

THE CONCORD INSIDER

Dec. 21 to 27
Free and frosty

Winter arrives

With it comes the longest
night of the year





4
Calendar
Winterfox Art
Market open
through the end
of the month.



6 **Film screening**
Concord Crew and Red
River to show 'Boys in
the Boat'

find it

Book of the week 3
Bulletin Board 10
This week in Concord history 12

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The Concord Insider is published weekly by the Concord Monitor. Our offices are located at 1 Monitor Drive, Concord, NH. Our postal address is P.O. Box 1177, Concord, NH, 03302-1177.

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book of the week

'Agatha Christie: An Elusive Woman' by Lucy Worsley

(2022, 415 pages, biography)

"Once I've been dead ten years, I'm sure no one will ever have heard of me." This statement wouldn't be nearly so ironic, had it not been uttered by one of the 20th century's best-known authors: Agatha Christie. Even today, nearly half a century after her death, Christie is a household name. She has been identified by UNESCO as the world's best-selling author. Her work has been assiduously adapted to the stage and screen—including last year's star-studded film adaptation of *Death on the Nile* with Gal Gadot and Kenneth Branagh. In other words, most of us do not need to be told that Agatha Christie broke barriers for her writing. Where this 2022 biography really soars is in filling in the details of Christie's life beyond her lit-

erary contributions. It's a story that would be fascinating even if the subject weren't one of the world's best-known writers.

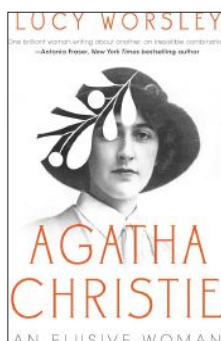
Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller, born in 1890, grew up in a genteel Edwardian family in southwest England. Young Agatha served as a

nurse during World War I, and hastily married British fighter pilot Archibald Christie before he was sent to France to serve. In 1926, faced with her husband's infidelity, Agatha set tongues wagging with a mysterious episode that

seemed pulled from one of her literary thrillers. (I won't spoil the story with too many details, but suffice it to say that it involved amnesia and a prolonged disappearance.) Later, Agatha would again raise eyebrows by marrying a man 13 years her junior, archaeologist Max Mal- lowan. The two were truly in

love, and nurtured an unconventional marriage for the rest of Ms. Christie's life.

(After they wed, Christie was legally the Lady Mal- lowan, but kept her former surname as a nom de plume.) Amazingly, Agatha regularly accompanied Max on his archaeological exca-



vations, serving as a field assistant. The places and practices that she encountered in Middle East then made their way into her fiction—for instance, in the mystery stories *They Came to Baghdad*, *Death*

on the Nile, and *Murder in Mesopotamia*.

In this biography, historian and BBC commentator Lucy Worsley is astute at identifying the sociocultural factors that shaped Agatha Christie's ambitions and sensibilities throughout her long life. These included a strong attachment to her

mother and a love of domesticity, hospitality, and upper-crust manor houses which would belie her later financial difficulties. Christie was a breaker of molds, pursuing romantic equality and paid labor in an era when well-to-do women were encouraged to do neither. She was a dramatist in addition to a novelist, an aspect of her career that didn't even begin to flourish until Christie was in her sixties. While Worsley's affection for Christie is apparent, her subject doesn't get a "pass" on the less sa-

vory aspects of her life story, including the antisemitism and lazy orientalism of her later works and the creative accounting that allowed her to dodge taxes in England and abroad for decades. Still, for all her warts, Christie proves a complex individual who, if nothing else, forged her own way and left an impressive legacy. "No one will have heard of me," indeed!

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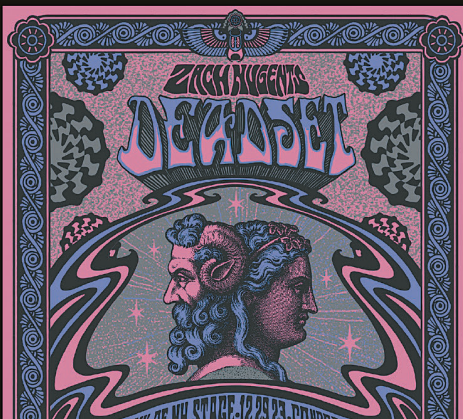
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Dec. 21

■ **Adult Drop In Basketball:** 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd. Concord.

■ Bereavement Group: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join us for a monthly bereavement group facilitated by bereavement counselors from Bayada Hospice. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St, Unit L, Concord. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ Chair Yoga: 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Yoga can help your mind, body and spirit and enhance your quality of life. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St, Unit L, Concord. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Concord's Homeless Memorial Vigil:** 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free. 107 N. Main St, Concord. 603-290-3375. office@concordhomeless.org.

■ **Drop In Pickleball:** 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Family Open Gym:** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd. Concord.

■ **STEAM Team:** 3:30 p.m. Join us for this hands-on event where we learn fun facts, make discoveries, and create! Grade-school children. Registration required. Concord Public Library, 45 Green

St., Concord. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

■ **Stretch & Strengthen:** 1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Stretch, increase coordination, confidence & flexibility w/ gentle exercise & stretching. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St, Unit L, Concord. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Winterfox Art Market:** 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. DIY Craft and Thrift, 46 N. Main St., Concord. charthibault@gmail.com.

Dec. 22

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd.

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.

■ **Family Open Gym:** Dec. 22, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd

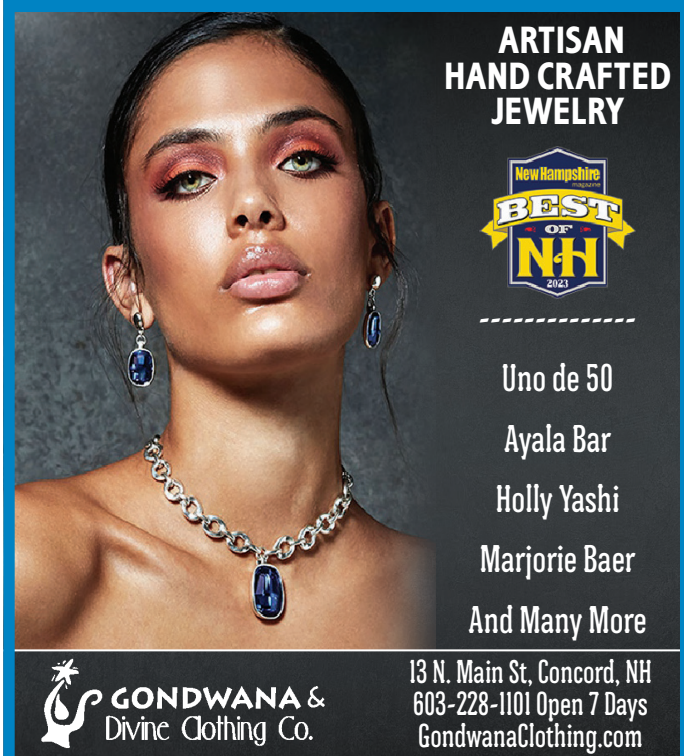
■ **Winterfox Art Market:** 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. DIY Craft and Thrift, 46 N. Main St..charthibault@gmail.com.

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd.

Dec. 23

■ **Birding Walk at McLane Center:** 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord.

■ **Elf:** 10 a.m. \$6. Red River Theatres, 11 S Main St. (603) 224-



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■ **Family Open Gym:** 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord.

■ **Family Open Gym:** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Middle School Open Gym:** 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Storytime Stations at the Heights:** 9:30 a.m. Enjoy books, crafts, activities, and felt board/manipulatives at your own pace with our self-guided stations. (Recommended for ages 0-9) Free. Heights Branch Library, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

■ **Winterfox Art Market:** 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. DIY Craft and Thrift, 46 N. Main St., Concord. charthibault@gmail.com.

Dec. 26

■ **Adult Drop In Basketball:** 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord.

■ **Concord Crew and Red River Theatre** are partnering for

■ **"Boys in the Boat":** 6 p.m. Rowers and cox will take questions about rowing or CC. info@concordcrew.org \$10.75 - \$13.50. Red River Theatres, 11 S Main St, Concord. chris-tine.graham@concordcrew.org.

■ **Drop In Pickleball:** 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Family Open Gym:** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord.

■ **Low-Impact Kung Fu and Tai Chi:** 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. \$20 drop-in price. Multi-class bundles available for less. Zenith Martial Arts, 40 Thorndike Street, Concord. 603-513-9993. zenithmartialarts@gmail.com.

Dec. 27

■ **Adult Drop In Pickleball:** 9

a.m. - 12 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.

■ **BEMER Appointments:** 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Regular use can lead to improved relaxation and enhanced physical fitness. Wed, 12/6-12/27, 11:45am-1pm, \$10. \$10. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St, Unit L, Concord. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Concord Community Blood Drive:** 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. IBEW Local 490 Union Hall, 48 Airport Road, Concord. 1-800-RED CROSS. megan.nantel@red-cross.org.

■ **Family Open Gym:** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord.

■ **High School Drop In Basketball:** 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39

Green St, Concord.

■ **LEGO Club:** 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord.

■ **Web Wednesdays:** 9:30 a.m. Learn about eBooks, downloadables, library databases, and get answers to other questions. Bring your own device or borrow one of our Chromebooks. Free. Heights Branch Library, 14 Canterbury Rd, Concord. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

■ **Winterfox Art Market:** 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. DIY Craft and Thrift, 46 N. Main St., Concord. charthibault@gmail.com.

Dec. 28

■ **Adult Drop In Basketball:** Dec. 28, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Chair Yoga:** Dec. 28, 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Yoga can help your mind, body and spirit and enhance your quality of life. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Delta Dental Protecting your Smile for Life:** 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Learn more about this topic during an interactive presentation. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St, Unit L, Concord. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Drop In Pickleball:** 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St, Concord.

■ **Frozen Sing-Along:** 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Concord.

■ **Sing Along!** 2 p.m. Free. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

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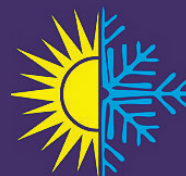


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Red River shows 'Boys in the Boat'

Concord Crew and Red River Theatre are co-hosting the movie "Boys in the Boat" for the evening showing on Tuesday, Dec. 26.

During Depression-era America, an underdog rowing team at the University of Washington amazingly defies all odds and achieves the ability to represent the USA at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Director George Clooney deftly delivers a heartwarming and bold depiction of perseverance and unity in "Boys in the Boat" – based on the fact

based novel by Daniel James Brown.

Concord Crew rowers and coxswains will be attending and available to answer questions about rowing or our youth programs which cover grades seven through 12. Contact info@concord-crew.org for more information. They suggest you buy tickets early. The team will be giving away two "Learn to Row" sessions and two Concord Crew sweatshirts.

Purchase tickets online at redrivertheatres.org/film/the-boys-in-the-boat.

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Ayn Whytmare will share tips for video interview at the Pembroke Historical Society.

Holiday conversations and oral history

The Pembroke Historical Society is offering some suggestions for families to

address their oral histories at upcoming holiday gatherings. "The Basics of Video Interviews" and lists of potential questions are now available on the PHS website to help facilitate discus-

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sions with family members, neighbors and friends. "The holidays are a perfect time to ask about family stories and histories," says PHS President Ayn Whytemare, who compiled the information; the link for accessing the website is pembrokehistoricalsociety.com/research. Anyone interesting in sharing their videos on the Society's YouTube channel may call 603-228-1421.

Travel & Tourism seminar

Central New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual Travel & Tourism Seminar on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth, N.H. The seminar includes educational presentations, a

networking luncheon and a mini travel expo where attendees can explore and interact with area businesses and organizations. This year's program features three speakers:

■ Lori Harnois, director of Travel and Tourism Development for the state of New Hampshire. Harnois will present a summary of 2023 tourism outcomes for the state, as well as information about 2024 trends, predictions and state marketing strategies.

■ Susan O'Donnell, executive director of Rath Young Pignatelli and an adjunct professor for the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at the New Hampshire Technical Institute. O'Donnell will present on managing quality and developing best customer service practices

in the hospitality and travel industry.

■ Tyler Ray, founder and principal of Backyard Concept, LLC, a professional advocacy firm supporting the outdoor recreation sector. Ray will present on connecting businesses to

the outdoors and the benefits of supporting outdoor recreation initiatives.

Registration for the event is available now at centralnh.org. The event is open to the public and attendees do not need to be CNHCC members to register. For information about the 2024 Travel & Tourism Seminar, related sponsorship opportunities or exhibiting at the event, contact CNHCC executive director Matty Leighton at director@centralnh.org or (603) 969-7271.

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history

Dec. 21, 1833: Benjamin Brown French of Chester, who will serve for many years in Washington, D.C., arrives there for his first job as a clerk in the U.S. House. He writes: "I entered the Capitol today, for the first time, and I viewed it with thoughts and emotions which I cannot express – will it always be the capitol of my happy country?"

Dec. 22, 1840: Belknap County is established.

Dec. 23, 1999: The Monitor reports that Gov. Jeanne Shaheen is joining the fight against a nation-

wide order by President Clinton that could limit logging in the White Mountain National Forest. "I believe the proposal sets a terrible precedent for the governance of our national forests," Shaheen says.

Dec. 24, 2001: For years, New Hampshire has lagged behind other states in compiling the crime statistics

that can affect federal funds, local police efforts and legislative spending, the Monitor reports. A recent push by the state attorney general's office has increased the number of local departments recording and reporting crimes, but some say New Hampshire still has a ways to go.

Dec. 24, 1999: Wolfeboro Falls Postmaster Laura Cronin reports that her annual work as Santa's secretary is going well. The job entails showing the letters to Santa and then sending them back to parents in case they like to keep scrapbooks. A few days later, she also mails all of Santa's replies.

Dec. 24, 1828: The town

of Franklin is incorporated. It includes land formerly part of Salisbury, Andover, Sanbornton and Northfield.

Dec. 25, 1820: Episcopalians hold Concord's first Christmas celebration 93 years after the town was settled. Because Concord was settled by Massachusetts Congregational-

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ists, the holiday was previously banned.

Dec. 25, 1776: Gen. George Washington informs Col. John Stark of New Hampshire that Stark will lead one of the elements in a surprise attack on British forces at Trenton, N.J.

Dec. 26, 2002: The first snowflakes that lined door wreaths and lights Christmas morning were just a harbinger of what was to come, the Monitor reports. By the early afternoon, snow fell in sheets, with up to 20 inches predicted accumulation across the state.

Dec. 26, 2001: A fire tears through a two-story house on Lyndon Street, leaving three people homeless. No one was injured.

Dec. 26, 1999: Proclaiming that “the cause of gay rights, like women’s rights, is a just one,” a Monitor editorial predicts: “Eventually, when it has led to its logical conclusion, the wonder will be why it took so long to get there.” A week earlier, the Vermont Supreme Court set off a furor with its ruling that gay and lesbian couples are entitled to the same legal standing as married people.

Dec. 26, 1774: Royal Gov. John Wentworth issues a proclamation of rebellion calling for the imprisonment of dissidents against royal decrees and asking colonists to identify those involved in recent uprisings. The proclamation will be ignored.

Dec. 26, 1856: A fire reduces Concord’s Phenix Hotel to ashes. It will rise again on the same spot.

Dec. 26, 1987: A Monitor poll of city councilors gives Liz Hager the edge in a three-way vote for mayor of Concord. She will eventually defeat Jim MacKay – with the help of candidate Bob Washburn – becoming

the city’s first female mayor.

Dec. 26, 1776: Col. John Stark’s troops lead the attack on the British and Hessians at Trenton. Capt. Joshua Abbot’s Concord company and Ebenezer Frye’s Pembroke company march with Stark. Frye, “being very corpulent,” tires quickly and tells his men to move ahead “as fast as they please” under Sgt. Ephraim Stevens. The battle lasts 50 minutes. The Patriot victory is a turning

point of the Revolution.

Dec. 26, 1900: The police foil a murder for hire in Concord. The hit man turns in the woman who offered him \$10, her rings and a pair of opera glasses to kill her estranged husband. The woman, 26-year-old Carrie Sinclair Huntoon, is a Concord belle who can trace her ancestry to the Pilgrims. She will be found insane and committed to the asylum.

Dec. 27, 2002: Andrew McCrae’s lawyer tells a

judge he will fight efforts to return McCrae to California, where the college sophomore has admitted to killing a police officer Nov. 19. McCrae, who legally changed his name from Andrew Mickel, was arrested Nov. 26 in a Concord hotel room after insisting on being allowed to tell a reporter why he had ambushed and shot Officer David Mobilio three times. He said he was protesting police brutality and corporate irresponsibility.



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