

# outWord

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Holidays!**

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# Informed is the Perfect Way to Be

by Alexis Dailey

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center is built on our mission statement which reads:

“The Sacramento LGBT Community Center works to create a region where LGBTQ people thrive. We support the health and wellness of the most marginalized, advocate for equality and justice, and work to build a culturally rich LGBTQ community.”

As the population and diversity in Sacramento continues to grow, so do the numbers of new HIV diagnoses. Sacramento’s TGA (Transitional Grant Area) reports there has been a 23.2% growth in new HIV/AIDS over the past five years. The Center itself has identified five new positive HIV cases in the region in the past eight weeks. This is not a coincidence given the stigmas placed upon those living with HIV/AIDS, the LGBT community, condom/barrier usage, and sex in general that have been perpetuated by conservative heteronormative supremacist ideals. Now those stigmas have bled into the communities that benefitted from them, and the statistics show it: The Ryan White Program has reported an increase of transmissions from 1997-2017 at a rate of 185% for heterosexual clients.

As we continue to strive towards The Center’s goal of ZERO new HIV infections in the Sacramento Region, the most marginalized of us continue to be the most affected by HIV. These populations include queer men, those who live below the poverty line, people of color—specifically the Latinx and Black communities—and Transgender women.

Transwomen of color are often excluded in the building of feminist work, the fight to improve the lives of people of color, and they face many layers of barriers in the LGBT community. The erasure they experience is not only at the ballot, but also found in the medical field with a lack of health reports on their population. This also applies to the way they are treated by the criminal justice system. On Saturday, November 11, members of the Transgender community

took to the streets in the spirit of social justice and demanded the public to “Give us our Roses Now,” indicating the unnoticed fear of terror and murder they carry everywhere they go. HIV/AIDS numbers are especially found to be harming those of us who are fighting to exist on a daily basis.

This December 1 marks the 30th anniversary of World Aids Day. Each year, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center holds an event to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have lost to AIDS, as well as those who continue their fight for survival every day. The Sacramento LGBT Community Center focuses on those with the highest needs by offering several ways to be informed and safe in a place where people can feel free. The Center offers FREE HIV and HCV testing appointments to the community during business hours, with drop in-testing available 12 – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. These tests can happen on-site or in our mobile testing unit. In addition, the Center offers free barriers such as condoms, lube, dental dams, and more. These items can also be sent by mail to those who request them through the P3 (Prophylaxis Parcel Project) option on the Center’s website. Through all of these initiatives, we will continue to normalize HIV testing in our community. They will know that informed is the perfect way to be for all of us, and it is how we all can begin to step into freedom.

World AIDS Day Events will be held at the United Methodist Church (on J Street) on December 1, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

*Alexis Dailey is the Health Educator & Testing Coordinator for Sacramento LGBT Community Center.*

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# DNC on Kyrsten Sinema's Historic Victory

"Congratulations to Kyrsten Sinema and Arizona Democrats for such a stunning victory. Arizonans went to the polls last Tuesday looking for bold new leadership, and that's exactly what they're going to get with their first-ever female senator and our nation's second openly LGBTQ senator. Unlike her predecessor, Senator-elect Sinema is ready to fight on day one for quality health care, a VA system that works the way it should for our veterans, comprehensive immigration reform, good-paying jobs, and an economy that works for all Arizonans. The Democratic National Committee was proud to invest in and partner with the Democratic Party of Arizona to expand their voter outreach and help get voters to the polls."

DNC Chair Tom Perez released the following statement after Kyrsten Sinema was elected Arizona's first female senator and the second-ever openly LGBTQ senator

# UK's Warwick Rowers 10th Anniversary Calendar Launches

The world renowned Warwick Rowers are back in the buff with a very special tenth anniversary edition of their cheeky male nude charity calendar.



Lucas Etienne and Robbie Manson during the WR19 calendal Australian shoot.

Their long-running success has enabled the plucky university athletes to set up and fund Sport Allies a registered charity devoted to promoting LGBT rights and gender equality through sport. Among other achievements, Sport Allies is currently working with London Film School and SKY Sports, the UK's biggest sports TV platform, to create viral messaging aimed at highlighting the importance of inclusion in

sport. Tenth anniversary products include their fourth coffee table book (a luxurious and weighty tome at 2.5 kilos, or nearly 6lbs!), autographed calendars and subscriptions that will bring video and images of the boys to lucky supporters throughout the whole of 2019. For more information and to order the new calendar, go to <https://warwickrowers.org>.

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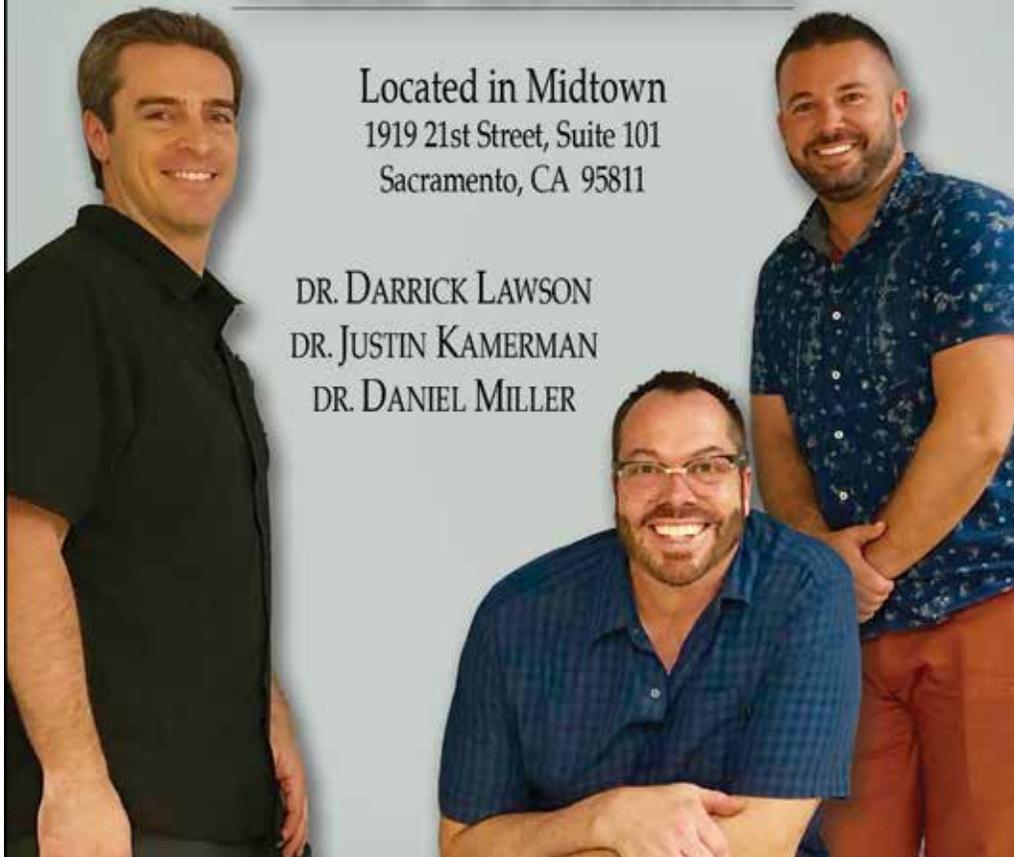
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# All About WEAVE's Holiday Shop

Julie Seewald Bornhoeft, MA, CFRE  
Chief Development & Marketing Officer WEAVE

During the upcoming holidays, 35 families will celebrate at a WEAVE shelter or transitional housing cottage. Another 150 families will have recently fled a violent home and be challenged by a single income and overcoming the impact of past financial abuse. Each of these families will have the same wishes as you or I – creating happy memories. Parents want their children to have gifts to open. They yearn for a shared meal that reflects their culture and traditions.

To ensure that every family can celebrate the holiday season, WEAVE sponsors its Holiday Shop. WEAVE accepts donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children, teens, and adults. Dedicated staff and volunteers transform our conference room into a holiday boutique where the survivors shop and pick out gifts for their children and something for themselves. Every child will receive three to four gifts, stocking stuffers and a book. Our Holiday Shop is another way we partner with survivors to overcome barriers and provide a sense of normalcy during a challenging time.

In 2018, WEAVE wants to create holiday magic for 200 families with 425 children who are staying with us during the holidays or used our services in the past six months. To do this, we need the community's help.

WEAVE depends on community donations to provide all toys, clothing, books, stocking stuffers, and adult gifts.

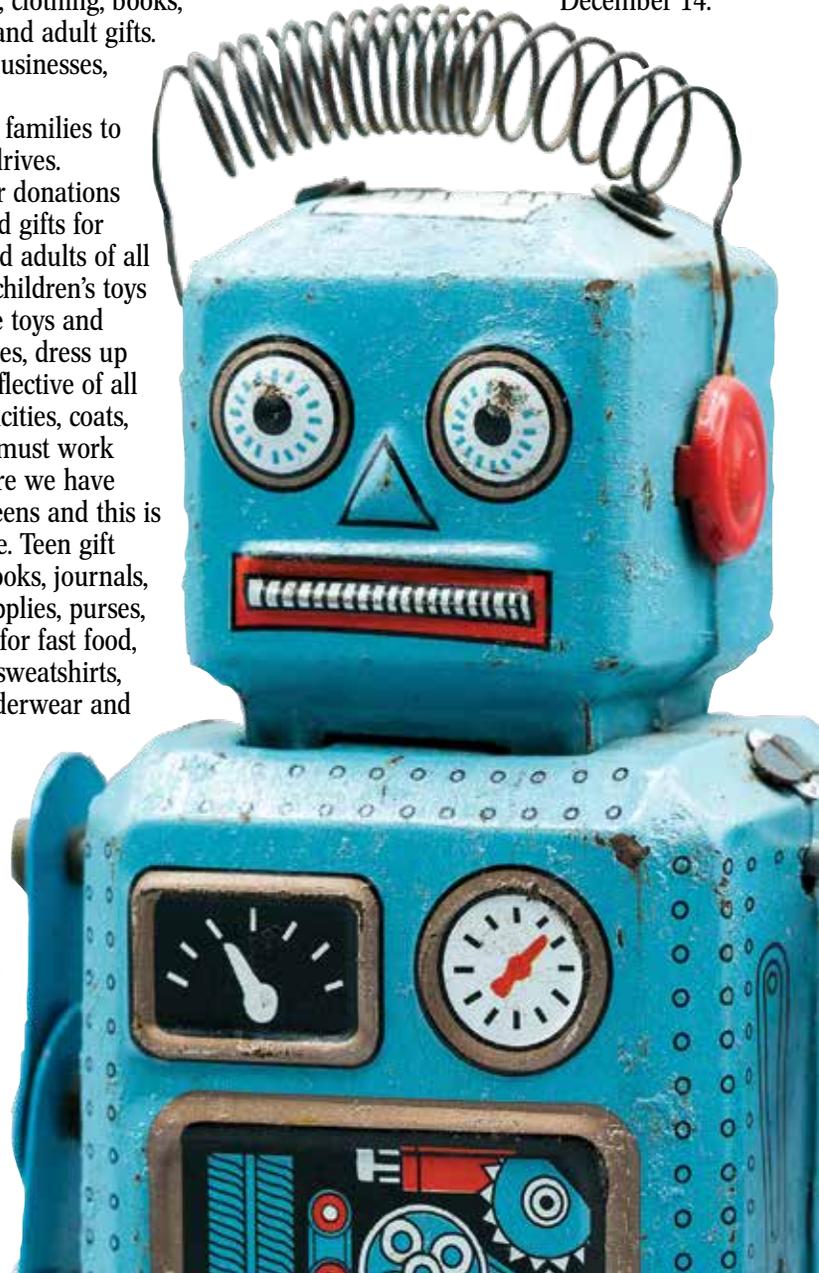
We partner with businesses, civic groups, faith communities, and families to host toy and gift drives.

WEAVE asks for donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children, teens, and adults of all genders. Popular children's toys include interactive toys and puzzles, art supplies, dress up costumes, dolls reflective of all cultures and ethnicities, coats, and pajamas. We must work very hard to ensure we have enough gifts for teens and this is always a challenge. Teen gift ideas including books, journals, sunglasses, art supplies, purses, wallets, gift cards for fast food, movies, clothing (sweatshirts, T-shirts, socks, underwear and pajamas), etc. For adults, we recommend linens, manicure/pedicure sets, purses, wallets, blankets, sweatshirts, robes, socks and underwear or gift cards for gas stations and grocery stores. A detailed wish list can be found at [www.weaveinc.org](http://www.weaveinc.org).

WEAVE accepts Holiday Shop donations at our Counseling Center or TRUE – both located at 1900 K Street or at WEAVEWorks at 2401 Arden Way (both in Sacramento). If dropping off at

WEAVEWorks or TRUE, let the staff know it is a Holiday Shop donation. Staff transport gifts to the Counseling Center daily during the holidays.

If your business, church, synagogue, mosque, or group would like to sponsor a gift drive, WEAVE can provide wish lists, flyers, and additional assistance. For more information, contact Allison at [alucero@weaveinc.org](mailto:alucero@weaveinc.org). If you would like to join us for a public donation drive, join the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce at Drag Queen Bingo benefiting WEAVE on Thursday, December 6 at Mango's Burgertown or the *Outword* Happy Hour at Badlands on Friday, December 14.



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# Out & About With Matt by Matthew Burlingame

It's finally time for all the memes shaming those who decorate early for Christmas/Yule to fade away from social media as we all come together to make the Yuletide gay. It's in the song, it's what we do.

Drag Queen Bingo will help make things gayer while also helping kids in need as this month's event will be a toy drive for WEAVE. On Dec. 3, come get your bingo on, and bring a gift to help a child in need have a little more joy this holiday. Rainbowchamber.com

If you aren't able to make Drag Queen Bingo, don't panic! You can still bring a toy

keynote speakers have included Dennis Mangers, George Raya and Cleve Jones.

Many of us have friends or family who have lost their homes from the recent fires. If you have resources to spare. Please consider giving to California Wildfire Relief Funds like the one at [globalgiving.org](http://globalgiving.org) or any reputable organization that provides direct support to victims.



The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's December 10 Holiday Mixer will be held at Beast and Bounty, Sacramento.

to the monthly Liquid Therapy Happy Hour sponsored by Outword and Badlands, 2003 K St. on Dec. 14. Join us for drink specials, community cheer, and a toy drive for WEAVE.

The Rainbow Chamber's monthly mixers always offer a chance to get to know some of the most interesting businesses and members in town, as well explore some of the most amazing venues. On Dec. 10, the Holiday Mixer will be held at Beast and Bounty, the restaurant that offers "The Bronson" a 32 oz. bone-in Ribeye. Merry Christmas to me!

Paula Poundstone is one of the country's preminent comedians. Her unique brand of observational humor returns to Northern California on Nov. 30 at the Mondavi Center. [mondaviarts.org](http://mondaviarts.org)

Come in out of the cold, and get cozy in your seat as the guest at a musical extravaganza! This season, the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus presents "Holiday Feast! A Bountiful Musical Buffet." An evening of traditional & world musical performances, audience sing-alongs, holiday stories, heartfelt moments and a festive party where all are welcome. Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, and Dec. 4. Get times and tickets at [sacgaymenschorus.org](http://sacgaymenschorus.org)

Congratulations to Sierra College's Johnnie Terry and the organizers of Sierra College Pride Days, a three-day educational event providing a safe and supportive learning environment for Sierra's LGBTQ students. This year's keynote speaker was Golden Rule Services' Clarmundo Sullivan who spoke about his experiences as a gay man of color and starting an HIV resource center for other gay men of color. Past

As we enter the holiday season, the Salvation Army will be out in full force ringing their bells and shoving their red buckets in our faces. Just a reminder that this is a church with an anti-LGBTQ history. Your charity is needed in places that are dedicated to LGBTQ supportive organizations, many of which are struggling grassroots nonprofits in your own backyard.

Another reminder as we login to Amazon, pull up Etsy or look for those collectibles on Ebay: it is important to remember to support local businesses and shops who support our community. Places like Outword Magazine, Rainbow Chamber businesses and Kennedy Gallery who give thousands of dollars worth of advertising, giveaway items and art to local events and nonprofits each year. Spend your dollars with businesses who are there for you, and not just trying to make a buck off our community.

Don't forget the final deadline to enroll in health insurance is Dec. 15. If you don't enroll during this time you may be locked out of health insurance until 2019.

Happy birthday to Steve Thompson, John Ewing, Kiny McCarrick, Jared Hamilton, Talbott Smith, Chris Congdon, Gina Livingston, Jackie Schultz-Randall, Deshawn Collins, felicity Diamond, Michael Patton, Ron Williams, Boyce Hinman, Di DeLanoy, Ellen Pontac, Ron Mullins and all other late autumn babies.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at [matthew.burlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.burlingame@gmail.com). Be sure to check out his newest audiobooks at [JustKissTheGuy.com](http://JustKissTheGuy.com).

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# Shape the Future on Museum Store Sunday

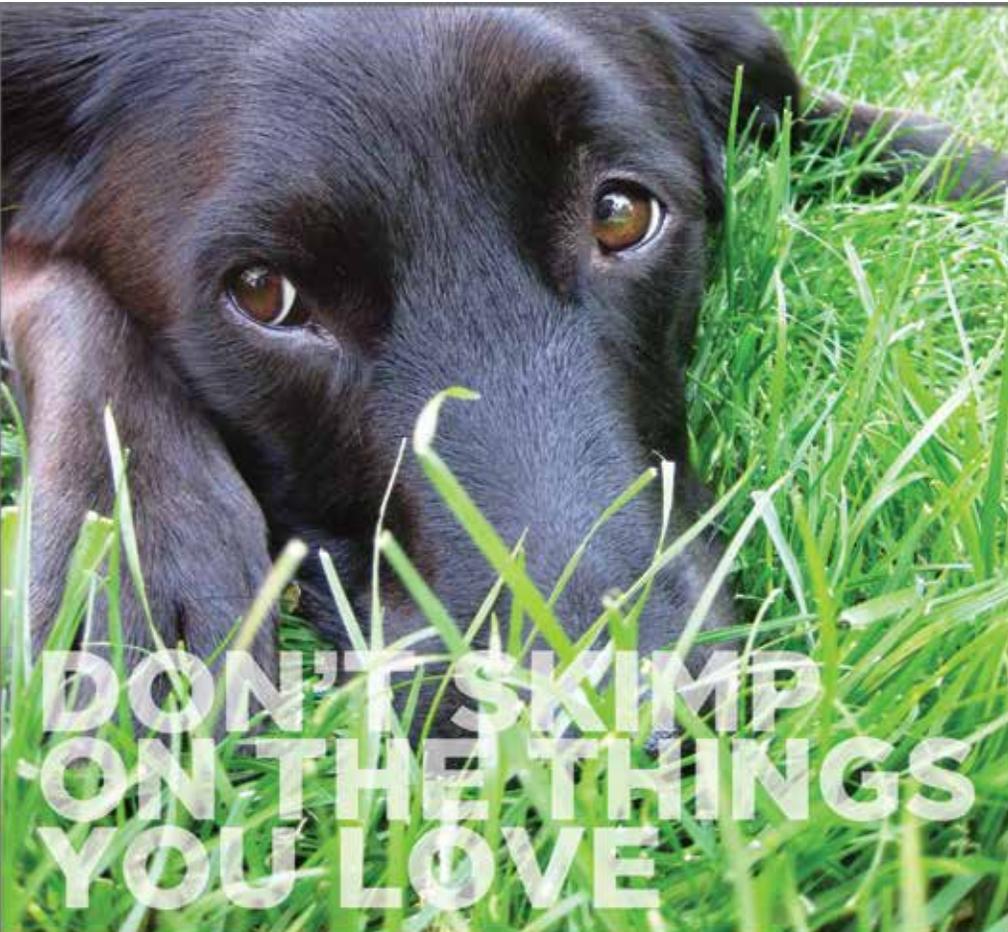
Move over Black Friday, and hello Museum Store Sunday! Along with more than 700 museum stores in 10 countries, an array of Sacramento's museum gift shops are reminding consumers to shop conscientiously and support museums.



On Sunday, November 25, shoppers can purchase the perfect gift while contributing to the future of their favorite museum. Some options include the California Museum where patrons can find unique exhibit-related and California-themed gift items; the California State Railroad Museum with a wide selection of gift ideas perfect for

train enthusiasts of all ages along with exclusive THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride merchandise; the Crocker Art Museum and its exhibition-related treasures and regional, and more!

For more information about Museum Store Sunday, visit <https://museumstoresunday.org/>, and for more information about Sacramento's museums visit [www.SacMuseums.org](http://www.SacMuseums.org).



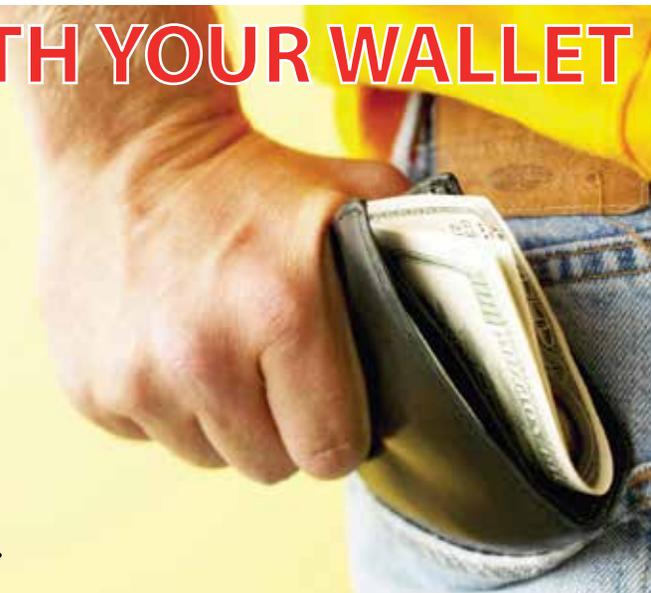
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# O Christmas Tree by Paul Weubbe

The history of having a Christmas tree to celebrate the winter solstice (pagan) and the Birth of Jesus (Christian) dates back to Germany and the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles, if wood was scarce. Over the centuries, the Christmas tree has become a popular holiday tradition.

First, it is the planning to find that "perfect" tree then a trek out to a local farm or even tree lot to select and even cut the tree, bring it home and adorn it with the wonderful merriment of traditions and color.

We are fortunate in the Sacramento area to have three nearby farms: two in Sacramento County and one in Yolo County. On the east side of Sacramento County, just three miles apart from each other is Davis Ranch and Billy's Farm. Both grow a variety of valley conifers- pines, cypress, cedars and redwoods. Each farm provides a different experience, but both offer wonderful fresh trees. Davis Ranch of Sloughhouse, focuses on speed of selecting a tree and seasonal produce. Billy's Farm, of Wilton, offers hand-made wreaths, hay rides, farm animals, and a selection of mountain grown firs to compliment the locally grown trees. On the west side of Sacramento in Yolo County is Silveyville Farms. Just outside Dixon, Silveyville offers fresh conifers- pines, cedars, cypress, and redwoods as well as bring in a selection of firs.

A typical concern for many people is the environment and not wanting to cut down a living tree. A live tree is important to our ecology, but the process of growing a Christmas tree to have it harvested and a new one grown in its place actually provides greater benefit to the environment than just simply letting a tree grow until its natural death.

Farmers grow trees especially for the holidays.

They plant large tracts of land and it may take 6 to 12 years to grow a good sized tree. During that time, the tree is taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. It is cleaning the air and helping slow climate change. If people didn't buy the cut trees, they wouldn't be planted. The tree is the most efficient in carbon dioxide uptake in the early years of its life.

When you are done with your holiday tree, you can recycle it. Most cities have programs to pick up your Christmas tree and grind it up into mulch. Then it is spread back onto the land to help grow something else or more trees. The wood chippings provide compost and reduce water evaporation, further helping stabilize our environment. A well-managed forest can deliver great results: cleaning the air, enriching the soil, protecting our watershed and a Christmas tree farm assists with that process.

Overall, selecting a live Christmas tree provides local jobs, returns the dollars into the local economy and enriches our local environment. The other option is to purchase an artificial tree that is typically made overseas, of plastic materials that do not aid the environment and in the manufacturing process can actually harm the environment. Plus, they don't provide the local jobs supporting the local economy.

We ask you to consider doing your part for the holiday season while enriching your home with a wonderful live tree.

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# Getting the Perfect Christmas Mantel

by Alexis Michalovich

Achieving the perfect mantel look at Christmas can be challenging and overwhelming, but I promise it can be done. My mantel is the focal point in our family room and changes often with the seasons. At Christmastime, this is the spot where we hang out stockings, put out our shoes on St. Nicholas' day, leave milk and cookies for Santa, and much more. So as you can see our fireplace area gets used a lot, and I want it to look nice and reflect our family.

If you like me and want to decorate the perfect mantel for Christmas, follow these few short tips to get the right look:

## Add greenery of some sort

While I would like to have real, live greenery on my mantel unfortunately it wouldn't last long with how much we use our fireplace. We opted to go with faux garland to give our white mantel a nice touch of color. The rich earth tones in the greenery and the mix of the white lights give the mantel a nice glow.

## Add a variety of heights to the mantel.

I like my decor to be various sizes, adding my larger pieces to the outside edges of the mantel so that it frames in my mirror above nicely. I add my shorter pieces throughout the rest of the mantel and mix it up so that the mantel decor has small peaks and valleys.

## Add dimension

Layer your mantel decor. Put your larger items in the back and your shorter in the front so that nothing is blocked. Adding dimension gives more interest into the display and helps fill in the mantel so there is more to look at without it being completely linear.

## Add sheen

Adding various sheens and textures to your mantel gives interest and uniqueness to your mantel. I choose to add my sheen through the mercury glass trees that I

purchased from Crate and Barrel. The sheen in the trees give a nice metallic look to the mantel and provides more warm glow. Try adding some natural wood tones to the mantel. I love the wood trees that the Birchwood Bay Holiday Collection from Target carries.

## Select stockings

I am somewhat of a traditionalists when it comes to the colors I like to incorporate at Christmas time. For my mantel I have chosen to go with a traditional green and red stocking from Pottery Barn. We have our names monogrammed on the stockings, and as our family has grown, so have the stockings hung along the fireplace.

## Incorporate light

At night time, we typically always have our fireplace on and the Christmas tree lights on. I like my mantel to also glow. I have included white lights into the garland. I included lots of flameless candles in the mantel. You can purchase flameless candles from Hobby Lobby, Crate & Barrel or Pottery Barn. These candles give nice glow and make the room feel more homey.

There are so many different, unique options to style your mantel for what's right for you and your family. Go bold, try something different with your mantel this season. Whatever you do, make it unique for your family!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season full of love, peace and lots of styling!!



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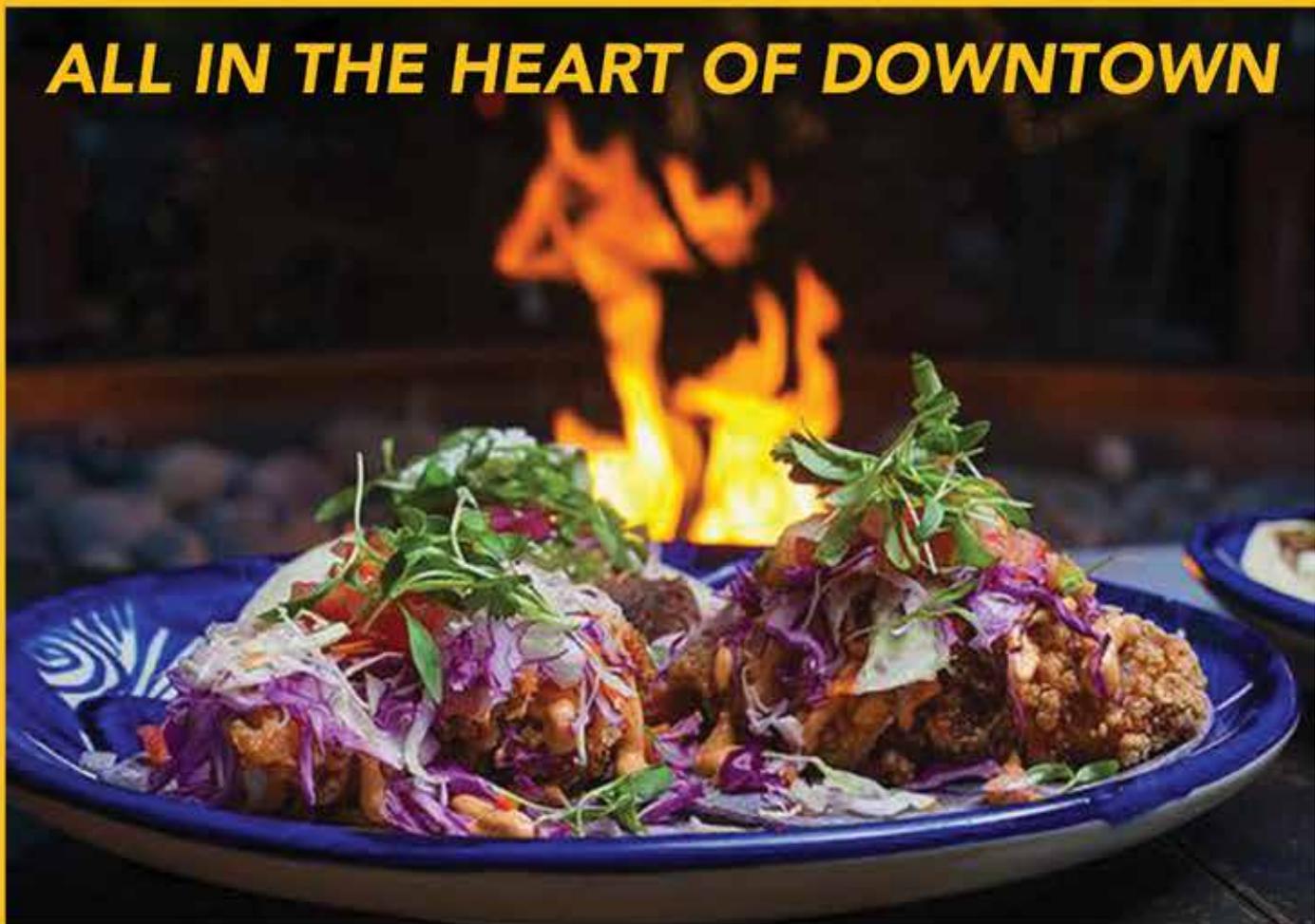
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# “Focus On Film” At The Mondavi Plus Miyazaki & “The Magic Flute”

by Chris Narloch

Three exciting movie events hit the big screen this December -- in and around Sacramento -- that are tailor-made for opera queens, foreign film fans, and Japanese anime buffs. Read on for more details.

## Focus on Film: Fatih Akin

As art-house cinemas in the U.S. increasingly showcase American indie films, it has become more difficult to see foreign movies on the big screen. I am happy to report, however, that Mondavi Center's "Focus on Film" series will return to Jackson Hall this Dec. 2 with the first of three films by the talented German filmmaker, Fatih Akin.

Even better news is that all three of the upcoming film programs at Mondavi will be free and include a post-screening Q & A moderated by UC Davis faculty members. The trio of movies will take advantage of Jackson Hall's state-of-the-art

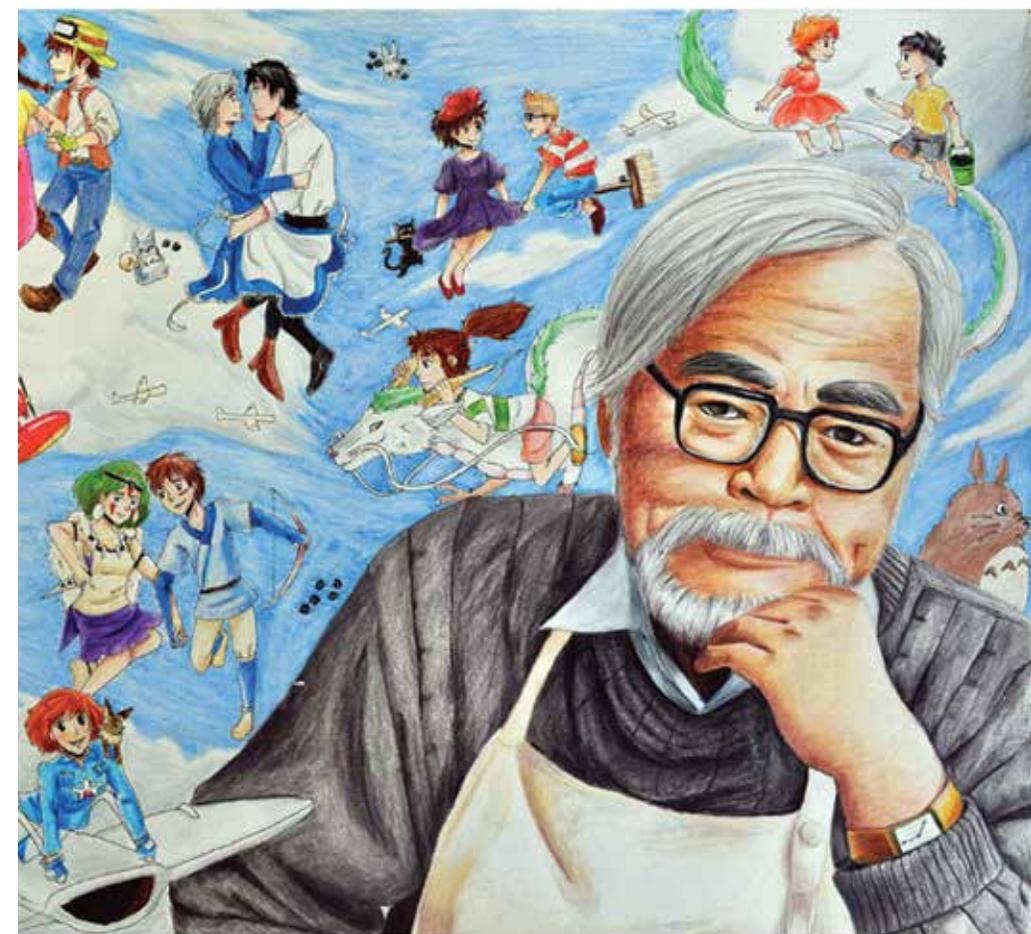
## The Magic Flute

Director Julie Taymor's dazzling production of the famous Mozart opera will return to select cinemas this holiday season in an encore presentation of the Metropolitan Opera's first-ever live in HD transmission.

"The Magic Flute" is back on the big screen on Dec. 1, courtesy of Fathom Events and The Met: Live in HD. Go to <https://www.fathomevents.com/series/the-met-live-in-hd>.

## Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki

Fathom Events is also proud to announce the U.S. debut of "Never-



Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki

projection system and will be offered as Sunday matinees.

A self-professed Scorsese disciple, well known in Europe but less so in the United States, Fatih Akin's Turkish heritage often figures into his films, which include "Head-On" and "In July."

The three Akin titles being presented at Mondavi Center are "The Cut," "In the Fade," and "The Edge of Heaven," which is first up, on the afternoon of Dec. 2. ("The Cut" and "In the Fade" will be shown on separate Sundays in 2019.)

For more information, please visit <https://www.mondaviarts.org/events/upcoming-events>.

Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki," coming to more than 500 U.S. cinemas on Dec. 13 & 18.

"Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki" follows the formerly-retired Japanese film director, producer, screenwriter, animator, author, and manga artist Hayao Miyazaki ("Spirited Away," "Howl's Moving Castle") as he returns to work to create his short film "Boro the Caterpillar" using, for the first time, CGI.

Tickets for "Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki" are available now at [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com) and [www.NeverEndingMan.com](http://www.NeverEndingMan.com), or at participating box offices.

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# Holiday Concerts For Days by Chris Narloch

There are so many holiday shows coming to Sacramento and surrounding areas this November and December that I had to narrow my article to five concerts that look especially promising this festive season. So don your gay apparel and check out these exciting events.

## The Ten Tenors: Home For The Holidays

Self-described as “a group of down-to-earth Aussie blokes” – and known the world over for their unmistakable charm, good looks and vocal power – the magnificent musical men known as The Ten Tenors return to Harris Center for a unique holiday show that combines the traditional and the unconventional to thrilling effect. The handsome devils will bring their angelic voices to Folsom for two shows on Thursday, Nov. 29. For more information, visit <https://www.harriscenter.net>.



## Home For The Holidays 2018

This annual concert by the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra will fill the Community Center Theater with beautiful music and holiday cheer on Saturday, Dec. 8. Guest artists include Soprano Susannah Biller and the Sacramento Children's Chorus, plus puppets provided by Green Valley Theatre Company's Christopher Cook. Go to <http://sacramentochoral.com/wells-fargo-home-for-the-holidays-2018>.

## LeAnn Rimes: Christmas Tour 2018

Amy Grant used to be the unofficial “Queen of Christmas” in the music business, but LeAnn Rimes seems to have taken over the throne, now that she has four holiday albums under her belt and a Christmas concert tour that is in its sixth consecutive year. Rimes' “You and Me and Christmas” tour stops at the Harris Center on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5. Go to <https://www.harriscenter.net>.

## Electric Christmas

Radio station Alt 94.7's 2018 installment of their popular Electric Christmas concert features an unusually strong lineup that includes Jared Leto's group Thirty Seconds To Mars, Sublime with Rome, Elle King, Matt & Kim, and The Crystal Method. Catch five great acts in one night when Electric Christmas returns to Golden 1 Center on Thursday evening, Dec. 6, to rock Sacramento with holiday spirit. Visit <https://www.golden1center.com/events/detail/electric-christmas-2018>.

## Merry-Achi Christmas

America's premier mariachi music group, Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, will bring its holiday show to the Crest on Saturday, Dec. 8, for a colorful and cultural evening led by a fifth-generation mariachi master who has played for four U.S. presidents and also entertained in China and North Korea. Visit <https://www.crestsacramento.com>.



# Holiday Décor Tips That Will Give You A Big Wow!

*Ron Robinett, Owner & Designer BigWowHOME*

## Start With Your Favorite Holiday Cocktail

Each year, I like to pick a specialty drink that I serve for the entire holiday season. My first rule of thumb is to make sure that I start taste testing WAY before the season starts! You want to make sure that your cocktail has a kick, because it will ensure your guests are impressed with what you have done with your holiday décor.

## Pick A Foundation Color

In today's world of decorating, you can pick almost any color as

your foundation. Regardless of the color you select, the trend this season is making sure that you use that color boldly. Don't be shy! Let's say this season you choose cobalt blue as your foundation color: I find that starting with your tree can really get things rolling. Maybe you love blue baubles, or perhaps ribbon and tinsel. Consider incorporating unique or personal objects into your tree – grab some magnolia leaves or that old lace tablecloth cut up into fun shapes, and give them a quick paint job! Remember, after you are finished

decorating your tree fix yourself one of your holiday cocktails as a reward for all that hard work! (Sometimes I have two.)

## Select A Gift Wrap Idea To Use For All Your Packages

Another trend this season that I'm loving is a natural, rustic approach...you know, that craft packing paper that you have left over from moving. Consider using that for your wrapping material,

**BIG WOW**  
*continues on page 26*

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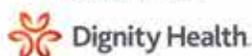
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# Great New Queer Music Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

There has been so much great new queer music out this year, and especially in the past few months, I decided to create a list of my favorite, gay-friendly artists and their releases from 2018.

## Troye Sivan – Bloom

Sadly, I missed both of this openly gay artist's recent S.F. shows, but I can't stop listening to his lovely sophomore album, "Bloom." The CD includes a duet with Ariana Grande ("Dance To This") that is better than anything on her current disc, plus essential songs such as the hit "My My My!" along with "Plum," "Lucky Strike," "Animal" and the terrific title track. Queer kids already adore him for his music, and after people see this multi-talented actor/singer and YouTube sensation on the big screen in the new gay-themed drama "Boy Erased," everyone else will love Troye Sivan too.



Janelle Monáe

## Janelle Monáe – Dirty Computer

This album came out at the end of April, but it keeps sneaking back into my car stereo, thanks to the multi-talented Monáe's clever, often political lyrics and the music's super-funky sound. So many good songs here, but "Americans," "Screwed," "Make Me Feel," and "I Got The Juice" are my personal favorites. Prince would be proud of Monáe, one of his most talented protégés.

## MNEK – Language

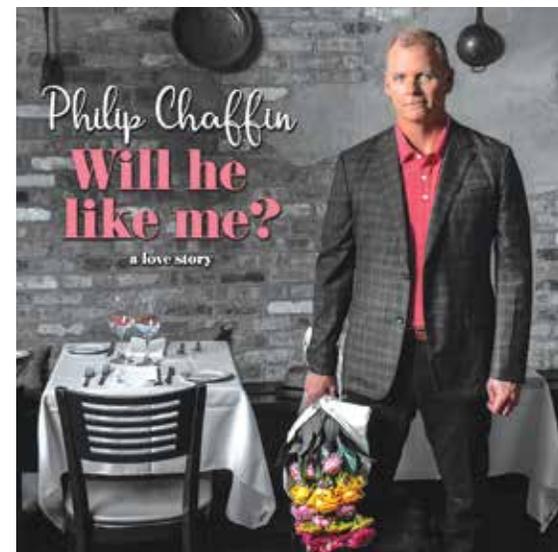
MNEK signed his first publishing deal at age 14. "Never Forget You," his duet with Zara Larsson, topped Billboard's Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart and has been certified 3x Platinum in the U.S. The list of artists MNEK has written and produced for includes Beyoncé, Dua Lipa, Little Mix, Madonna, Diplo, MØ, Rudimental, Julia Michaels and Stormzy, to name a few. "Free" and "Paradise" are just two of the fine tracks on "Language," MNEK's new CD.

## Christine and the Queens – Chris

Any album named after me has got to be good, and the sophomore disc of upbeat dance pop by this queer French singer, songwriter and producer (who also sings in English) is a total winner that includes such irresistible tracks as "Comme si," "Girlfriend," "Feel So Good," and more.

## Philip Chaffin – Will he like me?

The cover of this clever CD makes it look like a comedy album, but "Will he like me?" is actually an innovative, same-sex song cycle and the fifth record by this three-time Grammy nominee. Chaffin offers lovely versions of songs usually performed by women, such as "I Got Lost In His Arms," "Happiness Is a Thing Called Joe," "When I Marry Mr. Snow," and the title track, that provide the perfect soundtrack for the post-marriage equality era. The album weaves together nearly 100 years of American popular song to tell a gay man's love story from first date to final farewell.



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# Gay-Friendly Films at Tower

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento's Tower Theatre assures me that "The Happy Prince," Rupert Everett's new biopic about Oscar Wilde, will finally open here for at least a week sometime in December. So stay tuned and be patient, film fans.

That movie was pushed back possibly to position the very deserving Everett for an Oscar nomination, and also to make way for two other gay-friendly films that are now playing (or will be soon) at Tower: "Boy Erased" and "Maria by Callas."



Ultimate Diva, Maria Callas, in a rare moment of repose.

### Maria by Callas

Forget Gaga. Forget Mariah. Forget Madonna. Nobody was a bigger diva than Maria Callas, the late, great opera singer for whom the word "diva" was invented – or at least popularized.

Worshipped as if she were a goddess by opera fans (and particularly gay male opera fans!), Callas, as she was known, remains one of the greatest singers in any musical genre that the world has ever known.

If you were lucky enough to catch the amazing holographic technology that brought the singer back to life at Mondavi Center in Davis recently, then you know what I'm talking about.

"Maria by Callas" is a beautiful and moving portrait of the diva, told through copious video and audio clips, and in her own words, using private letters and public interviews.

Whether you are a diehard fan of Callas or a newbie who just wants to find out what all the fuss is about, you should see "Maria by Callas," which is currently scheduled to open at Tower on Nov. 23.



Boy Erased

### Boy Erased

If this movie is still playing at Tower when you read this, go see it before it disappears. Movies come and go so quickly nowadays, but "Boy Erased" is an important, if imperfect, film with a superb cast that includes Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe and Troye Sivan.

Lucas Hedges plays a real-life college kid who was sent to a gay conversion camp by his conservative religious parents (with understandably disastrous results), after being "outed" by another student.

This is a very earnest, sensitive and well-intentioned film with valuable (and potentially life-saving) subject matter, although actor-director Joel Edgerton doesn't really bring it to life as cinematically as he might have.

Despite the fact that it sometimes feels like a high-grade TV movie with A-list, Oscar-caliber performances, I am glad that "Boy Erased" exists, and I admired the very committed and accomplished work of its cast.

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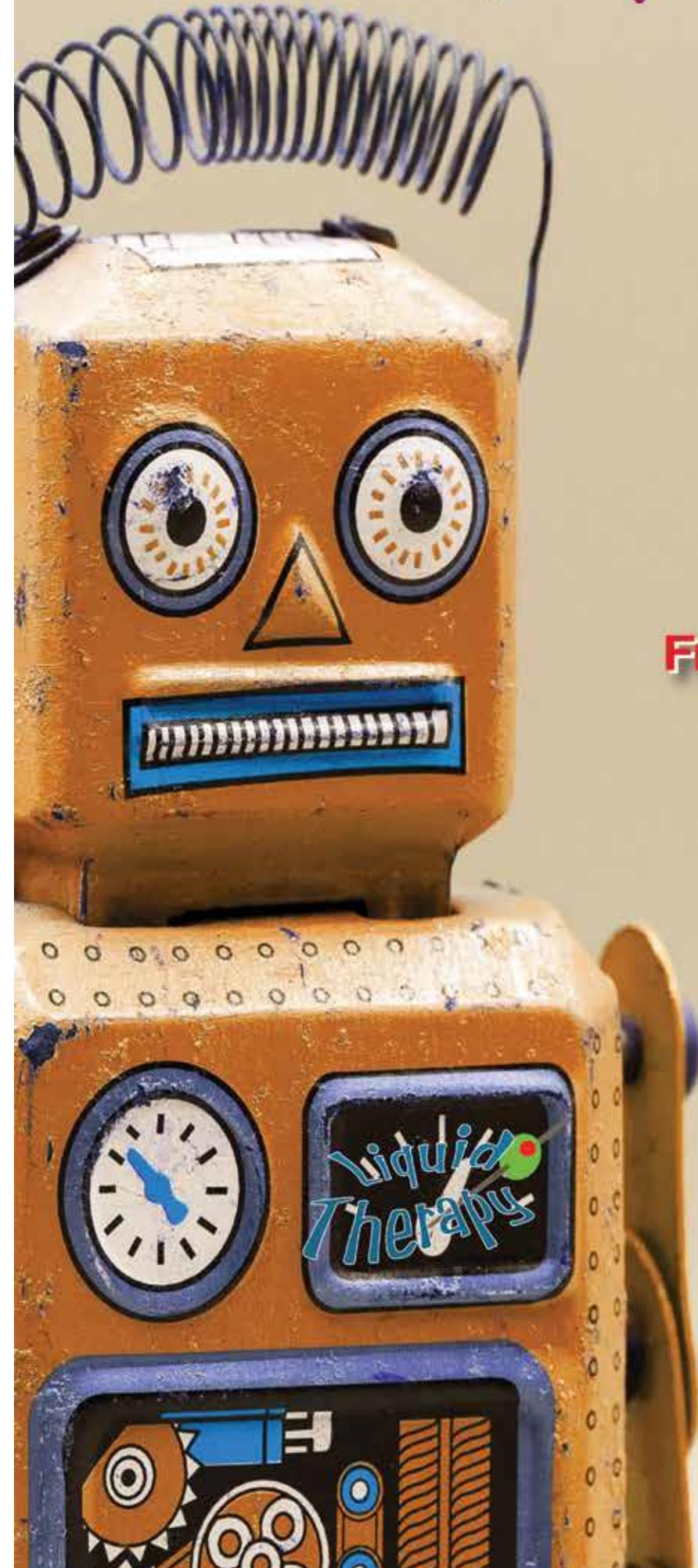


We have some great prizes, which will include a Dinner & Ticket Packages to Broadway Sacramento's production of "Falsettos" as well as "Waitress!" The lucky winners will each get a \$50 dining gift card and two tickets to either "Falsettos" or "Waitress."

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# What's New On Local Stages?

by Chris Narloch

If you act fast, you might still be able to get tickets for the Broadway blockbuster “Dear Evan Hansen” which is making its Northern California debut at the Curran in San Francisco this December and has limited availability between Dec. 5 and 30. (Visit <https://sfcurran.com/shows/dear-evan-hansen> for more information.)

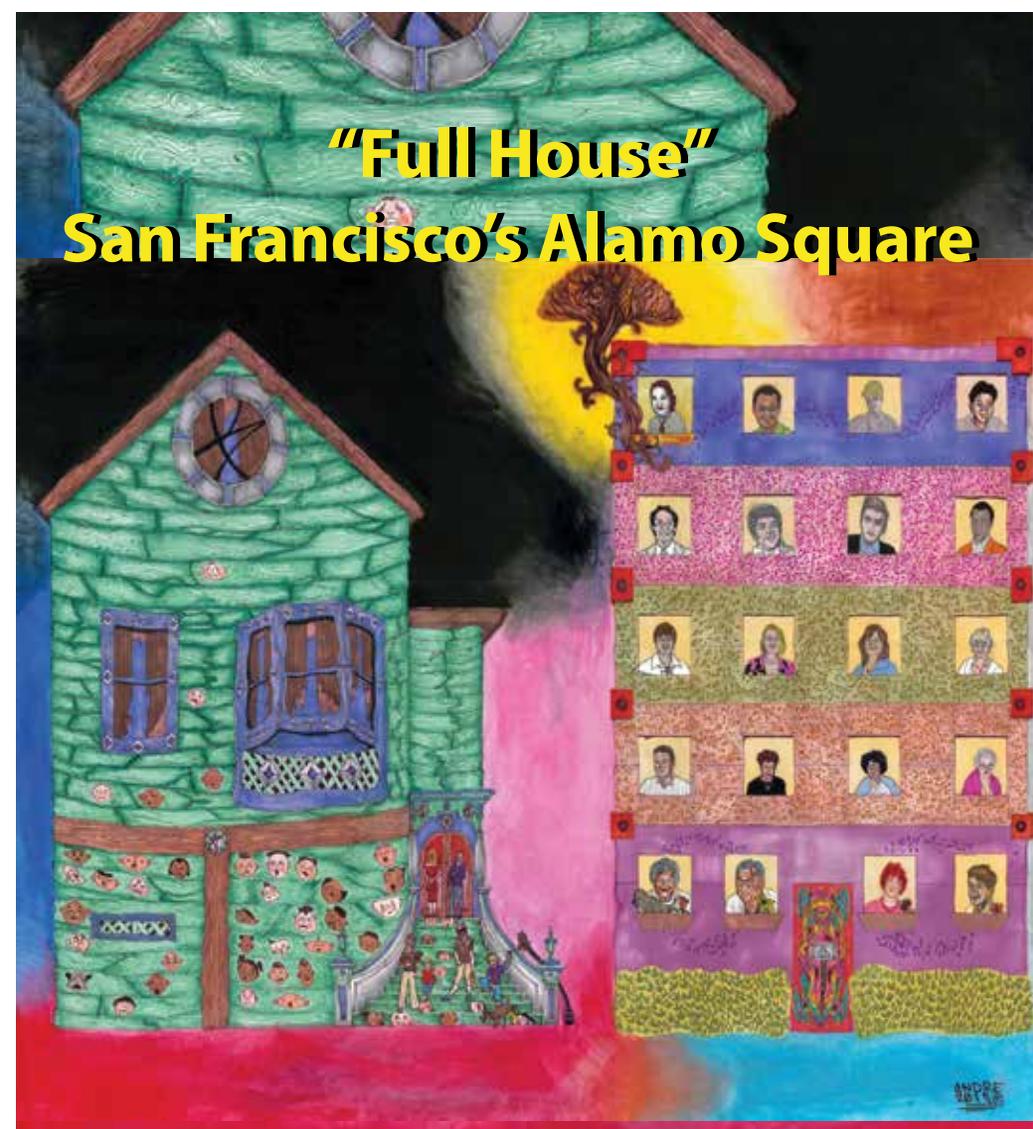
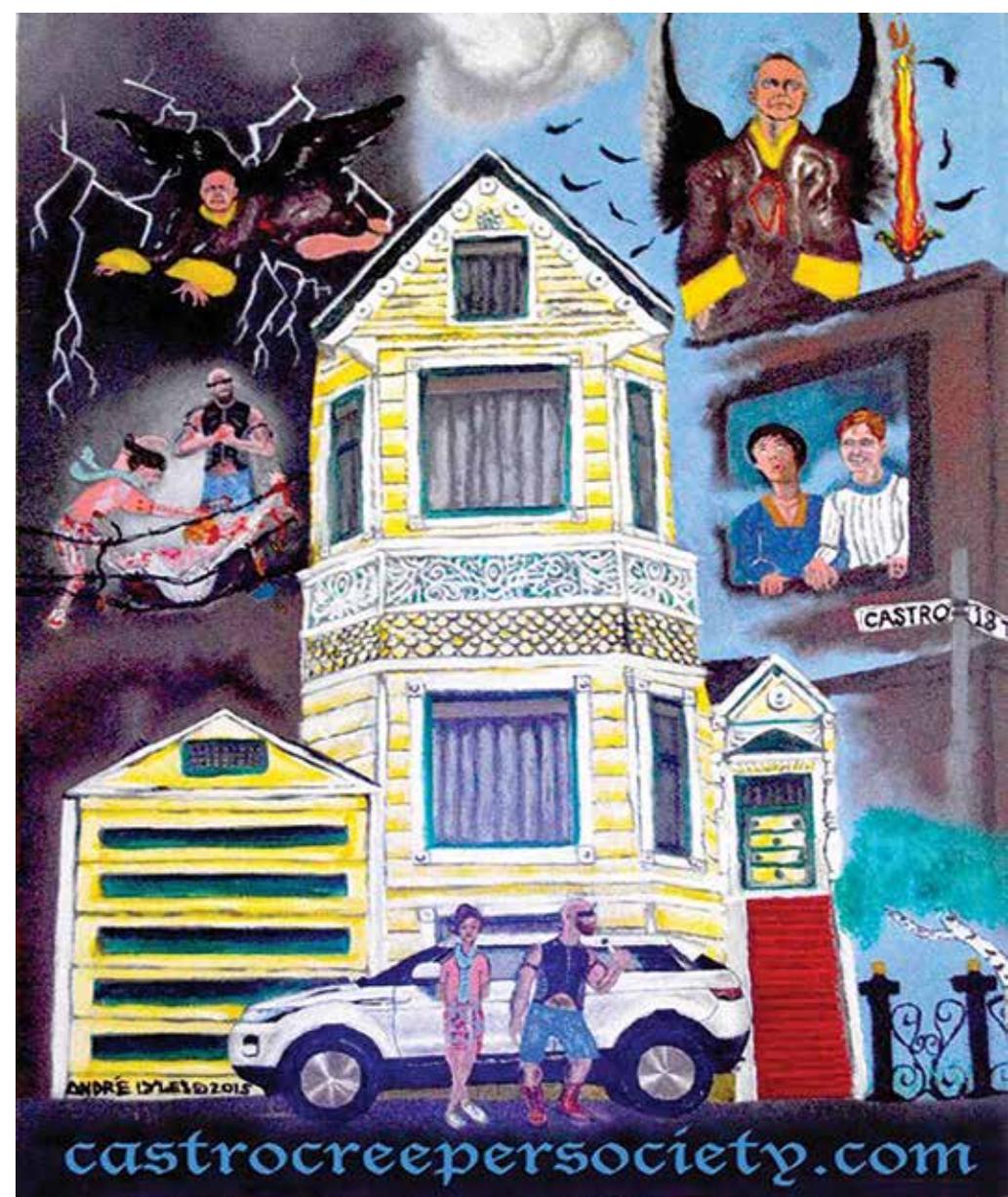
Closer to home, two terrific plays are currently entertaining Sacramento audiences, at Sacramento Theatre Company (STC) and B Street Theatre. Read on for my reviews of “Steel Magnolias” and “The Legend of Georgia McBride.”

## The Legend of Georgia McBride

In this very queer new comedy, Casey, a performer at a Florida Panhandle bar, is “all

ceremonies, Eddie; Kevin Kantor as the hilariously unreliable queen, Remy; and Jon Kovach, who fills the plum role of Casey with aplomb.

Don't miss “The Legend of Georgia McBride,” which performs at The Sofia in midtown through Dec. 9, 2018. For tickets, go to <https://bstreettheatre.org>. **Steel Magnolias**



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The cast of Sacramento Theatre Company's production of “Steel Magnolias”

shook up” by the dwindling audiences for his Elvis Presley act. What's a marginally talented celebrity impersonator to do?

Faster than you can say “RuPaul's Drag Race,” Casey is recruited to fill in for an ailing queen at the club where he works, and after a shaky start, the young (straight) man is transformed from a so-so celebrity impersonator in to a first-rate female impersonator.

After all, a guy's got to pay the rent, especially with a baby on the way. (Casey conveniently neglects to tell his gal that he has traded in his boss's pink slip for the kind of pink slip you wear -- plus high heels and a wig.)

When will the truth come out, and how will she take it? Those are just two of the suspenseful and surprisingly funny questions at play in “The Legend of Georgia McBride,” a wonderfully transgressive comedy about a heterosexual man who finds professional success only after he learns to release his inner goddess.

I thoroughly enjoyed this B Street production, which features top-notch work by pretty much its entire cast, most notably Cameron Folmar, who is a riot as Miss Tracy Mills, the seasoned she-male who shows Casey the ‘ropes’ of being a drag queen.

Everyone on stage gets to shine, however, including the lovely Danielle Mone Truitt as Casey's incredulous partner, Jo; the ever-reliable Dave Pierini as the seedy master of

I enjoyed the all-star movie version of this play, but I had never seen it live on stage until I saw Sacramento Theatre Company's fine current production, which is pretty starry in its own way.

STC's superb, six-actress cast for “Steel Magnolias” includes two local stage veterans, Jamie Jones and Janis Stevens, who are stars in their own right, and they anchor a tight ensemble that does not suffer in any way from comparison to the vivid, memorable performances in the 1989 film.

The play, unlike the movie, does not include the men, who are never seen on stage although we hear about them quite a bit. That absence, and the sole setting of a busy beauty parlor, makes the theatrical version an even more female-centric experience than the film.

If you've never seen either version, I won't spoil the story, which is about the way women bond and support each other before, during and after tragedy in a way that men rarely do.

Playwright Robert Harling based “Steel Magnolias” on real events in his family, and this moving production features solid direction by Casey McClellan that provides an excellent showcase for the dynamite performances of Janis Stevens, Jamie Jones, Natasha Hause, Carissa Meagher, Janet Motenko and Kayla K. Johnston.

“Steel Magnolias” performs through Dec. 9, 2018. Visit <http://www.sactheatre.org>.

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## Big Wow!

*continued from page 19*

paired with some twine for the ribbon and topped off with a little clipping from your tree as the bow. Now that's a pretty fun idea! (This season, I have a magnolia branch that I think I'm going to use for my bows.) The second element of this tip is the "three package rule." After every third package, I stop to refill my drink. I find by the time I get to wrapping the last few packages that they end up having the most wow factor.

### Think In Threes

While you should be bold with the use of your foundation color, it's

also really easy to over do it when decorating for the holidays in terms of volume. I have one simple rule: decorate in threes. How? Simply find items that work together, and cluster them around your home in groups of threes. This helps you from over decorating by making sure you leave space between each grouping, and you end up with individual vignettes



that each tell a little story! Now, the most important thing to remember about "threes" takes me right back to where we started: your favorite holiday cocktail! I find that whenever I am entertaining for the holidays, when I limit to three specialty cocktails then I'm a great host and everyone seems to have a BIG WOW time!

# Community Calendar



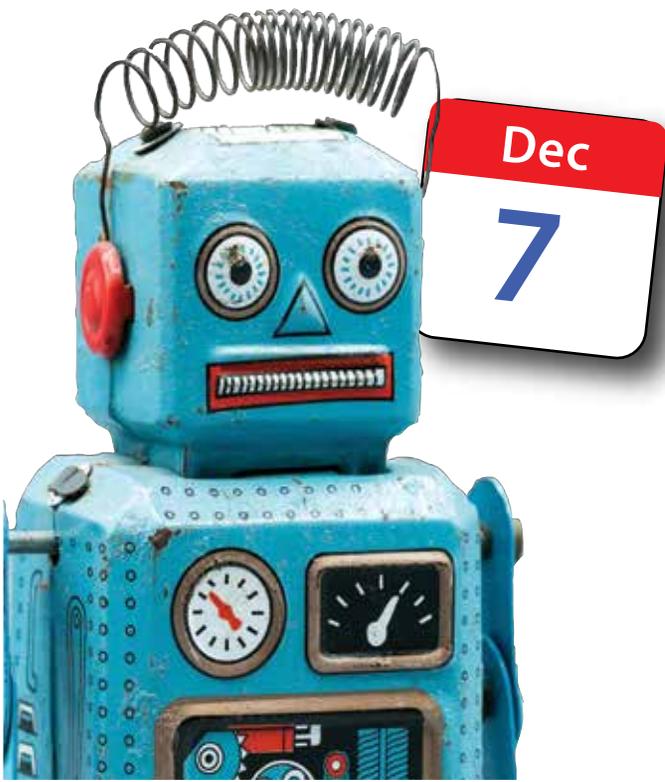
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- 7 • *Outword* Happy Hour - Toy Drive for WEAVE
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- 11 • Drag Queens on Ice - **RESCHEDULED!**

## JANUARY

- Jan 3 • Drag Queen Bingo
- Jan 11 • *Outword* Happy Hour
- Jan 13 • *Outword's* Disco Tea w/ Jammin' Jo
- Jan 26 • Rainbow PAC Annual Crab Feed

## Community Master Calendar



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- May 16 • Farm to Scholar Dinner - Rainbow Chamber
- May 19 • Davis Pride
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- June 9 • Sacramento Pride
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