

# *the* Bay

This Month's Rhody Gem | Your December Must-Do's

DECEMBER 2022  
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## COMFORT & Joy

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE  
TO MAKING MERRY  
ALL MONTH LONG

FREE

SANTA'S NEW BRISTOL DIGS • NPT ARTIST'S HOME SPARKLES AT XMAS • HOP TO VEGAN EATS IN BRISTOL

# In This Issue

The Bay Magazine  
December 2022



Blithewold Mansion

Photo courtesy of Discover Newport

## 35

### Making Merry:

Festive happenings around the region all month long!

## 21

### Holiday Shopping Guide:

Your idea book for supporting small biz this season

## The Buzz

**9** Ring in the holiday season with classical music in Newport

**12** An outdoor learning experience in Barrington hosts yuletide fun

**14 VOICES OF THE BAY:** Bristol-based CEO on the leather craft

**16 RHODY GEM:** Elevate your table with goods from Tiverton's gourmet grocer

**17 CALENDAR:** This month's must-do's

**18 THE PUBLIC'S RADIO:** Meet the new host of *Morning Edition*

## Food & Drink

**25** Festive noshes from a Hope & Main alum

**26 EXPERIENCE:** Fast-casual vegan dining in Bristol

**30** Add fresh flavor to holiday apps with locally grown microgreens

**32 FOOD NEWS:** DIY charcuterie class, Ethiopian eats in Warren & a foodie celebration of the East Bay

## Life & Style

**45 HOME:** A dozen Christmas trees makes the home of a Newport artist glow from within



Photography by Bernadette Heydt, courtesy of Heydt Home

**52 SHOP:** Get red-dy for the holidays with goods in berry hues

**54 EXPLORE:** Bristol's jolly old elf brings comfort and joy with new Santa house

## Pic of the Bay

**56** A stunning image from a local lens

**ON THE COVER:** Clark's Christmas Tree Farm, Tiverton. Photo by Caitlin Durand.

# Life & Style

Home • Shop • Explore



## All is Bright

A Newport homeowner pulls out all the stops to make a magical Christmas for her family

“At one point I had 50 nativities, 75 Santas, and one nine-foot Christmas tree. I now have five nine-foot trees, eight seven-foot trees, one nativity, and four Santas,” says Rosemary Heydt. No matter how the math shakes out, one thing is for sure – she enjoys decking the halls, setting the table, and making things merry and bright. “I like every year to be different and over the top, so the style is always changing,” she says with a warm smile.

Photography by Bernadette Heydt, courtesy of Heydt Home

By Elyse Major



If her last name is familiar, it's likely due to her husband William, an artist known for capturing the people and places of Newport via vibrant watercolor paintings. His beloved work can be found all over the City by the Sea like an I-spy, with prints, paintings, and his book *Working Newport*

displayed in shops, cafes, and hotels.

For 18 years, the couple has lived in Newport's Historic Hill neighborhood in a house that dates back to 1836. Heydt relays that the home's original owner, Captain Augustus Littlefield, asked his builder to design an authentic copy of a villa that he'd seen during a

trip to Southern Italy. Inside, the Heydts have outfitted interiors with an eclectic blend of furnishings and accents, adhering to neither a villa nor coastal vibe. "We have a lot of different art throughout our home, and a life-size horse made out of junk in our entrance hall. Not very New England!"

Photography by Bernadette Heydt; courtesy of Heydt Home

By Elyse Major





Photography by Bernadette Heydt, courtesy of Heydt Home

The Heydts have three grown children, a new grandchild, and dog Luna. “I decorate my home for my family. They are the reasons I do what I do,” says Heydt. “Last year I decided to decorate each nine-foot tree for each family member. My husband Bill and son Eric’s tree was decorated with all gold

ornaments; my daughter Bernadette and her husband Andrea’s tree had all white ornaments and white doves; my daughter Samantha had a tree of different colors; and my new grandson had his nine-foot tree decorated with Santas and candy canes. The family tree was a collection of ornaments from

when the kids were young up to today.

“I am very happy that my children are always home for Christmas,” says Heydt. “The room I enjoy the most is the dining room, where the white Christmas tree is. It is where we sit and have friends and family over for dinner, so basically it is the heart of our home.”

By Elyse Major



Want your home featured in  
*The Bay Magazine*?

Email [Elyse@ProvidenceOnline.com](mailto:Elyse@ProvidenceOnline.com)  
to learn more

## GET RHODY STYLE

Ideas and resources for making the most of living in the Ocean State.

### HEYDT COUTURE

Daughter Bernadette Heydt is an interior designer whose home appeared in our November 2021 issue. Additionally, she is a jewelry maker and co-founder of the creative agency Heydt Mason. *Learn more at [HeydtHome.com](http://HeydtHome.com)*

### FRIENDLY REMINDER

Love a good Christmas shop? Check out A Christmas to Remember at 130 Thames Street. Find ornaments, nutcrackers, coastal-themed Santas, and more.

### THE HILL

The area known as Historic Hill might be tight for driving but is perfect for a stroll – taking in plaque houses, cobblestone streets, and charming architecture along the way.



Photography by Bernadette Heydt; courtesy of Heydt Home