

outWord

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Attorney General Bonta Stands Up Against Legislation Targeting Transgender Students' Rights

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has joined forces with 21 attorneys general to oppose Idaho's Senate Bill 1100 (SB 1100), which prohibits transgender students in K-12 public and charter schools from using facilities that align with their gender identity. The appeal comes after the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho denied a motion for a preliminary injunction against the discriminatory law. The coalition's amicus brief argues that SB 1100 violates the Equal Protection Clause and Title IX, resulting in serious harm for transgender youth.



California Attorney General Rob Bonta

According to Attorney General Bonta, legislation that denies transgender students access to facilities consistent with their gender identity is not only unlawful but also detrimental to their well-being. He emphasizes the commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment for everyone, fighting against discriminatory school policies, and ensuring gender-affirming care.

SB 1100 joins a concerning trend of

discriminatory legislation targeting transgender children across the United States. Over 1.6 million people in the country, including approximately 300,000 youth between the ages of 13 and 17, identify as transgender. Unfortunately, transgender youth face higher levels of discrimination, violence, and harassment compared to their cisgender peers. This discrimination leads to both physical and mental harm. In contrast

to Idaho's discriminatory law, all California schools must permit students to use facilities in accordance with their gender identity.

The amicus brief submitted by the coalition supports the plaintiffs' efforts to block the enforcement of SB 1100. It argues that the law violates the Equal Protection Clause by stigmatizing transgender students and denying them access to common school facilities. Additionally, the brief contends that the law violates Title IX by denying transgender students equal access to facilities used by other boys and girls. It also highlights how inclusive laws and policies, like those in California, provide benefits without compromising the privacy and safety of others.

Attorney General Bonta has a history of defending the rights and safety of LGBTQ+ youth. He successfully secured a ruling against the mandatory gender identity disclosure policy of the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education in San Bernardino. The court held that such policies likely violate transgender and gender nonconforming students' right to equal protection under the California Constitution and result in irreparable harm. He has also supported Maryland's LGBTQ+-inclusive curriculum policy and joined other amicus briefs in cases defending transgender students' rights.

The amicus brief filed by Attorney General Bonta and the coalition includes attorneys general from New York, Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. It highlights the determination of these attorneys general to protect the rights of vulnerable communities and ensure equal treatment for all.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.

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Ice Blocks is a Real Hotspot for the Holidays & Everyday

Anchoring Sacramento's thriving and historic R Street Corridor that was once known as a gritty warehouse district, the Ice Blocks offers plenty to see and do this holiday season and beyond. Known as a coveted hub for artists, creatives, and an engaged community that seeks spending time in inspired spaces, the Ice Blocks is a popular destination for holiday shopping and enjoying time with friends and families every day.

"We're anticipating a really busy, fun holiday season here at Ice Blocks," said Developer Mike Heller. "Our best-in-show lineup of tenants has something for everyone and all ages."

Public Art

To set the stage – and in addition to new street lighting made possible with assistance from CADA – a recognizable and exciting new sculpture was recently installed at the corner of 18th & R Streets. Created by local artist Marc Foster and titled "Levity," the eye-catching public art piece was made from the last section of a C-130 Coast Guard plane. The talented artist created the abstract work by fastening the repurposed airplane wing onto a boiler that greets community members visiting the always-engaging Ice Blocks neighborhood.

Retail Row

Especially this time of the year, the Ice Blocks is a holiday shopping mecca complete with a row of retail tenants. Walkable and welcoming, the Ice Blocks offers a unique experience filed with boutique shopping, culinary artisans and creative businesses that is unlike anywhere else in Sacramento's urban core. Complementing well-known Ice Blocks retailers West Elm, Anthropologie, Bluemercury, Lovesac, Warby Parker, and Bonobos®, the Courtyard at Ice features the locally owned Audacious Plus Boutique, Strapping Store filled with creative gifts, cards, and stocking stuffers, plus Wild Ones Salon that offers an elevated beauty experience, just to name a few.

For more information the Ice Blocks, please visit www.iceblocksmidtown.com; for more information about the R Street Corridor in general and the variety of shops, boutiques, restaurants, bars and eateries, and creative spaces, please visit www.RStreetCorridor.com.



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State Capitol Holiday Music Program Returns



Visitors to the California State Capitol in downtown Sacramento will be treated to a festive, fun, and FREE Holiday Music Program on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. now through December 22, 2023. The entertaining live performances take place on the first floor in the Capitol Rotunda.

To set a festive stage and spread holiday cheer, beautiful vintage decorations create a lovely backdrop for a variety of diverse and amazing holiday musical performances. Each day, visitors will enjoy live musical entertainment that includes string ensembles, solo guitarists, choruses, choirs, bell-ringers, harps, accordions, Broadway-style song and dance, baroque and brass ensembles, talented school choirs, barbershop harmony and much more.

The State Capitol Museum and California State Parks make this special holiday experience possible in association with the California State Legislature Joint Rules Committee, the Governor's Office and the Department of General Services who have worked collaboratively to preserve holiday traditions inside the State Capitol. For more information about scheduled performances, please call 916-324-0333 or visit: www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov.

Time Magazine declared Taylor Swift as the Person of the Year, recognizing her unparalleled impact on the music industry and her influential role in shaping cultural conversations. Swift's ability to seamlessly navigate between genres, coupled with her fearless advocacy for artists' rights, has solidified her as a trailblazer in the entertainment world. Beyond her musical prowess, Swift's commitment to social and political issues, from gender equality to LGBTQ+ rights, has elevated her to a symbol of empowerment. This accolade reflects not only her chart-topping success but also her enduring influence on society, making her a deserving and impactful choice for Time's Person of the Year.



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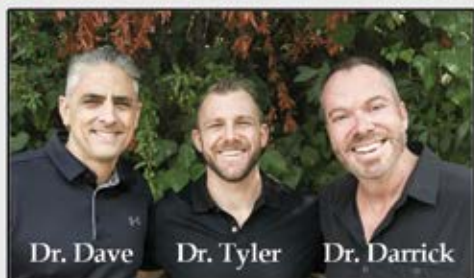
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Little Activisms by Judy Saint Make Your Own Activist Ornaments

Who knows the Broadway Musical with these lyrics: "Because of our traditions, we've kept our balance for many, many years...we have traditions for everything... how to eat, how to sleep, even how to wear clothes. You may ask, how did this tradition start? I'll tell you. ... I don't know. But it's a tradition..." (Good for you if you recognized Tevye's song "Tradition" from Fiddler On The Roof.)



Many of us celebrate mid-winter the same way we did growing up. Participating in long held traditions grounds us as a solid member of our personal circles. Tradition gives our lives stepping stones which we can translate into meaning and worth. As Tevye sang, traditions can help us know who we are, and our value to society. That can be a good thing.

Breaking tradition can also be a good thing. For example, many of us let the holidays pass with as little notice as just another day, though perhaps with a social media post of an elaborate table of food. Traditions, no traditions, new traditions, or somewhere in between, it's all you being you. And that's always a good thing.

Today, though, I'd like you to consider using the winter holidays as another opportunity to speak up for yourself and the causes you love. Especially if guests might enter your home, you can use decorations to speak for you. Whether your cause is LGBTQ+, non-belief, ethnic minorities, rescue animals, yoga, the elderly, or any other effort, what could be easier than having some decorations around the house bringing life to your cause with color, music, or intriguing baubles?

Now, if only your heartfelt causes had their own decoration stores – not many causes have much selection. As Steve Martin sang in his song about non-belief, "Atheists Got No Songs". So, he had to write one. Of course, it

contained his silliness, as is Steve Martin, but you get the point. Where are all these "other" traditional accoutrements for causes other than Christianity, which has swamped whole stores with constant music, clothing, and their own themed decorations?

Here's an idea: Make your own.

Let me share my favorite. How about making some miniature replicas of books about your devoted cause that you have read over the years? A friend did this for us a few years back. She printed tiny book covers, front and back, cut them out, glued them onto little 2" blocks of balsa wood, then glued a ribbon loop at the top of each one so we could hang them on our tree. Our cause was non-belief, but you could do this for any selection of books on a topic.

Find a cause you care about and consider making little book ornaments for your home. You could even give the actual books away as gifts, maybe letting guests select the ornament of the book they want from the tree. You could then hand them the actual book. How cute would that be.

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon.

Stockton Celebrates the Season

by Chris Narloch

Stockton pulls out all the stops this season, offering a variety of events to help you celebrate the holidays, from drag queens to a lantern festival. Read on for details.



A Drag Queen Christmas

If bawdy behavior is your cup of tea, “A Drag Queen Christmas” is a diva-licious extravaganza (and the longest running drag tour in America).

Get ready for your favorite queens performing live on stage, including winners, fan favorites, OGs, and Miss Congeniality, plus queens from Season 15 and All Stars 8. In addition to regular admission, VIP Meet & Greet tickets are also available.

“A Drag Queen Christmas” sashays into Stockton’s Bob Hope Theatre on Saturday evening, Dec. 16. 18+ only welcome.



Stockton Lantern Festival

This winter, Stockton Ballpark invites you to follow in the footsteps of an 8-year-old boy named Koda, as the ballpark is transformed into a magic forest with whimsical creatures and plants that are larger-than-life and glow at night.

All the art installations are handcrafted by lantern artisans, employing the technique of traditional Chinese lantern making which enjoys a history of over 2000 years.

Tens of thousands of LED lights, plus metal and fabric in vibrant colors, are used to create an unforgettable winter night lights experience. The magic begins when the sun sets and the forest starts to glow at night.

This unique, walk-through experience is complemented with live stage performances, including music, dance, and acrobats. The Stockton Lantern Festival is open to travelers of all ages to explore, through Jan. 14, 2024.

For more information, and to purchase tickets for both events and more, please visit: www.stocktonlive.com



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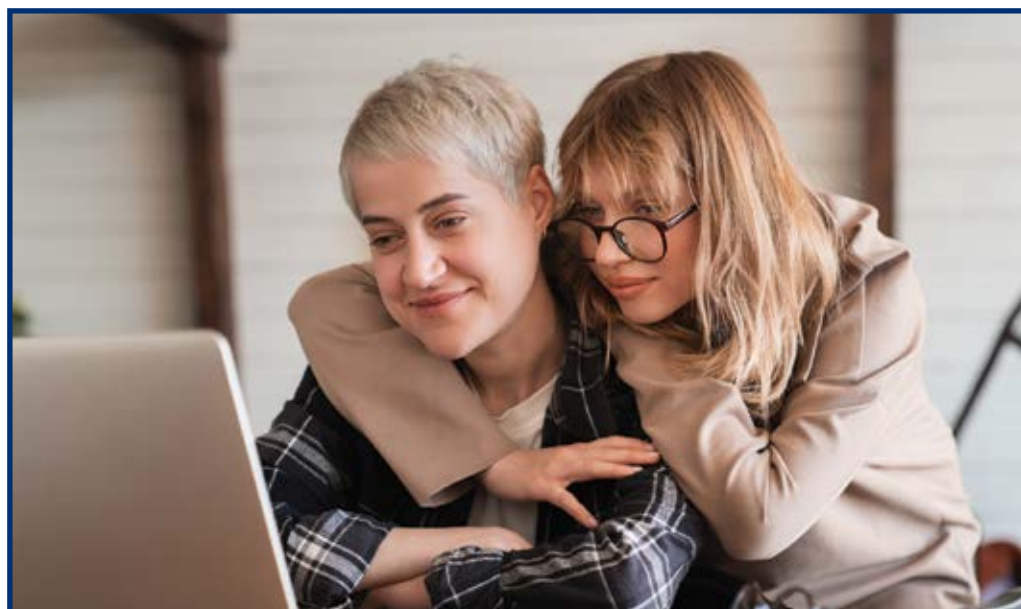


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"Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics," edited by Michael G. Long, foreword by Clayborne Carson

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You will never settle. And why should you? If it's not right, you make it right. If it can be better, well, then get at it. You find the solution or you go on to the next thing because good enough is never good enough. As in the new book "Bayard Rustin," essays edited by Michael G. Long, there's always work to do and good trouble.

Somehow, it seems, in the discussion about Martin Luther King and the leadership he brought to the Civil Rights Movement, certain things may be left out. In the case of Bayard Rustin, says Long, the record needs to be altered. Today, now.

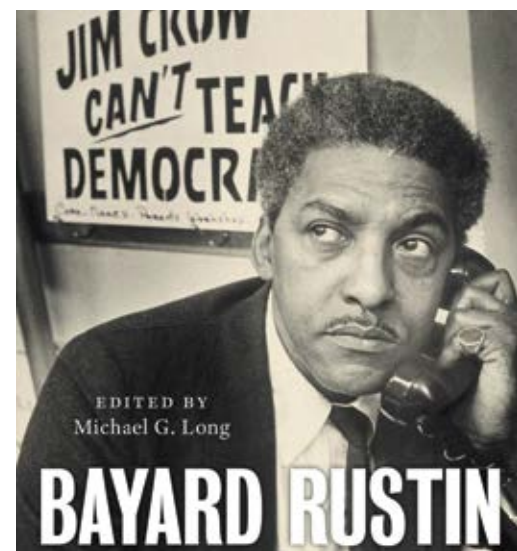
His mother was still a teenager, and unmarried, when Rustin's grandmother helped deliver him in the spring of 1912. The boy's father refused to acknowledge him, so his grandparents gave him a family name and raised him in their Quaker faith.

Still, alongside the peaceful, gentle mandate of Quakerism, young Rustin experienced Jim Crow segregation. His grandmother left a major impact on him, teaching him compassion, kindness, and generosity – she reared him to do the right thing – but they lived in Pennsylvania, where racism was common and the Klan maintained a nearby presence. As if that wasn't difficult enough, Rustin realized he was gay, which was illegal then.

At that point, though, he had seen many wrongs around him, and he became an activist. He also worked for justice as a speaker and organizer; at one time, he'd embraced communism but eventually became a socialist. By his own admission, Rustin was jailed more than 20 times and served on a chain gang for several months – but even then, his nonviolent Quaker beliefs emerged and he befriended his jailers, gaining their respect.

By the time he met a young preacher named Martin Luther King, Rustin was well-versed on civil rights work. He had direction, contacts, and the organizational skills the movement needed.

And yet, he was willing to let King take



the front stage...

Pulled together as a collection of essays, "Bayard Rustin" has one flaw that probably can't be helped: it's quite repetitive. Each of the essayists in this book wrote extensively about Rustin, his work, and his impact, but there just doesn't seem to be quite enough about Rustin himself – perhaps because, as editor Michael G. Long indicates in his introduction, Rustin left a legacy but history left him more in the background. This means that the nearly two dozen contributors to this book had only what they had to go on, hence, the repetition.

Even so, if you look for Rustin, you'll find abundant tales about him and this book has a good portion of them. Readers will be entertained, confounded, and pleased by what they read here. It's like finding treasure you never knew you needed.

This book needs to sit on the shelf next to everything written about Dr. King. It's an essential companion to any volume about the Civil Rights Movement. If you need history, find "Bayard Rustin" and settle in.



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“My Name is Barbra” by Barbra Streisand

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You spent hours online and on the phone, trying to get tickets. There was no way you were gonna miss this performance. You’ve loved her since forever, maybe longer, and every minute spent in a virtual line will be worth it to see her live. People who know you are surprised; they’d expect this kind of behavior for a modern-day star but no. If they read “My Name is Barbra” by Barbra Streisand, they’d understand.

She almost needs no introduction now.

And yet, Streisand struggled for most of her childhood to get the attention she craved. She was her parents' second child but she barely knew her father; he died when she was a toddler and she always wondered what might've been, had he lived. She had a rough relationship with her mother, in part because Streisand wanted demonstrations of love that her mother couldn't give, and in part because of her stepfather, who once called Streisand "ugly."

If any of this led to her dramatic flair as a child, who would blame her?

If it did, she turned it into something good. She acted as her own clothing designer, attended acting classes in Manhattan as a teenager and worked as a singer at a nightclub for awhile before making a minor splash. She hustled, appearing on TV for the first time in the spring of 1961, which led to more club appearances, then a part in "a major Broadway show" before her star went stratospheric and the rest is show-biz history.

The first good news about "My Name is Barbra" is that it's eminently readable. It's written in a conversational tone that feels right and not forced, with a good deal of name-dropping that's mostly relevant, not overly gratuitous or stiflingly

excessive. Author Barbra Streisand deals quite openly with rumors that have plagued her for decades – including "The Streisand Effect" and acceptance of her nose – and she does it with surprising candidness that readers will embrace. She's a perfectionist, not a diva, as she seems to stress, and so the latter peeks out very rarely and what little bragging is in here is justified. In short, in the category of celebrity-autobio, this book is different, in a good way.

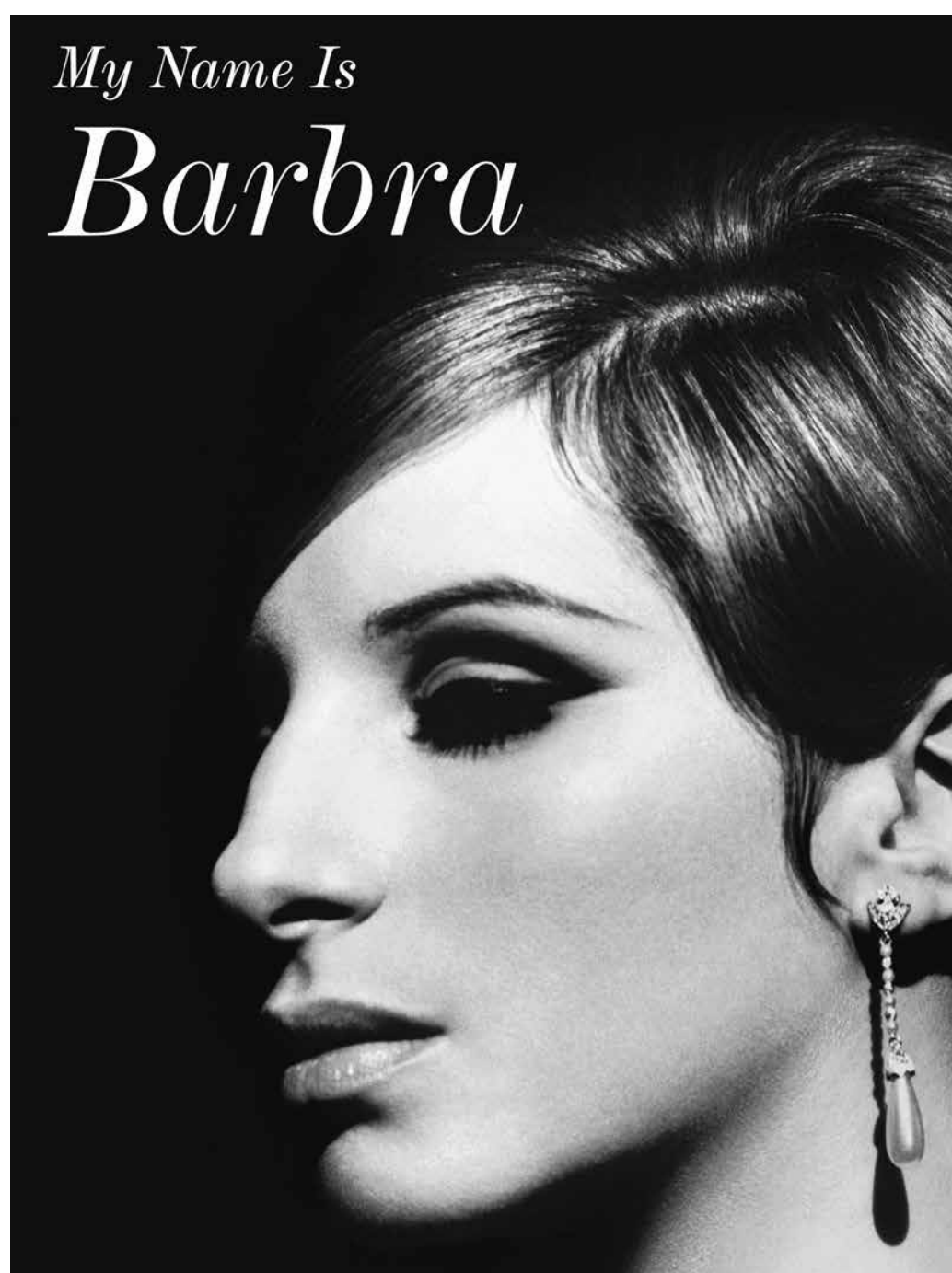
Fans will find other reasons to love it.

Streisand dishes, not just on herself but on her leading men, former husbands, writers, directors, co-stars, haters in the industries, and people who displeased her and found themselves suddenly on the outside of the inner-circle. She writes about her activism. Streisand openly includes bits of reviews that would hurt a lesser mortal, but she seems to laugh those critics off. Best of all, she drops tiny breadcrumbs about her life here and there for fans to root out.

That minutiae might as well have been gold.

Though this almost-1000-page book could have been cut by a quarter and not have suffered in the least, it's worth hauling home. For any fan, old or new, "My Name is Barbra" is a book you'll be happy to spend hours with.

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by Luci Petlack, Sustainability Blogger
Instagram: @lucismorsels

Stockings need filling and if you don't want to fill them with useless things everyone looks sideways at, take note of some creative ideas, all from Sacramento area businesses.

In Midtown, Nudge Eco Store has everything you need (and want) for a lower waste lifestyle. Shampoo bars, bamboo pot scrapers, and makeup in eco-packaging. Drop in to see the selection, or opt for ordering online for curbside pickup or local delivery! They even have a kid's section.



Nudge Eco Store

Coffee and tea drinkers in your life? Tea leaves and accessories from Tea Cozy in Art House downtown is a fun way to fill up a stocking or gift basket. They'll even make custom tea leaf mixes for you! A bag of coffee beans or merchandise from your favorite local Coffee Shops are a must. Chocolate Fish, Pachamama, Mast, and Temple are just the beginning of a long list of local roasters.



Tea Cozy

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Want something unique and cute or fun? Stop at The Constellation Marketplace also in Art House for local items, handmade pieces, and hand-picked merchandise. Check out any of Strapping Store's three locations for just the right item.

Stocking shopping can be fun. Pick a theme this year or have fun with a local-inspired mix. And feel free to wrap up any other gifts on your list these next few weeks at these local businesses too! Gift cards, shipping, and help for the hard people are available at each store!

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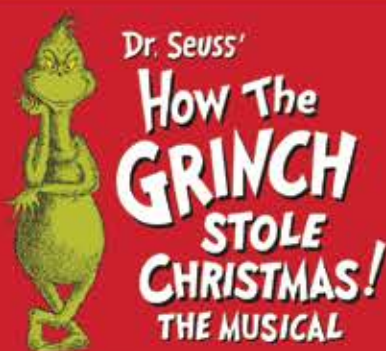
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The Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving – 2023 Edition *by Mikey Rox*

Searching for special deliveries for that special someone? Holiday szn gifts that slap? Consider these elf-approved, consciously curated presents perfect for everyone from roommates to soulmates.



Star Wars Home Collection

Movie nights in bed get a comfort upgrade from the Force – for those who uphold Jedi code in the streets but embrace the Dark Side in the sheets – with Sobel Westex's Star Wars Home Collection, five- to seven-piece twin, queen and king sets suitable for either alliance. Cop a bootleg of the infamous "Star Wars Holiday Special" (legal copies don't exist, nor has it been rebroadcast since its one-and-only airing in 1978) and settle in for a snacky screening with premade Johnson's Popcorn (a Jersey Shore staple) or Pop 'N Dulse's DIY gourmet kits. SobelAtHome.com, \$350-\$390; JohnsonsPopcorn.com, \$27+; PopNDulse.com, \$23



Bird Buddy Smart Feeder

Avian enthusiasts get up close and semi-personal with feathered friends thanks to the Bird Buddy smart feeder that allows safe viewing via a solar-powered, app-enabled camera, along with adorable add-ons like a suet ball holder and three-in-one nutrition set to keep the 'hood's population happy and healthy. MyBirdBuddy.com, \$299-\$415

Link x Lou Permanent Jewelry Pop-Ups

Jewelry – but make it an experience. That's the premise behind Link x Lou, a quick-fitting accessory service providing recipients with in-person appointments for custom-linked, clasp-less 14-karat white- and yellow-gold necklaces, bracelets, anklets and rings that wear until they're worn out. Money's on 'em lasting longer than the situationship you've got goin', but may the odds be ever in your favor. LinkxLou.com, \$55-\$500

Polaris General 1000 Sport

Resort-ish communities across the country have adopted golf carts as a preferred mode of transportation, and you can establish yourself as a local baddie in Polaris' General 1000 Sport – in ethereal colorways like ghost gray – equipped with a four-stroke DOHC twin-cylinder engine, 100 horsepower, 1,500-pound hitch-towing capacity, and enough street cred for Boomers to shake their fists at. Polaris.com, \$17,500+



'Arquivistas' Crystal Book

Brazilian crystal devotee Tatiana Dorow has curated an impressive collection of more than 1,000 rare and exquisite minerals – ranging from one ounce to over 5,000 pounds – the comprehensive record of which is now compiled in the sizable coffee-table tome "Arquivistas" (Portuguese for archivist) that's sure to satisfy, delight, and provide endless holiday-party talking points to the New Agers in your life. (You know they will.) ArtAndAnthropologyPress.com, \$350

Winter Discovery Mini Scented Candle Set

Apotheke takes the guesswork out of choosing just the right ambiance-inducing aroma with its Winter Discovery Mini Scented Candle Set, featuring six fragrant two-ounce tins in seasonal smells that include birchwood apple, black cypress, blackberry honey, cardamon chestnut, charred fig, and firewood (with a combined 90-hour burn time), and packaged in a nostalgically illustrated gift box accentuated by festive gold detailing. ApothekeCo.com, \$64

Orttu Shelton Puffer

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outWord

media • marketing • events

Merry Christmas from the Crest & Crocker

by Chris Narloch

When choosing which holiday events to spend your precious time and money on, consider one or more of these can't-miss seasonal selections.

ArtMix: Sweater Weather

Don your most festive (or tacky?) holiday sweater and join emcee Miss A La Mode for a spirited evening at Crocker Museum featuring star-studded drag performances from Baby Angel, Faye King It, Katana Rei, Serpentina, and Titus Bussy.

Yule love the campfire-style sing-along with Be Brave Bold Robot. Then make your own holiday cards that say exactly what you want to say, and don't forget to pose for your holiday keepsake with our beloved Krampus, on Thursday evening, Dec. 14.

Visit: www.crockerart.org/events



Jake Shimabukuro

Ukulele master and jolly ambassador of aloha, Jake Shimabukuro, will bring joy to the world again this holiday season by delivering a special gift for all with his highly-acclaimed holiday show, "Jake Shimabukuro - Christmas in Hawaii."

In addition to his signature fan favorites, this special show will draw on a vibrant catalog of holiday classics such as "We Three Kings," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "O Holy Night," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," and selections from his "Jake & Friends" album, released in November 2021.

Don't miss Jake's Sacramento show at the Crest, on Monday evening, Dec. 18. For tickets, go to <https://crestsacramento.com>



Circus Bella

Circus Bella is excited to announce their jubilant return to San Francisco with a new indoor seated show, Kaleidoscope 2023, performed in the round under a heated, 68-foot, big top circus tent built in Italy.

2023 continues Circus Bella's 15-year tradition of bringing joy to thousands of children and their families in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Kaleidoscope 2023 will feature a diverse 12-person cast of mostly Bay Area-based aerialists, jugglers, contortionists, and clowns, including two trans performers.

Circus Bella continues through Dec. 31, 2023. Tickets: www.circusbella.org/kaleidoscope

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SATURDAY | DEC 16



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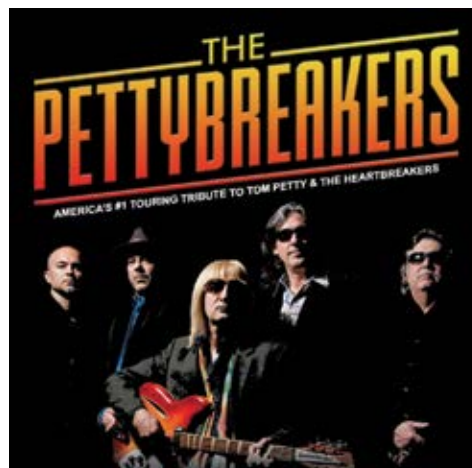
SUNDAY | DEC 17



JAKE SHIMABUKURO
CHRISTMAS IN HAWAII

FEATURING
Jackson Whitcott

MONDAY | DEC 18



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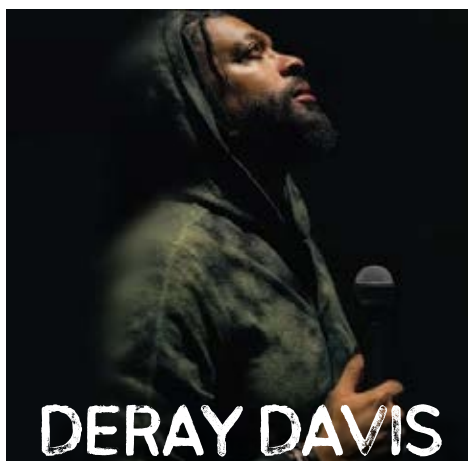
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CLASSIC MOVIES



SCROOGED
(1988)

TUESDAY, DEC 19, 7PM



THE HOLIDAY
(2006)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 20, 6PM



WHITE CHRISTMAS
(1954)

FRIDAY, DEC 22, 7PM



elf
(2003)

SATURDAY, DEC 23, 1PM



**MOVIE PARTY
GREMLINS**
(1984)

SATURDAY, DEC 23, 8PM



**THE MUPPET
CHRISTMAS CAROL**
(1992)

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 3PM



**IT'S A
WONDERFUL LIFE**
(1946)

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 6:30PM



PRETTY IN PINK
(1986)

SATURDAY, DEC 30, 7PM

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Fascinating Films Fill the Screens at Tower

by Chris Narloch

I love Sacramento's Tower Theatre, which consistently programs some of the most challenging and entertaining cinema around. Here are reviews of four new films I saw recently at that historic theatre.

Maestro

This new bio-pic starring, directed and co-written by Bradley Cooper is almost a shoo-in for multiple Oscar nominations next year, and I enjoyed it a great deal more than I expected to. Cooper plays the famed American conductor Leonard Bernstein, who was married to actress Felicia Montealegre for decades despite having affairs with men and women. Bernstein was a complicated man but a musical genius, and Cooper embodies him brilliantly. The movie is essentially a tribute to Bernstein's long-suffering wife, and I would be surprised if both Cooper and Carey Mulligan (who plays Felicia) fail to get Oscar nominations. I wish there was even more music in the movie, but what is there is superb, and so is the film.



Saltburn

I was very much looking forward to this darkly comic drama from director Emerald Fennell, especially after her promising work on "Promising Young Woman," but Fennell let me down this time. That previous film was an absorbing examination of toxic masculinity and female revenge, whereas "Saltburn" is a far less satisfying tale of a bored (and boring!) rich family who are done in by a working-class climber and con man (Barry Keoghan) who turns out to be a psychopath. Keoghan is a very talented actor, and both of his nude scenes near the end of the film are truly bizarre, but almost every character in the movie is a tired stereotype.

Dream Scenario

Nicolas Cage continues his comeback from B-movie hell with this intriguing mystery about a professor (Cage) who finds that he has invaded the dreams of complete strangers around the globe. His initial fame turns to infamy very quickly, and the movie is a heavy satire on cancel culture and the downside of celebrity. Playing against type, Cage doesn't go ballistic in "Dream Scenario" but instead plays a nerdy everyman who just wants his old life back. The movie won't be for everyone – it's very odd and has an unresolved ending – but Cage is almost always fascinating, and I am glad he is getting better scripts again.

The Boy and the Heron

The latest movie to reach the United States from Studio Ghibli may well be the final feature film by Hayao Miyazaki, one of my favorite filmmakers and hands down the finest living Japanese director of animation. After we saw the film, I told my friend that watching the movie was like dreaming for two hours straight. While you're in it, the film makes perfect sense but, after it's over, the surrealism defies logic and yet you're left with very powerful emotions. The Boy in the movie's title loses his beloved mother in a fire at the start of the film and then travels to an eye-popping alternate universe in search of her. "The Boy and the Heron" is a meditation on love and loss, and it's a wonderful coda to Miyazaki's fantastic filmography.

Note: All four of these movies were still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press. For current titles and showtimes, please visit: www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower



UPCOMING EVENTS



Jesus Christ Superstar

JANUARY 10-13, 2024

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon, paying tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring.



Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience

JANUARY 18-19, 2024

With video of the "Man in Black" projected on a screen above the stage, a live band and singers accompany him in perfect sync as he performs some of his biggest hits, including "Folsom Prison Blues," "Ring of Fire," and more.



Step Afrika!

JANUARY 21, 2024

Blending percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional West and Southern African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a compelling, artistic experience.



Classic Albums Live: Sticky Fingers

JANUARY 28, 2024

Classic Albums Live takes the greatest albums and recreates them live on stage – note for note, cut for cut. This special concert event features the Rolling Stones' *Sticky Fingers* album, including "Brown Sugar," "Wild Horses," and more.

JUST ANNOUNCED



Preservation Hall Jazz Band

MARCH 11, 2024

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JUST ANNOUNCED



Lyle Lovett and His Acoustic Group

MARCH 14, 2024

Singer, composer, actor, and multi-Grammy-Award winner, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. The Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel, and blues.

Tickets available online or call the box office:
HarrisCenter.net | (916) 608-6888

Out & About

The Original Sacramento Drag BINGO concluded the year with a resounding success! We extend our gratitude to everyone who joined us last night and generously supported the Adopt an Elder Foundation, contributing to a fundraising achievement of over \$1,500. Special thanks to Broadway Sacramento for their invaluable support through fantastic prize donations. We express our heartfelt appreciation for the continued unwavering love and support from our incredible Sacramento community. Looking forward to reconnecting in 2024!



NorCal Theater Heats Up for the Holidays

by Chris Narloch

For theater fans, there is nothing quite like revisiting beloved characters or a favorite venue, and that's exactly what I did recently.

Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley

Mr. Darcy is back, and this time he's trying to screw up his younger sister's chance at love with Henry Grey, her shy suitor.

Will the arrogant and suspicious Mr. Darcy admit he was wrong about Mr. Grey? Will true love prevail? Is there a Christmas tree on stage?

If you've seen the previous two installments of Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon's tasty trilogy of Pemberley plays based on Jane Austen's beloved characters from "Pride and Prejudice," you already know the answers to those questions.

I thought it took a bit too long to get to the play's predictable, foregone conclusion, but other than that this is theatrical comfort food at its finest.

The production's entire cast is perfection, the set and costumes hit the bullseye, and if you're not in a holiday mood after it's over, then you must be a Grinch.

"Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley" has already been extended through Dec. 31, 2023 at Sacramento's Capital Stage. If you act fast, you might be able to score tickets, at <https://capstage.org>



Dear San Francisco

If you ever wondered what happened to Club Fugazi, the intimate, historic San Francisco venue that, for decades, housed the theatrical juggernaut "Beach Blanket Babylon," wonder no more, dear readers.

That North Beach treasure of a theater is now a showcase for various productions, including this delightful, eye-popping residency by The 7 Fingers, one of the world's finest contemporary circus troupes.

"Dear San Francisco" features a dozen or so performers, all of them so incredibly talented and flexible that I couldn't help but hear "The Rubberband Man," a classic song by The Spinners, in my head while the cast tumbled and bounced and flipped -- and back-flipped -- across the stage inside Club Fugazi.

To be sure, there are rubber band women in the show as well, including a fantastic female who did things with half a dozen or more hula hoops that I did not know were humanly possible.

An Asian couple, acrobats whose adorable little daughter also made an appearance in the show, especially blew my mind, as did the unbelievably powerful "strongman" who balanced two adults on his massive shoulders.

I could go on and on about this show, which includes a great singing guitarist and is also a lovely tribute to the history of San Francisco, but what I really hope is that it becomes a famous Bay Area attraction like "Beach Blanket Babylon." If the very enthusiastic audience on the evening I saw the show is any indication, it just might do that.

Tickets are currently on sale for "Dear San Francisco" through June 2, 2024. For more information, please visit: www.clubfugazisf.com



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DuMOL: The Evolution of Outstanding Pinot Noir and Chardonnay

words and image by Diana Kienle,
Certified Specialist of Wine

DuMOL is a Sonoma County winery that has evolved since its inception in 1996. And that is truly a progression that rewards you and me as enjoyers of wine. The original owners named the winery using an amalgamation of the names of their children (Duncan and Molly). The wines at that time were made from grapes bought from Dutton Ranch in Sebastopol, CA. In 1999, Andy Smith joined DuMOL as their winemaker/viticulturist. In 2005, Andy became part owner of the winery; and, in 2015, he and an associate bought full ownership of the winery. The results today are remarkable.



Andy Smith is the principal who has truly set things in motion. He was born in Scotland and journeyed “down under” to New Zealand and Australia to learn and grow his winemaking skills before coming to the United States in 1995. He spent time at Littorai Wines and Paul Hobbs Winery, as his skills expanded to include the wines of Sonoma County, California. He is the driving force for the quality and expression of the wines from DuMOL. The winery now owns vineyards, in addition to buying grapes that have been carefully chosen. He is very clear that, without great vineyards, you cannot make great wine.

My visit to DuMOL was a great pleasure. It was in the heat of harvest with grapes coming in from the vineyard to be sorted and destemmed. Then, off they go to tanks for crush and fermentation. The pictures you see here include interns from Italy and Spain at the sorting table to enhance their knowledge of making fine wine. It is a fast-paced process yet done with diligence and care. I was excited to see the beginning of the process taking place.

The winery itself is situated in a more industrial location. This is a tasting focused on the wine and the process, not the

surrounding views. That truly makes the wine the central focus. I took the opportunity to enjoy the lovely Chardonnays. The standout for me was the Charles Heintz Vineyard Isobel. It was rich and creamy without being over-oaked. The wine was lush with green apple and hints of pineapple. A beautiful expression of the varietal.

The Pinots from DuMOL are some of the best I have tasted this year. I am amazed at the density without heaviness. The fresh fruit that sings through the wine will age and develop more nuances. There is no need to do anything yet savor the beauty in the glass. DuMOL makes Pinot Noir from many different sites. There is great consensus from the wine critics about the high quality of wines from DuMOL, the 2021 vintage in particular.

It is amazing to see the degree of regard for the 2021s from DuMOL. I could share the perspective of other critics, yet I think the point is clear. 2021 is a great vintage from this winery, and it is time to find some for yourself. The choice is not only Chardonnay or Pinot Noir. They also craft fine Cabernet and Syrah. Access the website at: <https://dumol.com>

Enjoy!!

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Have A Cher-y Merry Christmas!

by Chris Narloch

Cher isn't the only artist with a holiday album this year, but she is for sure the most famous. This survey of new seasonal CDs also includes a jazz singer, a queer comic, a Broadway belter, and a gay crooner.



Cher – Christmas

If you were expecting a traditional holiday CD from Cher, with covers of “O Holy Night” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” then you really don’t know the Goddess of Pop at all. The diva stays far away from anything remotely religious on “Christmas,” and that’s fine by me.

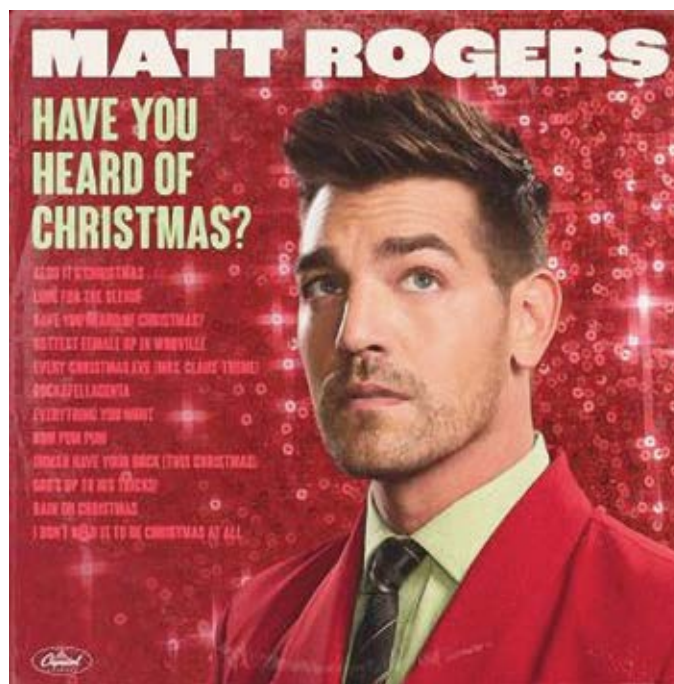
Instead, Cher offers secular holiday hits like “Run Rudolph Run,” plus dynamite duets with Stevie Wonder (“What Christmas Means to Me”), Cyndi Lauper (“Put a Little Holiday in Your Heart”), Michael Buble (“Home”) and Darlene Love (“Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)”).

When Cher tries to be current, teaming up with the rapper Tyga on “Drop Top Sleigh Ride,” she falters, and several tracks are marred by vocal distortion effects, but most of the album is fun, and Cher’s voice sounds as husky and sexy and powerful as ever.



George Perris – The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

This handsome half-Greek, half-French crooner came out of the closet last year, and he applies his gorgeous pipes to ten traditional holiday favorites on this disc, which includes “Ave Maria,” “Silent Night,” “The Christmas Song,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” the tasty title track, and more.



Matt Rogers – Have You Heard of Christmas?

We already have a Queen of Christmas in Mariah Carey, but I am nominating Matt Rogers as the queer queen after his hilarious Showtime Christmas special from last year and his brand-new holiday CD, both titled “Have You Heard of Christmas?” Rogers is cute and clever, and his dance-pop song titles say it all: “Lube for The Sleigh,” “Hottest Female Up in Whoville,” and “God’s Up To His Tricks!”

Samara Joy – A Joyful Holiday

This stunning singer is already a jazz giant at the ripe old age of 24, and “A Joyful Holiday” is her first seasonal EP. I wish there were more than six songs on the disc, and I didn’t care for the last two tracks, but Joy’s versions of “Warm in December” and “Twinkle Twinkle Little Me” are decidedly diva licious.



Stephanie J. Block – Merry Christmas, Darling

This Broadway baby has performed in River City many times, thanks to Broadway Sacramento, and she has a big, beautiful voice that is tailor-made for a dramatic Christmas classic like “O Holy Night,” which she nails. Elsewhere, Block includes warm and wonderful renditions of “Sleigh Ride” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” plus the terrific title song, and more.

Various Artists – Stax Christmas

As a fan of old-school soul music, I could not wait to get my hands on this recent release celebrating the iconic Stax Records label and featuring The Staple Singers, Isaac Hayes, Otis Redding, The Emotions, Rufus Thomas, and Carla Thomas. There isn’t a dud on the entire disc, but I especially enjoyed Albert King’s “Santa Claus Wants Some Lovin’.”

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For 28 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the response we have received after returning to print has been fantastic!

However, we are continuing to ask that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our production staff, staff writers and distribution costs among other things.

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Happy Holidays from Broadway Sac & STC

If you need some seasonal spirit this month, there are several excellent options available on Sacramento stages. Read on for details.

Broadway Sacramento

"Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" is the record-setting, Broadway holiday sensation that features the hit songs "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas," from the original animated special.

Max the Dog narrates, while the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is "two sizes too small," decides to steal Christmas away from the holiday-loving Whos.

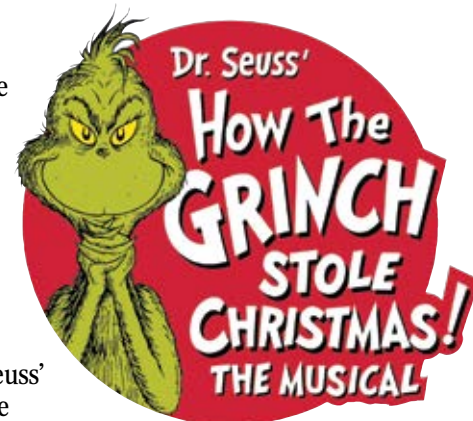
Magnificent sets and costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations help transport audiences to the whimsical world of Whoville and help remind us of the true meaning of the holiday season.

Don't miss your chance to see Cindy Lou Who soften the green guy's heart, when "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" lights up Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, this Dec. 27-31. For more information, go to: www.broadwaysacramento.com

Sacramento Theatre Company

STC's holiday offering is sure to fill your family with joy this season. "Home for the Holidays: The Gifts of the Season" features songs and scenes from STC's beloved "A Christmas Carol," other holiday classics, favorite carols, and so much more.

Make holiday memories to last a lifetime when Sacramento Theatre Company presents this magical, seasonal celebration on their Main Stage, Dec. 15-24. For tickets, please visit: www.sactheatre.org



Activating Taste Buds

Do you miss posting pictures of your food on social media? We do too! So, we would like to highlight your food pics here in the pages of *Outword*. Email your pics to graphics@outwordmagazine.com along with a one sentence description or location, and include your name. You can also tag your image with #outwordtastebuds and we will check them out. This isn't a contest, it's just for fun. Here is another "gourmet" image. Now activate those buds!



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Current as of December 14, 2023

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

It seems like only a week ago we were basking poolside anxiously awaiting all things pumpkin. Now we're rounding the winter solstice faster than a Klingon Bird of Prey attempting a time-traveling slingshot maneuver around the sun! (Extra points if you get that reference!) With that comes the year-end giving asks. So here is my ask for you: give your donations to the small nonprofits who genuinely need them; give your time to the people who truly bring you joy; give your heart to those who will protect and cherish it; and give yourself a break from negative self-judgment. Ain't nobody got time for that! Happy Holidays!



Drag icon Lady Bunny's holiday show, "Lady Bunny: A Very Blue X-mas," at the Oasis in San Francisco, Saturday, Dec. 23.

Punk cabaret duo The Dresden Dolls, led by drummer Brian Viglione and Amanda Palmer, will electrify The UC Theatre at 2036 University Ave. in Berkeley on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. General Admission Standing Room with Limited Seating available for a night of darkly original songcraft and visceral live performances. Don't miss this unique blend of performance art, politics, and influences ranging from The Doors to Nina Simone. The duo's first full global tour in almost two decades promises a cathartic experience for fans old and new. Theucetheatre.org

Infamous drag icon Lady Bunny brings her holiday show, "LADY BUNNY: A VERY BLUE X-MAS," to Oasis at 298 11th St., San Francisco, on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. Experience Christmas with a raunchy, politically-incorrect spin on beloved carols. Lady Bunny's comic genius, showcased in films and TV, promises a night of unforgettable entertainment. Ladybunny.net

From Saturday, Dec. 16, to Sunday, Dec. 23, catch the comedic brilliance of Ali Wong live at The Masonic, located at 1111 California St., San Francisco. Renowned for her Netflix specials Baby Cobra, Hard Knock Wife, and Don Wong, Wong is the first artist to sell out 13 shows at the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles. Don't miss this chance to witness her stand-up prowess on tour. Aliwong.com

Experience the transformative power of Lorraine Hansberry's classic stage drama, "A Raisin in the Sun," playing through Dec. 24 at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St. This historic play, the first written by a Black woman produced on Broadway in 1959, has been hailed for changing American theater. Celebrationarts.net

The Wisdom Project fosters community for LGBTQ seniors and allies in the Sacramento area, addressing the unique challenges they face. Dedicated to physical and mental well-being, community outreach, self-sufficiency, and spirituality, their diverse programs include brunches, movies, presentations, and more. Servant-hearts.org

Don't miss the comedic brilliance of Myq Kaplan - Live At The Sofia Home of B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Get ready for an unforgettable night of laughter! Bstreettheatre.org

On Friday, Dec. 22, from 7-9 p.m., join us at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., for a heartwarming screening of the 1954 American musical film "White Christmas." Directed by Michael Curtiz and featuring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen, the film follows a song-and-dance team's efforts to save a failing Vermont inn. Crestsacramento.com

Don't miss the festive hilarity of "Murder, You Wrote: A December to Dismember" at Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St. #130, on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9:00 PM. Join head detective Hawley Allen and her sidekick Corky McDonnell in an improvised holiday murder mystery with special guests Stacey Cochran and Alex Shewmaker. Audience participation determines who's on Santa's naughty list. Cast regulars Wes Allen, Kevin Cooley, and Mickey McKim promise a slay ride of laughter and suspense. Be there or yule be sad!

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthew@hengemedia.com.

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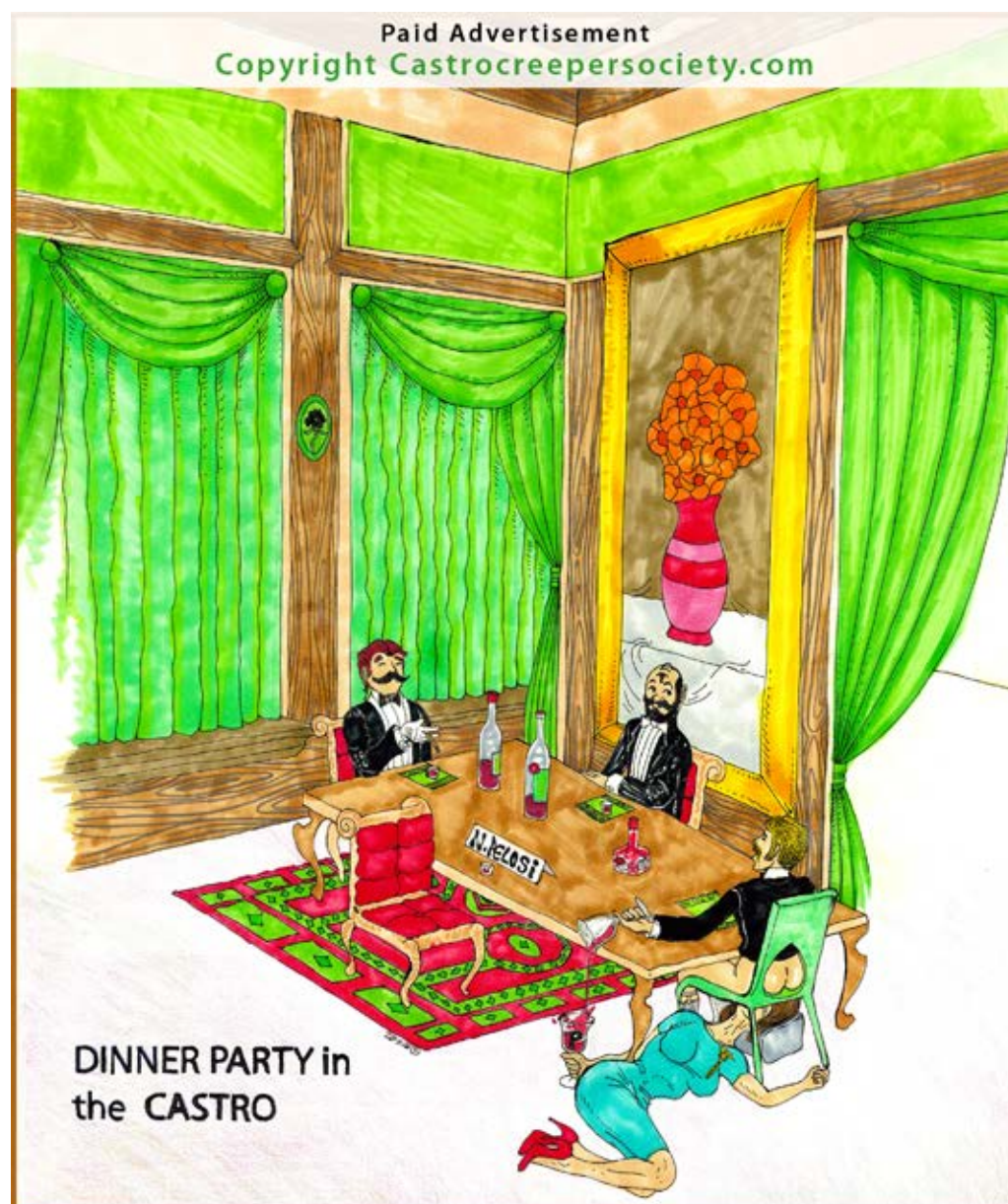
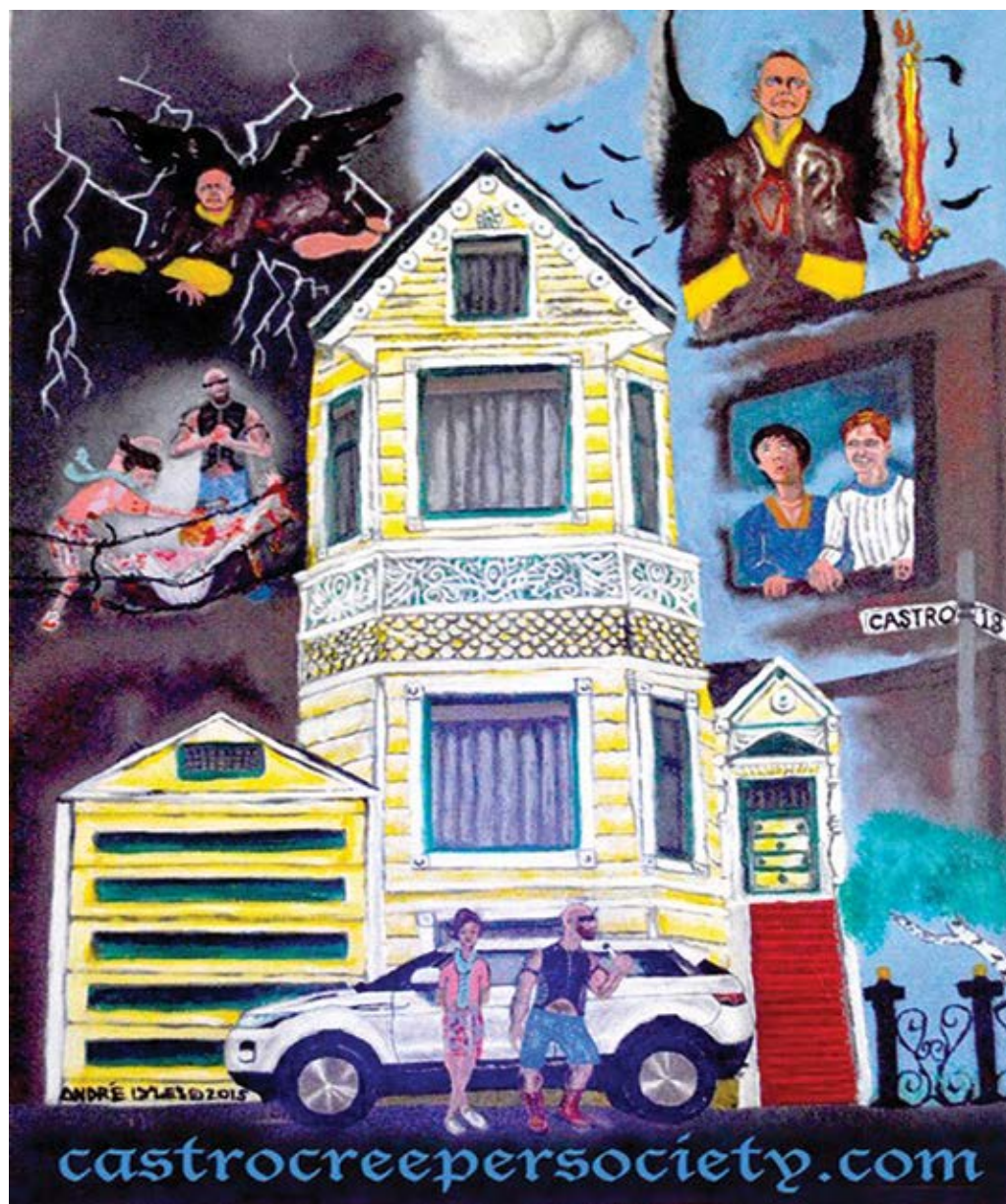
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UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER

- 15 Dinner with Primetimers @ River City Brewery 5:30 PM
- 16 Peter Petty presents Hepcat's Holla' dayze-Swingin' Yule Tide @ Crest Theatre
- 17 Bob's Birthday Bash in Newcastle @ 12 NOON - Pimetimers
- 18 Black & White Movie Classics @ Tower with Primetimers
- 21 Lunch @ Buckhorn Grill (HOWE) with Primetimers 11:30
- 23 Trans Support group-LGTQ Center
- 23 Badlands HONEYPOT Bear & Leather Night
- ★ 27-31 Dr. Seuss The Musical @ Broadway Sacramento
- ★ 31 FACES New Years Eve Bash

2024 Events

- 1/10 Jesus Christ Superstar @ Harris Center
- 1/25 You Better Werk! Career and Job Readiness Fair
- 2/9 An Evening with Fran Lebowitz @ Mondavi Center
- 6/2 10th Annual Run/Walk for Equality-Davis
- ★ 6/8 Sacramento Pride Festival

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All details can be found on our website, Facebook, or Meetup.com
www.PrimetimersofSacramento.org



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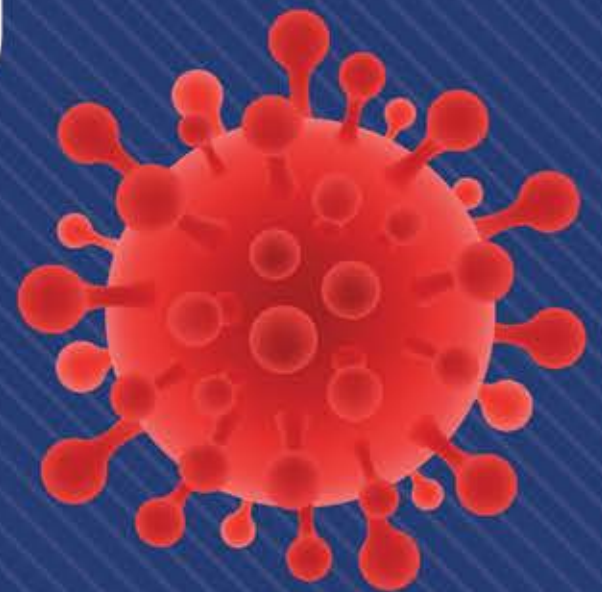
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- Prenatal/OB Care
- Vaccinations
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- HIV Care & Prevention
- Gender Health Program
- LGBTQ Care
- Medication-Assisted Treatment

Specialty Care

- Psychiatry
- Chiropractic
- Acupuncture
- Podiatry

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- Oral Health Education
- Urgent Dental Care

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