

Tackle Box

Winter Holidays: *Light, Joy, & Acceptance*

The holiday season provides a great opportunity to build community while honoring cultural differences, as religious beliefs often represent a valuable part of a person's identity. While Christianity is still the most practiced religion in the United States, more and more people are identifying as Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, other faiths, or nonreligious. By making space to recognize all winter holidays, it provides an opportunity to learn about different cultures and the significance and history behind each celebration.

While we take no sides in the Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays debate, it is worth noting that while the former is a heartfelt, well-meant wish for joy and celebration, it is inherently tied to the Christian holiday of Christmas. In the same vein, it is also important to recognize that for some, these months may not be a season of celebration. For some, their faith has no major holiday during this time of year, while others may choose to skip festivities for personal reasons. So, if someone does not respond to your seasonal greeting, be kind and tolerant as you don't know what they're going through. Taking the time to learn about holidays and traditions outside of your normal customs, can give you a wider perspective and demonstrate that you support the beliefs of your friends and families. Across many religions and cultures that have holidays this time of year, there are underlying themes of light, birth, renewal, and love. Remember as we travel into the new year to hold these values in our minds and to treat each other well, making space for differences, and supporting one another's uniqueness.

Awareness Days

World AIDS Day - December 1

International Day for People with Disabilities - December 3

Giving Tuesday - December 3

International Volunteer Day - December 5

International Genocide Prevention Day - December 9

International Human Rights Day - December 10

International Migrants Day - December 18

Diwali

Late October or November based on lunar calendar (was Nov 1st)



A festival of lights, celebrated in Kartika during the Hindu New Year, symbolizes the victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. It is one of India's most celebrated holidays.

Bodhi Day

December 8th



Commemorates the day that the Buddha experienced enlightenment ending the cycle of transmigration by reaching Nirvāna or spiritual release

Kwanzaa

December 26th - January 1st



Celebrates African American unity, heritage, and culture and is nonreligious celebration of 7 principles which are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Hanukkah

Late November or December based on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew Calender (Dec 25 - Jan 2)



A festival of light celebrating the miracle during the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BC, commemorating the Maccabean Revolt when Jewish fighters reclaimed the Holy Temple from Greek Syrian forces.

Yule

Shortest day of the year - December 21st



The oldest European winter solstice festival, which is now largely celebrated by Neo-Pagans. This pre-Christian festival originated in Scandinavia and was later subsumed, along with other pagan celebrations, into the Christian holiday of Christmas.

Christmas

December 25th



Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Christianity. The holiday has evolved to become more secular, observed by both Christians and non-Christians.

Chinese New Year

January 21th to February 21st depending on lunar Calender (Jan 29, 2025)



Is a ceremonial holiday to pray for a good planting and harvest season and is a time to reunite with immediate and extended family. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, as well as other countries with a significant Chinese population.

Featured Artists

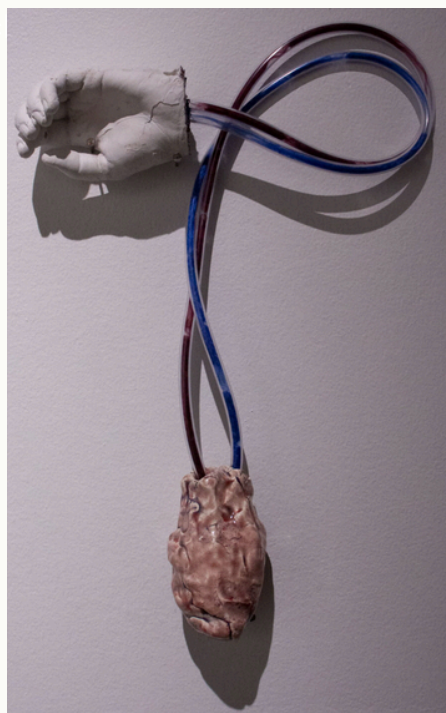
In honor of the International Day for People with Disabilities (December 3rd) this month we celebrate the nine recipients of the 2024 Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities. This award is granted through Arts Midwest and proudly celebrates and supports accessibility in the arts. Arts Midwest is one of six nonprofits working to strengthen, support, inform, and celebrate arts and creative communities in the Midwest, including the Native Nations and tribes in the region. Historically, community art funding has not invested in disabled artists, so increased support for this group will improve accessibility in the arts. Also, it advocates for arts being viable employment, which is often overlooked by funding agencies that support people with disabilities. Established in 2022, the award honors the late James Edward Scherbarth, a dedicated visual artist and advocate for arts access. From 2023 to 2025, 27 visual artists (9 each year) from the region will be recognized, with their work showcased on the Arts Midwest website. Each of the recipients will receive \$3,000 of unrestricted funds to support their artistic journey. Please join us in celebrating the creativity the awardees bring to the Midwest and explore some of their works below and on the Art Midwest [website](#).



Charlie Reynolds (Dexter, Michigan)



Lindsey Row-Heyveld
(Decorah, Iowa)



Carly "Car" Reigger (Madison, Wisconsin)



Danielle "Elle" Billing
(Enderlin, North Dakota)



Mark Hansen
(Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

Ally Corner: Gifts that keep on giving

We all strive to give thoughtful gifts. This year we ask you to consider not only who will be receiving the gifts but also where you purchase them. When you choose to purchase gifts locally or from small businesses it has a big impact. Not only is money spent locally more likely to remain in the community, but small businesses are significantly more likely to support community causes. As more and more big box companies remove support for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, choosing to shop small allows us to not only support our communities but causes we care about. Beyond strengthening local economies, shopping minority own small businesses help close the racial wealth gap while supporting cultural diversity and promoting entrepreneurial equity. The Holiday Season is a busy time of year for all of us, and there is no shame in snagging some great deals with online shopping in the few minutes of spare time you find. Luckily there are a variety of online resources that will help you find and shop small and/or minority owned businesses. Below we have provided some resources to help you find the unique gifts you have been searching for, but this is by no means an exhaustive list and there are plenty of other great options out there for you to discover.

Michigan Businesses

Woman Owned

- [Women in Hospitality Leadership](#)
- [Michigan Women's Marketplace](#)
- [Detroit Mom](#)
- [Detroit Metro Times](#)
- [Grand Rapids](#)

LGBTQ+ Owned and Friendly

- [Great Lakes Pride](#)
- [The "Gander - +30 local LGBTQ+-owned businesses](#)
- [Visit Detroit](#)
- [Detroit Metro Times](#)
- [Ann Arbor](#)

Black and Minority Owned

- [Support Black Owned - Michigan](#)
- [Visit Detroit](#)
- [Jackson County](#)

Online Alternatives

Bookstores

- [Bookshop.org](#) - supports independent bookstores
- [Thriftbooks](#) - used books, DVDs, CDs & VHS

Technology

- [Newegg](#)

Small Business

- [ebay](#)
- [Shop My Porch](#)
- [goimagine](#)
- [Esty](#)
- [Google Small Business Filter](#)
- [Amazon Small Business Filter](#)

Minority Owned

- [BLAPP](#)
- [Buy Black](#)
- [Minority Business Enterprise Search](#)
- [Worldwide Queer-Owned Business Map & Online Community Hub](#)
- [American Indian Services](#)
- [USC Native American Student Assembly](#)
- [Sweetgrass Trading Company](#)

Sustainable, and Ethical

- [EarthHero](#)
- [Package Free](#)
- [Made Trade](#)

The members of the MAFS DEIJB Committee wish all of you a delightful holiday season, brimming with light, joy, and happiness. We hope the New Year brings good fortune to all of you and your families. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to become involved with the DEIJB committee or if you come across items that you would like to have shared. You can reach us at miafsdei@gmail.com or you may contact us anonymously.

Warm Wishes -

Kyle Brumm (he/him), Dana Castle (she/her), Lydia Doerr (she/her), Tracy Galarowicz (she/her), Kynzie House (she/her), Maggie Haite (they/them), Taylor Skiles (she/her), Kathleen Quebedeaux (she/her)