



"Uptown" by Julia Ruscio

DECEMBER 2023

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If you have information to be shared in O-Town News, you can submit online at <http://bit.ly/O-Town-News-Content> or call **(513) 529-2914** for assistance with completing the online submission form. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

If you would like to receive O-Town News either by postal mail or email, contact info@agefriendlyoxford.org or call **(513) 529-2914**.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

While December may be synonymous with the arrival of Christmas for many, it includes other major cultural and religious holidays around the world as well. In Oxford, we're lucky to have such a diverse community and to have the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and perspectives.

We also recognize that while this time of year brings joy and celebrations for many people, for some people the holidays can also be a time of grief, pain, and struggle.

Take time during this holiday season to check in, reach out, and engage with others in our community. If you or someone you know needs some extra help, please check out the resources in this issue.

11 HOLIDAYS THE WORLD CELEBRATES IN DECEMBER

St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 5 or 6)

Also known as the Feast of Saint Nicholas, Christians honor the birthday of Saint Nicholas—the inspiration behind Santa Claus.

Immaculate Conception Day (Dec. 8)

Catholics celebrate the day of Immaculate Conception to honor the Virgin Mary, who is believed to have been born without original sin.

Bodhi Day (Dec. 8)

Also known as Rohatsu, this Buddhist tradition honors the day in which the Buddha—Siddhartha Gautama—is said to have achieved enlightenment.

Feast Day of Our Lady Guadalupe (Dec. 12)

Mexicans and Mexican-Americans often celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico who symbolizes patriotism and devotion.

Hanukkah (Dec. 18 - 26)

The eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights entails the lighting of a nine-branched menorah each night.

Yule (Dec. 21 - Jan.1)

Wiccans and Neo-Pagans celebrate the winter solstice (the darkest day of the year) through the festival of Yule.

Christmas (Dec. 25)

Christians celebrate Christmas largely to commemorate the birth of Jesus. But the festival has also been adopted as a secular family holiday by people of all faiths.



Boxing Day (Dec. 26)

A British tradition that occurs the day after Christmas and dates back to the 1800s when it was a day to ensure that upper class Britons gave servants and workers a day off, in addition to giving them a present.

Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 - Jan. 1)

The week-long holiday of Kwanzaa honors African-American heritage; it's a cultural holiday as opposed to a religious one.

Zartosht No-Diso (Dec. 26)

Founded by the Prophet Zoroaster more than 3,000 years ago, Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions.

New Year's Eve (Dec. 31)

The day before every new year is met with anticipation around the world. In many post-Soviet countries, the holiday is celebrated with traditions similar to Christmas, such as the arrival of gifts from Grandfather Frost.

Adapted from Time Magazine December 19, 2022

Community Conversation: Ageism

- What is it?**
- What does it look like?**
- Why does it matter?**
- What can we do about it?**

Come and join Oxford community members of all ages in the Oxford Community Arts Center North Parlor on **Tue. Dec. 5 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.** as Dr. Suzanne Kunkel of Miami's Scripps Gerontology Center shares information about ageism and a tool to help us all talk about it.

Free and open to the public.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE OXFORD TOWNSHIP ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees of Oxford Township will hold two public hearings on the Township's Electric Governmental Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance at **12:00 p.m. on Dec. 6** and **6:30 p.m. on Dec. 7** at the Township Office at 925 S Main St, Oxford. Eligible customers are residents in the unincorporated areas of Oxford Township (e.g., outside the City of Oxford) who are customers of Duke Energy (Customers of Butler Rural Electric are not eligible.) Representatives of Energy Alliance, the energy consultant that will develop the contract, will be in attendance. This is an opportunity to request information, clarification, or provide suggestions to the Trustees for the Electrical Aggregation Agreement program in the Township.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE Community Meal

Miami University Nutrition Students, Oxford Seniors, and Faith Communities of Oxford are hosting a **free** Community Meal on Monday **Dec. 11** at the Oxford Senior Center, 922 Tollgate Dr. Oxford.

All are welcome.



Medicare Open Enrollment

...There's Still Time!

Open Enrollment **ends December 7th, 2023**, with the new plans taking effect on January 1, 2024.

Appointments for insurance, SNAP, and other benefits: **contact OSHIP Counselor Sabrina Jewell**

OSHIP Counseling Services Available:

- Medicare & Rx Plans, Medicaid, OPERS, STRS, SERS, Ohio Police & Fire and other insurance
- Benefits and eligibility checks and application assistance—SNAP, Senior food boxes, etc.
- Assistance with housing and utility issues—HEAP
- Are you turning 65 in 2023? If so, you may need to sign up for Medicare

(513) 523-8100 or sjewell@oxfordsenior.org

In-person, Zoom, and phone appointments are available.

CRISIS RESOURCES

Butler County Crisis Hotline (Talk or Text): 1-844-427-4747

An information & referral hotline for individuals in emergency situations.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Free, confidential support for people in distress, including prevention strategies and crisis resources.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Provides support in identifying, addressing, de-escalating, and coping with abuse.

Women Helping Women 24/7 Crisis Hotline: (513) 381-5610

Provides crisis prevention and intervention and support services for survivors of dating violence, sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Hamilton YWCA Dove House Shelter 24-hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-618-6523

Dove House is Butler County's only protective shelter for victims of domestic violence and supports all who suffer from trauma, regardless of race, sexual identity, gender, or age.

LGBT National Hotline: 1-888-843-4564

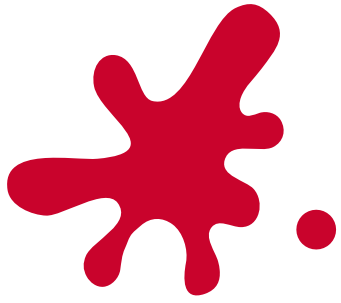
Provides confidential peer support, info, and resources for callers of all ages.

Trevor Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386

The only national 24/7 crisis intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ young people under age 25.



OPENING MINDS THROUGH ART



Opening Minds through Art (OMA) is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia. OMA was founded by Dr. Elizabeth “Like” Lokon in 2007 and is headquartered at Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center. In OMA sessions, people with dementia (artists) are paired with volunteers (students, families, caregivers) who are trained to rely on imagination instead of memory and focus on remaining strengths instead of lost skills. OMA enables people living with dementia to assume new roles as artists and teachers and leave a legacy of beautiful artwork. OMA serves over 3,000 pairs of people living with dementia and volunteers annually.

OMA Virtual Art Show Reception

OMA is excited to be hosting our very first Virtual OMA Art Show and we would love to have you join us in celebrating the beautiful works of art and relationships built!

Friday, December 8
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/49WR2fg>



Like's Retirement Open Studio

Join us in celebrating the retirement of OMA's Director and Founder, Elizabeth “Like” Lokon, as we pay tribute to her remarkable contributions and commemorate her inspiring journey.

Fri. December 8
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Oxford Community Arts Center
OMA Studios - Third Floor

About Town



Fri. Dec.1 - Living Room Conversations: Race and Incarceration - 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. *Interfaith Center (16 S. Campus Ave. Oxford).* Delicious soup and sandwiches provided free of charge.

Fri. Dec. 1 - Oxford Chamber of Commerce "Twas the Night Before" Holiday Walk & Christmas Tree Decorating Contest - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Uptown and surrounding area.* Get a start on your holiday shopping with exclusive sales at our local businesses. Tree decorating starts at 5:00 p.m. Firepit and drinks from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. with music starting at 6:15 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 1- Kirtan: Musical Meditation - 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Interfaith Center (16 S. Campus Ave. Oxford)* Come for an evening filled with rich discussion, musical mantra meditation, and delicious vegetarian food. This event is hosted by the Bhakti Yoga Club at Miami University.

Fri. Dec. 1- OxACT Performance: Head Elf - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Join the Oxford Area Community Theater for the first performance of their Winter Theater Series! It will be an evening of fun and laughter as OxACT performs Head Elf. The play will begin at 6:30 and holiday refreshments will be served. Register (513)-523-7531.

Fri. Dec.1 - Free Movie Friday: "The Holiday" - 7:00 p.m. *Oxford Community Arts Center.* Two women troubled with romantic problems swap homes for the holidays in each other's countries. Rated PG-13 for sexual content and some strong language. Free admission. Popcorn and bottled water can be purchased on-site.

Sat. Dec. 2 - 2023 Oxford Holiday Festival - 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. *Uptown.* **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Talawanda Band Booster Craft Market at Oxford Community Arts Center. **5:00 - 9:00 p.m.** in the Uptown Parks: carriage rides, kids games, musical entertainment, & pictures with Santa from **5:30 - 8:30 p.m.!** For more information call (513)-523-8687.

Sat. Dec. 2 - Silvoor Honeysuckle Hack - 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Peffer Park, Fire Ring.* Come hack invasive Amur honeysuckle out of the Silvoor Biological Sanctuary so the sun can shine down on gorgeous wildflowers next spring. To sign up or if you have questions contact Amanda Brymer at bentleal@miamioh.edu or (513)-529-5845.

Sat. Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oxford Farmers Market - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Uptown.* Fresh, local, seasonal foods & goods from friends and neighbors. VISA & EBT cards (food stamps) accepted.

Tues. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Tuesday Night Pub Runs - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. *Meet under the arches by Enjoy Oxford (14 W. Park Place) every Tuesday.* The goal is to get some exercise with folks who like to run or walk, earn a t-shirt, and join in on some camaraderie after! 5:30 - Arrive & Announcements. 5:40 - Run/Walk Begins. **If it's your first time running, you'll need to register at the start location beforehand. Participants receive a FREE Pub Run shirt after completing 10 sessions. Hope to see you there!

Wed. Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Gleaning at the Institute for Food - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Society of Saint Andrew (SoSA) is recruiting volunteers to help with harvesting produce at the Miami University Institute for Food (MU Farm) on Wednesday mornings. Gleaned produce will be distributed to Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services and Army of Kindness. Register to volunteer on their website: <https://endhunger.org/ohio/>

About Town



Wed. Dec. 6 - Winterize Your Home - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Andrew Swatzell of Andyman Services shares great, simple, and inexpensive ideas on how to keep your home warm during the winter months and save money. Ages 18+. Register at (513) 532-7531.

Fri. Dec. 8 - Memory Cafe - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* A space for people living with Alzheimer's or other memory loss to enjoy music, games, and conversation in a supportive environment. A care partner or family member is required to accompany participants. Ages 18+. Registration required, call (513) 523-7531.

Fri. Dec. 15 - Madcap Puppets: "Twas the Night Before Christmas" - 7:00 p.m. *Oxford Community Art Center.* It's Christmas Eve, and this little mouse family is busily preparing for the arrival of Santypaws! Grades PreK - 3, Tickets \$7 Adult / \$5 Child.

Thurs. Dec. 28 - Three Valley Conservation Trust (3VCT) Hike for Acres "What the winter solstice means for native species" - 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. *Ruder Preserve, corner of Bonham Road and Shadowy Hills Drive, Oxford.* Free hike guided by Steve Gordan. Register at www.3VCT.org or call (513) 524-2150.

On Campus



Public Skating at the Goggin Ice Center

Grab your friends and loved ones and hit the ice at Goggin Ice Center. **\$7.50** admission with Miami ID, free skate rental. Non-skating family members can join the family from the sidelines for no charge... dress warmly!

Fri. Dec.1 - 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Sat & Sun. Dec. 2, 3, 9, 30 - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Wed. Dec. 20, 27 - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. Dec. 21 - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 23 - Skate with Santa - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Tues. Dec 26 - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Fri. Dec 29 - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.



Sat. Dec. 2, 16 - Drop in Tour & Explore at the Art Museum - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum.* Join Docent tours of current and ongoing exhibitions and learn about the artworks on exhibit!

Sat & Sun. Dec. 2, 3 - Dance Theatre Winter Concerts - 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Open Fifth, an acapella singing group at Miami will perform at the Saturday concert. There is a TalkBack after the Saturday concert, providing an opportunity to meet the choreographers and dancers and ask questions. Tickets are free for Miami students with their student ID at the Wilks Theater box office before the concert, \$10 students/seniors: \$12 in advance general admission and \$15 at the door. Contact the Miami University Box Office online at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/o/12112> or (513) 529-5000.

Mon. Dec. 4 - Miami Holiday Art and Craft Sale - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Armstrong Student Center.* Featuring original, handcrafted pottery, lamp work glass beads & jewelry, stained glass, watercolor art, metals, mixed/media jewelry and MORE!

Tues. Dec. 5 - The Heritage of McGuffey House and Museum: Reflections on its Architecture, History and Collections - 3:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum.* A Brief Symposium.

Helpful Resources

Family Resource Center

5445 College Corner Pike, Building 2 , Oxford, OH 45056
(513)-523-5859, Email: director@frcoxford.org

Family Resource Center (FRC) assists individuals and families with the necessary resources, advocacy, and assistance to achieve their own self-sustainability: securing housing, assisting those with economic hardships, ensuring basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, transportation), obtaining and retaining employment, and accessing financial, education, and work supports.

Oxford Lane Library

441 S Locust St #2126, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-7531, Website: <https://www.lanepi.org/>

Lane library provides materials, services, access to computers and electronic resources, and a variety of events for adults and children. Most services and events are free.

Oxford Free Clinic

110 North Poplar Street Oxford OH, 45056
(513)-524-5426, Website: <https://oxfordfreeclinic.org/>

Oxford Free Clinic provides basic medical care and access to medications prescribed for treatments. The gynecology free clinic operates on the second Wednesdays of every month to provide free women-specific care.

Oxford Seniors

922 Tollgate Dr. Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-8100, Website: <https://www.oxfordsenior.org/>

Oxford Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. for members to use the facilities and participate in many forms of recreation. Oxford Seniors also provides Adult Day Care Services, Meals on Wheels, Transportation, and other supportive services.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services

5445 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-3851, Email: director@topss.org

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS) serves families living in the Talawanda school district. Customers are able to shop once per week and choose their items according to their household size and preferences. Nutritional information and foods to meet specific dietary restrictions are available. "Emergency food" boxes are available on a limited basis to those in need who live outside of the Talawanda School District.

Thread Up Oxford Uptown Threads

5156 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
127 W Church St. , Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-273-1701, Email: threadupoxford@gmail.com

Thread Up is committed to changing the community's relationship with textile more responsibly and creatively. Thread Up accepts donations of textile goods at both the Church St. and College Corner Pike locations and provides free and low-cost gently used clothing at the Uptown Threads location on Church St.