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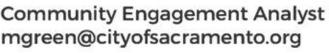
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The Happiest of Holidays to You, From all of us here at Outword Magazine



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My, What Long Links You Have! intro

introduction by Ron Tackitt

We are very happy with the way this particular issue has come together because it showcases some great items that we have personally picked to help give you great ideas. "We" would be Julie, George and me.

As you peruse this issue you might notice, in the paper version, that there are very long web links at the end of each paragraph. This is because some of these items are not easy to locate with just a simple search, and we specifically wanted to not point you to Amazon. All of us here at Outword have always asked that you support your community, as much as possible. However, we know that retail is not what it used to be, so most of our picks are likely not available in a local retail shop. Also, we would like to know that the companies that worked hard to bring



you fun things, get just a bit more recognition than if Amazon took their cut. (If you want to know more about how Amazon works the marketplace, check out "Buy Now" on Netflix. It is very thought provoking.)

All that aside, we hope you enjoy looking through this holiday gift idea guide and maybe see something that is "just right!" Have a safe and joy-filled holiday season. See you again, with our last issue of 2024, that hits the stands just before Christmas day. We look forward to next year, which will be our 30th year in business. Yay us!

Old Sacramento Waterfront Is This Year's Festive Holiday Destination The Old Sacramento Waterfront has transformed into a festive holiday destination for the winter,

MMM X

The Old Sacramento Waterfront has transformed into a festive holiday destination for the winter, offering vibrant decorations, unique shopping, and family-friendly entertainment. This historic district, located near the Golden 1 Center and Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, features a 60-foot holiday tree, dazzling light shows, and pedestrian-only streets during peak times.

A key highlight is the 16th annual Theatre of Lights, a free, immersive light show presented on the balconies of Old Sacramento. Created by Stage Nine Exhibitions and voiced by Disney's Bill Farmer, it blends a retelling of The Night Before Christmas with stories of Sacramento's 1850s pioneers. Performances run on Fridays and Saturdays from Thanksgiving Eve through December 24, with ASL interpretation available on Saturdays.

Festivities began with the Holiday Tree Lighting that featured performances by local groups, including the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, and an appearance by the A's mascot, Stomper. The tree's nearly 24,000 lights shine nightly, including special purple lights for Kings' game nights.

The district encourages visitors to "skip the ship" and shop locally at over 125 small businesses, including more than 50 retail stores. Gift guides will be available to simplify shopping.

Holidays on K features live music, family-friendly activities, and a Letters to Santa station on Saturdays. Visitors can enjoy photo booths supporting Theatre of Lights and explore cozy seating areas.

Every building and street pole in the district is festively adorned with garlands, LED lights, and bows, creating a truly magical atmosphere. The pedestrian-friendly streets run through December 24, ensuring a festive experience. For more information, visit: oldsacramento.com.



The Li Jingle Bell Pup Crawl (yes, pup, not pub) AcademySTAY Wicked Americana Vintage Market Jessica Wimbley Fab 40s Christmas Lights **Nutcracker Sacramento Ballet** Sac State Stadium **Archival Gallery Downtown Skating Rink** Symphony d'Oro Free Concert Her Elevated Hanami Line Liquid Therapy Toy Drive

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ON THE COVER Daniel Craig stars in "Queer." In theaters now

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Two Groundbreaking Studies Highlighting Critical Health Challenges

The California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers (CHPRC) recently released two groundbreaking studies highlighting critical health and safety challenges facing LGBTQ+ communities. Conducted by the California Center for HIV Syndemic Policy Research, these studies address fatal violence against Black transgender women and the impact of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation on HIV prevention among sexual and gender minoritized (SGM) youth. The findings stress the urgent need for protective legislation and inclusive public health initiatives to safeguard marginalized communities.

Study 1: Fatal Violence Against Black Transgender Women

The first study, led by Pamuela Halliwell, MA, LMFT, and Dr. Laramie Smith, focuses on the alarming rates of fatal violence disproportionately affecting Black transgender women in the United States. The study documents 229 acts of fatal violence against transgender women between 2013 and 2021, with Black transgender women accounting for a staggering 78% of these cases. Gun violence was the leading cause of death, particularly in Southern and Midwestern regions, where structural racism and anti-transgender policies are prevalent.

Key findings include:

Demographics and Causes: Black transgender women had an average age of death at 28, five years younger than their non-Black counterparts. Gun violence was the cause in 76.4% of cases involving Black transgender women, compared to 37.9% for non-Black transgender women.

Policy Influence: Higher rates of violence were observed in areas with anti-transgender legislation, fewer gun control laws, and entrenched structural racism.

Perpetrator Analysis: In 58% of cases, the perpetrator was identified, with most being known to the victim. A significant 61% were sexual or romantic partners, while 32% were acquaintances or family members. This reflects broader systemic challenges, including economic inequities and societal pressures that perpetuate fatal violence.

Halliwell emphasized that these findings highlight the deadly impacts of systemic inequities and the pressing need for equitable protections for transgender women of color.

Study 2: LGBTQ+ Policies and HIV Prevention

The second study, led by Dr. Nicole Kelly and colleagues, explores the relationship between state and local LGBTQ+ policies and HIV prevention outcomes among SGM youth, especially Black youth. The research underscores how protective legislation boosts access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a vital HIV prevention tool, while discriminatory policies hinder progress.

Derek Tran Wins Race for Congressional District 45

Derek Tran, an Army veteran and attorney, won the race for California's Congressional District 45, defeating far-right incumbent Michelle Steel and flipping the seat. Equality California celebrated the victory, highlighting Tran's commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and social justice, as well as his strong leadership and integrity. Tran's win is especially significant given Steel's opposition to the Equality Act and sponsorship of an anti-reproductive freedom bill in 2023. Equality California expressed confidence in Tran's ability to combat intolerance and advocate for a more inclusive future for all Californians.







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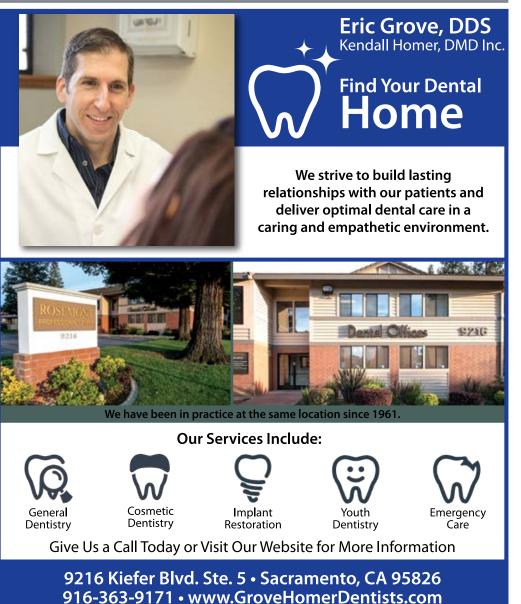
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Senator Wiener's Statement on World AIDS Day 2024

66 n World AIDS Day, we remember those we've lost, double down on our support for those living with the virus or at risk for it, and strengthen our resolve to end new HIV infections once and for all, here and around the world."

"We know how to get this done: Broad access to HIV testing and treatment and broad access to PrEP. When people know they have HIV and take the effective medications that exist, they can lead healthy lives and are all but non-infectious. When people take PrEP each day, as I do, their risk of contracting HIV is essentially zero. These strategies combined, if implemented broadly, will mean the end of HIV infections.

"With an incoming President and Congress determined to decimate health care access, these goals will become significantly harder. This extremist government — which aligns itself with people who aggressively demonize and dehumanize our community — will seek to destroy the Affordable Care Act, scale back Medicaid and other health programs, and eliminate proven public health strategies that reduce HIV infections. This government's actions, if successful, will mean more HIV infections, more people contracting fullblown AIDS, and more people dying.

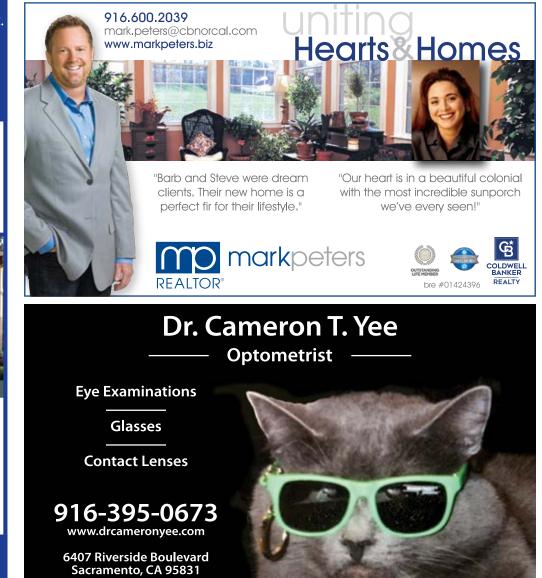
"It doesn't have to be this way, and to these extremists I have something to say: We're not going back. Not now. Not ever. "We've been down this path before: In the

1980s, when a different GOP President

looked the other way as so many contracted the virus, got sick, and died. Why did that happen? Because a broad swath of society viewed those contracting HIV – gay men, trans people, Black people, drug addicts, low income women, and others – as throwaway people undeserving of support or compassion. I remember those days, as a young gay man volunteering on an AIDS crisis hotline in Durham North Carolina in 1990. It was terrifying.

"But we didn't let fear and hate stop us. Instead, we stood up for our community – with every conceivable innovative strategy to keep people healthy and help those at the end die with the dignity & peace they deserved.

"I'm proud to be a San Franciscan. I'm proud to be a Californian. I'm proud to be a gay man. This is always the case, but particularly so during difficult times like what we now face. We will once again step up as a State and as a City to support our community in the face of a hostile federal Administration. We will do whatever it takes to ensure we don't go back to the dark days of government abandonment."



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New Funding Enables Homeless Shelters to Welcome People AND Their Pets

RedRover, a nonprofit organization, has secured \$300,000 from an anonymous donor to extend its Safe Housing Homeless Shelter Pilot Program, offering critical support to homeless shelters in creating pet-friendly environments.

Announced during National Homeless Awareness Month, this initiative recognizes the deep bond between people experiencing homelessness and their pets, providing grants of up to \$60,000 to shelters across the U.S. These funds can be used for building renovations, pet care supplies, and limited veterinary care and transportation costs. The program aims to ensure no one has to choose between having shelter and keeping their beloved pet.

RedRover President and CEO Katie Campbell emphasized the importance of keeping families, including their pets, together, citing the emotional support and unconditional love pets provide. The Safe Housing program addresses the significant barriers non-pet-friendly shelters create for unhoused individuals, particularly the estimated 25% of the 3.5 million people experiencing homelessness annually who have pets. For these individuals, leaving their pets behind is often not an option, preventing them from accessing shelter and critical support services.

To further assist shelters, RedRover partners with Greater Good Charities on the Don't Forget The Pets (DFTP) training program. This initiative helps organizations overcome challenges in implementing pet-friendly housing through a comprehensive website, coaching, and a step-by-step planning process. While initially focused on domestic violence shelters and animal welfare organizations, the program has expanded to include homeless shelter staff and advocates, who make up 10% of the 2024 participants.

Safe Housing grant deadlines for shelters to apply are March 1, June 1, and September 1, 2024. The continued expansion of petfriendly homeless shelters underlines RedRover's mission to support both humans and their animal companions, ensuring safety, dignity, and love for all. More information is available at RedRover.org/SafeHousing.

These Local Museums Encourage You to Shop with a Purpose



Aerospace Museum of California

Enjoy 25% off all merchandise, including STEM kits, toys, and models, with all proceeds supporting the museum's mission. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

California Automobile Museum

Find gifts for car enthusiasts, including memberships - that make great stocking stuffers.

California Museum

Check out a curated selection of gifts for all ages. Museum memberships are also available to purchase as a present. Current members can continue saving with 20% off select merchandise to December 15. Open from noon to 5 p.m.

California State Railroad Museum

The store features train-related gifts, including books and exclusive dinnerware. Be sure to check out the "California Poppy" and "Prairie Mountain Wildflowers" dinnerware.

Crocker Art Museum

Shoppers can explore art-inspired gifts, local crafts, and exhibition-related books. On Museum Store Sunday, there is a 10% discount for all visitors, with an additional 10% for members, plus a free gift with purchase (while supplies last).

Sacramento Children's Museum

The store offers plush toys and holiday merchandise, along with additional discounts for members. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sacramento History Museum

Find a variety of unique gifts, including Victorian-inspired jewelry and books on local history. Shop items related to the "America's Monsters, Superheroes and Villains"

exhibition. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Museum Store Sunday offers an opportunity to shop while supporting local

opportunity to shop while supporting local cultural institutions, with unique gifts for everyone on your list. For more details, visit museumstoresunday.org or follow Sacramento museums on social media. Tour Morgan Oaks and receive your complimentary bottle of Rancho Roble wine*! *Bottle presented once tour is complete.

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"Low-Hanging Fruit: Sparkling Whines, **Champagne Problems, and Pressing Issues** from My Gay Agenda" by Randy Rainbow

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer Thine, whine, whine. You got something to say, say it. Got an opinion? The world is waiting. It doesn't do any good to mutter, sputter or whine when something's bothering you. As in the new book, "Low-Hanging Fruit" by Randy Rainbow, take it to the complaint department.

Randy Rainbow has a lot to say, and he's not afraid to say it.

For starters, he's "resigning from trying to fix you, effective immediately." Any boneheaded thing you want to do now, whatever. Nothing is his responsibility anymore. He has other issues to worry about.

"The truth is," he says, "I have a lot of complaints about a lot of things."

There are right ways of doing things, he says, and there are wrong ways and we just all really need to know the difference - especially if you're a "Karen." Now, he's compassionate, if you were born with that name, but not too much.

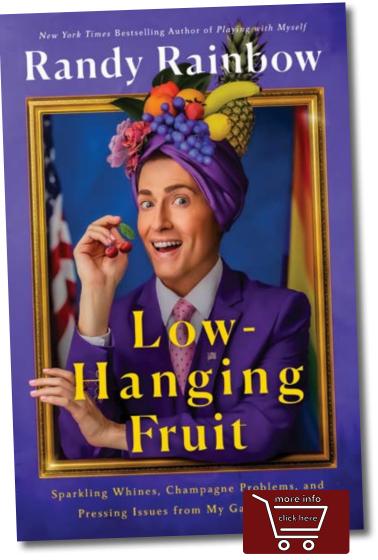
"I'm a flamboyant homosexual who's lived my entire life with the name Randy Rainbow, so you'll get little sympathy from me in this department."

Other than that, you may wonder what Rainbow's (ahem) "position" is: he's actually thinking about running for President as a member of "a Rainbow coalition..." He doesn't

have much experience but, he says, if there's one thing we've learned in the past few years, that doesn't matter at all. He stands on a green platform, but he can't ban fluorocarbons because, you know, the hair thing and all.

Rainbow misses his twenties, old-school dating sites, hooking up., and his former attention span. He waxes nostalgic about the places he's lived, including an apartment overlooking a[•]"fruit market." He wonders why teenagers are suddenly "successful lifestyle gurus." He hates when 'stars begin losing their luster" and he wishes again for actors like Hayworth and Garbo.

But, he says, "Divacomplaints aside... I really do thank God for all the opportunities I'm given.'



So the Elephant in the

Room right now might be one you'll (never?) vote for, but you know that author Randy Rainbow will reliably skewer that political animal online, hilariously. The fun-poking continues in the most deliciously snarky way in "Low-Hanging Fruit."

And yet, that's not the only subject Rainbow tackles. Readers who love catching his posts and videos are treated here to a random string of observations, opinions, and rants-not-rants, with the signature sassy style they've come to expect. What you'll read can be spit-out-yourwine funny sometimes, and other times it touches a nerve with nods toward culture, new and old, that'll make you nod with recognition. Nothing in Rainbow's path goes without sharp-edged comment, which is exactly what you want from his books. Unexpectedly, this one also includes a soft word or two and a few slight confessions that are gentle and that might even make you say, "Awwwww."

If you're ready for something snide and cynical that'll make you laugh, something that you'll want to read aloud to a companion, "Low-Hanging Fruit" is what you need. Look for this book now and you'll have no complaints.

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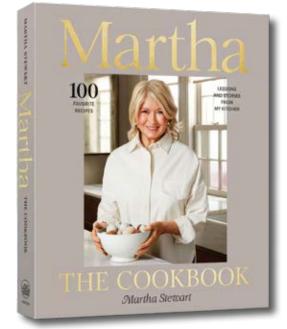
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Holiday Shopping Gift Guide

f you know the person you are buying a holiday gift for likes to cook, it's pretty easy and relatively inexpensive to buy a recent cookbook, and lately there are three new ones that are very interesting.



The Cookbook

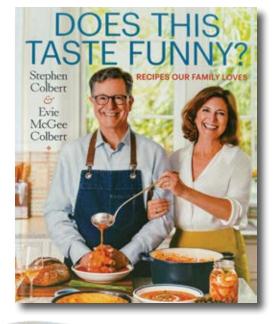
The first would be from the godmother of cookbooks, the one and only Martha Stewart. "The Cookbook" commemorates her 100th book that she has produced. It looks beautiful and elegant and it is filled with her favorite recipes and some helpful tips. Just what you expect from the domestic goddess. Available now. Hardcover \$40.



Does This Taste Funny?

The second cookbook is from the husband and wife duo, Steven Corbett and Evie McGee Colbert and it's called "Does This Taste Funny?" Beyond having a very clever name, it is filled with fun anecdotes, wonderful photography and some surprisingly serious recipes. I'm looking forward to giving some of them a try. Hardcover \$32.00.









The third book, "Plats du Jour," is from the owners of the girl and the fig restaurant in Sonoma. This is a large cookbook with lots of recipes that they actually use in the restaurant, and is laid out with foods categorized by season. The photography is stunning, not just the food and drink, but also some gorgeous shots of Sonoma and the surrounding area. This is a true coffee table book for that foodie in your life! Hardcover \$48.00.







Wishing you a very merry home for the holidays!

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Daniel Craig Stars in "Queer" Plus, Two New Animated Films

by Chris Narloch

Food

very Christmas season, I allow myself to watch one cheesy holiday rom com, but this year I doubled up and saw a pair of new Netflix titles that were too ridiculous to resist: "The Merry Gentlemen" and "Hot Frosty."

You can file those two hunky holiday hits under guilty pleasures. Here are four films in theaters that don't require you to do penance after watching them.



Moana 2

I am at least 50 years older than the target audience for this animated follow-up to the huge hit from 2016, but I still enjoyed the gorgeous animation and the fierce female at the center of the sequel.

The same talent is on board for "Moana 2" (minus Lin-Manuel Miranda), but the story and the songs are not quite as strong this time.

There are also too many cutesy, Disneyfied animals on screen for my taste, but the kiddos won't care, so who am I to complain? "Moana 2" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Flow

This fantastic (and fantastical) animated feature follows a black shorthair cat that finds refuge on a boat populated by various species, who must learn to get along and work together after an apocalyptic flood.

"Flow" creates its own incredible world, and that world is a stunningly beautiful one. A silent environmental fable and a fascinating journey, this film is the finest animated movie of 2024, which was a very strong year for animation.



Beverage

and More

Queer

Daniel Craig gives a fearless, award-worthy performance in his latest film, which is indeed very, very queer (in every sense of the word). Craig gives an emotionally and physically naked performance as an alcoholic expatriate living in Mexico City who is desperately in love (or lust?) with a very beautiful – and much younger – man.

Genuinely erotic love scenes and a wild, nude drug trip in the jungle are just some of the pleasures to be found in this sexy, stunning slice of cinema. The film starts out slow but gets stronger and weirder and sadder as it goes. "Queer" won't be for everyone, but I admire the way all involved with the movie swing for the fences.



The Return

Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche, the dynamic duo from 1996's "The English Patient," team up again for this reworking of "The Odyssey." Fiennes is Odysseus, who endeavors to set things right after he returns to Ithaca from the Trojan War and finds that his wife, Penelope (Binoche). is a prisoner in her own home.

The two lead performances in "The Return" are terrific, especially Fiennes' battered hero. Like Glenn Close, Fiennes has never won an Oscar, which seems unbelievable. The actor is having a great 2024, however, and I think he deserves recognition for his work in "Conclave" or this film.

Note: "The Return," "Flow," and "Queer" were all still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press.

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and More Beverage "Come To Your Senses" This Holiday Season

Tf you need to de-stress this holiday season, or you want to do something artsy, a new sensory installation might be just what

the doctor ordered.

The interactive exhibit, on O Street in downtown Sacramento, engages all five senses through tactile art, immersive light displays, and soundscape creation.

Curated by CADA, and designed to ignite curiosity and awaken perceptions, the art activation invites you on a sensory adventure through five interactive rooms, each celebrating at least one of the five senses.

The exhibit allows visitors to unwind in a meditative deep breathing room, and immerse themselves in sensory experiences of touch, sight, taste, smell, and sound, like never before.

Additionally, a holiday season donation

drive continues through December that provides free admission to the exhibit in exchange for canned goods, toys, or musical instruments that local, needy families,

individuals, and youth programs can use. The donation drive is a unique collaboration between CADA, the City of Sacramento, the YMCA, and

MusicLandria. If you prefer to purchase tickets, or you want more information about the sensory exhibit, which continues through Feb. 29, 2025,

please visit: www.senses916.com

The Golden Girls Are Live Again This Christmas

Tf you're in the Bay Area this month seeing family and friends or doing some Christmas shopping, be sure and visit Blanche, Sofia, Rose, and Dorothy in their red-hot seasonal show, now in its 19th year in San Francisco.



"The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes" takes four drag legends and casts them in two parody Christmas episodes of the uproarious TV show "The Golden Girls." Directed by D'Arcy Drollinger, this drag send-up and heartfelt tribute to the characters the

entire world has come to know and love features the return of Coco Peru (Dorothy), Matthew Martin (Blanche), D'Arcy Drollinger (Rose), and Holotta Tymes (Sophia).

The cast also features Manuel Caneri, Michael Phillis, and Tom Shaw on the piano. You can see "The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes" at San Francisco's historic Curran Theatre through this Dec. 26. Visit: www.broadwaysf.com

media • marketing • eventsFoodMyriad Cellars:A Winner on Many Levels

words by Diana Kienle, Certified Specialist of Wine photo by Cathy Swamberger

The been buying the wine produced by Mike Smith, winemaker and co-proprietor of Myriad Cellars, since 2008. In most cases, that should be, by itself, a ringing endorsement of his wine. He honed his craft with one of the finest winemakers in the Napa Valley, Thomas Rivers Brown. Initially, Mike worked with Thomas for free for several crushes (seven to be exact), and ultimately Thomas offered Mike a job.



out

It was in 2006 that Mike was able to purchase grapes and establish his own label with his wife Leah as "copilot." My first tasting with him was at Carter Cellars where he was established as the winemaker. I was sold on his expertise by then. The character and quality of the wine stands out. Just recently, we had a tasting hosted by Leah, at Tamber Bey Winery. This is a custom crush facility where they make their wine. It is a lovely setting in Calistoga, CA at the north end of the Napa Valley. We were able to sit outside with a view of Mount St. Helena and taste luscious wine from the 2022 vintage. There were two standouts from this tasting. One being a favorite each vintage – Cabernet Sauvignon from the Dr. Crane Vineyard. Then there was a mystery wine from an unknown vineyard titled Rarefied Air Cabernet Sauvignon. It was a knockout! The mystery is that the source of the grapes is known only to Mike and Leah along with the owner of the vineyard. It could well be an opportunity for the owner of the vineyard to see first-hand what Mike can deliver. I know he or she won't be disappointed. I wasn't and bought the offering.

Myriad Cellars produces a wide portfolio of wines: Rosé, Semillon, Syrah, and several different Cabernets from outstanding vineyards in the valley. You won't be disappointed. Mike delivers wine that is smooth and expressive. His efforts have garnered high praise from several wine critics. In fact, here is a link to a Score Card from Myriad's website.

The high scores from well-known critics may be overwhelming yet easily reassure you of the quality of the wine. He is devoted to having the wine in the bottle be the expression of the land and the grapes. I highly recommend a tasting with the delightful Leah if you are in the Napa Valley. She will guide you through the lineup with insights and humor. If not, I have no hesitations recommending going on the website and trying some bottles for yourself. It is well worth it. Enjoy!

if desired

Garnish with an orange slice and star anise,

*Instructions on how to make the punch

Recipe by: Half Baked Harvest

can be found on blog

Cozy Up This Holiday Season: Spiced Maple Bourbon Fizz

There's something about the chill in the air that brings people together, whether it's around a crackling campfire, the warm glow of the fireplace, or a bustling kitchen filled with familiar laughter. This Spiced Maple Bourbon Fizz captures that feeling of cozy togetherness in a glass. It's more than just a cocktail, it's a memory waiting to happen.

S more than just a cocktain, it's a memory waiting to mapped Disture this a grien December evening SDICED MADIE SVDID

Picture this: a crisp December evening, family and friends gathered after months apart. Someone shares a story that has everyone laughing, while others are toasting to old memories and making new ones. That's where this drink shines. The warm notes of homemade spiced maple syrup blend beautifully with rich bourbon, the brightness of lemon and orange adding just the right touch of freshness. Topped with a splash of bubbly champagne, it's festive, inviting, and full of flavor.

This cocktail is perfect for the cold nights ahead, whether you're celebrating Thanksgiving or simply enjoying a quiet evening at home. And the best part? It's so easy to make. Mix up a large batch to have ready when your guests arrive, so you can spend less time prepping and more time savoring the moment.

A great cocktail doesn't just taste good, it has the power to bring people closer. Whether you're sharing this Spiced Maple Bourbon Fizz over heartfelt conversations or laughing with loved ones by the fire, it's the kind of drink that lingers in your memory long after the glass is empty. So, grab your favorite mug or cocktail glass, toast to the season, and let this drink be part of your holiday story.

- SPICED MAPLE SYRUP • 1/2 cup maple syrup
 - 2 cup maple syru 2 cinnamon sticks
 - 1 tablespoon cardamon pods
 - 1 star anise
 - 1 inch fresh ginger, sliced
 - zest of 1 orange

MAPLE FIZZ

- 1 1/2 ounces (3 tablespoons) bourbon
- 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) lemon juice
- 1-2 dashes orange bitters
 1 ounce (2 tablespoore) or
- 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) spiced maple syrup
- champagne, for topping

Instructions

1. To make the spiced maple syrup. In a medium pot, bring 1/2 cup water, the maple, cinnamon, cardamom, star anise, and ginger to a boil over high heat. Boil 2-3 minutes, then remove from the heat. Stir in the orange zest. Let cool, then strain the syrup into a glass jar. This syrup makes enough for about 6 drinks.

2. In a cocktail shaker, combine 1-2 tablespoons maple syrup, the bourbon, lemon juice, and orange bitters. Add ice and shake. Strain into a glass. Top off with champagne.

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Moshin Vineyards: The Gift of Exceptional California Wine

and More

Beverage

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Give the gift of wine! Moshin Vineyards, nestled in the heart of Sonoma County's renowned Russian River Valley, crafts exquisite, smalllot wines that are sure to impress. Known for their silky Pinot Noir and vibrant Sauvignon Blanc, each bottle captures the essence of California winemaking at its finest. Whether you're shopping for a wine connoisseur or someone who simply loves to sip and savor, Moshin Vineyards offers a variety of options that make a thoughtful, delicious present. Share a bottle (or wine club) this season and let the cheers begin! Website: https://moshinvineyards.com/





Discover Russian River Valley's best kept secret ...



Elegant estate-grown Pinot Noir

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Holiday Shopping two

The Happiest of Holidays to You, From all of us here at Outword Magazine



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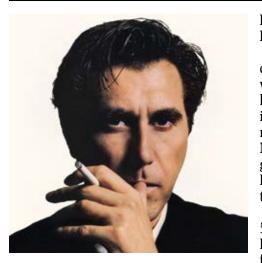
Holiday Shopping Gift Guide Gift Cards for the Holidays are More Popular Than Ever by Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

by Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst WalletHub Analyst ith the holiday season upon us and gift cards poised to be among the most popular presents yet again, the personalfinance website WalletHub today released its report on the Best Gift Cards of 2024. This report highlights the best gift cards based on popularity, average discount and resale value, while also providing 12 money-saving gift card tips to help holiday shoppers maximize their savings.

Some people might think gift cards are impersonal and inconsiderate, but gift cards happen to be the most popular type of holiday present for the 18th straight year, and they're great for making the most of an inflation-constricted budget. Not only can you buy gift cards from some of the most popular retailers at discounts of up to 16.30%, but you can also avoid wasting your money buying a specific item your recipient ends up having already or simply hating. If you want to personalize your gift card, a thoughtful note to go along with it won't cost you a thing.

Avoid gift cards from credit card networks like Visa, Mastercard and American Express because they eat up part of your holiday budget with fees. It's better to give cash instead of a gift card that charges a fee.

- Most Popular Gift Cards
- 1) Visa Gift Card
- 2) Amazon Gift Card
- 3) Target Gift Card
- 4) Sephora Gift Card
- 5) Walmart Gift Card
- Most-Discounted Cards 1) SONIC Gift Card (16.30% discount) 2) Cinemark Gift Card (9.89% discount) 3) Netflix Gift Card (9.18% discount) 4) Michaels Gift Card (8.50% discount) 5) Fandango Gift Card (8.32% discount)



Best Gift Cards 1) Amazon Gift Card 2) Target Gift Card 3) Sephora Gift Card 4) Walmart Gift Card 5) Starbucks Gift Card

Best Resale Value
1) Costco Gift Card
2) Home Depot Gift Card
3) Best Buy Gift Card
4) Disney Gift Card
5) Whole Foods Gift Card

Bryan Ferry's Retrospective: Selected Recordings 1973–2023

This is a monumental 81-track collection celebrating his 50-year solo career, is out now via BMG. Spanning 16 solo albums, it highlights Ferry's evolution as an artist and includes two brand-new tracks, "Star" and his reinterpretation of Bob Dylan's "She Belongs to Me." The deluxe release showcases Ferry's genre-blending approach, moving through rock, R&B, electronica, jazz, and more, reflecting his timeless influence on modern music.

Available in multiple formats, the deluxe 5-CD box set is divided into five thematic discs. Disc One offers "The Best of Bryan Ferry," featuring classics like "Slave to Love" and "Let's

Stick Together." Disc Two: Compositions traces his development as a songwriter, emphasizing themes of love and introspection. Disc Three: Interpretations highlights Ferry's reinvention of songs by artists like The Velvet Underground and Otis Redding. Disc Four explores his orchestral jazz reimaginings from The Jazz Age and Bitter-Sweet, including pieces from The Great Gatsby soundtrack. Finally, Disc Five: Rare and Unreleased presents unique tracks, such as a collaboration with Ronnie Spector and a reworking of John Lennon's "Whatever Gets You Thru the Night."

Critics have praised the collection for its depth and innovation, with MOJO lauding Ferry's ability to go beyond surface perfection, and Classic Pop commending his consistent risk-taking. This retrospective celebrates Ferry's mastery as a modern interpreter of music and showcases his enduring impact on British music, from his Roxy

Music roots to his ever-evolving solo artistry. Retrospective is available as a 5CD box set, 2LP editions, and digitally, offering fans an expansive gateway into Ferry's groundbreaking career. \$38.00.





Kicksville Vinyl & Vintage: A Retro Haven for Vinyl and Furniture Lovers

Kicksville Vinyl & Vintage in Sacramento is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves vinyl records and retro home decor. Specializing in an eclectic mix of carefully curated records and mid-century modern furniture, this shop is perfect for finding a unique holiday gift. From classic albums to stylish vintage furniture pieces that add character to any space, Kicksville offers one-of-a-kind treasures that music lovers and design enthusiasts will adore. Give the gift of nostalgia and timeless style this holiday season with a special find from Kicksville Vinyl & Vintage! Website: http://www.kicksvilleshop.com/

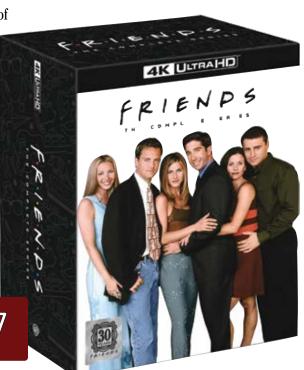


Friends: The Complete Series is Now Available in 4K Ultra HD

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of Friends with the ultimate collector's set! This special release features all 236 original broadcast episodes in stunning 4K Ultra HD for the first time, along with over 20 hours of extra content, including new behind-the-scenes bonus features like "Through the Peephole," which highlights iconic props and costumes from the show.

Relive the humor, heart, and timeless moments of this beloved series that continues to charm fans across generations. Share the

excitement and spread the word! \$200.00.







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Holiday Shopping Gift Guide

Dog Mama Baseball Cap

Gift the proud Dog Mama in your life a stylish and practical baseball cap this holiday season! Made from 100% garment-washed cotton, this classic 6-panel cap features "DOG MAMA" embroidered lettering, a pre-curved visor, and an adjustable metal buckle for a perfect fit. Perfect for daily wear and wellness activities, this comfortable and durable hat is a year-round favorite. \$29.99.



Pet Bandana

Add holiday charm to your pet's look with the Pawsome Pets festive bandana! Handmade in the USA from 100% cotton, this soft and breathable accessory is perfect for gatherings, photos, or spreading seasonal cheer. Designed for comfort, it ties easily for a secure fit and comes in a square shape for versatile styling. A thoughtful gift for pet lovers, this bandana



is non-returnable, so be sure to choose the right size! \$24.99.



The Highlands in Guerneville: The Gift of a Serene Getaway

Give the gift of relaxation with a stay at The Highlands in Guerneville, California, an enchanting retreat nestled in the heart of Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. Surrounded by towering redwoods and just minutes from world-class wineries, charming downtown Guerneville, and the scenic riverfront. The Highlands offers a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle. Perfect for couples or small groups, their stylishly cozy accommodations feature modern amenities and stunning natural views. Whether it's a romantic weekend or a rejuvenating getaway, The Highlands provides an unforgettable experience that's truly a gift worth giving. Website: https://www.highlandsresort.com/

Breville Espresso Machine:

The Perfect Gift for Coffee Lovers Elevate every coffee lover's morning routine with the Breville Espresso Machine from Williams-Sonoma. Designed for coffee connoisseurs, this sleek and powerful machine delivers café-quality espresso, lattes, and cappuccinos. With features like customizable settings, precise temperature control, and a built-in grinder for fresh beans, it's the ultimate tool for creating barista-worthy beverages at home. Beautifully crafted and easy to use, the Breville Espresso Machine makes an unforgettable holiday gift that will delight every morning (and maybe even afternoon). Give the gift of luxury and great coffee this season! \$699.00.





Towne Modern Nightstand

Elevate your bedroom with the minimalist elegance of the Towne Modern Nightstand. Designed with modern sophistication, this sleek bedside companion is crafted from premium poplar wood for the top and base, offering both durability and a lightweight design. Its easy-care surface cleans effortlessly. Combine style and functionality– make this the perfect addition to your modern bedroom. \$550.00.



Mid-Century Atomic Dish Towel Trio – Sustainable and Stylish

Upgrade your kitchen with this Mid-Century Modern Atomic Trio Towel Set, featuring three 16" x 24" absorbent and fast-drying towels crafted from recycled materials (each towel made from 3.5 recycled water bottles). Perfect for daily use or gifting, these durable, stain-resistant towels are hemmed on all edges, designed with soft-handed prints that won't peel or crack, and are machine washable. Ideal as dish towels, hand towels, or decorative accents, they combine functionality with eco-friendly style. Designed and printed in San Jose, California, they're a perfect mix of practicality and charm. \$35.00.







Cook with Love: The Le Creuset Pride Dutch Oven

Celebrate love and inclusivity this holiday season with Le Creuset's limited-edition Signature Enameled Cast Iron Round Dutch Oven, adorned with a vibrant rainbow of hearts. This 4.5-quart Dutch oven not only makes a meaningful statement but also offers exceptional performance for slowcooking, baking, and roasting. Its enameled cast iron construction ensures even heat distribution and superior heat retention, while the colorful design

adds a joyful touch to any kitchen. Available exclusively at Williams Sonoma, this unique piece is a thoughtful gift that combines functionality with a celebration of diversity and love. \$415.00



Holiday Shopping

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Holiday Shopping Gift Guide

F Cor those that are unapologetically gay, and love and respect LGBTQ history, there is nothing more iconic than Keith Haring's whimsical art. And now you can have a taste of that, decorating with these items around your happy, gay home, and even your lovely wrist. Here are a couple of items that come up:

Keith Haring Barking Dog Bright Blue Doormat

Make a statement with the Keith Haring Barking Dog Bright Blue Doormat! Featuring the iconic Haring design in vibrant arctic blue against a coir-like background, this doormat is as bold as it is practical. Crafted from durable, machinewashable material, it resists fading and mold, making it a stylish and reliable addition to any indoor or outdoor space. \$160.00.



Keith Haring Swatch Watch from the Archives



This timepiece showcases a matter light beige dial adorned with gray illustrations, the signature and copyright of artist Keith Haring, and his unique interpretation of the Swatch logo. Silver-tone hour, minute, and second hands gracefully mark the time beneath the biosourced glass. The design is completed with a matter transparent biosourced case, strap, loop, and buckle for a modern and sustainable finish. \$110.



Dancers Wall Applique

A wall applique featuring the iconic black line art of dancers inspired by pop artist Keith Haring, showcasing them in dynamic poses. The interior of each dancer will match the wall color, blending seamlessly into the space. \$35.00.





Who Wouldn't want Stylish and Sexy New Underwear?

Jack Adams underwear makes a stylish and thoughtful Christmas gift, combining comfort, quality, and a touch of boldness. Known for its modern designs and premium materials, the brand offers a variety of styles—from briefs to trunks and jockstraps—catering to different preferences. Whether you're shopping for a partner, friend, or yourself, Jack Adams underwear is a perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with confidence and flair. Its sleek designs and impeccable fit ensure not only a practical gift but also one that exudes personality and charm, making it a standout under the tree. www.jackadamsusa.com

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Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

This holiday season we're reminded of the power of togetherness. Surrounding ourselves with those who demonstrate their love for us each day through their actions, we find strength to embrace the challenges of the coming year. For many in our community, family is chosen—a cherished circle of friends and allies who uplift and support us in uncertain times. Celebrate those bonds this season through laughter, tradition, or simply being present. These moments of unity empower us all. Now let's explore some fun events happening this holiday season.

Food

Join us at *Outzword's* monthly happy hour on Friday, Dec. 13 at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. for a dose of holiday Liquid Therapy at 5:30 p.m. Bring a toy for our annual toy drive and get chances to win prizes and enjoy drink specials. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones for the holidays. Badlandssac.com

Catch the delightful holiday production "Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley" through Jan. 5 at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. Directed by Janis Stevens, this heartwarming tale follows Georgiana Darcy and Kitty Bennet as they navigate love, ambition, and meddlesome families in a music-filled journey of sisterhood and forgiveness. Don't miss this seasonal treat! Capstage.org

Celebrate the season at the Old Norse Yule Market on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 2 to 8 p.m., hosted by The WitchGang Apothecary & Emporium, 5440 14th Ave. Enjoy a Nordic wonderland with local artisans, readers, food trucks, and hot chocolate. Admission is free, and the event is open to all ages! Witchgang.com The enchanting holiday play Tinker the Toy Maker by Niyah Moore premieres Dec. 6 at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St., and runs through Dec. 22. Join the talented cast in the festive village of Jangleville for a whimsical family story about Mary Tinker's quest to restore holiday magic. Don't miss this heartwarming production! Celebrationarts.com

Get ready for the ultimate plant-lover's experience as the Hella Plants Market returns to Sacramento on Sunday, Dec. 22, from noon-5 p.m. at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St. Enjoy workshops, delicious food, and hella plants in a welcoming atmosphere. Don't miss this unforgettable market—it's bigger, better, and back in the Sac! Thehellaplantsmarket.com

Ring in the New Year at FACES Nightclub on Tuesday, Dec. 31! Doors open at 7 p.m. with a full buffet from 7-10 p.m. and a thrilling midnight cash and prize balloon drop. Join the fun at 2000 K St. Don't wait to snag your tickets! Faces.net



Beverage

Join the Sacramento Asian Pacific, Hispanic, and Black Chambers of Commerce for the 2024 Alliance Holiday Mixer on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Stones Gambling Hall, 6510 Antelope Rd., Citrus Heights. Enjoy holiday cheer, networking, last-minute shopping, and support the Lao Family Community Development Donation Drive. Don't miss it! Sacblackchamber.org

Join Golden Rule Services in celebrating 25 years of supporting Sacramento County's BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. The event features live entertainment, including a Brazilian drum circle, inspiring speakers, and honorees who've championed the fight against HIV/AIDS. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the show at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1 at The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred, 2300 Sierra Blvd. Tickets are selling fast! GRSgala.org

and More

Join us Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. at A Seat at the Table Books, 9257 Laguna Springs Dr. in Elk Grove, for Vinyl and Vino! Sip fine wine, spin your favorite records, and connect with fellow music and wine lovers. Happening every second and fourth Tuesday. RSVPs are preferred—don't miss this perfect pairing! Aseatatthetablebooks.org

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





Holiday Shopping The Happiest of Holidays to You, outyord two From all of us here at Outword Magazine media • marketing • consulting 0 0 Upcoming events. 2024/25 Next Theme Issue: Health & Body SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE Artwork Deadline: December 30 9---**-** 🛅 Street Date: January 9 Contact us today! out⊌ord Fred Palmer - Office: 916-329-9280 - Fred@OutwordMagazine.com media · marketing · events MONDAVI CENTER PRIMETIMERS DEC Sasha Velour - The Big Reveal: Why Drag Matters, Now & Forever. 7:30 pm @ Jackson Hall. More information online: https://www.mondaviarts.org/whats-on/sasha-velour/ Lunch & Dessert @ Estelle's - 11:30am For more events and information visit: 07 16 https://chapters.theprimetimersww.com/sacramento/ HARRIS CENTER FEB DEC R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is an electrifying tribute celebrating the music of the legendary Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. This concert experience takes audiences on a journey of love, tragedy, courage, and triumph. more information online: https://www.harriscenter.net/respect FACES- NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 18 Doors open @ 7pm- full buffet. Midnight cash and prize balloon drop. visit www.faces.net for more information. 31 **BROADWAY SACRAMENTO** KIMBERLY AKIMBO is the winner of five 2023 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL! Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. show starts Dec. 31 and goes to Jan. 2 - more information online: https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/kimberly-akimbo/ DEC **** **BUSINESS & COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS & EXPO** FEB 31 The Sarcamento Rainbow Chamber Annual awards luncheon & Kimberly Akimbo 28 Expo . 10am - 1pm. For more information visit www.RainbowChamber.com JAN DRAG QUEEN BINGO **"YOUR EVENT HERE"** @Mango's- Sahara Hope Foundation is this month's beneficiary. 7 - 9pm. All seating is first come first serve. \$20 CASH Donation to play 8 games. 02 MAR Contact Julie Ebe about getting your next 04 event on our calendar! Julie@OutwordMagazine.com JAN HAPPY HOUR - LIQUID THERAPY Outword's Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands- 5:50-7pm. Join us for some liquid Therapy and good company. 17

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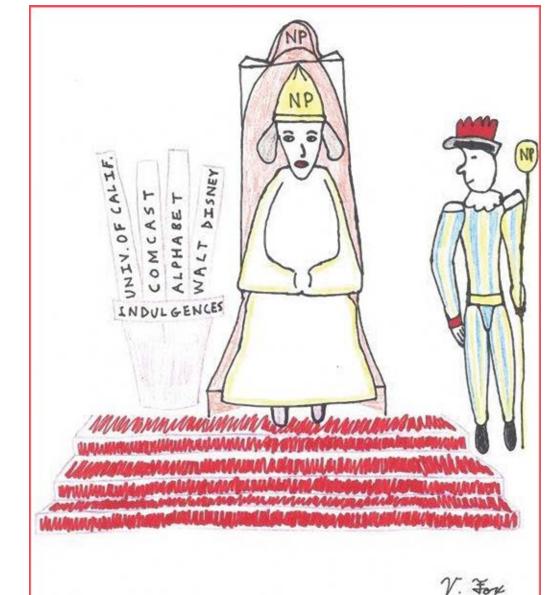


Prime Timers of Sacramento is a group of mature men (21+) who enjoy the social community that is thriving here in Sacramento.

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

www.PrimeTimersofSacramento.org

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