

early 19th century, but it really was Dickens who popularized the notion of telling ghost stories on Christmas Eve. The Christmas issues of the magazines he edited, *Household Words* and (after 1859) *All the Year Round*, regularly included ghost stories — not just A Christmas Carol but also works like The Chimes and The Haunted Man, both of which also feature an unhappy man who changes his ways after visitation by a ghost. Dickens' publications, which were not just winter-themed but explicitly linked to Christmas, helped forge a bond between the holiday and ghost stories; Christmas Eve, he would claim in 'The Seven Poor Travellers' (1854), is the 'witching time for story-telling.'"

"A Christmas Carol" is, of course, the most famous Christmas ghost story of them all. The tale of the miser Ebenezer Scrooge and the Christmas Eve visitation of four spirits whose revelations change his outlook on life permeated Christmas culture around the globe.

Concern for the treatment of the poor in a rapidly changing capitalist world, and the possibility of personal redemption are themes that have resonated over 176 years, through countless film and stage adaptations. Each interpretation of the tale emphasizes different aspects of the story. Some are pretty spooky; others more lighthearted. A BBC/FX production under the creative leadership of Steven Knight ("Taboo" and Peaky Blinders") and set



PHOTO PUBLIC DOMAIN

Marley's ghost visits Scrooge in an Arthur Rackham illustration of "A Christmas Carol."

to premier on December 19 is going all-in on the spooky take. It looks downright terrifying.

So if your tastes run to chills a little deeper than mere winter's cold, apparitions that can't be written off, as Scrooge hopes, as an "undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato," you are not alone — in fact, you are part of an old — even ancient — tradition.

*<https://norse-mythology.org/the-wild-hunt/>

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Hood Avenue Art

Hood Avenue Art is celebrating five years in Sisters, creating a beautiful space where patrons can enjoy innovative artwork in a friendly and intimate setting, while visiting with the working artists who staff the gallery.

Hood Avenue Art is the perfect place to find truly unique gifts for the special people on your list. There are many small works available that are ideal for gifts and are economically priced. The gallery's 15 local artists offer many personalized services like commissions, portraits, customized fabrication, and classes.

Hood Avenue Art is home to a wide range of artists working in a variety of media, so there truly is something for everyone there. It's also a destination for a lively party during each Fourth Friday Art Stroll, offering great wine, music from local artists and a chance to chat with creators and makers.

The artists welcome you to visit and spend time searching for that perfect gift.



Fika Sisters Coffeehouse

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse is inspired by the daily Swedish ritual of taking a break with a friend over coffee and a pastry. It's all about slowing down and finding time for friends, and colleagues.

There's no time when Fika is more valuable than during the busy holiday season.

Come in and enjoy seasonal treats like ginger cookies, eggnogs, and glogg cake, made with the traditional Swedish holiday drink.

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse is offering some special holiday cheer this year. On December 4, all day long, you can enjoy gingerbread decorating — buy gingerbread people in groups of two, four, six or 12 and decorate them as you like. Mark St. Lucia's Day with traditional prinsesstårta on December 13. Enjoy learning new Christmas wrapping techniques on December 16 from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. — with a visit from Santa Claus!

Connect, take a break — experience Fika.

