

Your DGB Cultural District E-News



What's Brewing Downtown?!



ilse coffee is the newest café in town. Located at 47 Railroad Street, the coffee shop had a soft opening last week, offering a selection of espresso drinks, as well as drip and pourover coffee menus. This is ilse' second café location, with their first location just over the border in North Canaan, Connecticut.

ilse Coffee was founded in 2019 to showcase the world's best coffees and to open people's eyes to what coffee can be. Founders Rebecca and Lucas believe in the power of connections—to the people, places, and stories behind every cup of coffee.

Rebecca and Lucas value forging meaningful partnerships with smallholder producers to bring high-quality, high-scoring coffee to consumers. This commitment extends to their sourcing practices, where ilse is committed to creating a more inclusive and sustainable industry, one where everyone involved can benefit.

Aside from their two café locations ilse coffee offers a coffee subscription service and wholesale via their website where you



can subscribe to a monthly, 6 month, or 12 month subscription.

Each shipment will contain single origin coffees that are specifically selected from their current lineup as well as exclusive previews of upcoming releases, and even limited edition subscriber-only coffees.

Be sure to follow isle coffee on social media, @ilsecoffee_nwc, to stay up-to-date on their offerings and check out their [website](#) to find their coffee subscription offerings and so much more!



Save the Date! *Holiday Shop, Sip & Stroll*

Holiday Shop, Sip & Stroll!

Location: Downtown Great Barrington

When: Saturday, December 13th | 3:00 - 8:00pm

This fun, free, family-friendly event is organized by the Southern Berkshire Chamber and supported by our Event Sponsor, Lee Bank, and by our activity sponsors, facilitators, participating businesses, and volunteers who bring the Stroll to life!

The Stroll features dozens of free activities like crafts, games with prizes, encounters with holiday characters and more throughout downtown Great Barrington.



Now accepting applications for Holiday Stroll Market vendors!

There will be two Holiday Markets: product vendors in the TD Bank parking lot, and the Sweets & Scholars Market for school/nonprofit fundraisers in the Pittsfield Co-op parking lot.

- All vendor spaces are outdoors.
- The vendor fees are \$25 school/nonprofit, \$35 product vendor, \$75 food truck.
- All food trucks are required to have or obtain a license from the Health Department.

To print the application form, [click here](#). Applications can be returned by mail (instructions on form) or emailed to office.sberkchamber@gmail.com.

Saint James Place - Your Home for the Holidays

Saint James Place is proud to participate in the Southern Berkshire Chamber's Holiday Shop, Sip & Stroll! Check out the events below that will be taking place on Sunday, December 13th during the Shop, Sip, & Stroll.

Admission to all events during the Holiday Shop, Sip & Stroll are family friendly and free to the public.

What: Charlie's Trains!

When: 2:00 - 7:00pm

Details: Saint James Place presents Charlie's Trains! Our annual winter model train display is set up in our East Room (through the green doors). This event is free and fun for families, model train lovers, and anyone who loves holiday vibes. Stop by on these dates:



What: Aston Magna Family Day!

When: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Details: You and — especially — the children in your life are invited to Aston Magna Music Festival's FREE Family event for young people of all ages.



What: Olga Dunn Dance Company Presents - Nutcracker Seedling

When: 5:00 - 5:30pm

Details: The Olga Dunn Dance Company offers "Nutcracker Seedling," a holiday event for the entire family. The Company will perform a holiday-themed mini-show of dance (fifteen to twenty minutes) on Saturday, December 13th, at 5:00pm during the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Shop, Sip and Stroll.



The performance will take place in the Great Room with an opportunity for an audience of all ages to feel close to the action. The program features the company's original takes on several Nutcracker pieces.

What: Songs of the Season

When: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Details: Vocalis Youth Choir will perform their popular free family concert. Come to Saint James Place after the Southern Berkshire Chamber's Holiday Shop, Sip & Stroll's fireworks on Saturday, December 13 around 7:30pm for "Songs for the Season."



Delightful & Delectable - Holiday Market

Great Barrington Arts Market's (GBAM) annual Delightful & Delectable Holiday Market, a unique holiday sale featuring the best local and regional handmade gifts returns this year with a NEW location and date!

Date: Saturday, December 20th, 2025

Location: Boutique space locate above the Berkshire Food Co-Op - 34 Bridge St, Great Barrington



Get ready for a stunning lineup of local artists and makers as well as light fare in a beautiful and festive environment. With over 25 makers, Delightful & Delectable offers market goes a chance to shop a variety of gifts and support the local artist community at the same time.

Market managers Kristen Kanter and Molly de St André are both artists (of JK Custom Furniture & Design and Petit Pilou/Moho Designs/Berkshire Four Poster) who love the idea of helping connect other local craftspeople with a viable market opportunity and have grown the Great Barrington Arts Market into a thriving weekly summer and winter standard.

Their mission is to provide revenue for Berkshire and regional based artists & offer locally made products to consumers year-round. GBAM seeks to bring local artists directly to market with potential customers and adds another exciting destination to Great Barrington's already vibrant downtown.

For more information write to gbartsmarket@gmail.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram @GB Arts Market.

Rewind and Rediscover - The Mahaiwe Theatre

In 1904, a coalition of businessmen, led by John H.C. Church, orchestrated construction of the Mahaiwe Theater and the encompassing Mahaiwe Block.

Cultural note: "Mahaiwe" means "the place downstream" from the Housatonic River and is derived from the Berkshires' original Mohican settlers.



Designed by architect Joseph McArthur Vance, the structure replaced an earlier corner building on Castle and Main streets that burned down in the 1901 fires.

Finally in 1905 the three-story French Renaissance Revival brick and marble building officially opened, evoking an arts culture that defined an entire region.

At capacity, 1,000 patrons could attend the earliest Mahaiwe shows. Silent films came around in 1914, followed by "talkies" in 1929. By the early '30s, the theater saw its first renovation, downsizing to 750 seats, and shifted its main focus to movies.

Earl B. Raifstanger, Sr. managed the popular theater for several decades and long-term manager Al Schwartz carried operations through the latter part of the 20th century.

Sadly in 1988 the theater faced prospective demolition and redevelopment when a cinema chain acquired it. However, in 1995, the beloved but aged Mahaiwe gained protection under the formation of Great Barrington's Downtown Historic District and, in 2003, renovation under its present leadership began. Through it all, the theater has continuously run programs since its opening over 115 years ago.

Founder Lola Jaffe and a dedicated board and staff raised and invested over \$9 million for the restoration project, upgrading infrastructure from floor to roof, including reconstruction of the original 1930s marquee. During this time, Lola also secured the building's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the Mahaiwe seats just under 700 and sits in the heart of the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District, anchoring a bustling arts scene in town. Since its opening, the nonprofit has steadily presented a thoughtful selection of music, dance, theatre, opera, talks, and movie classics.

The Mahaiwe is a staple and a resource: its live performances inspire tens of thousands of audience members each year, its family and educational events are vital to the region, its year-round schedule enhances the quality of life for all those who reside in and visit the Berkshires, and its business generates \$8.6 million in annual economic impact.

Follow the link to [read more](#) about the current leadership and stay up-to-date on all upcoming performances and shows.

Great Barrington Historic Walking Tours

The Great Barrington Historical Society offers two, self-guided walking tours now available on the Apple and Android App Store!

Download the Great Barrington Walking Tour App and explore the town's rich history, cultural significance, and historic sites!



Creative Economy Jobs

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at [MCC's HireCulture](#). Several sample postings are below.

Find Berkshire County in-person, remote, and hybrid jobs that pay a minimum of \$40K a year in all fields, including arts, education, nonprofits, and related, at [1Berkshire's The Jobs Thing](#). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- [Assistant Professor Nursing, Berkshire Community College](#)
- [Executive Assistant, Berkshire Museum](#)



- [Senior Site Manager, Chesterwood](#)
- [Senior Manager or Registration, MASS MoCA](#)

The National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) provides transformational leadership to bring the arts in health together and advance the field.



Check out current open hybrid/remote positions in the field of arts in health [here](#).

Arts Funding and Resources

Curated information about funding and financial assistance



Learn about grants, events, and resources, find fellowships and apprenticeships, and identify art spaces by subscribing to [MCC's Monthly Newsletter](#)

[Opportunities & Resources for Orgs – November and December 2025](#)

Lee Bank Foundation grants - funds programs that bridge income and opportunity gaps, focusing on education, food security, economic development, health services, and workforce initiatives. Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Deadline: December 1st, 2025.

New England Foundation for the Arts' Public Art for Spatial Justice Grant - aims to support public artmaking that helps us see, feel, experience, and imagine spatial justice now, while we are still on this journey towards realizing more just futures for our public spaces and public culture. Deadline: December 2nd, 2025.

The Shubert Foundation, the nation's largest funder dedicated to unrestricted funding of nonprofit theaters and dance companies, is offering grants from \$15,000 – \$371,000. Deadline: December 4th, 2025, 6pm.

Mass Cultural Council and MassDevelopment's Cultural Facilities Fund - grants are available to support the acquisition, design, repair, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, or construction of nonprofit cultural facilities. Nonprofit cultural organizations, municipalities, and colleges or universities that own or lease cultural facilities are eligible to apply. Grants range from \$7,000 to \$200,000. Deadline: December 11th, 2025.

An overview of MCC's FY26 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available [HERE](#).



Creative Capital is a nonprofit, grantmaking organization funding artists in the creation of groundbreaking new work, amplifying

[Artist Opportunities for November and December](#)

Public Art for Spatial Justice - Supports public art that creatively expresses and embodies a more just version of what's possible in public. Massachusetts-based artist(s) and Massachusetts-based

the impact of their work, and fostering sustainable artistic careers.

organizations working with artist(s), are welcome to apply for a project grant. Projects must take place in Massachusetts and creatively cultivate expressions or embodiments of spatial justice through public artmaking. All artistic disciplines are welcome to apply. Public Art for Spatial Justice grants range from \$15,000-\$30,000, for up to two-year grant period beginning March 2026 through February 2028. Deadline: December 2nd, 2025.

[Indigo Arts Alliance Mentorship Residency Program](#) - The Indigo Arts Alliance studio located in Portland, Maine is the host site for our Mentorship Artists Residency program. This program is the heart of IAA, modeling our values of global community building. Our goal is to bring together artists from diverse backgrounds of the African Diaspora to engage in their creative process, while building lasting relationships rooted in co-mentorship. We believe artists hold the key in creating a better world, and in our work, we allow for Black and Brown voices to lead the way. Deadline: Rolling



Access online courses and resources designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline.

[Creative Capital Artist Lab](#) - is a new online professional development curriculum designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline. Free for individual use, courses are created by art professionals, industry experts, and fellow artists who share vital concepts, skills, and tools to help grow artists' careers—including courses on crafting artist statements, grant proposals, managing multiple income streams, and more.

Videos include ASL and Spanish interpretation, as well as CART services.



NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.

Check the NEFA website for a wide range of resources, including:

[Recent Publications](#)
[Arts & Accessibility](#)
[Community Initiatives](#)
[Racial & Social Justice Resources](#)



The ArtsHub site regularly updates with opportunities, events, news, and more.

[See profiles and list yourself here](#) and [learn about promoting yourself on NEFA's related site: CreativeGround.](#)

ArtsHub is an ever-evolving idea designed to highlight and bring together the amazing artists, organizations, and events that are happening within the creative communities of Western Mass.



Mass Creative advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to Massachusetts's economic and civic vibrancy.

MASSCreative's [Action Network](#) fights for policies that benefit cultural nonprofits, creative businesses, and individual artists in Massachusetts. Where arts, culture, and creativity are recognized as vital components of civically engaged, economically vibrant, and equitable communities.

Be sure to visit the [Great Barrington Pubic Libraries](#) website to view more and programming and events!

The Triplex Cinema - November Releases



Be sure to click the link to view November [showtimes!](#)

Great Barrington Libraries



Adult Programs - Mason Library

1 on 1 Financial Planning with Luke Delorme, CFP, of Tableaux Wealth has offered to give 30 minute appointments to our patrons. Schedule yours today!

- See available appointments on our website. Each appointment is 45 minutes in length.
 - Thursdays - 2:00pm - 4:45pm
-

Children's Programs - Mason Library

Youth Chess Club

- Join our Youth Chess Club, and have fun! Whether you're a beginner or a budding grandmaster, come learn, play, and sharpen your skills in a friendly, relaxed environment.
- Saturdays - 11:00am

Legos at the Library

- join us for Legos at the Library! Come construct and create with Mason's collection of Legos. Registration is not required, but please note that this program is for ages 5 and up due to choking hazards.
- Fridays - 4:00pm

Scratch Paper Dragon Craft

- Kids will create their very own dazzling dragons using special scratch art paper, revealing bright, rainbow-colored designs beneath the surface. This hands-on craft encourages creativity and fun, and no two dragons will ever look the same! Recommended for ages 5–10. All materials provided.
 - Saturday, November 22nd - 12:15pm
-

Community Announcement - Mason Library will be collecting food and hygiene products for the People's Pantry through the rest of the year. The People's Pantry is a food bank located at 5 Saint James Place (Taconic Avenue.) They report an increase in need over the past several weeks. You can learn more about the People's Pantry [here](#).

You can bring shelf-stable foods and toiletries to Mason whenever you visit. We will make sure that your donations get to the Pantry. Please check that items are not expired as we must dispose of those.

There are some things that the Pantry especially needs. In addition to other shelf-stable foods, they need coffee and tea, kids' individually wrapped snacks, oatmeal and other cereals, tuna, dried beans and lentils, condiments, and herbs and spices.

What | When | Where



What: [In the Garden With Clark: Film and Reading](#)

When: Friday, November, 28th | 2:00pm

Where: Dewey Hall

Details: A film documentary on Clark Lawrence's garden philosophy plus an author reading and book signing. Clark Lawrence is an extraordinary gardener and writer and recently published two books that have garnered significant attention in Europe. We will screen a documentary (in Italian with English subtitles) that follows Clark in his work and his philosophy of a garden as a place in which to "swim among the plants." There will also be an author's reading and books will be offered for sale.



What: [BIFF presents: The Royal Tenenbaums \(2001\)](#)

When: Thursday, December 4th | 6:00pm

Where: The Indigo Room

Details: Join Berkshire International Film Festival in celebrating the 24th Anniversary of Wes Anderson's acclaimed comedy gem about the reunion of a dysfunctional New York family led by patriarch Gene Hackman.



What: [The Bach Experience - Choral Music for the Spirit](#)

When: Saturday, December 6th | 4:00pm

Where: Saint James Place

Details: Crescendo presents Bach's Christmas Cantata "Sweet Comfort" BWV 151, his Mass in G minor BWV 235, and festive 16th century double choir motets. In this program we explore the convergence of vibrant Italian polychoral splendor and the venerable German chorale tradition in works by Johann Sebastian Bach's German predecessors Schröter, Weissensee, Otto, and Schein.

Be sure to follow the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all the latest news and events happening

downtown!



Mass Office of Travel and Tourism

The [Massachusetts Official Travel and Tourism \(MOTT\) website](#) includes a FREE business database where you can list your business! To get started, [visit their website](#), where you can sign on as a new business or update your information if you are already registered.

Are you making the most of the #mylocalMA campaign? [Submit Your Story](#) for a chance to be featured on social media and in MOTT's My Local MA e-newsletter. You can find more information and resources at [Lovemylocalma.com](#).

Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District | 334 Main Street | Great Barrington, MA 01230 US

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