

outward



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Outword Staff

PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Chris Allan
Matthew Burlingame
Emily Desanto
Corey Egel
Diana Kienle
Chris Narloch
Charles Peer

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charles Peer
Ron Tackitt

ON THE COVER
Jake Rowe AKA Precious Cargo at the
Downtown Ice Rink.
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DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford
Michael Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES

Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
(212) 242-6863

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Outword Magazine Inc.

Office
372 Florin Road, #133
Sacramento, CA 95831

PHONE: (916) 329-9280
FAX: (916) 498-8445

www.outwordmagazine.com
sales@outwordmagazine.com

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Give a Gift to the Environment

Christmas trees create a special feeling during the holidays. Although the season has just started, when it comes to an end, be sure to give your tree the proper holiday send-off. Instead of tossing it in the trash, recycle the tree! It's the perfect gift for the environment.

Remove all the decorations, and bring your tree to one of six locations in the Greater Sacramento region. The tree will be mulched for free! There is a limit of five trees per vehicle.

For more information on hours and locations, call (916) 875-5555 or visit www.sagreenteam.com.



"Joy and Delight" on display now at Kennedy Gallery.

Celebrate the magic of the winter season as it comes to life in the current exhibit at Kennedy Gallery. 1931 L St. The exhibit runs through Jan. 7. KennedyGallery.net

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Golden Rule Services is Here to Help

Founded in 2000 by Executive Director Clarmundo Sullivan in response to a gap in local culturally competent services for People of Color (POC) in Sacramento County, Golden Rule Services (GRS) is already gearing up for its 20th anniversary celebration.

With multiple awards and accolades over the past two decades keeping the organization in the limelight, Sullivan continues to make it clear that the clients' success stories are the true reward.

"From the moment a client walks in the front door for testing, we are there for them," says Sullivan. "That includes helping them get into follow up care if needed and going with them to help them navigate the system."

This is part of the GRS Linkage to Care Project (GRS-TLC) which works to reduce new HIV and STD infections, increase access to HIV care and improve health outcomes, and reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities.

Participants of the project obtain rapid HIV and HCV antibody testing, STD screening, access to partner services, access to unlimited condoms and lubricants, culturally sensitive case management and linkage to HIV care services. Additionally, HIV-negative participants are offered one-on-one HIV and STD risk reduction counseling sessions, information on Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), as well as information on how to navigate access to PrEP in California.

According to August 2018 statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the annual number of HIV diagnoses declined 5% between 2011 and 2015, among African-American gay and bisexual men diagnoses increased 4%, and among Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men diagnoses increased 14%.

Considering the Hispanic/Latino population of the U.S. is approximately 16%

and African-American population approximately 12%, it is not only alarming, but illustrates the necessity for culturally competent outreach and care.

As GRS edges into 2019 and moves ever closer toward its 20-year milestone anniversary, the organization seeks new board members who can bring their expertise and enthusiasm to help move the thriving nonprofit forward.

"Those with backgrounds in the fields of law enforcement, education, employment development, social work,



mental health, finance and law are encouraged to apply,"

says Sullivan. "We strive to maintain a diverse board and encourage People of Color, youth, HIV-positive, LGBTQ and differently-abled individuals to join us."

Stop by the office at 4433 Florin Rd., Ste. 860, in Sacramento to find out more about the GRS-TLC project, HIV/STD rapid testing, educational materials or just grab some condoms and lube. You can also visit GoldenRuleServiceSacramento.org for more information.

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Dine Downtown Returns

The 14th annual Dine Downtown Restaurant Week returns January 11 – 21, 2019. Foodies and families can enjoy amazing meals while supporting social service and food literacy programs. Chefs at midtown Sacramento’s top restaurants prepare unique, 3-course prix fixe menus for only \$35.



Photo courtesy of the Melting Pot.

“Guests have an opportunity to explore new dining experiences and rediscover some of the most iconic restaurants in our region,” said Michael Ault, executive director of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. “Pair that with the social benefit this program raises and it’s no surprise Dine Downtown continues to be incredibly popular with restaurants and customers, alike.”

Starting in 2005, Dine Downtown has generated more than \$5 million in restaurant sales in the Central City. More than just a foodie favorite and economic boost for local restaurants, \$1 from every Dine Downtown

meal is donated to various programs in the community. In 2017, more than \$13,000 was raised to support programs run by the California Food Literacy Center and Transforming Lives, Cultivating Success.

Dine Downtown Restaurant Week is produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and presented by Kaiser Permanente with support from Eat Farm to Fork and official transportation sponsor, Sacramento Regional Transit District.

Find menus and make reservations online beginning December 1 at GoDowntownSac.com/DineDowntown.

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Give the Gift of a Magical Family Experience at Disney On Ice

by Heather Atherton, AthertonPR

Looking to bring some genuine magic to the little ones this holiday season? Well, Disney On Ice tickets make the perfect holiday gift! Experiences that the whole family can enjoy together are truly the gift that lasts longer than a toy or sweater, it's anticipation of a memorable experience and special memories together in the new year.



Moana Marie joined by Belle and the 'Frozen' sisters for "Disney on Ice"

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day weekend than a special visit with iconic Disney romance stories such as Beauty and the Beast, Tangled and Cinderella hosted by Disney's cutest couple ever - Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse! Disney On Ice presents Dare To Dream will return to the Golden 1 Center February 14-19, 2019, with the very first production to feature Disney's Moana. Fans are encouraged to arrive early to celebrate family and tradition with Miguel from Disney Pixar's Coco in a special sing-a-long guest appearance!

A fun treat for Sacramento, twin sister skaters from Elk Grove, Marie and Tosha Hanford, will portray Disney princesses, Moana and Anna. They grew up and started their skating careers here in the greater Sacramento area, and are proud to come home to perform for friends and family this season.

In her Disney On Ice debut, see how far Moana will go in a high-seas adventure with

demigod Maui, to save her island and discover her true identity. Join Belle as she fearlessly befriends the enchanted castle staff and reveals the Beast's gentleness. Experience Anna's devotion to her sister, Elsa, on her life-changing journey to stop an eternal winter. Explore with Rapunzel, Flynn Ryder, Cinderella and friends from around the Disney Kingdom as they find the heart and determination to overcome obstacles and make their dreams come true.

Iconic sing-along songs such as "How Far I'll Go," "Be Our Guest" and "Let It Go" are paired with powerful skating choreography to instill confidence and embolden audiences to never stop dreaming. Uncover why no goal is too big when we find the strength to shape our own destiny at Disney On Ice presents Dare To Dream coming to your hometown!

Costumes for the kids are encouraged, but not required. For more information or tickets visit www.DisneyOnIce.com

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The Meaning of Family

commentary by Emma Holm

I have many parents, 13 to be exact, and they have taught me many things. They have taught me the importance of detail when planning extravagant parties and weddings, how to master the art of dancing to Madonna, and to always have appreciation for Sunday brunches.

They have also taught me about their fight for equality within California's LGBTQ community. They have shared their stories about scrapping together barely enough money to make it to the March on Washington to fight for gay rights, where all 13 of them crammed into two bedrooms. They have told me about the times they didn't eat to save up for trips to San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade. They have taken me to see the AIDS quilt and listed the names of their friends that will be forever remembered in their battle.

Growing up with two gay moms, one gay stepmom, two gay godmothers, and seven gay honorary dads, I knew what it meant to have love, support, family, and grew up in a household where I was accepted for exactly the person I was and exactly the person I wanted to be. More importantly, I grew up learning the importance of respect and understanding. I grew up surrounded by men and women who are different from the rest of society, not because they chose to be but because society didn't understand them, and who faced decades of discrimination precisely because of these differences.

When my brother was five, he came up with the word framily (before Sprint) which is a combination of friends and family. I am a sister to one and a daughter to many whose had the privilege of being raised in such a framily that embraces diversity and celebrates love. Thanks to my 13 parents, I know a deeper love and I understand the strength and power in respecting and accepting others.

A Few of My Favorite Things

by Alexis Michalovich

Forget spring cleaning, it's time to spruce up the house for the holidays! What better way to do so than with some of my favorite things that will get any home – whether it is yours, or as a gift for someone on your “nice list”, in the holiday spirit.

The sniffing and sneezing season means many of us are washing our hands a lot. However, it could also lead to dry skin. Deep Steep Fig Apricot Argan Liquid Hand Soap has a light, pleasant scent while the argaan oil deeply nourishes your hands.

and the candles are different wine scents. Cheers!

A simple touch can make a lasting impression. William Sonoma Linen Double Hemstitch Table Runner adds a hint of class for the kitchen or dining room table whether it is for a family meal or a formal party.

Take the time to show the special people in your life how much you care. Hope everyone has a great holiday season.

Instead of the usual holiday decorations, wooden glass canisters are versatile and can be incorporated throughout the home filled with glass ornaments, faux succulents and similar holiday fare.

When you invite people over for a party, you'll want the house to look its best. Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner leaves floors shining plus it is non-toxic and environmentally responsible.

Before you pour the wine, it is always recommended to smell the wine. In this case, Rewined Candles uses old wine bottles



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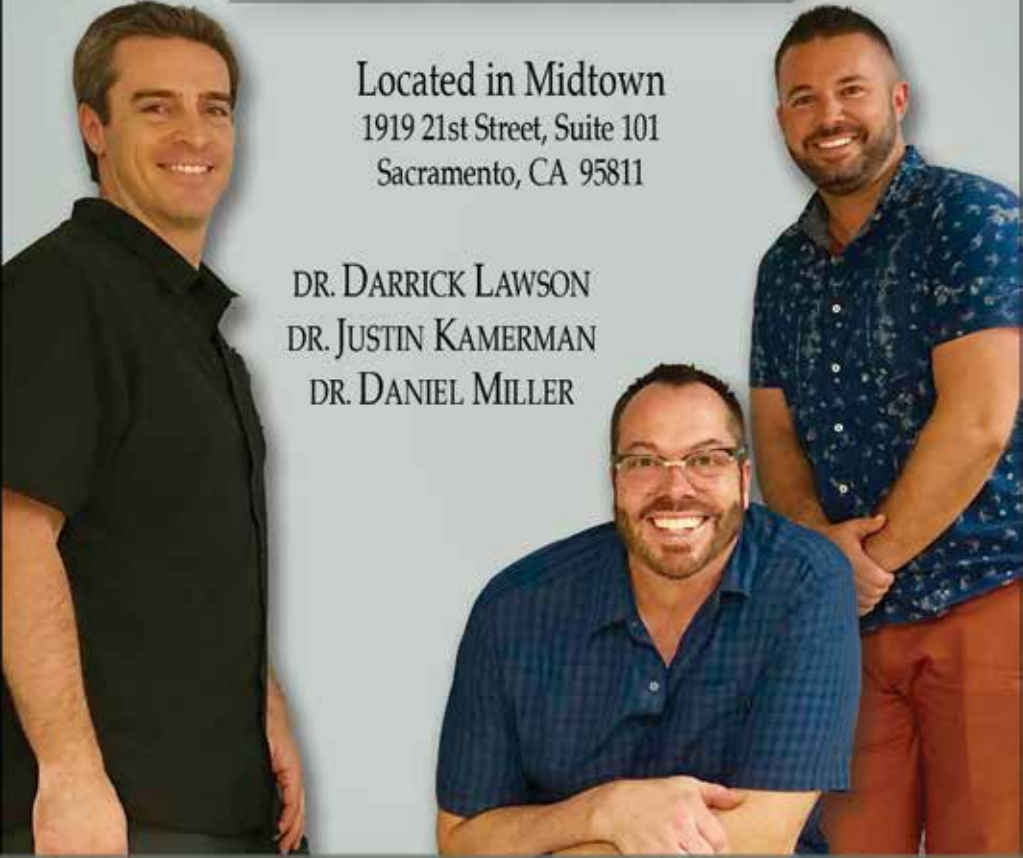


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Out & About With Matt by Matthew Burlingame

It's Christmas time again (or Solstice/Yuletide for some of us). Shopping, carols, trees, stockings and of course the most important part of the holiday—binge watching cheesy holiday romance movies on Netflix.

But, what about watching some classic Christmas movies on the big screen this year? "The Muppet Christmas Carol" is playing at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. in Sacramento on December 16 and "White Christmas" will be shown on December 22. Grab your tickets before they sell out at ticketfly.com

Christmas Panto is a huge tradition in Britain that has made its way into the theater world in America. This year, the talk of the town is "Moby Dick, The Panto" hosted by The Black Box Theater at the West Sacramento Community Center. As with most pantos, the show is full of fun and surprises! Running December 13 - 23.

We've all heard how amazing the musical "Waitress" is and now it's going to be in

Sacramento starting December 27 as part of Broadway On Tour. Get your tickets now! Do not wait! Inspired by Adrienne Shelly's beloved film, "Waitress" tells the story of Jenna - a waitress and expert pie maker, Jenna dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a chance at a fresh start, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. Still, Jenna must summon the strength and courage to rebuild her own life. broadwaysacramento.com

On December 15, RoseSharon Oates' Exhibition "Conjure" will be hosted by The Brickhouse Gallery & Art Complex, 2837 36th St. in Sacramento. Oates' medium of pyrography (wood burning,) is inspired by liberation movements and social justice themes, as well as visioning what peace looks like. She is particularly passionate about the divine nature of Women and the

Divine Feminine Force, as it permeates all of creation. She aspires to empower and embolden women through her works.

Dress in your "Funday best" and come to the Sunday Soiree at Faces NightClub, 2000 K St. in Sacramento on December 16 from 3 - 8 p.m. Hosted by Woot2 and Faces NightClub. Expect an evening of curated music, tasty treats, drink specials and an evening of fancy frolics!

Come to Pride Night: Winter Wonderland Toy Drive & Fundraiser at The Point in Vacaville on December 20 as CGNIE hosts a holiday Toy Drive & Fundraising Show. Hosted by 2018's Miss. Gay Sacramento Apple Adams & Mr. Gay Sacramento Ashton M Principal the event will feature special guests Taryn Thru-U & Relentlace as well as Pride Night regulars Leona LaRue, Alaze Diamond, Ling Ling, and Miss Alexia.

Happy birthday to *Outword's* entertainment guru Chris Narloch! Birthday wishes also go out to MarkCurtis, Ron Mullins, Kira Healey, Matt Rogers, Theron McDonald, Fancie Milazzo, Dallas Macdonald-Lavarello, Kendall Bennett, Sage Brown and all others with mid-December birthdays. Remember, this wish is for your birthday AND Christmas.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been active in the community this past year. To those who have organized and attended all the amazing Drag Queen Bingos, Liquid Happy Hours, Rainbow Chamber mixers and have generously supported our local nonprofits and made sure to shop local. And, of course, to those of you who read this column. Happy holidays!

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. Check out his newest audiobooks at JustKissTheGuy.com

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Party Planning that will Spread Holiday Joy

by Michael Shugert

Hosting a party does not have to be stressful: ask for help from your friends or partner. You can also throw a party in January to catch up on holiday cheer.

For starters, I suggest four or five food items and a simple bar. Select one white wine like a Sauvignon Blanc and a red wine such as Zinfandel. Ask the wine merchant about quantities according to your guest count. A pre-mixed cocktail such as Cosmopolitan makes it easy for you and your guests. Always have Pellegrino sparkling water on hand for mixing and as a non-alcohol drink available. Glassware can be rented, if desired, for around 50 cents per glass. Always have plenty of ice and ask friends to bring a bag if you think you'll

cheese has to be at room temperature to mix easily. I add mounds of grapes cut into small clumps. Raspberries add texture and color to a cheese board. Dried fruits and your favorite nuts complete this easy appetizer, which can serve 25 people easily. Serve with baskets of sliced baguettes and crackers. Have your cheese board at room temperature when guests arrive.

Everyone loves prawns. To make your life easier use the large pre-cooked prawns at Costco. I use the 31-40 count bags. Thaw them out and place on a platter around a



Smoked Salmon Endive Lotus

need more. Don't bother with cut up vegetables and dip: it's boring and almost never touched. Cheese platters are easy to make. Don't use processed cheese slices as they don't have any flavor. I always have a large wheel of triple cream brie (usually can be found at Costco). I cut out a large triangle and place it on top. A cranberry compote on top makes it look festive. Buy a bag of cranberries, follow instructions on the back of bag, substitute 1/2 cup of the water with Cointreau or Gran Marnier. So delicious! Cream cheese blocks can be topped with a variety of toppings from a tapenade bar at almost any good grocery store. Use what you like - I prefer a combination of sun-dried tomatoes and an olive mix for your own tapenade. Trader Joes has an excellent jarred artichoke tapenade. Add some flair by using any olive tapenade and mixing it in with a goat cheese log. Goat

bowl of cocktail sauce. Make your own using ketchup, prepared creamed horseradish and lemon juice. So much better than the jarred stuff full of chemicals. I would suggest bringing out this platter once the party is happening to prevent the shrimp from getting funky. If you're having a crowd and can afford it get a Honey-baked ham. So easy and elegant on a platter with large mounds of parsley. Have a basket of slider buns, bowls of mustards and mayonnaise and you're done! Don't worry about sweets such as cakes and pies. People are generally sick of them by the middle of the holiday season. However, if you're given boxes of chocolates as gifts simply place them on pretty plates for your guests. Relax and enjoy your guests. You've got this covered! Happy Holidays from Chef Michael

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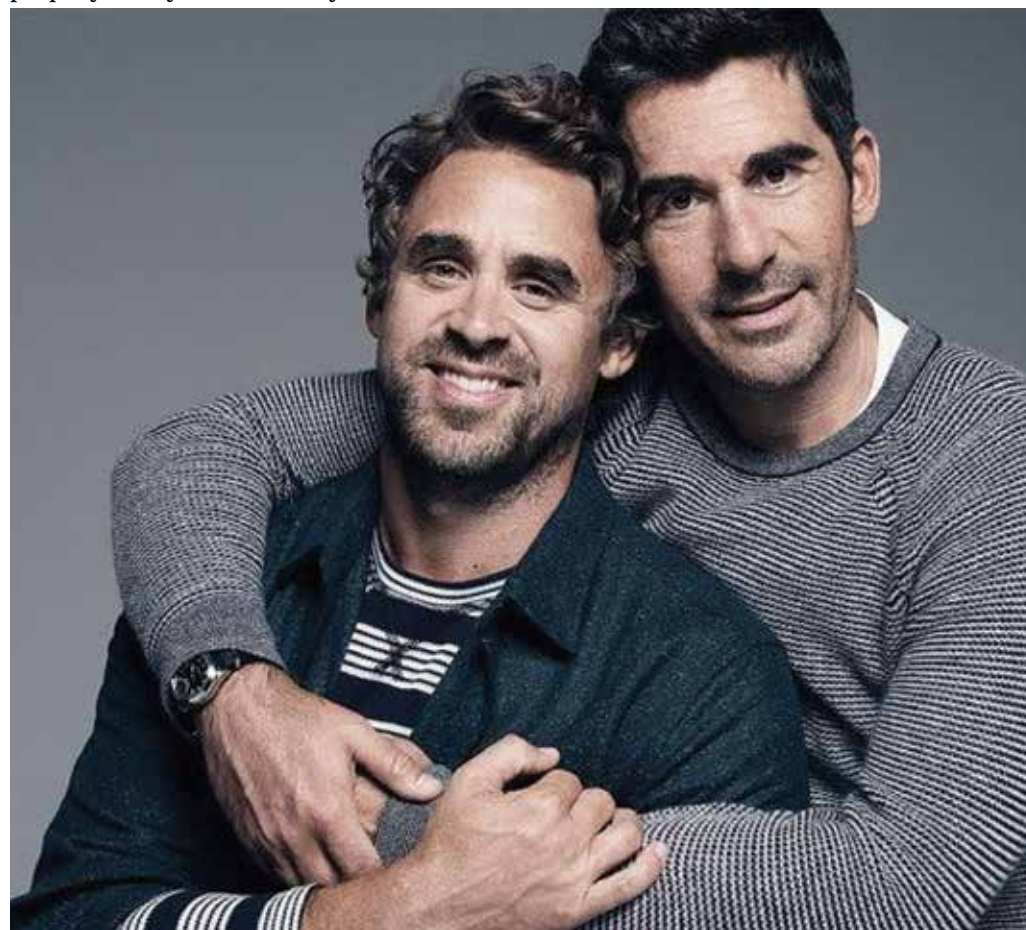
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Earlier this year we launched our Evolve the Definition campaign, during the Espy Awards, focusing on redefining what it means to be masculine in today's society rather than the traditional definition. We are constantly pushing boundaries to broaden the spectrum to show the world there isn't just one "type" of man.

The holidays are a time to spend with family, but what in this day and age does a family look like? Is it the mother, father, and siblings you grew up with? Is it the people you surround yourself with? Is it the people you rely on? For many, it's all of the

above or some. That's why this holiday season, we're celebrating the un-traditional family: the family you choose. The definition of family has grown to include not just the conventional notion but friends, teammates, colleagues, or significant others. It's a time to celebrate all those important people who have made an impact on your life, who continue to love and support you.

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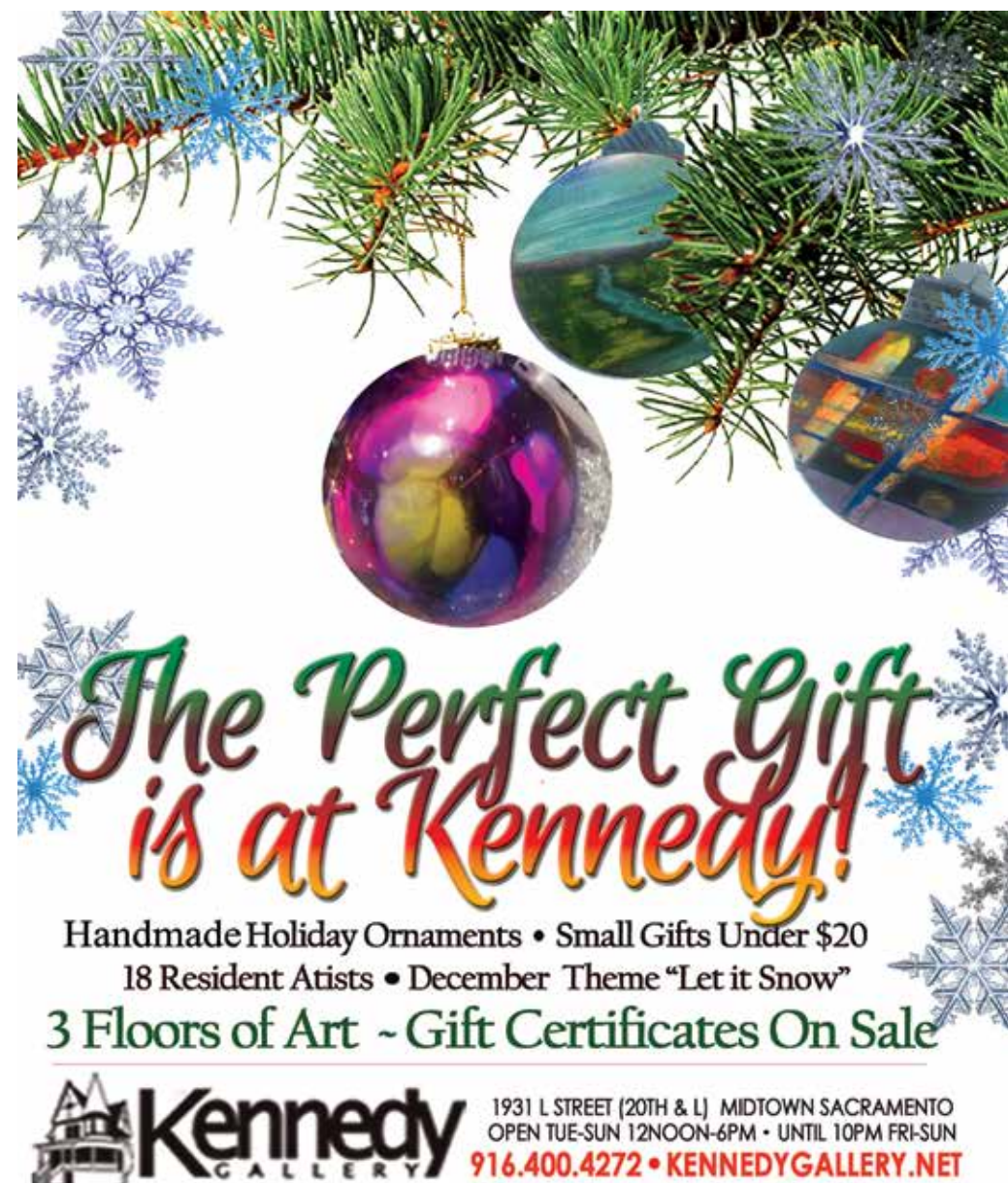
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A New "Nutcracker" For Sac Ballet

by Chris Narloch

A familiar friend will be transformed this holiday season when Sacramento Ballet presents its new vision of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," beginning December 14.



In Amy Seiwert's exciting new take on this local tradition, Marie is a heroine for our times: adventurous, loving, and kind. Join Marie and her handsome Nutcracker Prince as they travel through the Land of the Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets.

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at select performances, and young dancers from around the region, "The Nutcracker" will fill The Community Center Theater with holiday spirit December 14 - 23.

For tickets, call (916) 552-5810 or visit www.sacballet.org.

Don't Miss The Kennedy Center Honors On CBS

by Chris Narloch

Kelly Clarkson performed "Fancy" for her mother-in-law Reba McEntire, Cher was saluted in song by her good friend Cyndi Lauper, and several members of the original cast of "Hamilton" reunited in tribute to the Broadway blockbuster.



By all accounts, it was one hell of a show, and you can see for yourself when CBS airs this year's Kennedy Center Honors broadcast the evening of December 26. (Watching this classy, exceedingly well-produced television event is an annual holiday tradition in my home.)

This year's honorees are an especially auspicious bunch: Cher, Philip Glass, Reba

McEntire, and Wayne Shorter receive the 41st Annual Kennedy Center Honors, and "Hamilton" co-creators Lin-Manuel Miranda, Thomas Kail, Andy Blankenbuehler, and Alex Lacamoire receive special Honors for their groundbreaking work of theatrical art.

For more information, visit www.kennedy-center.org.



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Pagan Festivals to Traditional Christian Celebration

by Paul Gilmore

This holiday season with its lights so bright, Santa on his way, and the celebration of the birth of a savior may not be so accurately based in fact. Actually, much of what western Christian holidays celebrate occurred at other times during the calendar year as well as some “traditional” celebrations distinctly created to subvert and displace pagan festivals.

As Christianity spread, church leaders sought ways to bring more pagan heathens into the fold by supplanting pagan festivals with religious oriented celebrations. In turn, some pagans simply imported some of their own festivals albeit with a newly found Christian twist so as to not lose their own traditions entirely.

Perhaps the most well-known usurped pagan festival is the winter solstice. To do away with this major pagan festival, Christian church leaders simply re-scheduled the birth of the Christ child to overlay the Winter Solstice Festival. Religious and biblical scholars tend to peg the birth of Jesus as occurring in spring. As the days got longer, pagans celebrated the sun god called Odin. Odin is often illustrated as a hefty bear of a man with a full beard and billowy coat.

Here are a few more:

Spring Equinox

This is a time when daylight and darkness are in balance. Pagan festivals celebrated the end of winter and the beginning of new life associated with spring. This celebration was displaced by Christian religions belief in the resurrection of Christ.

Samhain

Primarily associated with Celtic pagans, this festival celebrated the end of the harvest season or death of growing season. Pagans believed that spirits roamed the earth. Costumes were worn to hide the pagans from these spirits, fires were lit and sacrifices made to appease these spirits and to assure a good harvest next year. Halloween is a derivative of “All Hallows Eve”, a day of remembrance created by the Catholic Church to honor saints that did not already have a dedicated day of remembrance.

Feast of Lupercalia

Valentine’s Day was created by Pope Gelasius I to displace the Feast of Lupercalia, a sacrificial celebration of a goat and dog where the hides were used to hit women to increase their fertility. Instead, the martyrdom of two men named Valentine that were killed for their faith on February 14 was celebrated.

There are many more examples of the displacement of pagan celebrations, festivals, and holidays. Also, not all displacements are done for religious or pagan causes. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving one week earlier on the calendar to allow more time for people to shop for Christmas. So much for tradition!

Paul Gilmore is a retired social worker serving in hospice, aging, and LGBT public health. He is an avid participant in health research, active living, and lifelong learning.





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Holiday Spirit

by Diana Kienle

As we find ourselves in the month of December, the holiday spirit is building. There are parties to look forward to and we take time to express our appreciation and affection for others with well wishes and celebratory gatherings. It is also an opportunity to share great meals with those that we hold close in our lives.



Wine, of course, compliments the season and the meals that we share with others. It lightens our spirits and brings that sense of celebration to the moment, the meal and the gathering. The question becomes, what wine best suits the occasion?

The choice is wide open as many varietals pair well with the type of holiday dishes that are most common. Sweet and savory flavors take the lead during this time of year and many wines will work well. There may be only two types of wines that may take a back seat during this season: overly oaked Chardonnays and big bold tannic Cabernets.

Think of bright sparkling wines to set the tone and bring an air of celebration to the evening or the meal. It need not be expensive to be festive. Prosecco from Italy is a lovely wine that brings the festive notes without a big price tag. Ruffino is one of my favorites - sweet notes with bright bubbles. Another readily available sparkling wine in distribution is Roederer Estate Brut Anderson Valley NV (non-vintage). The release price for this well-crafted bottle is \$24 and it should set the

stage and add to the mood of the season. If you are looking for something rich and beautiful, consider a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Champagne to savor and enjoy.

Light, white wines are great to pair with the sweet notes of holiday fare. Consider wines that are high acid, non-oaked wines made from semi-aromatic grapes. Think of wines made from Viognier, Riesling or Gewürztraminer. One of my favorites to drink is a slightly sweet German Riesling that will pair well with that delicious holiday meal or by itself as an aperitif. My favorite ones are from Mosel, Germany. The wines are lithe and very versatile to match the mood and the food.

Another varietal that fits this season very well is Pinot Noir. Try to find Walter Hansel's North Slope (one of my favorites). It is silky and full of bright red fruit. Another red to consider is Zinfandel, which can be lush and fruity to highlight the meal and the festive tone. Two excellent producers are Biale and Carlisle. Neither will disappoint the moment.

Above all, celebrate and express your caring for others.

Enjoy!

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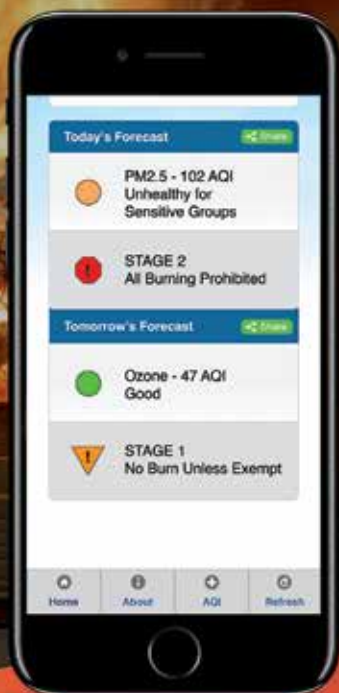
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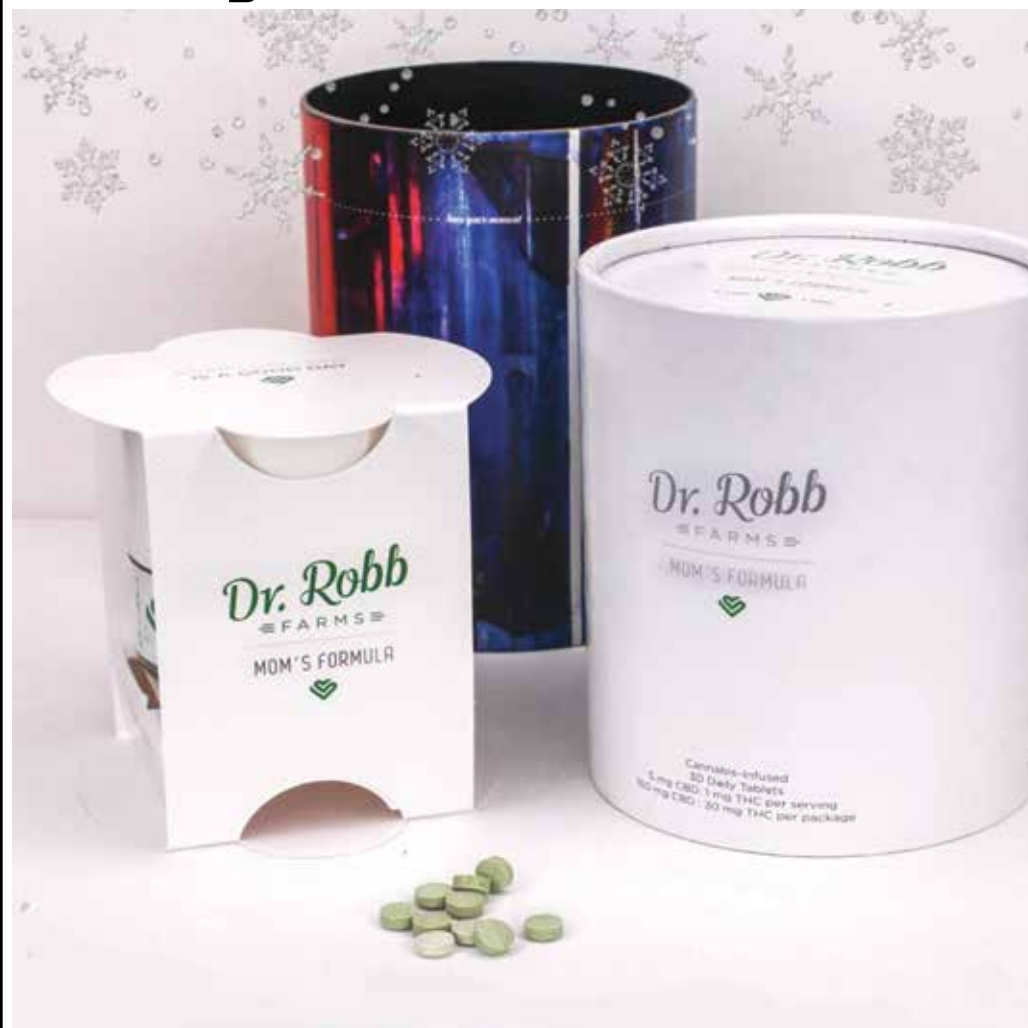
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Gift Ideas to Light Up your Holiday Season

by Robert Flannery



Dr. Robb Farm's Mom's Formula is just what the doctor ordered. Not just for moms, it's an accurate and safe daily CBD tablet that can be taken orally, acting like a once-a-day multivitamin that can decrease anxiety levels while promoting a feeling of well-being.

Trying to decide what to get your loved one this holiday season? You may want to consider an option that wasn't entirely available last year. Cannabis.

Instead of the usual stocking stuffer of candy or other knick-knacks, treat your special someone with quality, sun-grown whole flower cannabis from California in pre-rolled Mylar sleeves. With Eagle Pre-Rolls, you can choose from Indica, Sativa or a hybrid that has no detected aroma when sealed.

If you want to take the edge off from

too much shopping or time with family, "Mom's Formula" is just what the doctor ordered. A CBD tablet, it decreases anxiety levels while promoting a feeling of well-being (something we all strive for during "the most wonderful time of year").

For more gift ideas, visit
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This holiday, offer a gift that sparks emotions with tickets to VOLTA. Enjoy this special offer and save 25 percent.

Energetic, urban and contemporary, VOLTA is a captivating voyage of discovery that showcases never-before-seen under the Big Top acrobatics in a visually striking world. Driven by a stirring melodic score and inspired in part by the adventurous spirit that fuels the culture of street sports, VOLTA is about finding yourself and unveiling your personal powers.

VOLTA is now playing under the Big Top at AT&T Park through February 3 in San Francisco, and opens Feb 13 in San Jose at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

<https://tickets.cirquedusoleil.com>

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An Audiodork's Fantasy Xmas Wish List

by Audiodork

I have always gravitated toward tech stuff, and this fantasy wish list is really no different, but I thought I would throw this out there, just in case someone wants to make my Xmas wish(es) come true! (Knowing, full well, that the only Santa that is coming to town is me.) Here is my short list of really cool stuff:

Yamaha TT-N503 Web Enabled Turntable

I want a turntable (and albums to play on it), but I'm apprehensive because I have gone down this path before. A couple of years ago, I wrote about trying out a Music Hall 1.5 turntable, and it was truly magical, but there was one major design element that didn't sit well with me, that a lot of current turntables have: it was fully manual. Meaning you have to put the needle on the record - and lift it off when that side of the LP is done. Sounds petty, I know. However, after 20 minutes of analog bliss, I often found myself asleep on the couch with the stylus bouncing on the grove at the end of the LP. Enter the Yamaha VINYL 500. This table is not only designed by some of the finest audio engineers in the world, but it is full automatic. Start/Stop, yeah, it does it all. Yet, there is a twist. It also streams music off the Internet and uses Bluetooth to transmit the signal to a willing recipient. Think about it: this machine not only plays LPs, it streams music! When you think about the fact that it will replace my iPad for streaming as well as give me a record player, the price doesn't seem so bad. Kind of.

Yamaha TT-N503 - \$699.00



Yamaha YBA-11 Bluetooth Stereo Receiver

This simple add-on allows Bluetooth audio to be received by an old-fashion stereo system. Perfect if you have the above mentioned Yamaha turntable and want to locate it away from your stereo system, or if you want to stream music from your computer in the den to your stereo in the living room.

Yamaha YBA-11- \$99.00



Apple Watch Series 3 or 4

I have a generation One, and I can tell you that there are very clever features to it, but it is so slow and outdated that it comes across as kinda silly. However, I have witnessed an Apple Watch series 3 and the difference is pretty striking. The faster processor makes the watch make sense. With the first Gen, it took so long to function that you could literally take your phone out of your pocket and operate it quicker. The newer watches offer a vast improvement in that department, and I'm sure the 4th Gen is even better and faster than the 3.

Apple Watch Series 3 GPS only, 42mm - \$309 while supplies last.

Bright White LED Headlight Replacement Bulbs

I like to say that my 2017 Nissan Frontier is my "analog" truck. Such an old design, still being sold today. However, I do love my truck. It works well and it's not too large, but it certainly is not bleeding-edge technology. So, one thing I have thought of doing is replacing my headlight bulbs with super-bright LEDs to give the new Lexus and BMWs a run for their blinding new-tech headlights. It's a relatively small investment, but I think it would be a great upgrade against the darkness of Garden Highway.

Lumen- G7S LED Headlight Conversion Kit - \$140



Sony 75" Smart TV.

All my life I have wanted a Sony TV, above all others. Samsung is making that devotion harder and harder, but I have one now and love it. However, I would love to upgrade to a larger set, but the idea of giving up on Sony is hard. Sonys always carry such a price premium, it can be hard to justify at times. Plus, I don't need the top of the line: they are way too expensive, but a mid-line set would totally impress me, I'm sure. Unfortunately, the \$2000+ price tag these TVs are fetching is making me stick with my current set... for now.

Sony XBR75X850F, 75" 4K smart TV - \$1999.00



Fujifilm X-T20 Mirrorless Camera

I love the camera on my iPhone, but I still miss the depth of image, the detail and the overall tonality of a real, single purpose camera. I have never owned a

Fuji camera before, but the reviews and ratings make this camera seem to stand out in the under \$1,000 field. That is still a whole lot of money, but one day I would like to have one, for the reasons listed above and many more. (Hot shoe, tripod mount, inter-changeable lens, just to name a few).

Fujifilm X-T20 - on sale now for \$799.00

2019 Ram 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab Short Bed

Ok, so, since this is a wish list, I have to admit that I love the brand new (Dodge) RAM 1500 crew cab trucks. Totally new for 2019, they are beautiful and appear to be well designed to take on the competition. Like most full size trucks, they are huge. I could forget fitting it in my garage, but they have made such improvements that despite its size, it would only sip one more mpg per mile than my (tiny) Frontier. However, with great size comes great price tag. Easily tipping the scale at over \$50,000, I just don't think I will ever be able to justify purchasing one. Still, I can always daydream. 2019 Ram 1500 BIG HORN - \$40 - \$75k.





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The Best Movie Of 2018 Is On Netflix?

by Chris Narloch

By now, many people have a theater in their living room thanks to Netflix, the subscription service that streams original programming and vintage movies, TV and cable shows on its entertainment platform.

In recent years, the division between theaters and home viewing began to blur as some first-run movies have aired on Netflix on the same day they opened in limited theatrical runs.

Now, the wall between streaming and theatrical exhibition comes tumbling down with the release of "Roma," a Netflix movie that is the early favorite to win the Oscar for Best Picture -- if last spring's "Black Panther" doesn't take the top prize.

"Roma" is a Mexican film by "Gravity" director Alfonso Cuarón that has received the most ecstatic reviews of any film released this Oscar season. It will almost surely vie for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar in early 2019 as Mexico's official entry for that award.

The New York Times has already hailed "Roma" as a masterpiece, and the film could

out to the movies.

So, we shall see if Oscar voters are willing to give their highest honor to a movie that did not receive a traditional (wide) theatrical release.

I had the good fortune to see "Roma" this November via a special screening at the Castro Theatre, where the film's director and lead actress discussed making the movie. (Cuarón, who directed "Children of Men" and one of the best Harry Potter films, and that actress, Yalitza Aparicio, are also likely to receive Oscar nominations for "Roma.")

The film is mostly in Spanish, with English subtitles, and it has a hypnotic measured pace, but after I got used to the movie's slower rhythm, I was totally hooked by its beautiful black-and-white images and very moved by its personal story, which was inspired by Cuarón's own



A still from the Netflix movie "Roma"

sneak into the Oscars' regular Best Picture category -- where foreign films rarely tread -- as well.

This would all be highly unusual, though, since "Roma" is a Netflix movie that will make its debut on that popular platform this month, after playing film festivals, and receiving a limited theatrical release in November and early December of this year.

In addition to being a fashion show and an entertainment event in its own right, the Academy Awards broadcast has always been sort of a lengthy commercial for the tradition of going

childhood.

Aparicio plays a domestic servant who lives with the family she works for in Mexico City during the 1970s, and the movie is basically about two women who bond (in a platonic way) and create a new family structure after the men in their lives desert them.

There are currently no plans to release "Roma" theatrically in Sacramento, but hopefully that will change as awards season heats up. The movie deserves to be seen on a big screen, but if you already have Netflix, you can watch it beginning December 14.

Among the many local entertainment options this holiday season, we thought this hipster holiday concert featuring Peter Petty and friends looked like a sure bet to get folks in the Christmas spirit. Don't miss the 4th annual swingin' yuletide revue on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Elk Tower Ballroom! Tickets available from EventBrite.com



A Huge Thank-You to everyone that came out to Badlands and helped make our toy drive a wonderful success! We are already looking forward to next year's..!

Photos by Charles Peer and Ron Tackitt



Books Make Great Gifts This Holiday Season

by Chris Narloch

If you're in need of holiday gift suggestions for the book lover on your list, look no further, dear readers. I can recommend a new coffee table book featuring movie poster art, a recent graphic novel about artist Frida Kahlo, and a wild autobiography by the successful actress and stand-up comedian, Tiffany Haddish.

"Selling The Movie: The Art of the Film Poster" by Ian Haydn Smith

As an avid collector of movie posters, I appreciate the artistry that goes in to a great poster, many of which are included in this classy, hardcover survey of the history of the images used to sell the movies.

A handsome coffee table book, "Selling The Movie" includes 285 pages worth of great posters, including those for David Lynch's "Eraserhead," Ridley Scott's "Alien," Brian DePalma's "Scarface," and Steven Spielberg's "Jaws," plus "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and many more.

The book's discussion of trends in movie art is sometimes more entertaining than the films the posters sold, and it covers an entire century of cinema. "Selling The Movie" is available from University of Texas Press.

"Frida Kahlo: An Illustrated Life" by Maria Hesse

Maria Hesse is an illustrator and graphic designer, and this is the new English language translation of her successful 2016 book, which was originally published in Spanish.

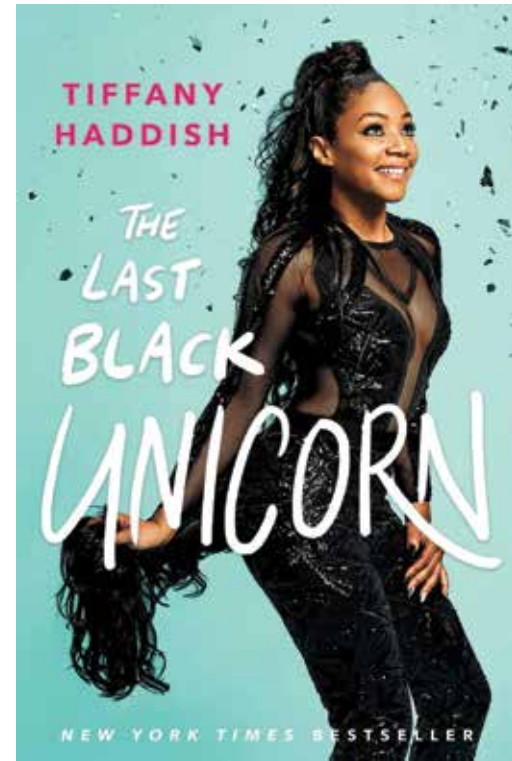
"Frida Kahlo" presents that famous artist's life in graphic novel form, with striking illustrations that reimagine many of Kahlo's famous paintings.

The book is a colorful and clever work of art in its own right that tells Kahlo's story in a first-person narrative, which captures both the depths of Frida's suffering and her passion for art and life. "Frida Kahlo" is available from University of Texas Press.

"The Last Black Unicorn" by Tiffany Haddish

This autobiography by the breakout star of the movie "Girls Trip" actually came out last Christmas, but I just recently finished it and was knocked out by the humor and brutal honesty of the book.

After an accident left her mother mentally



ill, Haddish spent years in the foster care system where she was abused and molested. As an adult, her experiences with men were often equally bleak, and she is very frank about being cheated on and/or roughed up by guys she thought loved her, including her former husband.

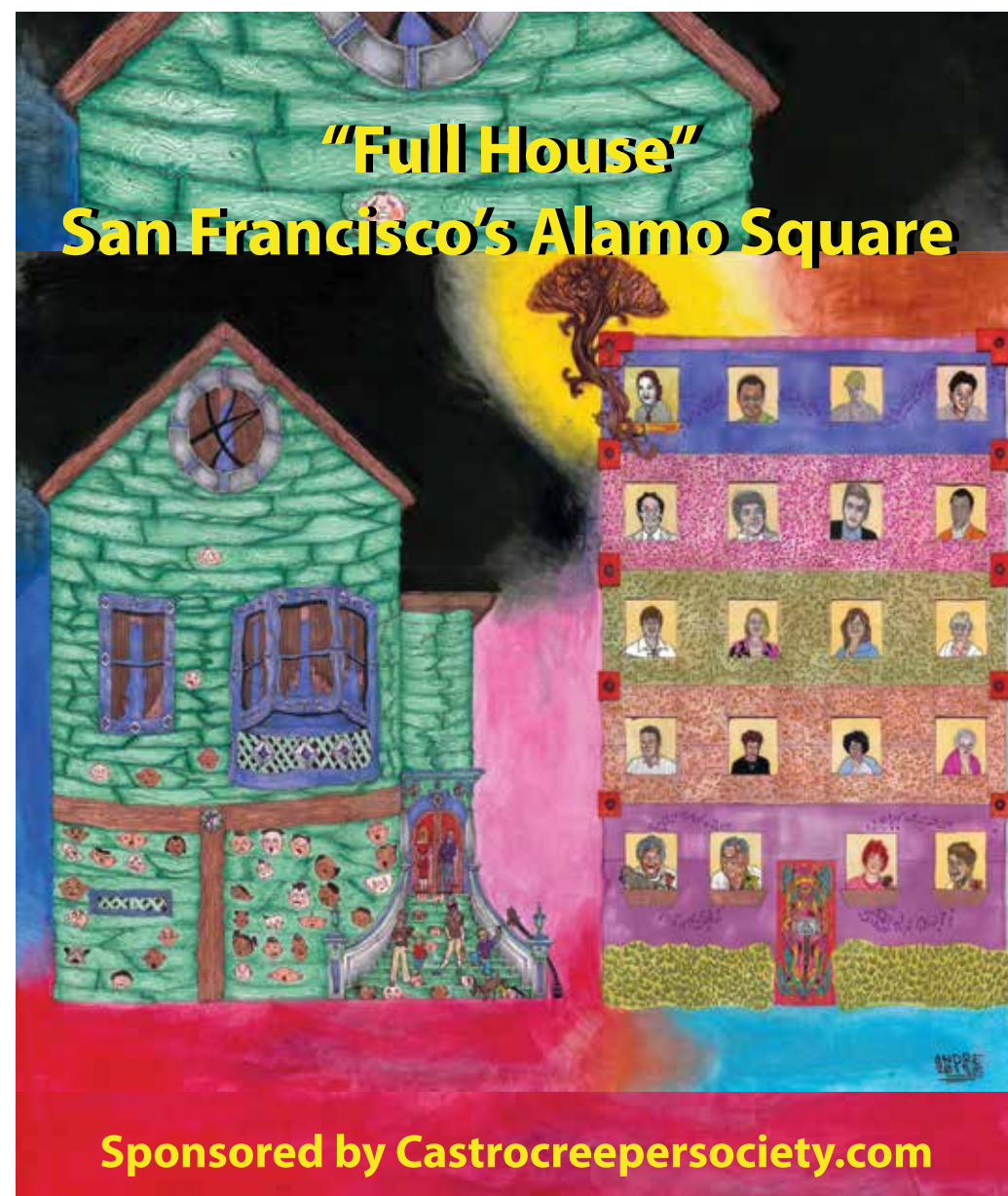
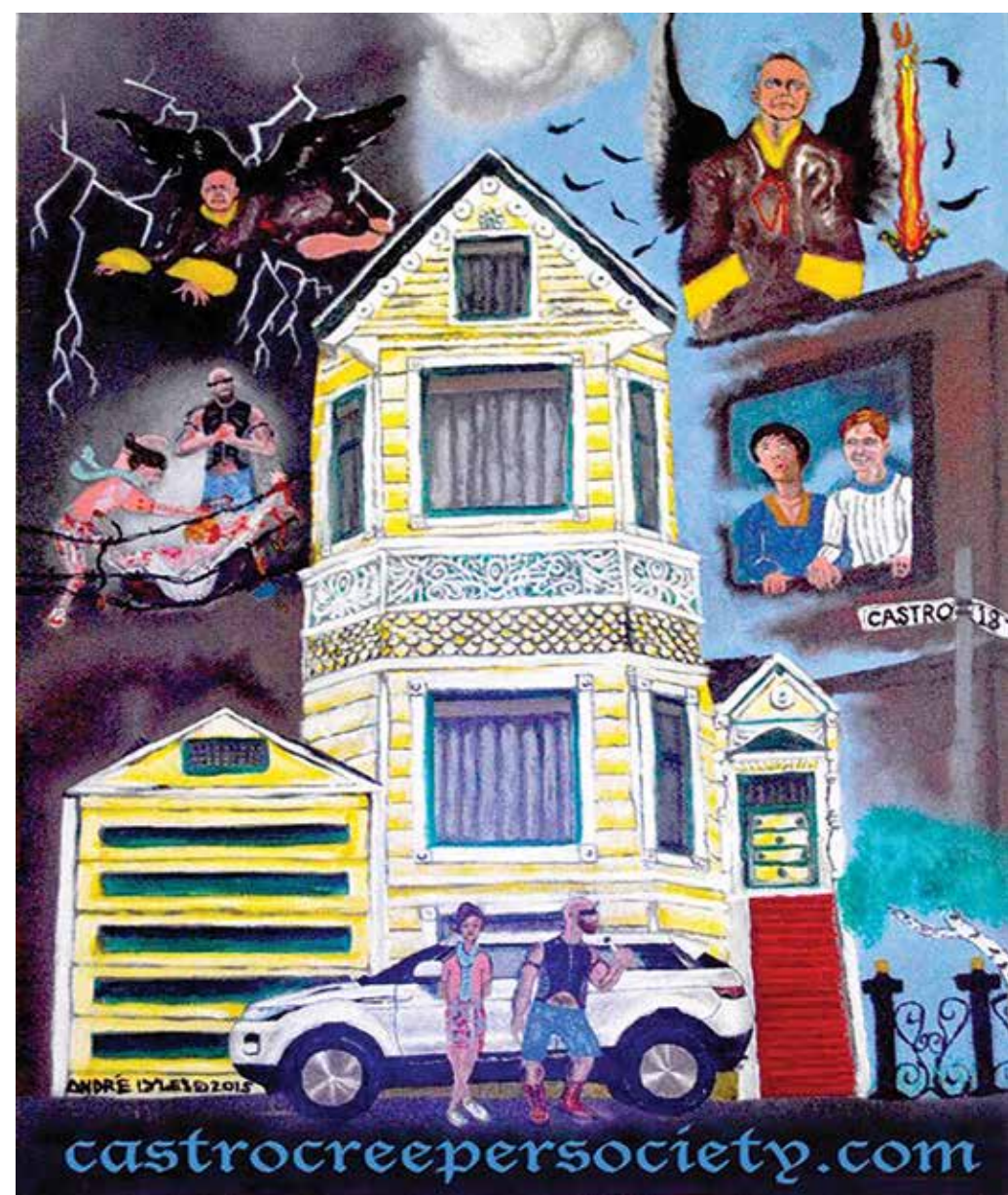
Her sense of humor was the survival tactic that allowed her to make it through life, despite such obstacles as the fact that, for many years, she did not know how to read.

Many of Haddish's stories are jaw dropping, including a shockingly funny chapter that describes her affair with a disabled former co-worker.

"The Last Black Unicorn" is extremely explicit and profane, but it's so much more real than 99% of the celebrity biographies out there that it made me laugh and cry.

quick gift idea

For the gardener that has pretty much everything, along comes the WheelEasy LE! The WheelEasy is a fresh take on the traditional wheel barrow. It's made of heavy duty cloth that allows it to lay flat on the ground, for easy loading, and then unloading. Since it does lay flat, you can also hang it on the wall in your garage, using only a fraction of the space of a traditional barrow. - WheelEasy LE - \$105



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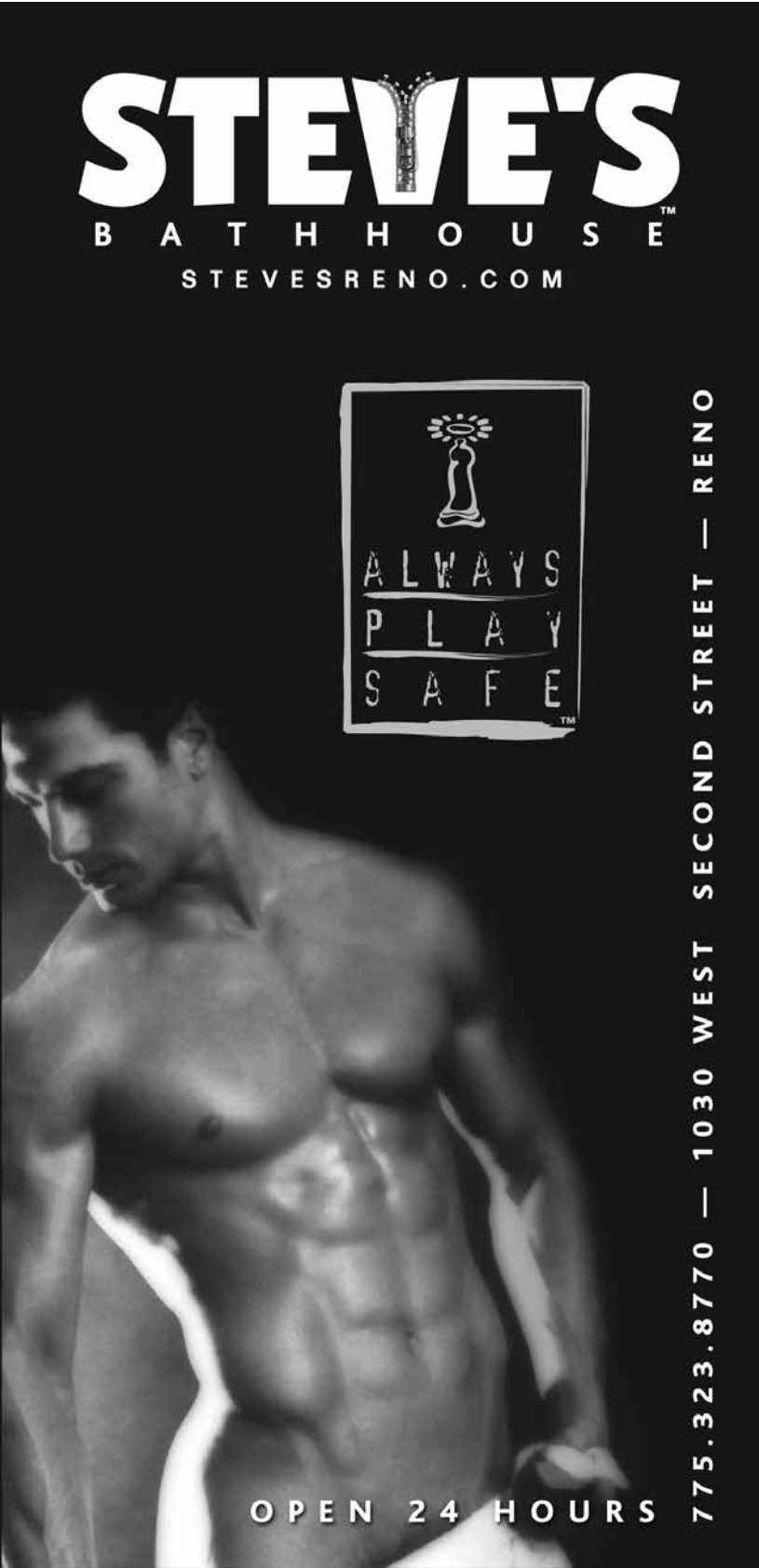
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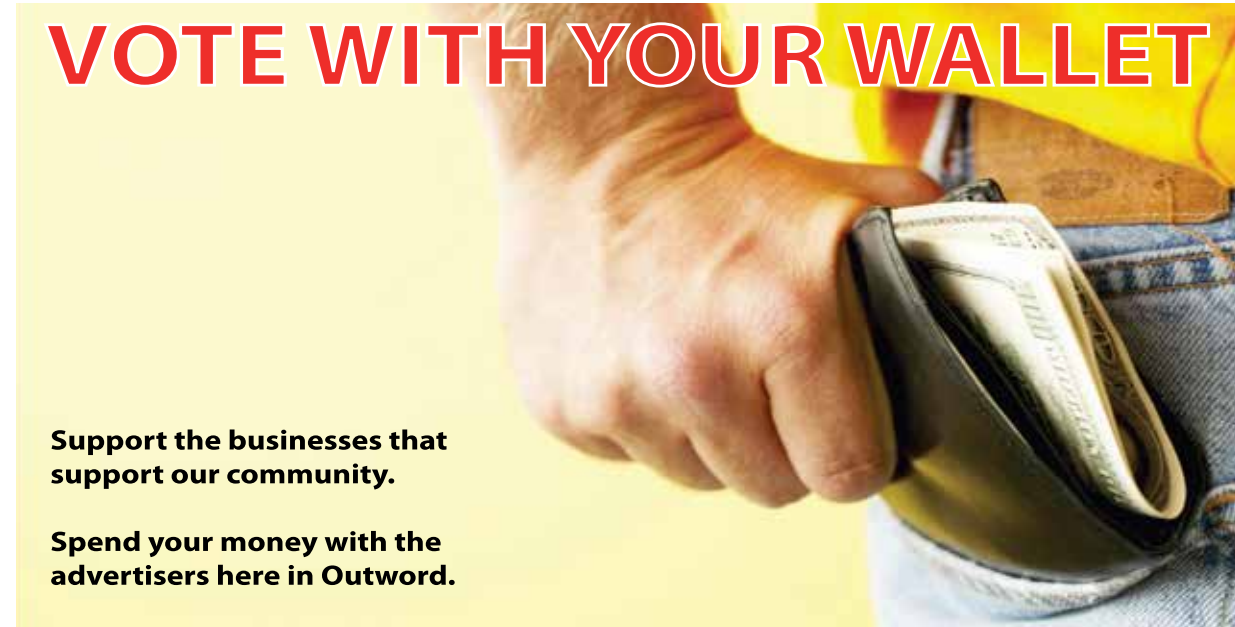
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A Sleigh-Full Of Seasonal Sounds

by Chris Narloch

Some years are better than others, and 2018 was a banner year for seasonal CDs. I listened to ten (!) new holiday discs in order to compile this article, which lists my four favorites from this year's crop.

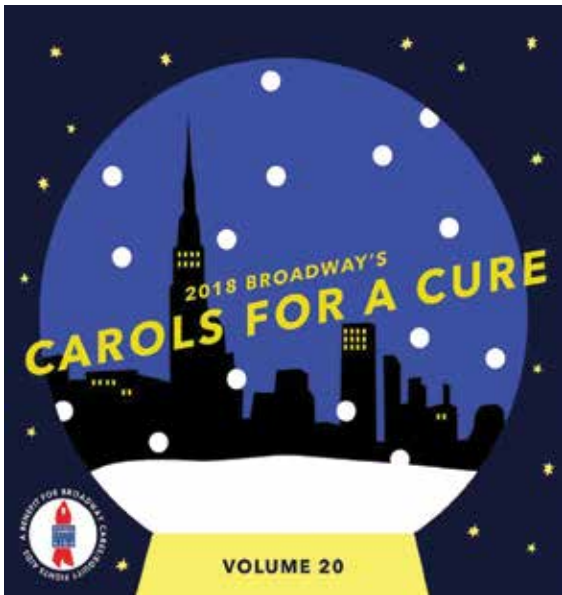
Carols For A Cure – Vol. 20

Each year, this essential double disc raises funds for BC/EFA (Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS) and allows theater queens like me to enjoy new music from the season's best Broadway shows, whose casts contribute new takes on holiday classics or original Christmas-themed compositions.

This year's special 20th anniversary edition of "Carols For A Cure" features eighteen original, newly recorded singles, arranged and performed by talented cast members and musicians from the 2018 Broadway season, along with ten bonus classics from past year's albums.

Among my favorites this year are "You're Auld I Need To Get By" ("Aladdin"), "On This Christmas Night" ("Hamilton"), "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day" ("Dear Evan Hansen"), and "A New Earth" ("Wicked").

You can pick up the latest "Carols For A Cure" disc for just \$25 at <http://broadwaycares.stores.yahoo.net/caforcucds.html>.



Ingrid Michaelson – Songs For The Season

The indie pop princess who scored a big hit in 2015 with "Girls Chase Boys" has released her first full-length holiday disc, which is a winner thanks to expert song selection and her ability to make overly familiar tunes (like Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You") sound fresh.

Leslie Odom Jr. joins Michaelson for that Carey cover, and I love the way the singers slow the song down to amp up the ache in the lyrics, turning the bubbly original in to a passionate plea.

Other winners on "Songs For The Season" include "Christmas Time Is Here" from "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Mele Kalikimaka" and "Auld Lang Syne."



John Legend – A Legendary Christmas

The sultan of smooth soul applies his velvety voice to fourteen fabulous seasonal songs, including collaborations with the likes of Stevie Wonder ("What Christmas Means To Me") and Esperanza Spaulding ("Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas").

Legend is the first African-American male to win the EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards), and his consummate craftsmanship is on full display throughout "A Legendary Christmas," his sixth studio album and first Christmas disc.

As always, the singer has romance on his mind, and Legend's fans will surely enjoy such terrific tracks as "Bring Me Love," "Give Love on Christmas Day," and "Wrap Me Up in Your Love."



Diana Ross – Wonderful Christmas Time

Even at age 74, after half a century of singing, Diana Ross's glorious voice has lost none of its delicate precision. She hasn't put out any new music in a while so this lovely set of seasonal songs is a real treat for her long-time fans.

The singer has recorded holiday music before, but this disc sounds to me like the best of her seasonal CDs, with lovely traditional renditions of "O Holy Night," "Amazing Grace," "Ave Maria" and "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

Ross also includes terrific takes on Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" and John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "Happy Christmas (War Is Over)," plus a timely and gorgeous version of "What The World Needs Now."

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