

Redbank Renaissance

Redbank Renaissance, Inc. will be hosting its 3rd Annual Arts and Crafts show this year, showcasing unique and quality local artists on Saturday, December 5th. The show will be held once again at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church at 403 Penn Street in New Bethlehem.

Baked goods will be available for sale to benefit the church. All show proceeds will benefit local revitalization efforts, including street banners, a façade improvement grant program for local businesses and an artists' cooperative.

The local revitalization group is sponsoring the formation of an artists and crafters cooperative. It hopes to provide a centralized location and lower overhead for display and sale of the wonderful and unique

arts and crafts created by artists in the Redbank Valley and surrounding areas.

A wide variety of arts and crafts will be available for sale at the Arts and Crafts Show including wood products, hand crafted pens and desk sets, local photography, art on slate, Watkins products, and a wide variety of hand made jewelry, including ceramic, beaded, authentic sea glass, and more. New vendors have been added this year and many favorites will be returning.

The show is but one of several events occurring on December 5th in New Bethlehem to celebrate "Light up Night" sponsored by the Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce.

More information is available at www.redbankren.org or by calling 814-275-1718.

Exploring the First Christmas

The birth of Jesus Christ has long been celebrated on December 25 of every year. The first recorded celebration of Christmas dates back to December 25, 336. However, it is not known for sure if Christ was even born during the month of December, much less on the day we come together to celebrate.

It is speculated that Christ may have been born

as early as November or as late as March. However, through time the date of December 25 was adopted as His official birthday. In the early days of Christianity, there wasn't much emphasis given to celebrating or recording birthdays. Rather, the day a saint died received more emphasis and was considered more significant than a birth.

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The 24th Annual Festival of Trees

The 24th Annual Festival of Trees will be held December 4, 5, and 6, at St. Joseph Hall in Lucinda, Pennsylvania. This year's theme is "The Magic of Christmas."

Show hours are Friday – 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; and "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. – noon.

On Friday and Saturday, approximately 30 local artisans and crafters will be there for your shopping enjoyment. Find everything including jewelry, potpourri, centerpieces, handcrafted wooden décor, pottery, hand sewn items, ornaments, clothing, fine chocolates, and much more. Be sure to stop by the Bake Shop and pick up some home baked goods for yourself or to serve for holiday entertaining.

Dozens of Christmas trees will be displayed

throughout the two-level facility and are offered for sale. Decorated trees will be judged and awarded ribbons and cash prizes in a variety of categories.

Enjoy a home-cooked meal with a different menu each day. Friday's meal will include roast beef, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, homemade soup, rolls, and dessert. Saturday's menu will offer sandwiches and homemade soups along with dessert.

Sunday's "Breakfast with Santa" will be served buffet style, and the children are sure to be excited by a visit from the man from the North Pole.

In addition to the beautiful trees, crafters, and food, you will also be treated to performances by many talented musical groups from all over the area. On Friday night, **RoseOnyx** – profes-

sional escape artists will be performing a special "Magic of Christmas" show. Their shows use escapes and/or illusions to dramatize and communicate the Gospel message. On Saturday, ventriloquist **Helen Hammett** will entertain the crowd with various puppets. Various school and church groups will also perform. There will be something for everyone's enjoyment.

The annual raffle consists of ½ beef, quilt, flagpole, Continued to page 6

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