

Daffodil Project to honor children of the Holocaust at Hamilton Gardens

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Weathering wind and rain, members of the Hamilton Gardens of Lake Chatuge Inc. Board, ministers from several local churches and invested community persons gathered underneath the Paris Pavilion at Hamilton Gardens on Tuesday, Nov. 7 to prepare for the gardens' upcoming Daffodil Project.

Initiated by Am Yisrael Chai!, a nonprofit Holocaust Education and Awareness organization, the purpose of the Daffodil Project is to build a worldwide "living Holocaust Memorial" with the planting of 1.5 million daffodils around the globe in honor and loving memory of those 1.5 million children that were lost during the devastation of the Holocaust, and to offer support for children who continue to suffer in humanitarian crisis to this day.

Now, Hamilton Gardens and Towns County will be joining the ranks of more than 400,000 daffodils that have been planted in more than 50 locations around the world at various schools, churches, synagogues, college campuses, botanical gardens, municipal gardens and more.

Of those 50 locations, included are cities in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, Canada, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Poland and several other cities and communities across the globe.

And while the beauty and simplicity of the daffodil is a lovely sight to see, espe-



Volunteers of the Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge gather to receive daffodil bulbs in anticipation of the Daffodil Project planting in December. Photo/Lily Avery

cially in full bloom in early spring, there is meaning behind the flower and why, out of the thousands upon thousands of varieties, the daffodil has been chosen to represent these children.

According to daffodil-project.net, "The shape and color of the daffodils represent the Yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. Yellow is the color of remembrance. Daffodils represent our poignant hope for the future. They are resilient and return with a burst of color each spring, signifying hope, renewal and beauty. The daffodils also honor those who survived the Holocaust and went on to build new lives after this dark and difficult period."

Although these blooms are planted in remembrance of

the nearly 2 million children who were brutally killed during the violent rampage of the Nazi invasion in Europe, these daffodils can also be planted in memory or honor of loved ones, Holocaust survivors, for birthdays, births, graduations, weddings and any other significant milestone.

And since Hamilton Gardens, with its beautiful 33-acres of rhododendrons and native blooms, is already home to a Memorial Garden within the acreage to pay tribute and to honor friends and families of the area; it is only fitting that the Children's Memorial Garden for the innocent Holocaust victims join the memorial.

On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m., Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge would like to extend an invitation to attend

the Children's Memorial Garden dedication ceremony in honor of those children. With the planting of 500 daffodil bulbs that afternoon, Hamilton Gardens wishes to memorialize the children who were killed during the Holocaust, showing that their lives will not be forgotten.

During the ceremony, attendees will have the opportunity to read a biography about a child lost to the terrors of the Holocaust and, if they so wish, to plant a daffodil bulb in remembrance of that child.

The dedication ceremony is promised to tug at the heart strings and a life-long memory as Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge plants a permanent reminder and memorial of Holocaust victims.

Towns County Public Library to host 'Polar Express' themed events

By Shawn Jarrard
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As always, the Towns County Public Library has special programs coming up to encourage childhood literacy.

On Nov. 30 at 3:30 p.m., the Hiwassee library staff is inviting children to join them after school for what the library is calling "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree."

During this event, children will paint rocks with Christmas themes for distribution around town in conjunction with the "Hiwassee Rocks" Facebook group, and all materials will be included.

Come December, the library will be welcoming kids to join them "All Aboard the Polar Express."

Yes, that childhood Christmas favorite of so many, both "The Polar Express" book by Chris Van Allsburg and its subsequent film, will be the theme of this year's Christmas program offerings at the library.

Library Branch Manager Debbie Phillips and her staff – the library's helper elves – invite kids to join them to commemorate "the 12 days before Christmas," which they will celebrate leading up to Christmas break for students.

Of course, all activities are free, and parents and students alike will want to jump on the chance to collect free Christmas ornaments that will be made by children participating in the events.

The library will begin its celebration called "All Aboard the Polar Express" with a Dec. 6 kickoff production of "The Polar Express" by the Mountain Regional Puppet Company, starting at 5 p.m.

Everyone attending will get homemade hot chocolate and cookies after the show, and every child who comes



The Towns County Public Library in Hiwassee is always hosting some sort of activity for children, like this day of pumpkin decorating. Photo/Facebook

will receive a Polar Express bell, as seen in the book and movie.

Four lucky children, however, will get their own special anniversary edition of "The Polar Express" book on Dec. 6, and kids will get a chance to win a T-shirt on each day of the Polar Express event.

Then, the library will host more Polar Express activities to allow families to collect unique, handcrafted ornaments on Dec. 13, Dec. 14, Dec. 15 and Dec. 18, each day at 3:30 p.m., conveniently scheduled for after school.

For the final two days of the Christmas reading extravaganza, parents are asked to have their kids at the library at 1 p.m. on Dec. 19, following the 12 p.m. early release from school for Christmas break, and then at 5 p.m. on Dec. 20.

These six days at the library will welcome children to use their imaginations to actually board the Polar Express, where the youngsters will take a figurative train ride through different parts of the book.

Each day of the "12 days before Christmas" will symbolize a craft or a snack, for a total of six collectible ornaments and six snacks – i.e. 12 days – over the six days at the library.

On Dec. 13 at the Towns County Public Library, kids will experience the first and second days before Christmas as their journey aboard the Polar Express leaves home for adventure. It's on this day that the children will make twig ornaments and enjoy Christmas tree snacks.

The very next day, on Dec. 14, children meeting at the library will get to take the train to the forest as they round out the third and fourth days before Christmas aboard the Polar Express. To commemorate the occasion, children will make round wooden ornaments and eat pretzel sticks.

Kids will get to expand their ornament collections even further on Dec. 15, as the Polar Express takes them out over the ice for the fifth and sixth days before Christmas. Before going home, everyone will get to make a wooden sled ornament and receive candy sled treat.

The journey will be only halfway done by Dec. 18, when the library will take kids once again aboard the Polar Express, which will make its way to Santa's workshop. There, children will make square wooden ornaments and eat cheese and cracker snacks to celebrate the seventh and eighth days before Christmas.

On Dec. 19 at 1 p.m., children will spend the ninth and 10th days before Christmas at the "theater" (library), where they will once more be treated to a live production, this time "A Christmas Carol," as performed by Hampstead Stage Company.

After the play, the kids will make sheet music angel ornaments and have popcorn, though four lucky children will get to go home with copies of "A Christmas Carol" book to mark the occasion.

The last day of the train ride "All Aboard the Polar Express" will take place on Dec. 20 at 5 p.m., as the children make it all the way to the North Pole in recognition of the 11th and 12th days before Christmas.

For the Dec. 20 event, children are invited to attend in their pajamas to listen to bedtime stories, after which the children will make snowman ornaments and enjoy ice cream together.

Making the last day aboard the Polar Express even more special will be a visit from Santa himself, and he will give each child who attends a present, and will also be available to pose for pictures.

All materials will be furnished for the events, and residents are encouraged to check the Towns County Library Facebook page or come to the library for more details about everything that's coming up.

Residents can RSVP for the Christmas events by messaging on Facebook or calling the library at (706) 896-6169, though sign-ups are not necessary to attend.

The libraries of the Mountain Regional Library System will be closed Dec. 21 through Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Lighting of Love Light Tree 2017

Chatuge Regional Hospital and Nursing Auxiliary will be sponsoring their annual Love Light Tree Lighting on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the front lobby of Chatuge Regional Hospital. The scholarship is made possible by donations in memory or in honor of individuals throughout the year. The scholarship(s) is awarded to deserving Towns County

High School seniors who are going into the medical field. Rev. Danny Byers of McConnell Baptist Church will bring a short message followed by his guitar playing and singing. Everyone is invited to attend. After the program, refreshments will be served. If you would like to donate to the scholarship program, please fill out the form below and mail to the address below.

Love Light Scholarship
Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary
P. O. Box 986, Hiwassee, GA 30546

Please accept my donation:

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In HONOR of _____

In MEMORY of _____

Acknowledgement to be sent to:

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