

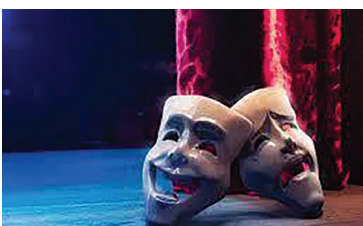


New Jersey Hills Media Group

# Out & About

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE





Photos by Katherine Parker-Magyar

Above left: Every nook and cranny of the Montage Deer Valley is exquisitely decorated with a mountain theme. Above right: The Montage Deer Valley is simply magnificent.

# Adventure awaits at Montage Deer Valley

If there ever was a season to experience the greatest snow in the world, why not let it be this coming winter? ‘Tis the season for après aperitifs and fresh tracks, after all.

Utah is famous for its champagne powder and ultra-luxurious ski chalets, and nowhere is more ruggedly refined than Montage Deer Valley.

This elegant resort harkens back to the great mountain lodges of the West, with heated ski boots, fantastic filet, and ski-on-ski-off accommodations.

All this awaits slope-side at Deer Valley Resort — though, at this ski-only mountain resort, snowboarders need not apply.

I checked in this past winter with a close friend from college, and both of us considered ourselves seasoned skiers.

In that winter 2024 season alone, I’d ski toured the Norwegian Alps and heliskied in the vast ranges of Alaska, and, rightly, in my mind, felt I’d reached the pinnacle of ski experiences. The summit, if you will.

Yet, the sumptuous serenity of Montage Deer Valley taught me that you needn’t renew your pass-



**Katherine Parker-Magyar**  
TRAVELS WITH KATE

The writer is based in New York City. She has a master’s degree from the New School and is originally from New Vernon. She can be reached at Katherine.parkermagyar@gmail.com.

port or catch a charter flight to the 49th state to discover some life-changing powder.

The champagne powder of Utah is not to be discounted, nor are the champagne-worthy activities on purview at Montage Deer Valley. Perhaps the freshest tracks were always waiting in our own respective backyard. Read on for all the reasons to go west this winter.

### Champagne Taste

Park City is known for its exclusive clientele and decadent accommodations, and Montage Deer Valley offers an elevated alpine escape.

This Utah outpost lives up to the sophisticated standard set by other Montage Hotels, serving alongside Montage Big Sky in Montana as an un-

rivaled purveyor of outdoor luxury in the American West.

The spa at Montage Deer Valley is ideal for rejuvenating after a day on the slopes, as is the outdoor hot tub — be sure to head for a soak around sunset to watch the colors of the sky illuminate the snowy peaks.

Afterward, order a steak and a martini at Apex. This elegant institution focuses on fresh local ingredients, and the refined, wood-paneled ambiance is a well-deserved reward for a long day on the slopes.

And, while sushi may not be the first dish that comes to mind après ski, the sake and sashimi at Yama Sushi makes a compelling case for enjoying Japanese cuisine slope-side. Given the trend for skiing in Japan, it’s not surprising the national cuisine would follow suit on mountaintops in the U.S.

Rev up your Cadillac courtesy of Montage’s Ride & Drive program to head into town.

Park City boasts a flourishing arts and restaurant scene, so you should allocate some time to explore.

Check out the innova-

### >> MORE PHOTOS

For more photos, please visit [NewJerseyHills.com](http://NewJerseyHills.com).

tive drinks menu at Palomino and taste the local hops at High West Distillery.

A mouthwatering fine dining experience awaits at Riverhorse on Main, while creative concoctions and delectable cocktails are on the menu at Tupelo.

Lastly, head over to Main Street for a nightcap at No Name Saloon, a Park City institution that boasts a killer playlist from Led Zeppelin to Chappell Roan and a divey atmosphere that’s reminiscent of college frat parties in the best way possible.

### Champagne Powder

Don’t stay too long at No Name Saloon, however, as there is important skiing to be done.

Montage Deer Valley is conveniently situated slope-side on the upper part of the mountain’s terrain, ensuring that after you clip into your boots, you can just hit the trails and not wait in the morning lines for base-level chairlifts.

Of course, crowding is never too much of an issue at Deer Valley Resort, as you’ll soon discover while cruising down the wide-open runs boasting panoramic views of the valley.

The ski-only mandate at Deer Valley ensures it’s never overrun with guests and slope-side loitering is minimal. It always seems to be the snowboarders perched precariously on the middle of the hill.

Head for lunch at the Montage’s Slope Stream, where you can warm up beside the fire. And, if you’re more interested in the après ski than the ski itself, you’re in luck: the adults-only Sticky Wicket is the platonic ideal of a mountaintop bar. Expect shot-skis, Phil Collins, and lively patrons — visitors and locals alike.

Lastly, if you’d rather explore the gorgeous landscape without being on two skis, sign up for a dog-sledding adventure with North Forty Escapes, where you can venture into the wild without exerting quite so much energy — that’s the dogs’ responsibility.

And there’s more to explore on the slopes aside from Deer Valley, of

course, including nearby Park City Resort and Sundance, while Alta and Snowbird offer terrific terrain slightly further afield less than an hour’s drive west.

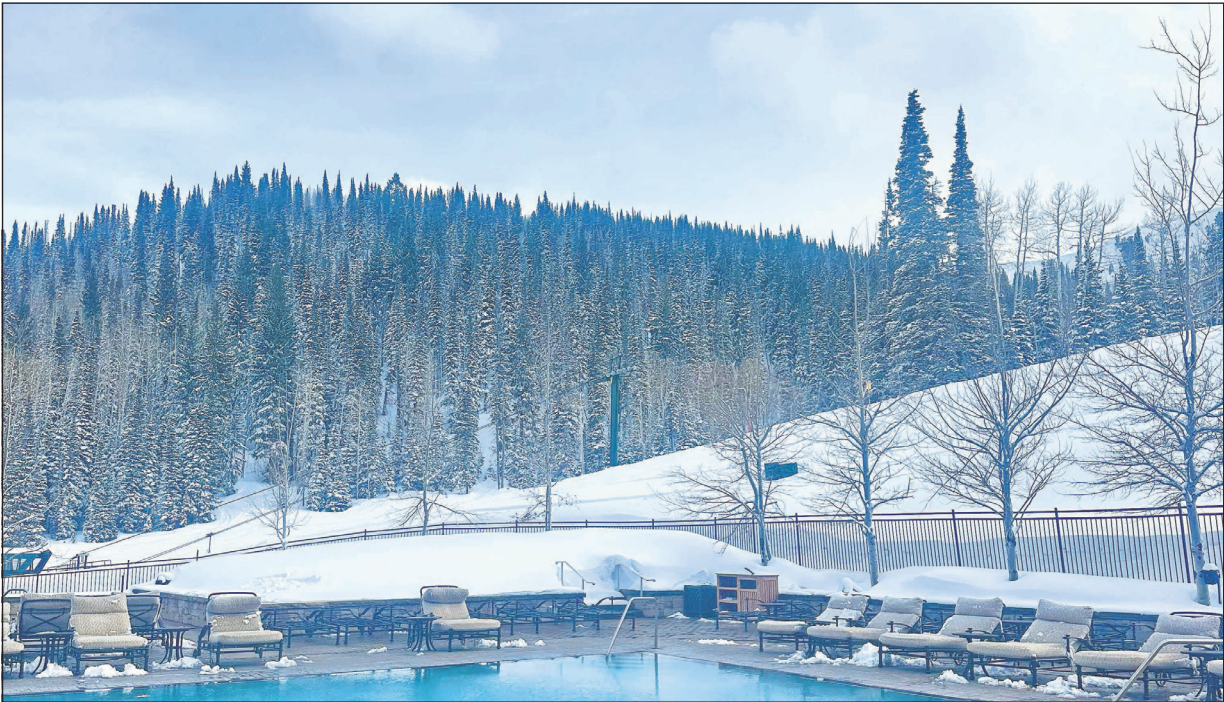
Travelers are often keen to see the Mighty Five National Parks in Utah — a worthy summertime adventure — but why not set out for a wintry road trip, too? Utah’s Mighty Five national parks are Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion.

The cold never bothered you anyway. And nor should it, when the bright western sunshine is infinitely more warming than the gray skies above a frozen East Coast chairlift.

If you have the time, why not set out on an ultimate Utah adventure on the slopes?

Trust me, you won’t regret it. So, what are you waiting for? Delta and United offer nonstop flights from Newark Liberty International Airport to Salt Lake City, and it’s only 45 minutes from there to Montage Deer Valley. The property coordinates shuttle pick-ups, of course.

The mountains are calling, and you must go.



Above left: The author, right, rides a chairlift with a friend in Deer Valley. Above right: The heated pool at the Montage Deer Valley is enticing year-round. Below left: The indoor pool at Montage Deer Valley is a place of sweet serenity. Below right: The Sticky Wicket is a fabulous bar at Deer Valley Resort.





# New Jersey Festival Orchestra opens holiday season this Sunday

Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra will kick off the festive season at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, Drew University at 36 Madison Ave., Madison.

The Three Holiday Tenors return to present a family festival of traditional and contemporary holiday songs and music, renowned tenor fare and more.

“We cannot wait to celebrate this special time of year and are thrilled to welcome back The Three Holiday Tenors – each more talented than the next – to help us usher



Maestro David Wroe, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra will kick off the festive season 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, Drew University at 36 Madison Ave., Madison.

in holiday season,” said Wroe.

The concert features award winning tenors Chauncey Packer, Benjamin Werley, and Michael John Butler to celebrate and captivate with a selection of tenor arias.

Their performance will include traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and a host of wintertime curiosities.

Metropolitan Opera’s Chauncey Packer is known to the stages of opera houses and concert halls in Europe and the United States.

Award-winning Pittsburgh native Benjamin Werley has performed with many of the coun-

try’s leading opera companies. Prize-winning American tenor, Michael John Butler, is poised to emerge as a major contender on the international opera scene.

“We believe there is something for everyone in this concert. Our holiday celebration is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends – indeed the entire community – come together through festive music at this unique time of the year,” Wroe said.

For more information on this concert, or to purchase tickets visit [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org) or call (908)-232 9400

# Jacobus Vanderveer House presents a Colonial Christmas Township Tree Lighting this Saturday, Dec. 7

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House presents a Colonial Christmas Township Tree Lighting from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3055 River Road, Bedminster Township.

All are welcome to join in for this annual holiday event and take photos with Santa, decorate holiday cookies, listen to live music, and see Colonial re-enactors in action.

The Jacobus Vanderveer House will be decorated and open for guided and self-guided tours, with a suggested donation of \$10 per group.

Festivities will take place rain or shine. In the event of rain, photos with Santa, live holiday music, and gingerbread decorating will occur inside the Jacobus

Vanderveer House.

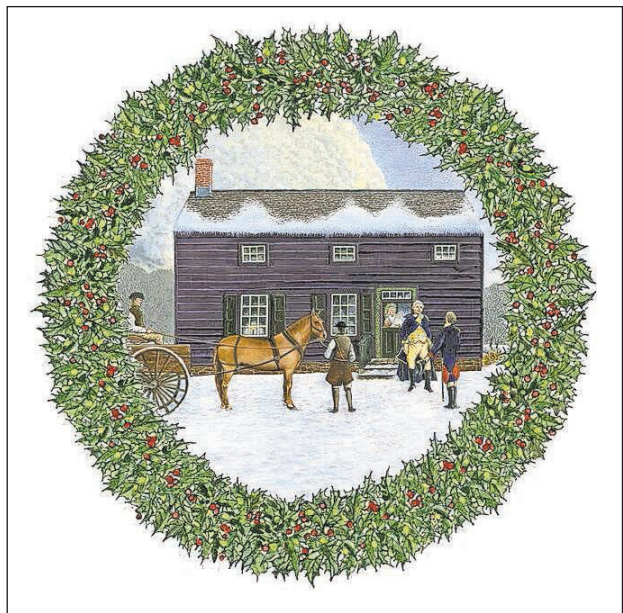
Santa will arrive at 3:30 p.m.

The Liberty Tree will be lit at 5:30 p.m. following remarks by Bedminster Township Mayor Larry Jacobs.

Admission is free, with refreshments available by donation.

All proceeds benefit the mission of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House, to inform the public of its crucial role in United States Revolutionary War military history by maintaining the restored home, developing the site’s barn and farmstead, and operating the museum as an educational resource and community center.

For more information, visit <https://jvanderveerhouse.org>.



The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House presents a Colonial Christmas Township Tree Lighting from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3055 River Road, Bedminster Township.

# Somerset County Parks presents Festival of Trees from Dec. 6-29

The Somerset County Park Commission will present the Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 29, except Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, at the Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge.

This event features a

multi-room display of more than 40 decorated trees with a wide variety of themes and styles.

For donors, drop off of trees is available until Monday, Dec. 16.

For the musical performance schedule or more information, visit [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org).



The Somerset County Park Commission will present the Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 29, except Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, at the Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge.

# N.J. Audubon to host holiday wreath workshops on Dec. 5, 6, 8

New Jersey Audubon will host a Holiday Wreath Making Workshop on Thursday, Dec. 5, and Friday, Dec. 6, and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. or 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at its Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville.

Using fresh evergreens, the group will hand craft a holiday wreath while having hot cider, hot chocolate, and more.

In the process participants will be taught how to identify common evergreen trees by their leaves and cones.

This program is suited for teens and adults. Cost is \$35 for members, and \$40 for nonmembers. Registration is required at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/event/2zj5yxxv) at <https://tinyurl.com/2zj5yxxv>.



New Jersey Audubon will host a Holiday Wreath Making Workshop on Thursday, Dec. 5, and Friday, Dec. 6, and on Sunday, Dec. 8, at its Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville.

For more information, visit [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org), email [shws@njaudubon.org](mailto:shws@njaudubon.org) or call (908) 396-6386.

# Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church presents Christmas Oratorio this Sunday, Dec. 8

The Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church (BRPC) will present its Christmas Oratorio at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 1 East Oak St. in Basking Ridge.

The concert will be led by the Oratorio Choir, Knox Bell Choir, and guest chamber orchestra including harpist Merynda Adams. BRPC Music Director Christopher Fortin will conduct the performance.

No reservations are required, and there is no charge for the program.

The concert features the sing-along cantata “A Light in the Stable” by British composer Alan Bullard performed by the choir and orchestra. The cantata includes several treasured carols of the season. Also fea-

tured is the Knox Bell Choir performing special arrangements of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and “Silent Night.”

Adams has performed throughout the U.S. and in Europe as a soloist and chamber musician, including the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, New York Grand Opera, and London’s New Philharmonic Orchestra.

A reception will follow, and a free-will offering will be taken to help cover costs for this and other special music events. To support the church’s endeavors throughout the year, consider visiting the Friends of Music page at [www.brpc.org/worship/friends-of-music](http://www.brpc.org/worship/friends-of-music).

For more information, visit [www.brpc.org](http://www.brpc.org), or call (908) 766-1616.

## • ENTERTAINMENT •

**Save Money Shopping Online** from 2 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Bernards Township Library at 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. Emerging Technologies Librarian Karen Andriolo presents safe ways to save money on a wide range of purchases. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**Festival of Bells**, a fun musical event for ages 4-6 will take place from 4 to 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Bernards Township Library at 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. This is a Music Play Patrol outreach event. Children will learn how to create harmony and melody using hand bells, a steel drum and a glockenspiel. This event is sponsored by The Friends of Bernards Township Library. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**Live Music Winter's Playlist** with The Gordon James Duo takes place from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Bernards Township Library at 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. This is a live concert featuring Gordon James on vocals and flugelhorn and Mark Minchello on piano. Participants will enjoy classics like “I’ve Got My Love

to Keep Me Warm,” “You’d Be So Nice to Come Home To,” “I Wish You Love,” “Blue Moon,” “Moonlight in Vermont,” “What Are You Doing New Year’s Eve,” “Winter Wonderland” and more. The event is sponsored by The Friends of Bernards Township Library. Registration is requested. For more information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**Ridge High A Cappella Caroling Concert** will take place from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Bernards Township Library at 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. Led by Ridge High School Director of Choral Activities Carol Beadle, this award-winning group will perform a variety of holiday songs. This event is sponsored by Friends of Bernards Township Library. Registration is requested. For information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**Holiday Jump, Dance, Sing** with JP Arthur takes place from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, for ages 2 through 5, at the Bernards Township Library at 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. It will be followed by Holiday Drop In Crafts from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All materials are supplied. Registration is required. For more information, or to register,

visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**The Center for Contemporary Art** presents the Creative Women’s Showcase exhibition through Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster Township. Exhibiting artists, curated by Ilisa Zollenberg, include Serena Bocchino of Basking Ridge, Meeta Garg of Basking Ridge, Ivey Kampouris of Bridgewater, Grace Martoccia of Basking Ridge, Seanna Noonan of Basking Ridge, Carolina W. Rivera of Califon, Isabell Villacis of South Bound Brook, and Ilisa Zollenberg of Basking Ridge. These artists will showcase their work in mixed media, pastels, acrylic, photography, and more. For more information, visit <https://ccabedminster.org/event/creative-womens-showcase>.

**The Hackettstown Historical Society Museum** is open for group visits from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays. Masks are required. To arrange a visit, call (908) 852-8797. The museum is located at 106 Church St. in Hackettstown, next to the Hackettstown Free Public Library. For more information on the Historical Society and its events, call the museum at (908) 852-8797, email [info@hackettstownhistory.com](mailto:info@hackettstownhistory.com) or visit <http://hackettstownhistory.com/>

**The Shadowfax Bridge Club**, 679 Bartley Road, Chester Township, is open for face-to-face duplicate bridge sessions. Beginners are always welcome, and private lessons with an ACBL certified teacher are available. Pairs or singles are invited – friendly, suitable partners (including Life Masters) are guaranteed if you need one. Games limited to players with less than 500 masterpoints start at 10 a.m. every Tuesday, preceded by a free intermediate-level practice hand and lesson at 9:30 a.m. and followed by Open Game at 1 p.m. Full length Open games (for all levels of players) also start at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday (bring a lunch). Card fees are \$10 per player for all regular games. Attendees must provide proof of being COVID-19 vaccinated. As schedule changes are possible because of Covid, call (908) 879-3895 to verify sessions are on. For more information, visit <https://shadowfaxbridgeclub.com/> or call us at (908) 879-3895.

**Macculloch Hall Historical Museum** gardens are now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for free visits. The hall itself is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays for the summer. The museum is at 45 Macculloch Ave., Morristown. For information, visit <https://maccullochhall.org/>.

**The trails of New Jersey Audubon’s** Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, are open for trekking seven days a week. Now, visitors can hike into the bookstore from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, visit <https://njaudubon.org/>

**Outdoor Single Friends** is a social club for single, active men and women age 50 and over. During the cooler months of October through April, OSF’s monthly meetings are held indoors at Camp Jefferson, in Jefferson Township. During the warmer weather, the monthly meetings are held at different state parks. Since each venue is unique, the club takes advantage of the surroundings whenever possible with impromptu hikes, bocce ball, volleyball. Events usually begin or end at either an historic landmark and/or a place for a bite to eat. For more information, call Pat at (973) 770-1910.

**The Washington Township Historical Society** and Museum, 6 Fairview Ave., Long Valley, is now open 1 – 4 on Sundays or by appointment. To arrange a group tour or special visit, leave a message at (908) 876-9696 or [info@wthsnj.org](mailto:info@wthsnj.org). For information, visit Facebook or [www.wthsnj.org](http://www.wthsnj.org).

**Holiday Window Displays** will be on display from 3-6 p.m. Thursdays and noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays from now until Dec. 14, at the Lebanon Township Museum at 57 Musconetcong River Road in Lebanon Township. All are welcome to come out and see the holiday themed window displays that local residents have decorated and have for a nice warm cup of tea or coffee. Guests can bring a craft they’re working on or grab a seat at a desk and work on a laptop in a warm quiet place.

**Festival of Bells** is a fun musical event for ages 4-6 will take place from 4 to 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, at Bernards Township Library, 32 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. A Music Play Patrol outreach event. Children will learn how to create harmony and melody using hand bells, a steel drum and a glockenspiel. This event is sponsored by The Friends of BTL. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031, ext. 6.

**Boonton Farmers’ Market** is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June through November, in the Upper Plane Street Parking Lot, Boonton.