



Journey through Thyme

Jodi Schneider McNamee
Columnist

So just what IS figgy pudding?

Christmas is almost here, and 'tis the season for rich food traditions. Some deserts have a special association with the festive holiday season based on old cultures and traditions.

Figgy pudding and fruit cake are just a couple of the traditional desserts that come to mind when thinking about the Christmas season.

During the holiday season, one popular Christmas carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" demands:

"Oh, bring us some figgy pudding..."

What is figgy pudding? Figgy pudding — also known as plum pudding or Christmas pudding is a steamed cake full of raisins, currants and brandy.

Christmas pudding dates way back to medieval England and is traditionally served as part of the Christmas dinner in the United Kingdom, Ireland and in other countries such as Australia, Canada and South Africa, where it was brought in by British emigrants.

The present form of the Christmas pudding is a Victorian dish made of dried fruits such as sultanas, raisins or currants soaked in brandy overnight and then held together by egg and suet, mixed with sugar, bread-crumbs and flavored with spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger.

Despite the name "plum pudding" the pudding contains no actual plums. "Plums" was a term for raisins or currants which are commonly found in this pudding.

The Yule log cake (or Bûche de Noël for French speakers) is an elaborate

creation consisting of a rolled, filled sponge cake, frosted with chocolate buttercream to look like tree bark.

The history of the Yule log cake stretches all the way back to Europe's Iron Age, before the medieval era. Celtic Britons and Europeans would gather to welcome the winter solstice at December's end. People would feast to celebrate the days finally becoming longer, signaling the end of the winter season. To cleanse the air of the previous year's events and to usher in the spring, families would burn logs decorated with holly, pinecones or ivy. Wine and salt were also often used to anoint the logs.

Those hearths were perfect for baking cakes. That is where the first Yule log cake was baked, and judging from

See **DESSERTS** on page 21

New Year's Eve Bash

8th Annual • No Cover!
- 8PM to 2AM -
Drink Specials • Balloon Drop
Midnight Champagne Toast!
Monday • Dec. 31
LIVE MUSIC & DANCING WITH
THE HWY 97 BAND
175 N. Larch St.
541-549-6114
hardtailsoregon.com

The Belfry

Dec. 22 / Sat / 8PM
WATKINS GLEN

Oregon-based rock-n-rollers strive to create magical musical moments while paying tribute to the repertoires of The Band, The Grateful Dead, Little Feat and The Allman Brothers Band. One of the most authentic, inventive and compelling rock-n-roll bands in the West.

Rent The Belfry! Perfect venue for live music, weddings, receptions, meetings, or any event.

PUB OPENS 1 HOUR PRIOR TO SHOWS
BelfryEvents.com
541-815-9122

CHOPS BISTRO

Book your office & holiday parties now

LIVE MUSIC

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays!

Join us for amazing food and specialty cocktails in our lounge or dining room.

370 E Cascade Ave. | 541-549-6015
Lounge open daily 4:30 p.m. to close | Dining Room daily 5 p.m. to close
Closed Mondays

SISTERS AREA

Entertainment & Events

DEC 19 WED

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

DEC 20 THUR

Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

DEC 20 THUR

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

DEC 21 FRI

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

DEC 22 SAT

Cork Cellars Live Music with Jazz Folks 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No cover! For information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

DEC 22 SAT

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

DEC 23 SUN

The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Artist in Residence with Kisha Jarrett 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Writer, Director, Actor, Storyteller. All are welcome. For additional information call 541-638-7001.

DEC 25 TUES

Merry Christmas!

DEC 26 WED

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

DEC 27 THUR

Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

DEC 27 THUR

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

DEC 28 FRI

Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries and shops feature live entertainment and refreshments, every fourth Friday of the month! For additional information go to sistersartsassociation.org.

DEC 28 FRI

Hood Avenue Art More Small Wonders Artists' Reception 4 to 7 p.m. With live entertainment and refreshments! For more info go to hoodavenueart.com.

DEC 28 FRI

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

DEC 29 SAT

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

DEC 31 MON

Hardtails Bar & Grill Annual New Year's Eve Bash 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Live Music with The HWY 97 Band! No cover! For information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

DEC 31 MON

The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse New Year's Eve Party 9 p.m. to midnight at The Lodge Tower. DJ Jimbo and dancing. Advanced ticket purchase required. Visit TheSuttleLodge.com/happenings.

Ukes!

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Ukeladies performed at a community holiday showcase at Sisters High School last week.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCY.

WRITER, DIRECTOR, ACTOR, AND STORYTELLER

KISHA JARRETT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
4PM-6PM
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL