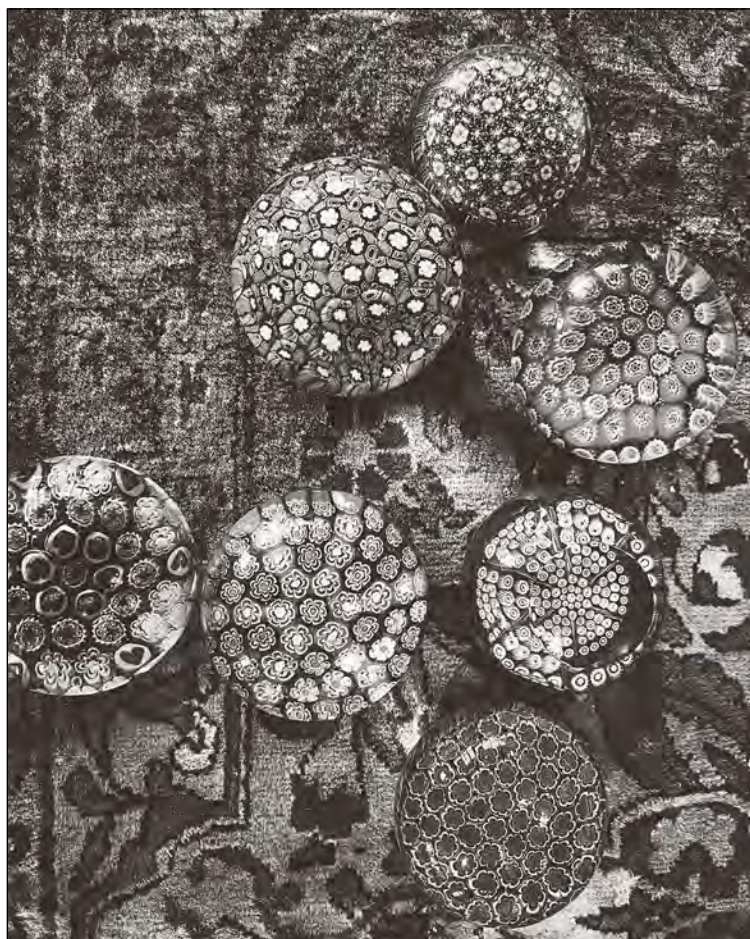


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Tent New York

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Manhattan interior designer Darren Henault brings Upper East Side sophistication to upstate New York with his instantly recognizable store Tent, its exterior smartly striped in white and navy. Eclectic, rich textures and handcrafted touches make Henault's gift selections a step above the ordinary.

1. Murano Glass Paperweight \$90

"I went to Murano," Henault said of the Italian islands linked by the Venetian Lagoon famed for their glass. "I saw how they made these and I think it's a beautiful piece of artistry for not a lot of money. They look great as a collection on a coffee table or an end table, they look great on a desk as paperweights, and there's only one place in the world that makes them."

2. Baby Alpaca Woven Throw \$330

"These are made in Australia, beautiful quality alpaca. These don't pill, the colors are amazing and the edge detail is spectacular."

3. Himalayan Hurricanes \$450 for pair

"I've used hurricanes forever because they're a super inexpensive way to decorate a table. This red glass elevates the classic Greek keyhole pattern into something more colorful."

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4. Black Helix Match Cloche \$36 - \$53

“I am constantly looking for an attractive way to display matches that isn’t a wooden box. I love the old fashioned dome of this design. Two of them sitting on a mantel is sculptural.”

5. Horse Nail Gold Cuff Exclusive to Tent \$3,000

“This was inspired by the nail that’s used to shod a horse, so I had it done a double-ended nail as an 18k gold cuff. I never take mine off.”

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Steps away from the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, shop owners Andy Pruhenski & Abby Webster offer a boutique made from forged connections – environmentally conscious, quality products they love and use, as well as locally produced gifts crafted

1. Sackcloth + Ashes Throw Blanket \$120

“This is a beautiful blanket made in Italy from recycled materials,” said Pruhenski. “Most appealing is that it’s a company that is trying to donate one million blankets to shelters in the U.S., so every time you buy a blanket they donate a blanket.”

2. Roland Pine Votive Candle \$13

“This is our tried and true candle. It’s the best scent for the season,” Webster add. Pruhenski added, “People ask for this early, they may not
Continued on next page



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... One Mercantile

Continued from previous page

know it by name but they say, when do the green candles come out? This is a women-owned company in New York, we love the people who make it.”

3. **Anni Maliki Jewelry \$68 - \$140**

“This is a local Berkshires jeweler that we’re carrying for the first time this year,” Webster said. “Everything is silver and pearl and onyx, the movement of the pieces is very artistic and inspired by the earth and water.”

4. **Lefrik Backpack \$79**

“Abby uses one, so that must be a sign of the quality, right?” said Pruhenski. “They make everything from recycled water bottles. They are committed to minimizing their eco-impact.”

5. **KHEM Cutting Boards \$75 - \$265**

“This is a woodworker from Hudson, N.Y., and these have a really updated modern design while keeping the rustic look,” Webster said.



PHOTO BY ABBY WEBSTER



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In addition to the now traditional Hometown Holidays festivities that Salisbury has become known for in December – The Lady's Auxiliary Craft Show, the Christmas Parade of Lights, Santa at The White Hart, and the tree lighting on the town Green will all take place on Sunday, Dec. 4 – Merry & Bright introduces a host of activities on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Here's what to expect from organizer Carolyn Piccirelli of Honeychurch Home in Salisbury.

DECORATIONS ON DISPLAY

Starting the first week of December residents and visitors of Salisbury will take note of the newly adorned downtown shopping district on Main Street in Salisbury. "We're going to have pre-lit garlands hanging on every business downtown as well as these beautiful pre-lit reindeer, so it will be a beautifully decorated downtown," said Piccirelli.

RUN, RUN, RUDOLPH

Saturday morning will be a 5k "fun run" from 9 to 10 a.m. on the Railroad Ramble connecting Salisbury and Lakeville, Conn. "It's a perfect 5k run, and a fun run means it's not timed, so it's more relaxed," said Piccirelli. "There will be T-shirts with proceeds going to The Corner Food Pantry in Salisbury and big gift boxes asking for donations for the pantry. I think this is going to be a year when the food pantry will need our support."

WINTER WORKSHOPS AND WONDER

"From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. all day in the marketplace courtyard will be makers, people with beautiful greenery and decor, there will be someone who makes macarons, some bakers coming, gift ideas and ornaments," Piccirelli said. "We have a performer who was a contestant on The Voice and American Idol coming to perform." Kayla Rae is a singer-songwriter from Denver, Colo. who has opened for Grammy-nominated rapper Saweetie.

From 1 to 2 p.m. Shelley Wollert of The Hudson Valley Flower Farm will lead a workshop using mixed evergreens to create 18 inch decorative

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

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...Merry & Bright

Continued from previous page

wreaths that participants can take home to garnish their own holiday spaces.

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

Even as the sun starts to set over Salisbury, there will be more ways to celebrate the season on Saturday night. At 4 p.m. audience members will enjoy a free concert presented at Salisbury Congregational Church, followed by a walk to The White Hart Inn where Carolyn Piccirelli has planned the Merry & Bright cocktail party starting at 5 p.m. Conclude

the evening at Noble Horizons on Cobble Road in Salisbury as their Festival of Trees – a cheery indoor display of holiday decor – culminates in their annual gala.

HELP SPREAD JOY

Want to get involved? Piccirelli said she's seeking volunteers to join in and help make Merry & Bright a holiday event to remember. Head to the website where you can learn more, become a sponsor of the weekend, register for the wreath making workshop or give to The Corner Food Pantry.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN



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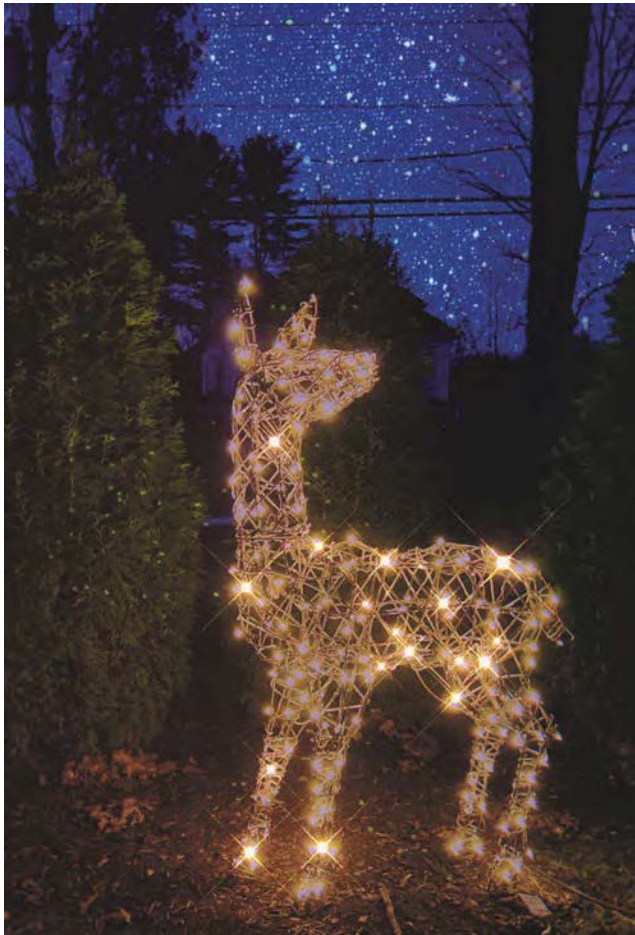
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When she's not throwing town events with her trademark understated taste and whimsical use of greenery, Carolyn Piccirelli runs Honeychurch Home, where handmade European items will enchant – from the wool and porcelain German sheep figurines (\$109) to the Portuguese ceramic pitchers (\$79) ready for a bouquet.



“We’re going to have pre-lit garlands hanging on every business downtown as well as these beautiful pre-lit reindeer, so it will be a beautifully decorated downtown.”

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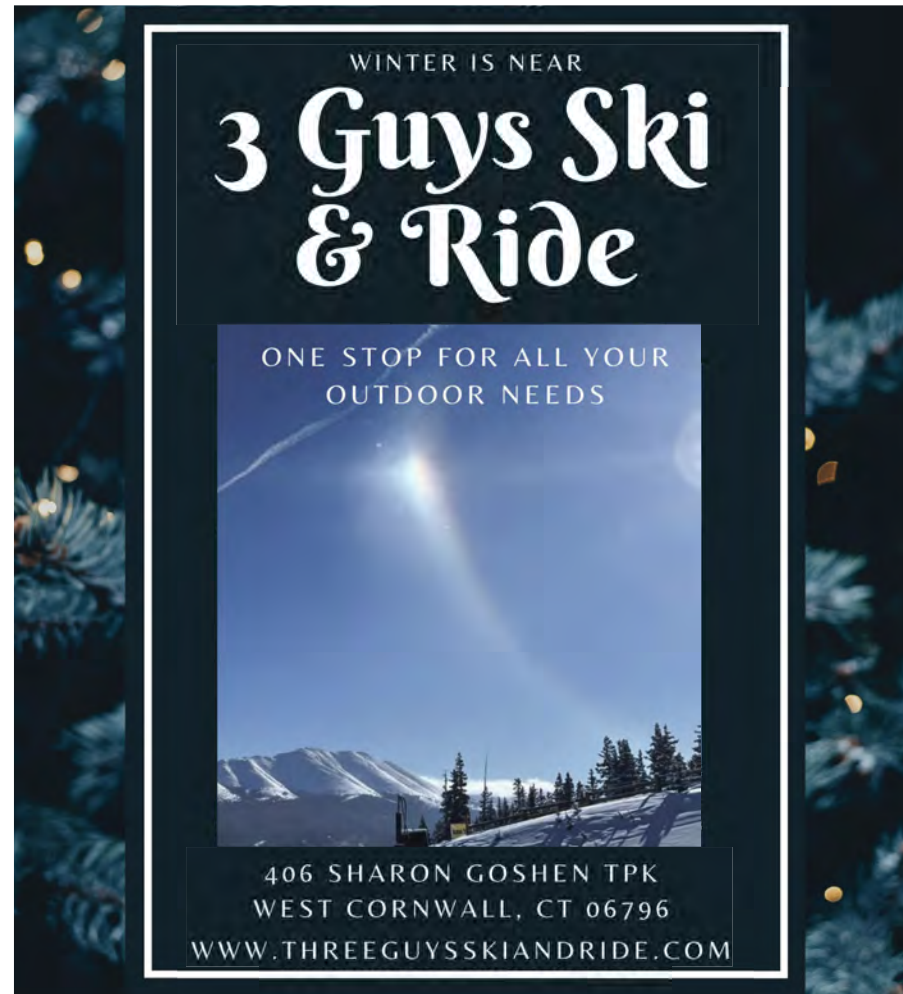
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