

# Outword

No. 518 • December 11, 2014 • outwordmagazine.com

oh happy  
holidays!



The Do's and  
Don'ts of  
Decorating

*page 9*

The 12 DVDs of  
Christmas

*page 14*

Gift Ideas

*start on page 17*



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# Announcements

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## Golden Rule Services Seeks Board Applicants For 2015

Golden Rule Services (GRS) is seeking individuals with professional backgrounds to join their Board of Directors for 2015.

Those with backgrounds in, or currently working in the fields of, law enforcement, education, employment development, social work, mental health, banking and finance, politics and law are encouraged to apply.

To maintain a diverse board, applicants from the People of Color, youth, HIV-positive, LGBT and differently-abled communities are sought.

Board members should actively participant in fundraising, community outreach, and furthering the GRS mission objectives.

Golden Rule Services is a nonprofit organization founded in January 2000 to reduce health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities within diverse and underserved communities through the provision of culturally competent programs

and resources.

Individuals interested in joining the Board of Directors should call Clarmundo Sullivan at 916-427-4653.

## Come to Oak Park for a Family Christmas

Bring the kids on Saturday, December 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to meet Santa and get their picture taken with him.

There will be presents for kids, free BBQ, hot dogs, chips, drinks, face-painting, and balloons.

For the adults, bring a toy and enjoy the fun. There will also be tours of the remodeled clinic including the new mural, and sign ups for free clinics that are offered.

This free event is courtesy of Dr. Neil Flynn and Dr. Morrissey of Priorities Clinic, Harm Reduction Services and the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic, and will be held at 3647 40th St.

## Wisdom Project to Screen LGBT *Gen Silent*

The Wisdom Project -LGBT Elders will have a showing of the documentary 'Gen Silent', on Thursday, December 11th at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Meetings are at the E.M. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street Sacramento, from 2 to 4 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. LGBT Elders and Allies are welcome to join.

The film *Gen Silent* sheds light on the unique issues facing LGBT people as they age, and follows the day-to-day challenges of six aging people who identify as LGBT. The one hour film viewing will be followed by an open conversation.

For meore information, visit [www.servant-hearts.org](http://www.servant-hearts.org).

## Poetic Coming-Out Story Captured In *Silent Youth*



*Silent Youth* unfolds when two boys bump into each other on the streets of Berlin, unaware that a casual sequence of events will change their lives drastically, centering on those oft-forgotten moments of falling in love, from the first approach to awkwardly sitting across from each other not knowing what to say. Watch the trailer (English subtitles) at [vimeo.com/112205269](http://vimeo.com/112205269), or VOD at [www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com).

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# Lavender Heights On Track to Become Official District

by Bonnie Osborn

The Midtown Sacramento "gay-borhood," historically known as Lavender Heights, may soon get an official designation, one that reflects the history of the area as home to many of Sacramento's LGBT community members and businesses.



Members of an ad hoc committee to designate an area of Midtown as Lavender Heights met with city councilmember Steve Hansen (grey coat) at his office on Nov. 17, and presented him with polling information that showed widespread support for the plan.

A large number of LGBT and civic leaders have been meeting for the past several months to develop a plan to brand an area of Midtown as the Lavender Heights district, similar to other designated areas such as the Handle District, Alkali Flats and Mansion Heights.

Boundaries of the Lavender Heights zone would be I Street on the north, N Street on the south, 19th Street on the west and 21st Street on the east.

Community leaders say the Lavender Heights designation will have a number of benefits, including creating a cohesive business district; enhancing tourism; celebrating the history and diversity of Sacramento; and creating an identified "home" for the LGBT community.

"I'm excited to see this grassroots effort become reality, because it will formalize the recognition of this part of Midtown as Lavender Heights," said Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen, who has helped facilitate discussion of the process of achieving the designation. "We've all called it Lavender Heights for a generation, and it's time to make it official, which will be good for the city and the community."

Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce President Paul Weubbe has been coordinating meetings between advocates of the official designation and area home owners associations and business organizations.

"The Lavender Heights area has been a part of the Sacramento community since the mid-'70s, and it is well overdue to have it officially named, as a welcoming community of Sacramento," Weubbe said.

Gary Federer, who previously participated in the effort to win an official designation for Mansion Flats, and Terry Sidie, owner of

FACES, polled business owners within the designated zone, and both reported near unanimous support for the Lavender Heights designation.

Federer believes the designation will be a boost for Sacramento business and tourism. "A designated Lavender Heights area that the city of Sacramento recognizes as the LGBT area would help market the area," Federer said. "Folks who google 'Sacramento Gay Area' from another state or country will now see that Sacramento's LGBT area is Lavender Heights. The recognition and tourist draw will be huge for Sacramento."

Many U.S. cities, including Philadelphia, New York City and Richmond, Virginia, have implemented highly successful marketing campaigns targeted to gay tourists. The Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau has for the past few years featured LGBT-owned clubs and annual events such as Sacramento Pride and Rainbow Festival on its website and in marketing materials.

Branding of the Lavender Heights district will begin with modest steps such as specially designed street signs similar to those in Mansion Flats. The group also is working with the Midtown Business Association and city officials to create special rainbow-painted crosswalks at the intersection of 20th and K streets.

The group plans to launch a fundraising campaign to finance the signs and crosswalk painting. Other plans for future consideration include construction of a Lavender Heights arch at the 20th and K intersection and installation of brackets and banners on street light poles within the zone.

More information about the effort to obtain official designation for Lavender Heights and future plans is available at [www.facebook.com/lavenderheightssac](http://www.facebook.com/lavenderheightssac).



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# Commentary

## America, Sit Down, I Can Be Silent No Longer

*commentary by Jovi Radtke*

I am at a complete loss for words and I have been crying off and on for the past week about what's been going on in Ferguson and, really, everywhere for however long we've been force fed with this ungodly wool over our eyes.

I have been "silent" because I have been reading and listening. I have been "silent" because I have been processing. I have been "silent" because I'm scared of my level of anger and pain. I don't do anyone any justice by being silent. None of us can afford the greater cost of what our silence will bring.

I cannot imagine how scary it must be to live in THIS WORLD in THIS DAY AND AGE as a black person, as a person of any color really. I cannot imagine what it must feel like to get pulled over five times a week

kids? Not "black" kids, not "good" kids, not "bad" kids, and definitely not (anymore, thank God) "anonymous" kids... AMERICA, you are killing kids. Kids. KIDS.

These kids could've been so much for you. These kids would've been your tax payers, don't you care about your bottom line anymore?! These kids could've made such a difference, don't you care about your poster pride anymore?! These kids – we will never know.

And I can't hold this in, not anymore. I

"....All people matter. All races matter. All beating hearts matter. All bleeding hearts matter. All kids matter. All adults matter. All voices matter. All citizens matter. All non-citizens matter. All experiences matter."

for no other reason than driving while "not white" (I have been a passenger to this too many times).

I cannot imagine getting shot for no reason other than living while "not white". I cannot imagine losing some of my best friends, some of the people who have never hesitated to SAVE MY LIFE, literally, to this kind of racist hate.

I am currently shedding so many heaving tears over the fact that I cannot always protect them. I am so white. I am so, so privileged. I am so sick to my stomach about all of this.

My best friend just told me (as I'm sitting here writing this) that she wants to feel more about this situation, but "as a black queer woman" she's "too used to it", she doesn't know how to feel more, not anymore.

I am not okay with this. I am not okay with any marginalized demographic feeling preventatively ostracized because of commonplace discrimination. What the fuck, America?! This is what we're CHOOSING to do to each other?!

America, do you realize that you're killing

owe this to so many. I owe this to you, to my nieces that, if I have anything to do with it, will grow up recognizing differences in people and praise everything that makes US ALL A WHOLE DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

I will not stand idly by and watch KIDS continue to get MURDERED.

AMERICA, get your shit together or sit the fuck down! Let those of us that actually care take the wheel. I'm done.

Well, almost – let me finish by saying that all lives matter. All people matter. All races matter. All beating hearts matter. All bleeding hearts matter. All kids matter. All adults matter. All voices matter. All citizens matter. All non-citizens matter. All experiences matter.

All of their names matter. All of their breaths matter. All of the bloodshed on the conscience of this country should matter more than ever. Friends, please don't let this go. Keep yelling, keep screaming, keep raging, YAWP your disapproval until you have no lungs left – all of OUR KIDS deserve this much.



# B.R.A.V.E. Reacts To Suicide Of 12 Year Old Folsom Boy

by Ken Pierce

The recent suicide of 12 year old Folsom Jr. High Student, Ronin Shimizu, has stirred up terrifying memories and raw anger for Lisa Ford Berry, founder of B.R.A.V.E. (Bullies Really Are Violating Everyone) Society, a local peer abuse and bullying awareness non-profit.

It was on her son's seventeenth birthday, September 15, 2008 when Michael Joseph Berry went to his school at Mira Loma High School in Sacramento and shot himself dead out of sheer desperation of the endless bullying which he had brought up to school supervisors several times and which all the teachers and his "friends" were aware of, but did nothing about.

Except for the age difference, Berry stated that the there are similarities to the bullycide of her son to Shimizu in that they were both "perceived to be gay simply because of their mannerisms and the things in which they participated."

Shimizu was a member of the Vista Jr. Eagles cheerleading squad and neighbors reported that he also made his own clothes. Michael was a powder puff cheerleader and though he did not make his own clothes, he certainly had great taste in picking out his own wardrobe.

"Both boys were perceived to be gay and besides the fact neither of them actually came out, they were both tormented until they broke. It's not about them having mental or emotional problems it is about the ongoing peer abuse that goes unchecked in many of our schools," stated Berry.

"I think if Michael had been gay or he had said he was rather than being perceived he was gay, I think we would have had better support and at least been able to look to the LGBTQ community for resources."

"The perceived kids are in a no-man's land and that has to change," exclaimed Berry.

According to the Sac Bee the administration from the Folsom Cordova Unified School District said that they were well aware of several reports of Shimizu being bullied at school and district officials "looked into each one of them and investigated them fully and took appropriate

action for each instance."

Of course the outcome of the investigations and the action the district took was not disclosed. In the end, the district failed to help Shimizu. Which was why his parents were in the process of pulling him from Folsom Jr. High to be home schooled due to the ongoing abuse.

In any case another young life was lost due to bullycide.

Berry states she is once again going on one of her letter writing campaigns because in the six years since her son's bullycide "the only thing that has changed is I am older".

"There is a reoccurring theme. We need to stomp out the idea that there is something wrong with being gay. Boys are being destroyed over the perception and we have to work to educate all involved. We need to do something about the stigma. It seriously hurts my soul. I can't explain the pain".

"I wish I had the power to turn this around. No one seems to care. A majority of administrators, educators and law makers pay lip service to the laws we do have which have no teeth to truly protect our children."

"In the meantime we mourn the loss of our children. I know there are those in Folsom who are feeling a great deal of guilt for not wanting to get involved, (for failing) to say something and do something to stop the bullying that drove young Ronin to come to the conclusion that it is better to be dead than to endure the constant torment no one could - or would stop."

For more information about B.R.A.V.E. Society email Lisa Ford Berry at LisaFordBerry@bravesociety.org or visit their web site, www.bravesociety.org, or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/BRAVESociety).

## Sacramento World AIDS Day Remembrances

Sacramento commemorated World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 with ceremonies at FACES, the Sacramento LGBT Centers Q-Spot for youth and Badlands.

The event at FACES was hosted by Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna, FACES and the Capital City AIDS Fund. At the ceremony Terrie Sidie presented a check on behalf of CGNIE for \$1,500 to CCAF and CCAF presented the keys to a specially equipped golf cart called the Condom Connection to Sacramento City College.

Sac LGBT Center Board President David Heitstuman spoke at the ceremony about the need to continue the fight against new HIV/AIDS infections and to end the stigmatizing of those already affected. His prepared remarks can be read at www.OutwordMagazine.com.



Sacramento LGBT Community Center Board President David Heitstuman and Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna

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# Briefly Put

## Arkansas & Mississippi Marriage Bans Overturned

U.S. District Judges in the Southern District of Mississippi and Eastern District of Arkansas have overturned those state's bans on same-sex marriage in decisions released on Nov. 25

In Mississippi, U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker ruled in favor of two same-sex couples who had challenged a 2004 constitutional amendment and earlier state law defining marriage as between a man and a woman. The couples argued the ban violated the U.S. Constitution and discriminated based on sexual orientation.

Both decisions are on hold anticipating appeals.

## Florida Same-Sex Couples to Begin Marriages After Jan. 5

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has refused to extend a stay on marriages for same-sex couples in Florida. The stay expires at the end of the day on January 5, meaning that same-sex couples should be free to receive marriage licenses after that.

"The 11th Circuit did the right thing today (Dec. 3) by refusing to delay marriages for same-sex couples in Florida any longer," said Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry. "As the first joyful weddings take place, Floridians will see firsthand that the freedom to marry helps families and communities, and harms no one. And against this backdrop of happy families and more marriages, we hope the court soon hands down a final ruling that ensures that all committed couples in the Sunshine State, as well as Georgia and Alabama, finally have the freedom to marry the person they love."

## AZ Pastor Says Kill the Gays to End AIDS

Pastor Steven Anderson, who runs Tempe's Faithful Word Baptist Church, in a Nov. 30 sermon citing his Bible said "It was right there in the Bible all along ... It's curable right there ... if you executed the homos like God recommends, you wouldn't have all this AIDS running rampant."

Not afraid of controversy, Anderson has also called for the end of remarriage after divorce, saying that it was adultery, and that women should be silent in church if not life, saying that "... I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man."

Tempe's Faithful Word Baptist Church is listed as a hate group by the SPLC and RightWingWatch.org has quoted his as saying "I do hate homosexuals and if hating homosexuals makes our church a hate group then that's what we are."

## DOL Announces Final Rule to Protect LGBT Workers

A new rule prohibiting discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity in the federal contracting workforce was announced by the U.S. Department of Labor on December 3.

The rule implements Executive Order 13672, which was signed by President Obama on July 21, and tasks the department with updating the rules adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the classes it protects.

The final rule will become effective 120 days after its publication in the Federal Register and will apply to federal contracts entered into or modified on or after that date. More information is available at [www.dol.gov/ofccp/LGBT](http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/LGBT).

## Report Shows Military Not Complying

According to a new report, Military Services Have Failed To Comply With New Defense Department Rules On Transgender Personnel, written by Palm Center Legal Co-Director Diane Mazur, the military services have not yet complied with DOD rules, and transgender personnel are not yet allowed to serve.

The report explains that DOD's new regulation permits the Services to designate conditions as administratively disqualifying only if those conditions impair fitness for duty or deployment.

However, according to a March 2014 report by a former U.S. Surgeon General and retired General and Flag Officers, transgender identity does not compromise fitness for duty or deployment. As a result, the report states, "Service-level regulations are now out of compliance with DOD rules and must be revised."

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# The Do's and Don'ts of Decorating for the Holidays

by Mark Snyder

Having grown up in our family business, William Glen, where we create holiday looks and themes that inspire and entertain, decorating trees, wreaths and garlands became as much a learned task as mowing the lawn, cleaning gutters and doing the dishes after a family dinner.

My time as a holiday buyer has exposed me to many wonderful tricks and some terrible pitfalls to be avoided during the season, including the do's and the don'ts of tree decorating.

Here are a few little tips for the holidays.

**Do what makes you happy:**

Ultimately this is your holiday and your home. Do what looks good in your home.

**Invest in a good artificial tree:**

We all love that smell of pine. It recalls sweet memories of youth. Bringing home the tree, watching dad fuss with tangled light strands. But did you know that a full-sized tree can take 10 years to grow. Consider buying a quality pre-lit tree. LED lights are available on most trees now and offer longer life and the colors have become more authentic.

**Use florals:**

We incorporate flowers and large character pieces to fill empty spots and add a distinct character. Gently placed stems or sprigs soften the look of your tree. Try this trick: Group quality silk flowers into a bouquet. Zip-tie the stems tightly. Place them into spaces on the tree. This creates a soft texture while adding dramatic affect.

**Don't waste money on cheap lights:**

When buying lights, look at the spacing between them. The cost of light-sets is primarily driven by copper pricing, and setting the lights closer together reduces the copper required, thereby reducing prices. However, this also means you need more sets and that can result in an over-lit tree that resembles a trussed up turkey left over from November's big dinner. Cheap lights will burn out quickly and may only last one or two seasons. Good lights can last 10 or more.

**Don't truss your tree up with ribbon:**

Ribbon should offer a gentle texture. Don't make your tree look like a spiral cut ham.

**Don't buy a tree so full you have no room for ornaments:**

From a design perspective, full trees are a no-no. Find a tree with spacing to allow your ornaments to freely hang. Hang your ornaments close to the branch so you see the ornament and not the hook or string.

**Bonus:**

To increase the life of your light set, replace all burnt out lights as soon as possible. Multiple dead lights increase the strain on the remaining lights thereby increasing the likelihood that your set will blow out.

*Mark Snyder is the co-owner of William Glen, Inc. Stores are located in Old Sacramento and in the Sierra Oaks area of Sacramento. [www.ShopWilliamGlen.com](http://www.ShopWilliamGlen.com).*



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# Navidad Celestial Brightens the Holidays at the Crocker

by Charles Peer

As guests to the Crocker Art Museum enter the museum this holiday season, they will be treated to a new work of art created by Michaels Sestak titled *Navidad Celestial*, loosely translated to mean a constellation of stars for Christmas, that is hanging in the main entrance.

It would be easy to refer to the installation as “chandelier like,” but it is much more than that, and is the culmination of seven months of planning and work that incorporates the craftsmanship of artisans from Mexico and here in Sacramento.

Scott Shields, Assistant Director and Chief Curator of the Crocker Art Museum, had envisioned a hanging lighted piece for the space and instantly thought of Sestak as a designer for it. Sestak had gained a reputation for his lighting skills of outdoor spaces, most recently with his work in lighting The Governor’s Mansion for the holidays.

Once engaged for the piece, Sestak set about the design process working closely with Shields.

Sacramento.

“Many thanks to Scott Johnson (of Capital Sheet Metal) for figuring out the myriad of holes needed to not only hold the lights and send power to the lights, but to create a structurally sound “super-structure” that would work,” said Sestak.

The installation of the final piece, weighing just under 500 lbs, was a challenge in itself.

“A one-of-a-kind piece is the most challenging to figure out how to install,” said Sestak. “All sorts of issues come into play. A piece of art had never been hung from the ceiling in the front entry.”

A recessed threaded pipe had been installed in the ceiling when the new wing of the museum was built, but had not been tested until the piece



**Michael Sestak on the second floor of the Crocker Art Museum overlooking his sculpture *Navidad Celestial*. The majority of the sculpture, which hangs 13.5 feet from the ceiling and is eight feet in diameter, is below the rail and must be seen in person to truly appreciate its grandeur and beauty.**

“I pretty much had free reign to create the concept,” Sestak told *Outword*. “Scott was very receptive to my original idea. As it developed, I kept him informed on how it was taking shape.”

*Navidad Celestial* incorporates 50 stars, each one lighted. The stars are based on the Moravian Star that was originated in Niesky, Germany and have become symbols of the Star of Bethlehem in Nativity scenes.

The stars have become widely popular in Mexican culture, where they are made of tin and lit by candles, so it was only natural when Sestak turned to Mexico and its craftsmen to create the stars for *Navidad Celestial*.

The majority of the stars in Sestak’s piece are “estrella de hojalata,” meaning “tin star.” Thirty two of them are tin stars and 18 are glass stars of which nine are white and nine are multi-colored.

All of the stars have 18 points and were made in Mexico by a company called Adobe Martha Figueroa in a small town near Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, México.

Sestak gave the stars a modern touch by replacing the candles with LED lights and programming software that allows for an infinite number of ideas and colors to manifest. “Look for a pleasing show that will animate all stars and give kinetic action while changing colors,” said Sestak.

The entire piece hangs from a “snowflake” made of three layers of aluminum, each layer being one inch larger to give a 3-D effect, fabricated by a team at Capital Sheet Metal in

was hung. Earlier reports from engineers were that the internal support behind the ceiling was rated for only 150 lbs., but upon further visual inspection a metal strapping was discovered that was believed to be capable of holding 500 lbs, about the weight of the piece.

“Many folks were watching during the initial installation phase of lowering the scissor lift used to raise the piece for installation to see if it would carry the weight,” said Sestak “It did! I could only imagine the newspaper headlines if it didn’t!”

Additional assistance came from Stephen Crouse of SMC Landscape Design who put Sestak’s vision on paper. “He understood my idea and developed drawings that showed the snowflake and the relation of how the stars would hang without colliding with each other. He also created the working documents that facilitated the construction and a 3D animation that depicted a rendering of the final piece that was used to show museum officials and donors. He is a true asset.”

Funding and support for the sculpture came from many sources, and they are recognized on a plaque at the museum. “To the many donors that saw my vision and ability to execute this grand undertaking, I say thank you!” said Sestak.

Navidad Celestial was created for the holiday season, and it’s up to the museum officials and the curatorial staff to make a decision about leaving it up after January 31. “I’m sure they can be encouraged by a public campaign,” Sestak said with a broad smile.

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# Get Into the Holiday Spirit at Sacramento Area Museums

In December, many of the 30 members of Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) are featuring a number of holiday-related events and activities that invite you to imagine, explore and discover.

In addition to its fascinating Gold Rush past, the Sacramento area is rich with an amazing array of state-of-the-art museums and historic sites that offer visitors the chance to explore California's fine art, history, science, and wildlife treasures all year long.

So don't miss out on these treats for the whole family:

of their day-long ride through Sacramento. And, cards and letters deposited in the Pony Express mailbox at the Sacramento History Museum will be stamped and delivered to loved ones across the country! Visit [www.historicoldsac.org](http://www.historicoldsac.org)

## Holiday Scents at the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center

Most people are already very familiar



## Gingerbread Holiday at the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum

Through Dec. 21, visit the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum to see dozens of sweet confections on display during the 27th Annual Gingerbread Holiday celebration! Always free to visit, there will be houses, mansions, shacks and other gingerbread structures created by school children, families, bakery academy students and adults. Plus, guests can vote for their favorite entry! For more, visit [www.scoe.net/oldsacschoolhouse](http://www.scoe.net/oldsacschoolhouse)

## Santa's Workshop Open House at the Verge Center for the Arts

On Dec. 13, celebrate the holiday season with Verge Center for the Arts and enjoy making fun arts and crafts! From noon to 4 p.m., guests will create holiday lanterns, patterned wrapping paper, paper snowflakes, garlands and ornaments, too. Crafters will move from station to station making holiday masterpieces and enjoying a festive afternoon. Visit [vergeart.com](http://vergeart.com)

## Victorian Holiday Ball & Pony Express Ride

Also on Dec. 13, there will be a traditional and free Victorian Holiday Ball complete with music and dancing! Guests are welcome to enjoy the festivities and can learn the fashionable dance steps of the time, highlighted by the Pony Express' ride into town to collect the mail as part

with the sights and sounds of the holidays, but during this special weekend, Dec. 20 & 21, the Discovery Museum is focused on the scents, too! Think spicy cinnamon, delicious chestnuts, fragrant pine cones and more! Guests can visit special "smell" stations set up to test your nose on some mystery holiday aromas. Plus, kids craft a scented sachet to take home or give as a gift! For more, visit [www.TheDiscovery.org](http://www.TheDiscovery.org).

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums](http://www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums), follow them on Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the newly updated and user-friendly website at [www.SacMuseums.org](http://www.SacMuseums.org).

## A Simple Emigrant Christmas at Sutter's Fort

On Dec. 13, docents in period attire will interpret and demonstrate a variety of early holiday traditions and cultural activities similar to what early emigrants did in the 1840s.

Entertaining vignettes will be set up that showcase a few of the diverse holiday scenes that will include food, music, decorations and other holiday traditions. Plus, the Fort will be celebrating a 19th century holiday with toys on display from that era for viewing and a captivating storyteller will be on hand to share stories about what Christmas was like in 1848. Visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org)

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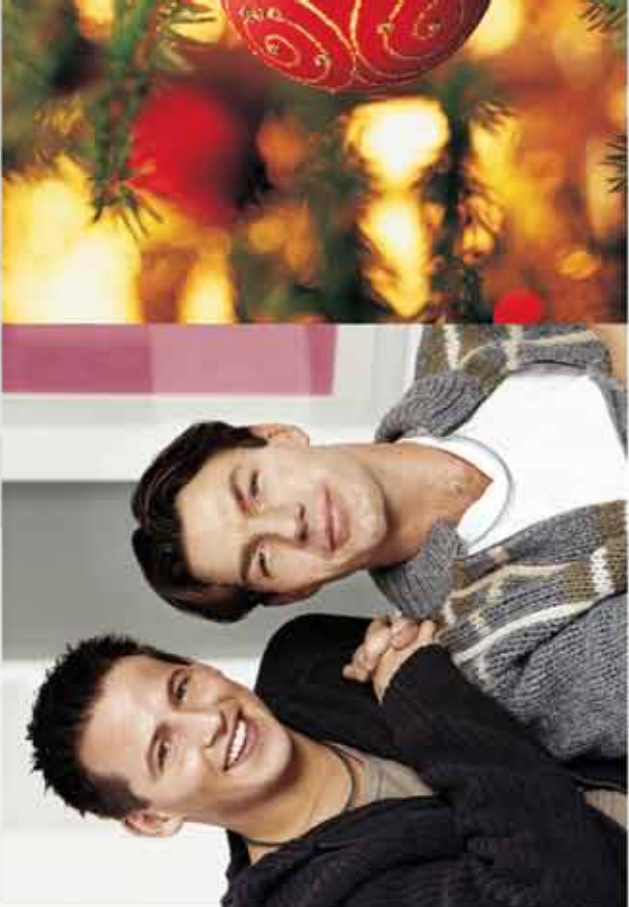
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# The 12 DVDs of Christmas by Chris Narloch

Have you finished – started? –your holiday shopping yet? My 12 DVDs of Christmas include a wide range of genres, with titles for every age, gender and taste.

Here are a dozen suggestions for the movie lovers on your list.

**Gremlins** – Has it really been thirty years since Joe Dante's super-fun roller-coaster ride about mischievous furry critters was released? This two-disc special edition Blu-ray has plenty of extra features, including interviews with producer Steven Spielberg and the cast and crew.

**The Skeleton Twins** – Don't miss this surprisingly strong indie "dramedy" about a brother and sister with tons of emotional baggage who reunite after both unsuccessfully attempt suicide. If that sounds like a major bummer of a premise, I should quickly add that the movie stars hilarious SNL alums Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader.

**Ben-Hur** – Interviews with film historian T. Gene Hatcher and the movie's star, Charlton Heston, enhance this Two Disc Blu-ray Edition of William Wyler's unforgettable epic, starring Charlton Heston as Judah Ben-Hur.

**The Dog** – This fascinating documentary depicts the real-life events that inspired the early Al Pacino classic *Dog Day Afternoon*, which follows John Wojtowicz's 1972 attempt to rob a Brooklyn bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation.

## Audrey Hepburn Collection

– This box gathers three of the Academy Award winner's most famous films in one Blu-ray collection for the first time. Hepburn's famous costars here include William Holden and Humphrey Bogart (*Sabrina*), Fred Astaire (*Funny Face*) and George Peppard (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*).

## Gone With The Wind 75th Anniversary Ultimate Collector's Edition

– If you really want to impress your sweetie, spring for this stunning new collectible DVD set that includes such fun memorabilia as a replica of Rhett Butler's handkerchief and a music box paperweight that plays "Tara's Theme."

## Once Upon A Time In America

– The Godfather films are more famous, but here is another modern classic crime drama that should also be widely seen, directed by the great Sergio Leone and starring Robert De Niro and James Woods. This magnificent Extended Director's Cut contains 22 minutes of restored footage that was cut from Leone's original masterpiece.

**What If** – If your honey appreciates a bright, well-written "rom-com," get them this charming, funny film starring Daniel Radcliffe and Zoe Kazan as a pair of 20-somethings trying to figure out what they mean to each other.

## Frozen Sing Along Edition

– Experience *Frozen* in this new, full-length Sing-Along Edition that is full of fun for the whole family. The DVD allows you to watch the original theatrical version of the film or follow the lyrics on screen with a bouncing frozen snowflake.

## Penny Dreadful Season One

– Josh Hartnett resurfaced on this Showtime original series, which also stars Eva Green and Timothy Dalton. Equal parts drama and thriller, the show weaves together classic origin stories from the horror genre involving such timeless characters as Victor Frankenstein and Dorian Gray, who join a core of original characters in a dark and brutal quest to save a soul.

## True Blood: The Complete Series

– All good things must come to an end, and the creators of *True Blood* finally put a stake in this popular vampire series after seven seasons. The complete series set, on 33 discs, includes all 80 episodes of *True Blood*.

**Mood Indigo** – The foreign film lover on your shopping list should enjoy this quirky French film by Michel Gondry, inspired by *Froth on the Daydream*, a French novel with a cult following. Audrey Tautou and Romain Duris star as a pair of lovers whose whirlwind courtship is set in a charmingly surreal Paris.

# Discover Holiday Arts and Crafts

If you are ready to escape the mall madness and midtown traffic, you might want to consider a getaway to the bucolic riverside town of Ryde, where you can truly enjoy the holiday spirit with friends and family, and still get some Christmas shopping done – arts & crafts style.

Ryde sits next to the Sacramento River on Hwy 160 approximately 25 miles south of Sacramento and three miles south of Walnut Grove. The can't miss stop in the quiet little town is Delta Creative Works, housed in an 1892 historic building that has in its long life been the home to many enterprises, including a post office, galleries and antique stores.

Today it is the home of James Cooper's new art enterprise appropriately named Delta Creative Works, a showplace for the unique blend of fine art and crafts from a core group of local and regional artists that

is quickly gaining renown as the Ryde Art Experience.

Inside the stately building you will find works like unique stain glass by Mickey Abbey; custom sculpture and furniture designs by James Cooper ([www.legacywooddesigns.com](http://www.legacywooddesigns.com)), in both wood and metals; and blown glass by Rene Stienkey in many forms. You will also find cosmic lighted designs, original jewelry, fine art paintings in oils, acrylics and pastels, fabulous Reto fashion designs in leather, and other seasonal art surprises.

Cooper's creativity is well known in

Sacramento through his work with the Midtown Murals Project, The Legacy Trees Project and programs collaborating with neighbors, friends and the larger Sacramento community including small businesses.

One treat you won't want to miss is the *Holiday Art Celebration*, with music, spiced cider, and of course, special discounts, on Saturday & Sunday December, 13 & 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Delta Creative Works is open Friday through Monday and is located at 14286 Hwy 160 in Ryde. For hours and more information, call 916-910-4458.



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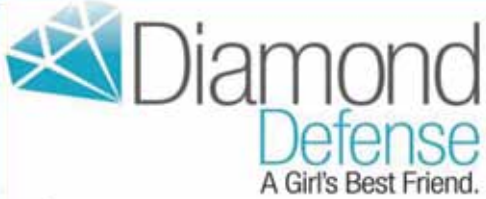
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A group of fearless women fight for their right to go topless in public, as they smash societal taboos one bare breast at a time in *Free the Nipple*. Based on a true story, this spirited satire follows New York City activists Liv and With, who take their crusade for gender equality from the streets of the urban jungle to the courts. Watch the trailer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX8czRjkaBI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX8czRjkaBI). Available from

## Boys Is a Wholesomely Romantic Gay Teen Film with an Irresistible Pop Soundtrack



In this beautiful and uplifting gay romance, two teen track stars discover first love as they train for the biggest relay race of their young lives, starring Dutch phenom Gijs Blom and Ko Zandvliet. Watch the trailer at [www.wolfevideo.com/products/boys/](http://www.wolfevideo.com/products/boys/).

## Hozier Gets Cozier with the Top of the Charts

by Chris Narloch

Hozier's smash single "Take Me to Church" was inspired by the Irish singer's first breakup and his love of Nina Simone, but the song is also gaining notoriety for its risky subject matter and its raw, edgy video.

The song's lyrics take on the Catholic Church and were inspired by the conservative religious culture in Hozier's native country.

"Sexuality, and sexual orientation – regardless of orientation – is just natural," Hozier told *The Cut*. "An act of sex is one of the most human things."

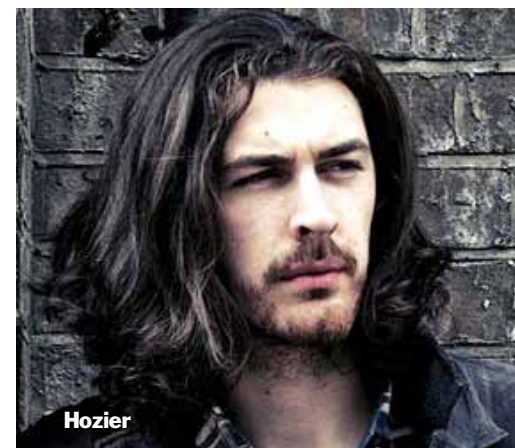
"But an organization like the church, say, through its doctrine, would undermine humanity by successfully teaching shame about sexual orientation – that it is sinful, or that it offends God. The song is about asserting yourself and reclaiming your humanity through an act of love," said the singer.

"Take Me To Church" has become an anthem for the LGBT community thanks in part to its shocking video, which takes on persecution in another part of the world, depicting abuses suffered by the gay

community in Russia.

The video currently has over 34 million views and can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYSVMgR6pw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYSVMgR6pw).

Hozier will perform live in Sacramento at Ace of Spades, on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7 p.m.



Hozier



# Gift Ideas

## Is Your Holiday Shopping Leaving You Befuddled?

by Mikey Rox

What do you get a gay who has everything? Take your pick from these ideas, perfect for LGBT foodies, techies, explorers and more.

### Zoop Adult Onesies

Lazy winter weekends are meant for lounging around the house, stuffing your face with your favorite junk foods, and binge watching whatever TV marathon du jour strikes your fancy. Now you can dress the part of a casual-cum-comfortable loafer with fleece jumpsuits from Zoop, hooded, footless adult onesies that feature two side-zipped pockets and a front zipper that spans from head to crotch. A cross between your favorite pair of sweats and the iconic union suit (sadly without the butt flap), these onesies come in an array of fun styles, including American Flag, licensed collegiate teams, and a clever "Hangover Tux." \$169-\$249; [zoopitup.com](http://zoopitup.com)

### Biedermeier Tumblers

Have someone on your list with seriously expensive taste? You may want to rethink that relationship to stay in the black, but if you're committed to spending a pretty penny to make him or her happy, the Biedermeier Tumblers from Stillfried Wien are a formidable gift option. These fine hand-painted, enamel-technique glasses feature scenes of high society townsfolk from 1800s Vienna as they wander about in the elaborate dress of the day. Eight variations are currently available with additional pieces forthcoming to create a collection. \$209 per piece; [stillfried.com](http://stillfried.com)

### Yellow Leaf Hammocks

It's never too early to start thinking spring, and a gift from Yellow Leaf Hammock has relaxation written all over it. Not literally of course, but you can

show your true

colors with the rainbow-colored, woven hammock sure to bring all the boys to the yard. Gift includes the 'Hammocking 101 Guide for Easy Hanging' and a signature tote. \$179; [yellowleafhammocks.com](http://yellowleafhammocks.com)

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Original, Black Pepper, and Red Chile & Garlic flavors. These sweet-and-savory condiments are a fantastic finishing touch to dishes like seared scallops and baked chicken, or create complete appetizers like the Bacon Jam Gorgonzola Flatbread, the recipe for which arrives with the gift. \$39.99; [thebaconjams.com](http://thebaconjams.com)

### Tom of Finland Cologne

Based on the Finnish artist renowned for his stylized homoerotic fetish art and the indelible mark he left on late



20th-century gay culture, Tom of Finland Etat Libre d'Orange (a fancy phrase for cologne) layers masculine notes like pine, pepper and cypress between more predominant notes of lemon, suede and musk. A fragrance that transcends sexuality while serving as an ode to the male body, it swings more our way than the other. \$90; [min.com](http://min.com)

### MSC Skin Care + Home Gift Set

Well-groomed gentlemen will enjoy the soul-soothing gift sets from MSC Skin Care + Home, which include an all-natural hand-cut artisan soap, soy candle in a reusable glass jar, and a fragrant reed diffuser to spread the holiday cheer all over the house. Available in several sophisticated scents – like spicy Orange, Clove and Cinnamon; seasonal Rosemary and Spearmint; and the warm-and-cozy Bourbon Vanilla and Oak (which also happens to be an award winner) – each and every MSC product is made by hand in Brooklyn, New York. \$68; [mscskin.com](http://mscskin.com)



### In Blue Handmade Leather Goods

Niche men's accessories are sort of having a moment, and In Blue Handmade is at the forefront of the movement. This #1 handmade leather-goods company on Etsy specializes in stylish travel journals, wallets, belts, flask covers, guitar straps, tote bags and other accessories – and each and every piece is made by 30-year-old

Handmade's

Lynn Schroeder, In Blue founder. These 100% cowhide products are great as stand-alone gifts while others are ideal as stocking stuffers. \$14-\$45; [inbluehandmade.com](http://inbluehandmade.com)

### Viking Kitchenware

The everyday Bobby Flay in your life will appreciate Viking's new line of professional cookware, cutlery and bakeware, which is 100% manufactured in the United States. From stainless steel cookware with a unique multi-ply construction to bakeware coated with a ceramic finish to contemporary cutlery handcrafted from German steel, this trio of culinary staples has the potential to help turn the diner-dining experience you're used to into five-star cuisine fit for a Nordic king. [vikingculinaryproducts.com](http://vikingculinaryproducts.com)



### Big Bottom Boxes

Gay-owned Big Bottom Market, a unique gourmet food, wine and general store in the heart of the Russian River Valley of Sonoma County, recently launched a gift box program affectionately know as – what else? – Big Bottom Boxes. Hey, girl, hey. These handsome gift boxes are brimming with artisanal home and foodstuffs from local Northern California providers with a hint of L.A., and they're perfect for gifting at any holiday occasion, including brunch, cocktail parties, or formal dinners. \$25-\$75; [bigbottommarket.com](http://bigbottommarket.com)

### Fantastic Fitted Tees

There were two apparel companies I discovered this season



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# Gift Ideas

that I subsequently fell in love with, so it's only fair that I give them both proper billing as a gift pick. Skip N' Whistle has an expansive selection of tees (\$24.50) featuring statement icons or phrases along with a bevy of other products like messenger bags and ugly Christmas sweaters. Beardsome, on the other hand, has based its business on a signature style of T-shirt (\$25) that features the faceless silhouettes of famous dudes' beards – and they're pretty effin' rad. [skipnwhistle.com](http://skipnwhistle.com); [ruggedlybeardsome.com](http://ruggedlybeardsome.com)

### YouBeam

Cut the cable this Christmas with YouBeam, a WiFi-connected device that allows users to plug into their TV and beam free Internet content directly to the set via the YouBeam video browser. Users can surf the Web just like any other browser or type what they're looking for into the YouBeam search bar. When a user finds the video they want (and as long as it's compatible; that may or may not include those dirty videos you like, by the way), the "Beam" button changes from red to green. Press the button and the video starts automatically. Ain't the future grand? \$49.95 + \$3.99 monthly subscription; [youbeam.com](http://youbeam.com)

### Chakra Necklace Rainbow

Show off your pride and your sense of style with the Chakra Necklace Rainbow, a mix of colored stones wire-wrapped to create a free-form dangle charm necklace. Handmade and featuring a sterling silver or 14K gold-filled 18.5-inch chain, this fun accessory is available in a spectrum of gemstones or chakras, depending on your partner's preference. Items can be gift boxed upon request. \$54; [etsy.com/shop/maggiesjewelry](http://etsy.com/shop/maggiesjewelry)

### Droll Doormats

Your Millennial friends will marvel at the witty doormats from Reed Wilson Design that feature urban slang like "Sup," "Howdy" and "Holla." Inscribed in flock lettering on a coconut-fiber feet wiper, these spontaneous and upbeat greetings are suitable for indoor and outdoor areas. \$50; [purehome.com](http://purehome.com)

### Tom of Finland Towels & Linens

For your die-hard Tom of Finland friends, why not let them wrap themselves up in these towels, sheets and duvets directly imported from Finland. The first release of Tom of Finland X Finlayson includes two designs titled Fellows and Face to Face, featuring works by Tom. Check it out at [byfinlayson.com](http://byfinlayson.com)

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world, including CNN.com, The Huffington Post, The Advocate, Instinct magazine, and Out.com, among many others. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*



# Musical Nostalgia From Annie Lennox & Bette Midler

by Chris Narloch

If you're shopping for CDs for yourself or others this holiday season, the latest discs by the Divine Miss M and the former lead singer of Eurythmics are an absolute must.

The young women who rule the pop charts these days should take a lesson from these two consummate performers, who are still making vital and vivid music after decades in the business.

### Annie Lennox – Nostalgia

The Scottish diva gives us a dozen new tracks here, and there isn't a dud anywhere on the entire disc.

Lennox's impeccable song choices on this cover album include some of the finest American standards ever written.

Most impressive are the singer's back-to-back versions of two songs made famous by the great Billie Holiday, "Strange Fruit" and "God Bless The Child."

Her take on "Strange Fruit," a harrowing song about lynching, rivals Holiday's in both vocal restraint and emotional power.

Elsewhere, Lennox loosens up and has a lot of fun with "I Put A Spell On You," and she also nails such ambitious material as "Georgia On My Mind," "Mood Indigo," "Summertime," "The Nearness of You" and "I Can Dream, Can't I?"



### Bette Midler – It's The Girls!

Like Annie Lennox, The Divine Miss M is looking back on her latest CD. She puts a fresh coat of paint on fifteen fabulous classic tunes, on a concept album dedicated to girl groups like the Supremes, Shangri-Las, the Shirelles, and the

Midler's cover of "Mr. Sandman" is as sweet as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," the smash hit from the '70s that first put the singer on the map.

Nobody sings a torch song quite like Midler, and "Baby It's You" and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" are as sublime as you would expect.

Her countrified version of "You Can't Hurry Love" actually works too, and the singer's takes on "Too Many Fish In The Sea," "It's The Girl" and "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon" are nothing short of charming.





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## John Dances into the Tower

by Chris Narloch

The internationally renowned DV8 Physical Theatre brings its powerful production of *John* to NT Live (National Theatre Live) on Tuesday, December 23, at 7 p.m.

The modern dance performance was captured live and will be shown locally at Tower Theatre on Broadway in Sacramento.

Based on a true story, John's biography makes harrowing reading: having witnessed his mother's death from a heroin overdose at the age of 10, he was brought up in care homes and briefly married before falling into a cycle of drug addiction and petty theft.

After years of rough living, he was eventually sentenced to five years in prison for a violent crime he had no recollection of committing.

Upon his release, John eventually came to find sanctuary and a sense of belonging in the world of gay saunas. The anonymity of the bathhouse provided a refuge from his troubled past.

Hannes Longolf gives an intensely moving performance as John in this gripping real-life story, which combines spoken word and movement and was directed by Lloyd Newson.

*John* contains adult themes, strong language and nudity. 18+ only. Tickets for the filmed performance are \$20 and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre box office and at [www.readingcinemas.com](http://www.readingcinemas.com).



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# Red-Hot Kathleen Turner Kicks Ass In Berkeley

by Chris Narloch

“Next time I tell you someone from Texas should not be President of the United States please pay attention.” That’s a joke at the expense of George Bush from the late, great political humorist Molly Ivins.

Ivins is the subject of *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*, a very funny one-woman show starring Kathleen Turner, now playing at Berkeley Rep.

The sharp-tongued Ivins wasn’t afraid to cut anyone down to size, and I imagine she would have enjoyed Turner’s portrayal of her as a fearless firebrand.

Turner is clearly relishing playing Ivins, and she delivers Molly’s priceless quotes with great skill.

Michael Barrett Austin does well with his small role as “helper,” but the play is really Turner’s (and Ivins’) show from beginning to end.

Dressed down in blue denim, Turner is a no-nonsense broad playing a no-nonsense broad, and she makes the play work even though there really isn’t much to work with.

Basically, we watch and listen as Ivins looks back over her lengthy and successful career as a journalist while trying to meet a deadline and come to terms with the death of her difficult father.

There isn’t any more to the plot than that, but it makes for a hilarious 75-minute show anyway, thanks to the good humor and talent of both Ivins and Kathleen Turner.

Given the liberal climate in Berkeley, it’s not surprising that *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* has already been extended to January 11, 2015.

If you’re a fan of Ivins and/or Turner, you



should not miss it. Visit [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org).

*Note: For more theater coverage, including local shows playing in Sacramento this holiday season, please visit [www.outwordmagazine.com](http://www.outwordmagazine.com).*

## Light Your Way to Holiday Fun at Global Winter Wonderland

by Chris Narloch

The big news on the holiday entertainment front in River City this year is the area debut of Global Winter Wonderland, a bright idea (literally) that is billed as the “largest lantern festival outside of China.”

Covering 17 acres at Cal Expo, the holiday extravaganza boasts some 70 eco-friendly lantern installations, some of which are so large that curious drivers are exiting the Cap City freeway to get a better look.

Those adventurous patrons are being rewarded with a unique new attraction for Sacramento that promises to let customers “travel the world in one night.”

My favorite among the installations is a stunning cluster of colorful “umbrella trees” that upon closer inspection cleverly utilize hundreds of used water bottles.

And the spectacular replica of the Great Wall of China is large enough to allow visitors to walk up its steps and pose for photographs against a lovely green backdrop.

Other lanterns include models of the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, and the Statue of

[outwordmagazine.com](http://outwordmagazine.com)

Liberty. There is also a section of holiday-themed installations as well as a dinosaur maze for the kiddies.

Sacramento is only the third city to host this particular lantern festival, which incorporates 100 tons of steel, millions of LEDs, and 200,000 feet of silk.

I could have done without the tinny, over-amplified Christmas music blaring out of small speakers in places, and the hit-and-miss “fair-style” food is mostly over-priced.

But those quibbles aside, this is a wonderful example of a potential holiday cash grab that instead is a fun and artistic way to spend a couple of hours with the entire family.

Global Winter Wonderland runs through January 4, 2015 at Cal Expo. Visit [www.globalwonderland.com](http://www.globalwonderland.com).

December 11, 2014 - December 25, 2014 • Volume 27 • Issue 23 • No. 518

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# Gift Ideas

## Gifts to Get You in the Holiday Spirit

by Mikey Rox

Whether you are looking for a special gift or just for a BYOB, here's some choices that should lift anyone's spirits, and some fun recipes to impress your own guest.

### Justin Wines

Cozy up and warm your cockles with Justin Vineyard and Winery's 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, a medium-bodied red flush with notes of dark fruit, black cherry, and vanilla. Serve with grilled meats for a complementary pairing, or savor it by itself with someone special. \$25; justinwine.com

### Domain Chandon, Blanc de Noirs Limited Edition 2014

You'll be the party star when you show up with this shiny bottle of bubbly that features a festive message on each bottle. Fruit-driven and full flavored, this sparkling wine features a blend of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, and follows in the footsteps of Chandon's wildly popular "American Summer" limited-edition release. \$17.95; sherry-lehmann.com

### Glassful Wine Subscription

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### JP Chenet Ice Edition

Ice is back with a brand new edition! JP Chenet, the best-selling French wine in the world, bring its effervescence to America with a well-balance sparkling wine that's jolly enough for jingle-bell time. \$20; jpchenet.com

Recipe: New Beginnings



#### Ingredients:

1/2 oz. fresh-squeezed lime juice  
(approximately 1/2 lime)

1/2 oz. pomegranate juice

1/2 oz. simple syrup

4 oz. JP Chenet Ice Edition

Pomegranate seeds (approximately 15-20) for garnish

In a large-bowled wine glass or goblet, blend lime juice, pomegranate juice and simple syrup. Add ice and top with JP Chenet Ice Edition. Add pomegranate seeds and gently stir to swirl seeds into the drink.

### Ritual Mixers

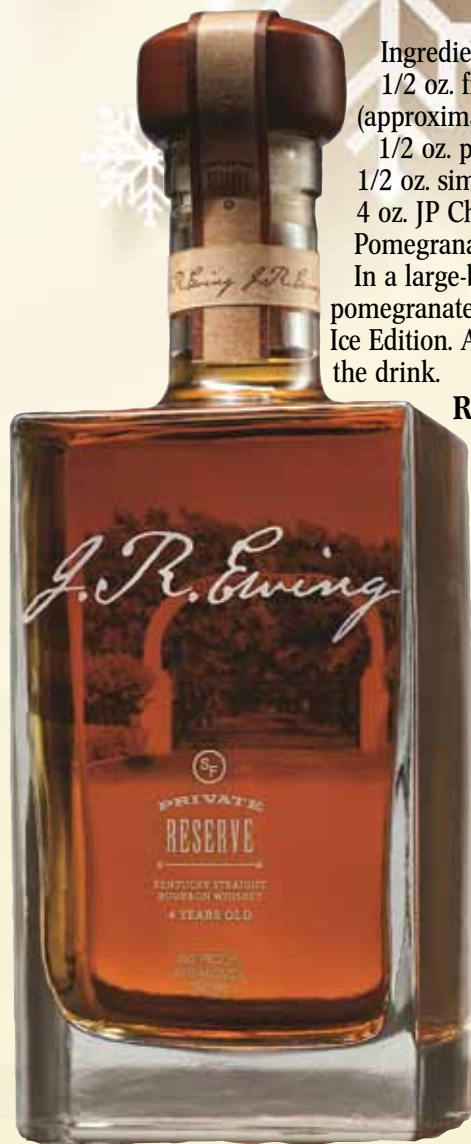
Replace those sugar-filled mixers at this year's Christmas fete with Ritual Mixer juices, a line of USDA certified organic, non-GMO certified, cold-pressed raw juices that pair beautifully with your favorite booze. Flavors include Sol Margarita, Rio Mojito, and Calcutta Lemon Drop. \$14-\$16; ritualwellness.com

### J.R. Ewing Bourbon

Longtime and new fans of TV's *Dallas* will appreciate this premium-quality Kentucky bourbon named after everybody's favorite oil magnate/love-to-hate-him villain, J.R. Ewing.

This well-balanced but complex and slightly sweet spirit features notes of vanilla, oak, and orange, with just enough kick to let everybody know who's boss 'round these parts. \$31.99; jrewingbourbon.com

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world, including CNN.com, The Huffington Post, The Advocate, Instinct magazine, and Out.com, among many others. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*



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