

**1** "Sesame Street the Musical." Elmo, Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch and more perform over a dozen timeless songs, as well as some new tunes. Varying times through Aug. 4. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. NW, Atlanta. 404-873-3391. [sesamestreetmusical.com](http://sesamestreetmusical.com).



TOP  
**3**



**2** Justin Timberlake. Following his first release in six years, the singer returns to the stage with "Everything I Thought It Was." 7:30 p.m. Monday. \$125-plus. State Farm Arena, 1 State Farm Drive, Atlanta. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**3** VaHi Summerfest. In its 39th year, the festival features an artist market, live entertainment and a kids' fest. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Free. Kickoff party 6-9 p.m. Friday, \$10-\$15. Virginia Avenue between Ponce de Leon and North Highland Avenue. [vahi.org](http://vahi.org).

More things to do, **B3**



DINING REVIEW



The Count Me In, a two-tiered, first-course menu item offered at Damsel, features cauliflower hummus served with crudites, a selection of charcuterie and cheese, tomato jam and lavash crackers. SONDER MEDIA HOUSE

## Cabaret outshines the food at Damsel

It's well worth visiting this ambitious venture for the entertainment.

By Ligaya Figueras  
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After an evening at Damsel, you'll walk out raving about the powerful vocal cords of chanteuse Loren Rosko and the high-energy cabaret's female dance troupe. You'll also likely comment on the 16-foot LED screen or the seductive, Roaring '20s-inspired surroundings — dark velvet curtains, curved booths with plush upholstery, brass chandeliers and an art deco metal screen between the dining room-stage and the bar.

Open since late March, Damsel is a venture by restaurateur Dave Green, who also owns the Select in Sandy Springs.

Green and his staff went to impressive lengths to bring this project to fruition, culling elements from cabarets around the world and holding auditions for singers and dancers in Los Angeles, New York and Atlanta.

They also figured out the restaurant's complicated food service, which requires its own choreography so as not to disrupt the performances. Service pauses during the four-minute acts, which run every 15 minutes. As soon as the lights come back on, a well-staffed floor team brings out the next round of small plates.

There are dainty, crispy crepe cones filled with a lobster salad seasoned with tarragon, chives and a brown butter aioli that

Damsel continued on **B1**

FATHER'S DAY



Row, row, row your boat: Family Canoe Day is part of the fun programming for Father's Day at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Other activities include hiking, zip lining and clinics to learn about wildlife. COURTESY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER

# Celebrate Dad's Day – his way

Choose an adventure for him from these outside-the-box ideas that put a more personalized spin on gifting.

By Carolyn Desalu  
For the AJC

Father's Day is another opportunity to show love to that special guy in your life with affectionate words, cards, gifts or tickets to events that cater to his interests.

For outdoor adventurers, ideas include a family canoe outing, hiking, zip lining and driving sporty ATVs. Speaking of driving, dads who like shiny cars can head over to a museum with exhibits including retro, sports and movie cars. If he enjoys being bestowed with gifts, how about something to satiate his sweet tooth; or that can help him create a comedy act; or that provides the tools for a Father's Day cookout?

Regardless of your choice, he's sure to appreciate your effort and thoughtfulness. While this guide features eight events and gifts for Father's Day on June 16, the suggestions also should work for other special men in your life, including stepdads, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles and other men who step up and serve as father figures. Happy Father's Day, fellas!

Events and activities

**Your 3rd Spot.** This Westside restaurant, beer garden and gaming center offers a Father's Day package featuring unlimited access to all experiences (except bowling) for up to three hours plus a special welcome gift for dads. Activities include a rock-decorating station, family photo

Father's Day continued on **B1**



Zoom over to Savoy Automobile Museum in Cartersville to take in five exhibits that would get the engine of any car-loving dad racing. Exhibits include cars made famous in movies. COURTESY OF ONLY IN CARTERSVILLE BARTOW

THINGS TO DO

## Observe Juneteenth at events across metro Atlanta

Learn about the holiday's history, or get outdoors for a parade or a sunrise hike.

By Najja Parker  
[najja.parker@coxinc.com](mailto:najja.parker@coxinc.com)

On June 19, the nation will pause to commemorate Juneteenth. The holiday recognizes the day enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, were freed in 1865 — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

While Juneteenth only became a federal holiday in 2021, it has been celebrated among Black communities for more than 150 years.

Looking to mark the occasion? There are plenty of ways to observe the day, from festivals to parades to performances. Take a look at our roundup to start planning.

**Juneteenth Weekend Celebration**

Mix and mingle with the NAACP's Cobb County branch for a three-day Juneteenth celebration. Dress to impress at

the all-white party next Friday. On Saturday, enjoy food, live entertainment and the vendors market. Salute the men in your life for a special Father's Day event.

6-11 p.m. June 14; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. June 15; 2-6 p.m. June 16. Free. Marietta Square, 99 S. Park Square NE, Marietta. 770-425-5757, [cobbnaacp.org](http://cobbnaacp.org).

**Juneteenth at Atlanta History Center**

Join museum curators and archivists

Juneteenth continued on **B2**



The Juneteenth Atlanta Parade and Music Festival returns to Piedmont Park for its 12th year. The parade will be June 22. AJC 2023



## GO GUIDE

### Damsel

continued from B1

covers a surprise bite of avocado mousse. The highly noshable Count Me In is a two-tiered tray of cauliflower hummus with crudites and a selection of prosciutto and chorizo, wedges of blue cheese and manchego, a dab of tomato jam and crispy lavash. The thin-cut Damsel fries are so deliciously seasoned with a house red curry blend that they don't need dipping in the accompanying Thai green chile coconut sauce. And crispy arancini offer heady bites of truffle and melted tommé cheese.

These hors d'oeuvres don't require utensils, which means you won't hear the annoying clanking of knives and forks during dance numbers. And, to prepare you for them, the first thing servers bring you is a towlette to wipe your fingers.

The majority of the 15 a la carte dishes also make their way onto the three- and four-course fixed menus.

The standard four-course meal includes the Count Me In and fries for the first course; lobster cones, tuna spring rolls, and beet and goat cheese Neapolitan for the second; arancini, wagyu nigiri and tenderloin sliders for the third; and shrimp phyllo and mini Wellington for the fourth. The nigiri was more salt and smoke than meat on rounded rice. The jumble of shredded phyllo strands wrapped around the shrimp on a stick dominated the flavor of the fresh seafood, just as creamed spinach, bacon and pecorino did in the scallops Rockefeller, a pricey \$19 add-on.

Damsel accommodates vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free diners, but my experience with a special menu was disappointing. For the same cost (\$125) as the regular four-course omnivorous menu, my vegetarian selection brought far less food and forgettable bites: a small portion of chewy, jerky-like beet slices so coated in peppercorns that I had to wipe them off to avoid choking and sneezing; a mushroom spring roll with only hints of mushroom; globs of avocado mousse sandwiched between tiny cucumber disks; exactly six chips of vegetable tempura with sweet chile



The thin-cut fries at Damsel are seasoned with a house red curry blend and served with Thai coconut sauce. SONDER MEDIA HOUSE



You can enjoy a swan song cocktail and a lobster cone at Damsel, which also offers a cabaret show and a dance party. COURTESY OF DAMSEL

sauce; two pieces of mushroom (again) nigiri; and unseasoned fried tofu skewers with the same Thai coconut sauce that comes with the fries.

The bar has serviceable cocktails, which are preferable to a rather uninteresting wine list.

The night doesn't have to end when your two-hour table time is up. The show goes until 11 p.m. and then turns into a dance party Thursdays through Saturdays. You can take a perch at the downstairs bar and still have a fine view of the stage. Order another round if you're unfazed by a bill that can equal the cost of a steakhouse dinner.

There are new acts all the time at Damsel, and the high-energy performers interact with diners.

The restaurant continues to evolve, too. Since my visits, Damsel has turned the upstairs into a lobster and steak bar, with a flambé dessert cart coming soon. Themed weekend brunches and a drag show are in the works.

I'll hope that, in future visits to this singular space, the food deserves as rousing an ovation as the show.

#### DAMSEL

##### 1 out of 4 stars (good)

**Food:** new American; mostly small plates and finger food

**Service:** energetic, syncs with cabaret acts

**Noise level:** noisy — it's dinner with a show

**Recommended dishes:** cauliflower hummus with crudites, charcuterie, cheeses and lavash crackers; fries; lobster cones; truffle arancini; tenderloin sliders

**Vegetarian dishes:** fries, beet and goat cheese Neapolitan, crisped vegetables; special menus available upon request

**Alcohol:** full bar

**Price range:** \$12-\$30 for a la carte menu items, \$60 for three-course menu, \$125 for four-course menu (excluding drinks, tax and gratuity)

**Hours:** 4 p.m.-midnight Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursdays, 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays (hours vary for downstairs and upstairs bar and shows)

**Accessibility:** wheelchair lift near entrance, elevator to upstairs lounge and rooftop bar

**Parking:** deck is free for first 2 hours

**Nearest MARTA station:** 3.3 miles to Arts Center

**Reservations:** highly recommended for 2-hour dinner-and-show seating; reservations require a \$50-per-person deposit

**Outdoor dining:** rooftop bar with some covered seating

**Takeout:** no

**Address, phone:** 1235 Chattahoochee Ave. NW, Atlanta; 404-549-2480

**Website:** damselatl.com

### Father's Day

continued from B1

booth with props and custom backgrounds and a scavenger hunt with a party package grand prize. A six-course family-style, taste-and-explore menu — including grilled chicken tacos, slow-smoked pork ribs, rib-eye skewers and New Orleans-style beignets — is available for an additional cost. Reservations recommended. Father's Day package, \$30 per person; six-course meal, \$40. Complimentary entrance for those under 3 and over 65. Noon-8 p.m. for families; after 8 p.m., 21 and older. June 16. 400 Chattahoochee Row NW, Atlanta. 770-230-3033, your3rdspot.com.

**Family Food Fest.** For its 10th annual event, this downtown gathering triples as a fundraiser, food-tasting experience and Father's Day celebration. With admission covering the all-you-can-eat menu, guests will be able to feast on appetizers, entrees, desserts and beverages. Additionally, live entertainment by rapper and hip-hop producer Bone Crusher; chef demonstrations; a health zone for screenings; and kids zone with face painting, balloon art, caricatures and cotton candy will enhance the experience. The event is hosted by Atlanta Culinary Charities, which provides after-school and weekend programs for boys and girls. \$20-\$35 in advance; \$25-\$40 at the door. 3-6 p.m. June 16. Georgia Freight Depot, 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Atlanta. familyfoodfestatl.com.

**Chattahoochee Nature Center.** Start the day with Breakfast with Butterflies, part of the fun Father's Day programming at the Roswell attraction, featuring a light breakfast while butterflies flutter around the area with their vibrant wings. During Family Canoe Day, visitors can participate in an introductory canoe session on Beaver Pond that includes paddling techniques, equipment and practice time. With 127 acres to explore, visitors may partake of other activities such as hiking, zip lining and clinics to learn about wildlife. Free general admission for fathers and grandfathers on June 16; regular admission is \$14-\$20; children 2 and under, free. Breakfast with Butterflies is offered at 10 a.m.-noon June 16; admission is \$15-\$25 for ages 4 and up. Family Canoe Day happens from noon-1:30 p.m. June 16; \$12.50-\$25 for ages 5 and up; registration required by June 13



On the Eco-Spider Vehicle ATV tours at Historic Banning Mills, you can enjoy the striking scenery along trails and over the Big Shoals suspension bridge that rises 170 feet above Snake Creek. Biking options also are available. COURTESY OF HISTORIC BANNING MILLS



West Georgia's 300-acre Historic Banning Mills offers five Zip Line Canopy Tour options for dads who want to unleash their inner Tarzan. Other outdoor adventure options include kayaking, hiking and wall climbing. COURTESY OF HISTORIC BANNING MILLS

for this event. 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell. 770-992-2055, chattnatrecenter.org.

**Savoy Automobile Museum.** Explore this Cartersville attraction with five exhibits including a "Rad Cars" collection of automobiles built in the '80s and '90s such as a 1981 DeLorean and 1999 Plymouth Prowler. Other exhibits include Movie Cars, showcasing a 1949 Buick Roadmaster Convertible from "Rain Man" and several other automobiles from favorite films. \$5-\$15; children 2 and younger, free. 3 Savoy Lane, Cartersville. 770-416-1500, savoy-museum.org.

**Historic Banning Mills.** Guests can explore this 300-acre West Georgia adventure resort that offers zip lining, free-standing wall climbing, horseback riding, Eco-Spider ATV tours and aerial walking or biking adventure courses across suspension bridges that span a scenic gorge. Extend the holiday with overnight accommodations in cabins, inn rooms or treehouse rooms. Prices vary for activities and accommodations. 205 Horseshoe Dam Road, Whitesburg. 770-834-9149, historicbanningmills.com.

#### Gifts

**Piece of Cake.** Surprise him with something delicious from this cake bakery with nine locations throughout metro Atlanta. Flavors include a classic yellow cake with layers of chocolate frosting, red velvet, carrot and lemon pound cake. Cheese straws, cookies, bags of coffee and gluten-free treats are also available. Prices vary. pieceofcakeinc.com.

**Brass Monkey.** Get a good chuckle any day from 100 pocket-size cards aptly called Emergency Dad Jokes. The "endless groan-worthy one-liners" printed on the cards include "What has five toes and isn't your foot? My foot," and "I always knock before opening the fridge. Just in case there's salad dressing inside." Well, OK, then. ... As a bonus, there's a spot on the back of each card to write a personalized note to him, perfect for sweet sentiments, advice and new jokes. \$12. brassmonkey-goods.com.



He — and, hopefully, everyone else — will get a good chuckle out of Emergency Dad Jokes cards. COURTESY OF BRASS MONKEY

#### Ninja Woodfire Pro Connect

XL Outdoor Grill & Smoker. For dads who fancy themselves as barbecue experts, turn the heat up with this outdoor grill that features seven cooking functions including grill, smoker, roast, air crisp and broil. The grill-master can even monitor and control cooking from his phone. The package also includes an air fry basket, roasting lifters, cover and all-purpose blend pellets, perfect if he's ready to celebrate Father's Day with a family cookout. \$449.75. ninjakitchen.com.



For a dad who likes both gaming and a beer garden, among other attractions, Your 3rd Spot on the Westside might hit the bull's-eye. Plus, Dad can enjoy a meal. COURTESY OF ERIC LEVIN

### Juneteenth

continued from B1

for a celebration of Black culinary history and baseball. The center will highlight two special exhibits: "More Than Brave: The Life of Henry Aaron" and "Barbecue Nation." Attendees can also participate in a variety of other activities, including a cooking demonstration, theater performance and bird walk.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 15. Free. Atlanta History Center, 130 W. Paces Ferry Road NW, Atlanta. 404-814-4000, atlantahistory-center.com.

#### Juneteenth Celebration of Togetherness

Enjoy a day of art, music, food and community at this all-day festival. Stop by the pop-up exhibit, catch a live art performance and watch a family-friendly comedy show. There will also be an artist market featuring local artists, artisans and entrepreneurs, and plenty of food in case you get hungry.

2-8 p.m. June 15. Free. Woodstock Arts Event Green, 113 Elm St., Woodstock. 678-494-4251, woodstockarts.org/events/juneteenth-2024.

#### Jubilee: A Juneteenth Celebration

Visit the National Center for

Civil and Human Rights to take part in an array of activities, including chalk drawing, a scavenger hunt and trivia. On certain days, museum-goers will also have an opportunity to craft a Juneteenth flag and watch a performance by Giwayen Mata, an all-Black women's dance, percussion and vocal ensemble.

Noon-5 p.m. June 15; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. June 16; Noon-5 p.m. June 19. Adults: \$19.99, children: \$15.99, seniors: \$17.99. National Center for Civil and Human Rights, 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., Atlanta. 678-999-8990, civilandhumanrights.org.

#### Juneteenth Sunrise Hike

Spend some time in nature during this early morning walk hosted by Black Everywhere, an organization dedicated to bringing Black people together through various social activities. Meet in front of the Hyatt House before heading to the Atlanta Beltline for a two-hour trek. Feel free to bring your pups. Just make sure they're on a leash.

8-10 a.m. June 16. Free. Hyatt House Atlanta/Downtown, 431 Marietta St. NW, Atlanta. 562-600-0049, blackeverywhere.com.

#### Juneteenth Sneaker Customizing Class

Express your creativity by attending this sneaker customizing class, where you can paint, do-

dle and draw on a pair of kicks. All artistic experience levels are welcome as instructors will be on-site to help you learn techniques such as color blending and patterns. Bring your own shoes or purchase new ones when you arrive.

Noon-4 p.m. June 16. \$100 if you bring your own shoes. \$250 if you purchase shoes on-site. Sole Play, 106 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur. 404-600-8400, instagram.com/p/C7ArOCRucY8/.

#### Juneteenth with Djoli Kelen

Teach your children about the importance of the holiday by spending a day at the Children's Museum of Atlanta. Kids will learn about the history of Juneteenth and how it's celebrated throughout the country. There will be a special performance at the CMA stage with Djoli Kelen, an organization committed to highlighting the music, dance and culture of the African diaspora.

Noon/June 18. \$19.95. Children's Museum of Atlanta, 275 Centennial Olympic Park Drive NW, Atlanta. 404-659-5437, childrensmuseumatlanta.org.

#### Juneteenth Inclusion Celebration

The city of College Park is hosting its first Juneteenth celebration, and the theme is "Know the Past, Shape the Future." The

event will feature a parade, vendors fair and kids zone. There will also be music and a movie on the lawn.

10 a.m.-8 p.m. June 19. Free. College Park Center Auditorium, 3631 Main St., College Park. 404-669-3773, collegeparkca.com.

#### Juneteenth at City Springs

Spend an evening on City Green at City Springs for multiple celebrations. Start by grabbing a bite to eat, participating in arts and crafts, and viewing educational exhibits on the lawn. Then head to Byers Lobby for a special arts presentation, featuring creations from local high school students. Next, make your way to Byers Theater for a showcase, starring drummers, dancers and vocalists. Finally, end the night with an African dance workshop and drum circle back on the lawn.

5-8 p.m. June 19. Free. City Springs, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs. 770-730-5600, sandyspringsga.gov/juneteenth.

#### Peace Love Juneteenth

Show off your painting skills by taking a special class led by instructor Rachel U. All experience levels are welcome, and feel free to bring your favorite bottle of wine. After completing your masterpiece, you can take it home and hang it on your wall.

7-9 p.m. June 19. \$40. Painting With A Twist, 178 Crogan St., Suite 230, Lawrenceville. 678-226-4970, paintingwithatwist.com.

#### Juneteenth Atlanta Parade and Music Festival

This annual three-day festival is returning to Piedmont Park for its 12th year. The big parade is taking place June 22, while the 5K Freedom Run is happening June 23. New this year is an auto show, which will put low riders, trucks and bikes on full display. Plus, there will be plenty of other activities, from live music and dance troupes to mouthwatering cuisine and homemade goods at the artist markets.

Noon-10 p.m. June 21; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. June 22; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. June 23. Free. Piedmont Park, 1322 Monroe Drive, Atlanta. 404-587-5457, juneteenthatl.com.

#### Juneteenth Powder Springs

Celebrate unity and culture with a car, truck and motorcycle show. You can also stop by the artist market to buy local goods and nosh on treats from the food vendors. And don't forget to enter a raffle for a chance to win a 42-inch television.

2-8 p.m. June 22. Free. Thurman Springs Park, 4485 Pineview Drive, Powder Springs. 504-481-2857, juneteenthpowdersprings.org.