

DAN GIBBONS TURKEY TROT: The 28th annual 5K benefit run founded by Gibbons, the executive director of the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation, features a flyover by the Lima Lima Flight Team at 8:50 a.m. Registration fees include an event T-shirt; dangibbonsturkeytrot.com. 9 a.m. Nov. 24; Vallette and York streets, Elmhurst. \$25-\$35; 630-415-2816

TURKEY TROT 8K: Run or walk through Lincoln Park on Thanksgiving morning. The 34th annual event, expected to draw more than 5,000 participants, also features a Plymouth Rock Rumble (10 a.m.) for kids ages 2-12. Canned food donations benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository; turkeytrotchicago.com. 9 a.m. Nov. 24; Fullerton Parkway and Cannon Drive. \$30-\$35; \$12-\$15 for kids ages 2-12; 773-404-2372

CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO: A traditional German market returns to the plaza for the 16th year with 50 vendors in tow — most of whom travel from Germany to participate. Browse holiday ornaments, beer steins, wooden toys, jewelry, European chocolates and more gifts. Sweet and savory treats are available, including bratwurst, potato pancakes, strudel, German beer and hot spiced wine. Performances and heated tents round it out; www.christkindlmarket.com. 11 a.m. Nov. 24-Dec. 24; Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St. Free; 312-494-2175

ENCHANTED RAILROAD: Nine model trains — including one equipped with a tiny camera that imagines a passenger's view — roll through a winter village during this annual holiday display. Get discounts on admission every Wednesday; mortonarb.org. 9 a.m. Nov. 25-Dec. 23, Dec. 26-Jan. 8; Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle. Free with general admission, \$10-\$11; \$8 for kids ages 2-17; 630-968-0074

WONDERLAND EXPRESS: Miniature trains chug past waterfalls, bridges and dozens of Chicago landmarks inside the Regenstein Center. Outside, 750,000 holiday lights add a festive feel to the grounds; chicagobotanic.org/wonderland. 10 a.m. various dates, Nov. 25-Jan. 1; Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. \$8-\$10; \$6-\$8 for seniors and kids ages 3-12; 847-835-5440

ZOOLIGHTS: About 2 million lights add holiday cheer to the zoo grounds. Ice-carving demonstrations, kids craft activities and photos with Santa (through Dec. 23) round out the festivities. Animal exhibits stay open late; lpzoo.com. 5 p.m. Various dates, Nov. 25-Jan. 1; Lincoln Park Zoo, 2200 N. Cannon Drive. Free; paid parking costs \$17-\$19; 312-742-2000

WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW: The annual drive-through display on the grounds of the mansion features thousands of lights, animated figures and holiday decorations; lakecounty.org. 6 p.m. Nov. 25-Dec. 23, Dec. 26-Jan. 1; Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, 1350 N. Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills. \$5-\$10; 847-362-3042

WINTER FLOWER AND TRAIN SHOW: An old-fashioned steam engine and other model trains wind through a miniature village dotted with Chicago landmarks and surrounded by red, white and pink poinsettias; chicagoparkdistrict.com. 9 a.m. Nov. 26-Dec. 22, Dec. 24-29, Dec. 31-Jan. 8; Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive. Free; 312-742-7736

BUCKTOWN BAZAAR: Make a dent in your holiday shopping with handmade gifts from crafters and established artisans, including many participants in the annual Bucktown Arts Fest. Includes a silent auction. Sale takes place in the park field house; graziaproductions.com. 11 a.m. Nov. 26-27; Holstein Park, 2200 N. Oakley Ave. Free; 773-263-5882

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY GROUP TOUR: The historic Martin Mitchell mansion is decked out in traditional holiday splendor. Several tour options are available. napersettlement.org. Dec. 1-31; Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St., Naperville. \$8-\$20; 630-420-6010

GLITTER: A Holiday Shopping Event: Browse gifts and original fashions from local designers and independent boutiques; chicagofashionresource.com. 11 a.m. Dec. 1; Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. Free; 312-744-6630

ONE OF A KIND SHOW AND SALE CHICAGO: Shop for holiday gifts from more than 650 artists and designers from around the world at the 11th annual sale, featuring accessories, fashion, furniture, jewelry, kids items, photography, paintings, ceramics, glass, metal and more; oneofakindshowchicago.com. Noon Dec. 1; 11 a.m. Dec. 2; 10 a.m. Dec. 3-4; Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza. \$12; free for kids ages 12 and under; 312-527-4141

SNOWSHOE AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKI: Explore the 91 acres of Northerly Island with ease when the snow is at least 3 inches deep. Equipment rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be checked out for up to two hours; chicagoparkdistrict.com. 10 a.m. Dec. 2, Dec. 17-Dec. 18, Jan. 7-Jan. 8; Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Drive. Free; \$5 rental fee for equipment; 312-745-2910

WINTER WONDERFEST: Holiday decor, an indoor ice rink, inflatable slides, rides and video games highlight the 11th annual event at Navy Pier, along with new attractions such as sleigh rides on Dock Street (Fridays-Sundays) and live music in the beer garden (select Friday and Saturday nights). Wristbands are required for some activities and cost \$15-\$18. Family packages that include parking and four activity wristbands cost \$55-\$71; navypier.com. 10 a.m.; selected dates Dec. 2-Jan. 8; Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. Free entry; \$15-\$18 for rides and attractions; 312-595-7437

LINCOLN SQUARE CHRISTKINDL MARKET: Shop for handmade gifts under a heated tent at the fourth annual German-style holiday market. Additional highlights include a kids corner, free trolley rides, ice sculptures, visits with Santa and 30 hours of live music. Snack on warm pretzels, doughnuts, strudel, goulash and more; beer and mulled wine are also available; lincolnsquareck.com. noon Dec. 2; 9 a.m. Dec. 3; 10 a.m. Dec. 4; Lincoln and Leland avenues, 4700 N. Lincoln Ave. \$3 suggested donation; free for kids; 773-506-2191

OLD TOWN SCHOOL HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR: Browse fiber arts, jewelry and other handmade gifts at the seventh annual sale, presented as part of the school's Open House Friday, which features live music and activities; oldtownschool.org. 6 p.m. Dec. 2; Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. \$5 suggested donation; \$10 per family; 773-728-6000

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Annual buffet includes scrambled eggs, a baked cinnamon-raisin French toast casserole and traditional sides. Stay for a family photo with Santa (available noon-4 p.m.). Presented as part of Winter Wonderland; jhochicago.com. 8:30, 10:30 a.m. Dec. 3-4, Dec. 10-11, Dec. 17-18; John Hancock Observatory, 875 N. Michigan Ave. \$39; \$29 for kids ages 3-11; \$19 for kids under 3; 877-875-6940

SANTA HUSTLE 5K: The winter walk and run returns for a third year with holiday music and decorations, and a Santa hat, beard and shirt for every participant. An awards ceremony honors top finishers; an afterparty includes a buffet and drinks; santahustle.com. 9 a.m. Dec. 3; Montrose Harbor, 600 W. Montrose Ave. \$40-\$45; 847-829-4536

NATIVE ARTS HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Native American artists exhibit and sell their creations and discuss their work with visitors just next door to the museum, at 3009 Central St. Expect to find an array of jewelry, beadwork, feather work, dolls, ceramics, drawings and more; mitchellmuseum.org. 10 a.m. Dec. 3; noon Dec. 4; Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. \$5; free for kids under 12; 847-475-1030

DO-DIVISION HOLIDAY: Independent shops, bars and restaurants along Division Street in Wicker Park offer

CRITICS' PICKS

Our arts and entertainment experts turn the spotlight on some gems of the season.

FILM CRITIC | MICHAEL PHILLIPS



Christmas in prison: A good thing to avoid. In "Remember the Night," written by Preston Sturges just before his directing career made him a comic force in early 1940s Hollywood, Barbara Stanwyck plays a shoplifter whose prosecuting attorney (Fred MacMurray) finds himself favorably inclined toward the

woman he's supposed to put away.

If you haven't seen it, see it. If you haven't seen a film at the historic Portage Theater, all the better. And if you're new to the Northwest Chicago Film Society's classic film series, Wednesdays at the Portage, all the best. This one is projected in 35 mm.

7:30 p.m. Dec. 21, Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-850-0141

northwestchicagofilmsociety.org \$5.

THEATER CRITIC | CHRIS JONES



Most Christmas entertainment is the melodramatic province of misers and angels. But I've always preferred stories about ordinary families just doing their best. Perhaps that's why I always watch the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story".

This justly beloved and delightfully quirky film — known for its frozen-tongue incident, its tyrannical Santa, its cheery scene at a Chinese restaurant — was based on the writings of Jean Shepherd and set in the heart of Northwest Indiana.

This year for the first time, "A Christmas Story: The Musical!" will appear on stage: The Chicago Theatre, no less. Peter Billingsley, (Ralphie in the film) is one of the producers. Directed by Broadway names, this all-new production has a budget of \$5 million and will later tour other cities. I've no idea if the show will be any good, but I always prefer a risk to a reprise (even at Christmas), and I have faith in this particular story.

"A Christmas Story: The Musical!" will play the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., Dec. 14-30. \$35-79. 800-745-3000 or visit thechicagotheatre.com.