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Mimi's
Cookie Book!

100 Holiday Cookie Recipes!



One of the country's most beloved craft shows will add to its historic traditions by featuring holiday touches from nations across the globe, including the Al Zimmerman Accordion Combo and the Csárdás Dance Company (shown here). Find out why no one should miss this year's *Christmas Around the World*—coming November 28, 29 and 30. See story page 5.

by Benjamin Margalit/Margalit Studio

COVER
STORY

See Santa, Frosty and Rudolph at *Christmas Around the World*, November 28, 29 and 30.

by Carla Houdek

There are few times during the year when traditions play as important a role in our lives as they do during the holidays. Chances are good that many of those traditions are linked to our family heritage, while others have evolved over the years as we discover new elements of the season to incorporate into our lives.

"We have become a global community," says Linda Loveless of Creative Keepsakes Craft Shows. She and business partner Donna Stuver are bringing back one of the area's most beloved holiday traditions—the *Christmas in the Colonies* craft show.

But this year, it's taking on a whole new dimension.

"It can be easy to lose sight of our personal heritage," Donna continues. "The holiday season includes so many different elements that are important to a variety of people; it can be difficult to stay connected to our own roots. We wanted to find a way to help people celebrate their traditions while also introducing them to the unique aspects of the season found in other cultures."

With that in mind, Creative Keepsakes is introducing Christmas in the Colonies

CHRISTMAS IN THE COLONIES PRESENTS

Christmas

Around the World!

Starting the Friday after Thanksgiving, holiday traditions will take on a worldly flavor as one of the country's most beloved craft shows adds a unique new dimension.

presents "Christmas Around the World."

"Last year, the show was a huge success," Linda shares. "Based on some of the feedback received, we've decided to add a number of exciting new elements."

This year the show will feature more entertainment than ever before, an additional performance stage and ethnic food to represent the various cultures that celebrate Christmas in different ways. "There are a number of other shows happening during the winter months in the Greater Cleveland area, but we're known for bringing something different and creative to the holidays," Donna remarks. "We're constantly looking for ways to engage our guests and make them feel excited about what we have to offer."

As usual, the show will feature some of the most talented crafters in the area and while the colonial theme of years past will no longer be predominant, exhibitors may choose to deck themselves out in clothing that best reflects the ethnicity of their handmade art or craft.

Also featured during Christmas Around the World is The Festival of Trees, an event within an event and a treasured holiday tradition for many of the show's regular attendees.

"Twenty beautifully decorated Christmas trees have been gathered to add just the right amount of seasonal cheer," Linda shares. "To decorate them, area businesses have generously agreed to sponsor individual trees and several unique themes have been chosen as a tribute to the designer or business they represent."

"The Medina Women's Endowment Fund has graciously agreed to host this segment of our show," Donna says. "Their mission is to provide funding to organizations and programs in the Medina County area that support women and children." The trees can be viewed and purchased throughout the show. There will be a "tree" party held on Sunday—the final day of the show—when all remaining trees will be auctioned off.

During this year's show, Donna and Linda have secured the talents of a number of entertainers to ensure that guests of all ages have non-stop fun. "We're particularly thrilled to have the 'Al Zimmerman Accordion Combo' performing waltzes and polkas to allow our guests to relive the ethnic traditions and musical memories of bygone years," Linda beams.

Also included is the Csárdás Dance Company, a nonprofit professional dance troop performing traditional and contemporary Hungarian dances. "We've added a second stage to ensure that the entertainment never ends," Donna promises.

This year, find an expanded selection of edibles that represent countries across the globe.

Other entertainers include: Maidens IV—featuring sisters Havilah, Heather, Abigail and Tabitha Justice—who will perform Celtic and folk music with a touch of theatrical drama and fancy fiddling; The Great Brad—a magician; The Heritage Minstrels featuring a fiddler, percussionist and whistle player; Mr. Balloon—one of the fastest balloon twisters in the world; the Firestone High School Madrigal Singers; The Churchills—a Medina High School men's vocal group; the Ashland University Chamber Singers; Medina Center for Dance Art featuring ballet, tap and modern dance and barbershop quartet; A Bunch of Great Guys and more.

For most children, the trip to discover one's status as either naughty or nice is one of the most important they'll make this time of year. The Santa's Wonderland area has been creatively arranged to put the focus right where it belongs—on the kids. A stroller

corral makes it easy for moms to park their gear. The feature is, of course, jolly old St. Nick, who is also known as Father Christmas and Chris Kringle, depending upon the country of origin. Children will have an opportunity to have their picture taken, as well as enjoy face painting and a make-it-and-take-it holiday craft.

see CHRISTMAS, page 6

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