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November 2022

Your DGB Cultural District E-News

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Behind the Mic with Jeff van de Visse

Jeffrey van de Visse, DJ at [WBCR](#) (97.7), attended the DGB Cultural District's annual meeting in October and had great ideas about how to use the radio station he calls home to support cultural district activities.

For those new to The Berkshire's local low-power FM radio station, Jeff has been an on-

air fixture since joining the station in 2012 and is now the "mouth" (his words) of the Monday to Friday "[The Morning Show](#)" in addition to hosting Sunday morning's (6 to 9 a.m.) "[Your Happy Ears](#)," a mix of world music and comedy sketches.

We sat down with Jeff to ask him about his life as a radio host spinning tunes on Main Street in Great Barrington.

How did you get started in radio?

Radio hooked me the same way books open worlds, leaving me to imagine. I recall [Charles Laquidara on WBCN in Boston as an influence](#).



His show, 'The Big Mattress,' played everything. My first radio station job was in 1984 at [WOMR "Outermost Radio" in Provincetown](#), That's where I first stepped into a world music show. The rest, as they say, is history.

What's the best part about working at a hyper-local radio station?

The best part of community radio, the currency, is passion. Personal choice is the motivator and content. The collateral blessing: the personal empowerment you get in serving a greater whole.



If you were on a desert island and could only listen to one record for the rest of your life what would it be?

Oooh! That desert island question. Devilish. I won't say none, because forever means I'm making up songs, learning to whistle, etc. There is an artist, a particular session, that has stayed by my side: [Toni Childs' "The Woman's Boat"](#). It still finds me afresh and strong as ever.

What's your favorite place to go in Great Barrington – or the Berkshires – to relax and recharge?

My favorite place is [Housatonic River Walk](#): three segments, postcard views, and easy immersion in all seasons.

What advice would you give to someone considering a career as a radio DJ?

Kid, I might say, "Yay! Thank you!" Being a radio DJ is one of those jobs that reward self-discovery. Do it because your heart is in it. It can be a long haul -- often not what was wished for - - but there are so many aspects to being a DJ: apprenticing, learning tech, production, performance skills, and every facet is fascinating. One trick I learned early on: Be yourself.

Props to the Berks



New York Magazine's The Strategist column highlights a perfect honeymoon weekend in the Berkshires penned by Hopie Stockman, co-founder of L.A.-based textile brand Block Shop, and her Texas-born husband, Russell Hill, Rad Furniture co-owner, with stops at no less than seven GB shops, restaurants, and historic sites. [Check out their idyllic trip.](#)

Bard Fall Fest



From November 17th through 20th, Shakespeare & Company's [Fall Festival of Shakespeare](#) will once again offer live performances to the public at the Tina Packer Playhouse. Now in its 34th year, the Fall Festival of Shakespeare is a residency program at 11 area high schools in

Massachusetts and New York, wherein 22 Shakespeare & Co. directors, seven costume designers, and six production coordinators support nearly 400 students as they stage full productions of Shakespeare's plays.

Monument Mountain Regional High School's production of Henry V takes place Saturday, November 19 at 1:15 pm. [Get tickets here](#). Masks are required at all performances. The festival will also be live-streamed via [CTSB](#) and through the Cablecast app on Roku, iOS, Apple TV, Android, and Amazon Fire TV.

Individual show tickets and [multi-show passes](#) are available at both general admission and student prices. [Get the full schedule of participating schools and shows here](#).

Free Rides!



Beginning November 25, 2022, through December 31, 2022, all BRTA bus and paratransit services are free thanks, in part, to a grant in the state budget awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

The "Try Transit" campaign is supported by a state grant to all 15 Commonwealth Regional Transit Authorities.

[Visit the BRTA website to learn more](#) about the "Try Transit" fare-free month or call 499-2782 X 1.

What | When | Where

What: [The Wizard of Oz Annual Screening](#)

When: November 26 @ 4:00 PM

Where: [Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center](#)

Details: The Mahaiwe presents its annual screening of The Wizard of Oz (1939), a Great Barrington tradition every Thanksgiving weekend. Join Dorothy as she follows the Yellow Brick Road of Oz to find her way home. Just \$8 / \$5 for ages 12 and under.

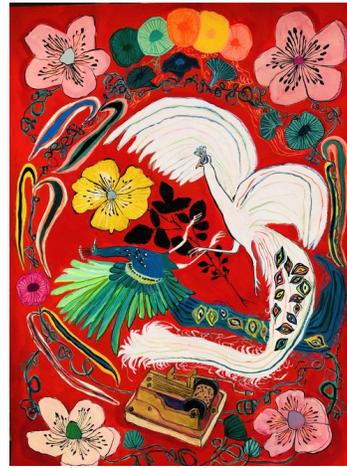


What: [Suzanne Kiggins: Harmonica](#)

When: November 12 2022 to January 14, 2023

Where: [Carrie Chen Gallery](#)

Details: This solo exhibition presents new paintings from this Brooklyn-based artist. In Harmonica, fantastical imagery is rendered with heightened emotion, creating a fully realized “through the looking glass” world.

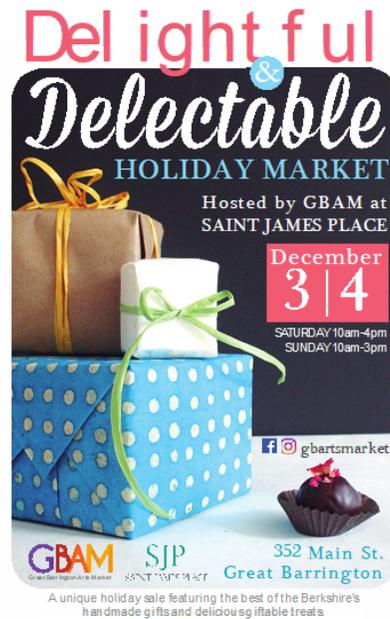


What: [Great Barrington Arts Market](#)

When: Saturday, December 3 @ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM & Sunday, December 4 @ 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: [Saint James Place](#)

Details: The holiday market returns to the beautifully restored Saint James Place on Main Street in Great Barrington, MA after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic. Get ready for a stunning lineup of local artists and makers as well as light fare in a beautiful and festive environment. The perfect anecdote for all the online shopping we have all done as a result of the pandemic, Delightful and Delectable offers marketgoers a chance to shop in person and support the local artist community at the same time. For more information write to gbartsmarket@gmail.com or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



What: [Southern Berkshire Chamber Holiday Shop, Sip, & Stroll](#)

When: December 10 @ 3:00 - 10:00 PM

Where: [Town-wide](#)

Details: From Charlie's Model Trains to Adult Wreath-Making and a Bonfire and Music with the Lucky Bucket Band to a Parade of Lights featuring the local Fire Department as they parade through town with trucks decorated for the holidays, you don't want to miss this elf and s'mores extravaganza.



Local Creative Economy Jobs

Find jobs in Berkshire County's Creative Economy on [1Berkshire](#).

[Office Manager, Community Access to the Arts](#)

[Audience Development Coordinator, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival](#)

[Director of Technical Production, Jacob's Pillow](#)

[IT Support Analyst, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival](#)

Arts Funding and Resources

Curated information about funding and financial assistance for those working in the creative economy.

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER](#): Check out this monthly newsletter that offers grant opportunities, action alerts, community highlights, opportunities, and resources. Find the latest about fellowships, explore Massachusetts artists' galleries, discover traditional arts apprenticeships, and identify art spaces and other resources.

ARTIST RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

[ARTSHUB](#): Visit this website to find calls for art, funding opportunities, job openings, events, and resources for artists in Western Massachusetts. The ArtsHub community can help you spend more time using resources and less time finding them. Among their current posts: [Call for Artists to Create a Donor Wall at Greenfield Library](#).

[CREATIVE CAPITAL ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES: NOV + DEC 2022](#): Each month, Creative Capital compiles events, residencies, grants, and open calls for artists in all disciplines. [See current listings here](#) including [Smack Mellon Studio Program Open Call](#).

[MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL: The Festivals & Projects Grant](#) provides one-year grants of \$2,500 to support publicly-available cultural activities taking place between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Application deadline: December 15, 2022. Check out their virtual office hours to ask questions.

[MASSCREATIVE POLICY & ACTION UPDATE](#): Join a 15-minute call every other Friday from 9:45-10 AM for updates about the creative economy and information artist supporters need to know about COVID-19 policy, advocacy, and actions.

[NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS](#): Find grant resources on this regularly updated website. The current rolling deadline for [Public Art Learning Fund](#) closes 12/19/22. This fund provides grants of \$500 to \$2,000 to support professional development opportunities for New England artists to strengthen their public art practices. [Find other grants here](#).



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
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