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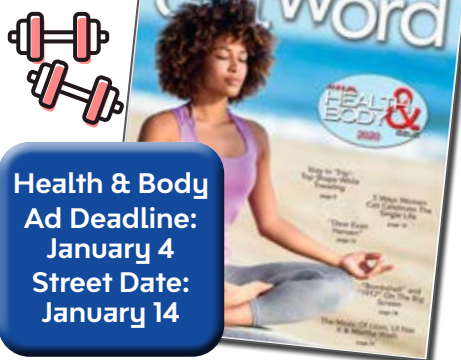
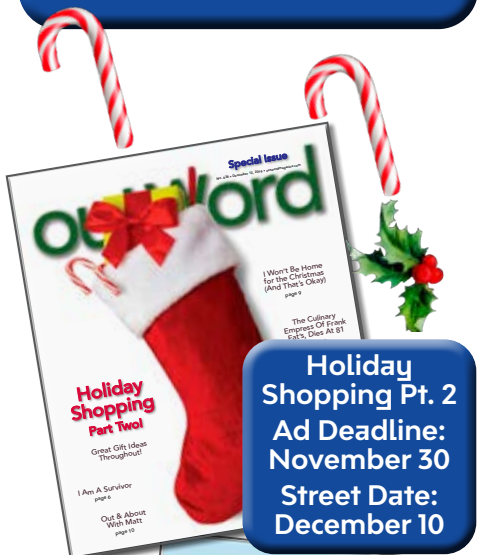
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The People Need Relief from the Pandemic, Not More of Trump's Anti-Civil Rights Judges

Lena Zwarenstejn, Fair Courts Campaign Director at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, issued the following statement on the Senate's confirmation of five recent Trump judicial nominees:

"Hundreds of thousands are dying from COVID, infection rates are spiraling out of control, unemployment is high, and people are hungry. But instead of working to pass COVID relief, funding the government, and addressing systemic violence and state-sanctioned violence against Black and Brown people, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has recklessly prioritized the confirmation of partisan judicial nominees.

"Senate Republicans have deliberately abandoned communities that need urgent relief from this pandemic in order to confirm lifetime judges who embody Trump and McConnell's anti-civil rights agenda. By confirming nominees like Stephen Vaden, Toby Crouse, and Kathryn Mizelle, they are counting on these judges to side with them and their cronies instead of protecting the rights of the people.

"It is unacceptable. The people do not need more anti-civil rights judges. We urgently need relief from this devastating pandemic."

Read The Leadership Conference's letters in opposition to the confirmation of Stephen Vaden to the U.S. Court of International Trade, Toby Crouse to the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, and Kathryn Mizelle to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 220 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States. The Leadership Conference works toward an America as good as its ideals. For more information on The Leadership Conference and its member organizations, visit www.civilrights.org.

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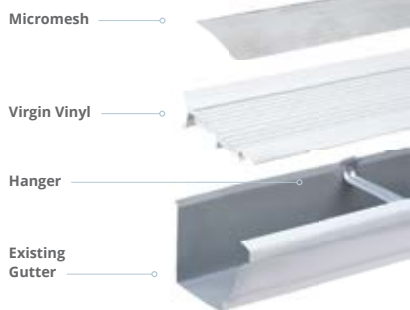


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Join the Sac LGBT Center at Friendsgiving!

By Ariela Cuellar (she/her/hers)
Community Engagement &
Marketing Strategist

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center's 5th Annual Friendsgiving event is scheduled for November 26 on Thanksgiving Day. Friendsgiving allows us to share a warm meal with our LGBTQ+ community. This time of year is especially hard for folks who don't have supportive friends and family, and for those who don't have the finances to have a nice meal this holiday season. At the Center's Friendsgiving, everyone is welcome to participate in the tradition!

We want everyone who attends to feel at home and able to join as their true authentic selves. The Center has made some accommodations for COVID-19, therefore folks will gather outside of the Center in the parking lot to ensure folks stay safe in an open-air environment and keep socially distant from each other as much as possible.

We wouldn't be able to continue this event without contributions like YOURS that help us provide food and drinks for our community members. If you'd like to contribute, please see the list of possible contributions here. Please note that all food must be cooked, sliced and warmed for serving ahead of time.

Although there's only a handful of days left until Thanksgiving, the Center could still use help with creating space for chosen family. The holidays can be challenging for so many folks, so we hope you can join the Center in creating positive memories and building community at this year's Friendsgiving. The Center is located at 1015 20th Street and if you have questions about the event, contact Marcy at marcy.basila@saccenter.org.

JOIN US!

**FRIENDSGIVING
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Documenting Dysphoria

By Salgu Wissmath (they/them/theirs)

Inspired by my own journey as a nonbinary person, Documenting Dysphoria is an ongoing series of interpretive portraits that explores what gender dysphoria *feels* like.

Gender dysphoria can be an elusive feeling, hard to fully understand for those who don't experience it, and even challenging to identify for those that do. I know for myself, I had never heard of the term until my late 20s. Growing up I didn't know what gender dysphoria was, so it took watching nonbinary folks come out on YouTube to help me figure out my own identity.

Gender dysphoria is an important experience among transgender individuals and it is this experience which often allows people to come to understand their own identity. However, the experience is different for everyone. Some folks may experience more body dysphoria, and others more social dysphoria, and some folks who identify as trans or nonbinary don't experience gender dysphoria at all. A main goal of this project is to show the immense diversity of these experiences. So that gender dysphoria can be more understood by society, but also so folks who do experience dysphoria can see themselves represented in these images.

Most importantly these images are intended to affirm and offer visibility to the trans and nonbinary experience from a



Salgu Wissmath, pictured, is a writer and photograph journalist.

queer lens. First and foremost, this project is for the trans community. For us to hear and see fellow trans people's stories. For us to recognize parts of ourselves in the experiences of others. Ultimately it is to empower us to embrace our own skin. For everyone who is trans, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, anywhere else on or off the gender spectrum, or questioning their gender identity, this project is for you.

I'm always looking for more participants for this project. If you are interested in having your photo taken and sharing your gender dysphoria story, please reach out!

Web: www.salguwissmath.com

Email: swissmath@gmail.com

instagram: [@salguwissmath](https://www.instagram.com/salguwissmath)



Salgu Wissmath has been documenting trans and non-binary folks and their experiences with Gender dysphoria.



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World AIDS Day Again— We Must Fight!

By Joyce Mitchell

World AIDS Day - December 1st 2020 marks new challenges for everyone. As we march forward carrying the message about ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic, we now find ourselves faced with yet another deadly virus circulating and spreading globally in record numbers. And again, we're seeing a new pandemic that has somehow—and irresponsibly I might add—evolved into a hot political topic that is killing people by the hundreds of thousands.



By no means is the fight over against HIV/AIDS. Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) continues to charge forward to educate and prevent new infections. Now, CCAF is also using condom dispensers to distribute hand sanitizers. We realize we have a dual responsibility during this dual pandemic.

We witnessed the politicizing of HIV/AIDS decades ago. How many times have I told people, including health officials, that this is not a “political” issue but a rather health issue. And a health issue that has no cure. The only answer is education and prevention.

Now, with COVID-19, we're repeating our prevention pleas. There are tools to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus - if people will listen, mask-up, social distance, and wash/sanitize their hands. Why mask wearing has become a political issue absolutely mystifies me. Not only mystifies me, but angers me beyond measure.

Again, we find ourselves in the war of Fact vs Myth. HIV/AIDS took us for a spin down that road. For example - we learned and must remember -

- There still is no cure for HIV/AIDS but prevention works
- Using a condom and PrEP protects against contracting HIV
- Antiretroviral treatment = undetectable = untransmittable
- HIV cannot be transmitted through casual contact like kissing or drinking from the same glass
- Myths hurt people; facts save lives

With COVID-19 sweeping the country and world right now, we must literally mask-up and take charge. We are responsible for our own destiny and the future of our friends, partners and loved ones. That is no myth. The facts are -

- There is no cure for COVID-19
- Prevention slows spread of the deadly virus
- Wearing a mask protects you and others
- Washing your hands and sanitizing surfaces helps kill the virus
- Social distancing and staying away from large crowds is imperative

The message here is that knowing the facts busts myths. Lives are at stake right now in a way that we have not seen for decades. The first annual World AIDS Day was observed December 1st 1988. It was a time for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and show support for people living with HIV/AIDS. It was also an opportunity to commemorate those who have died.

In that respect, this year is no different. CCAF fights on the frontlines of the HIV/AIDS pandemic because we believe no one has to ever contract HIV again. Prevention and education are key. As we continue to embrace that mission, we also are adamant in carrying the message that people must use every tool possible to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

We must learn from the past. Lives depend on it. HIV/AIDS should never have been a political issue. But fueled by ignorance and myth, it evolved into just that and made it even more difficult to control. We understand that HIV/AIDS was, and is, a devastating health issue that claimed the lives of many people we dearly loved.

The Coronavirus also is not a Red or Blue issue - Democratic or Republican problem. Regardless of political party platform or belief, we must all team up - together - to hold up one another and save lives. It's very simple. Taking care of yourself - takes care of others. Prevention and education - CCAF embraces as truth.



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Faith and Lauren Pulido tied the knot on Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 with an intimate ceremony in Capitol Park. Faith (she/her) and Lauren (he/him) are both local, queer community activists and public servants who work for the California state legislature. They said “I do” just as Joe Biden won Michigan, something they hope is an omen for good things to come.

Photo by Wandering Lotus Photography, who represent the underrepresented, and creatively capture the beauty of movement and life as it happens. Contact them at wanderinglotusphoto@gmail.com or Instagram [@wanderinglotusphoto!](https://www.instagram.com/wanderinglotusphoto/)



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WEAVE Winter Wonderland, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, will partner with individuals, families, and businesses to provide gifts to families. WEAVE can provide family profiles, allowing donors to shop and provide for an entire family or accept gifts collected during donation drives and assemble packages for families. Family profiles will include family members, genders, age, and a wish list for each member. We ask that gifts are donated unwrapped, each child receives three gifts, adults receive at least one gift and include enough wrapping paper for all items.

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You can find a list of items we accept here Winter Wonderland Flyer. Please note, all gifts for WEAVE Winter Wonderland must be new and unwrapped.

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Audra McDonald & Andrea Bocelli Perform Live Online

By Chris Narloch

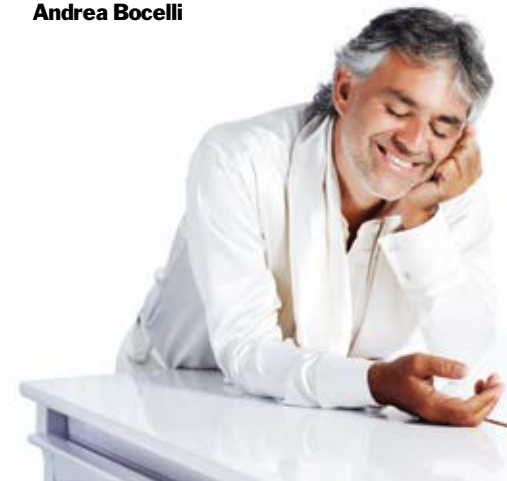
Two of the world's finest living singers have scheduled separate online shows for this December that promise to be must-see concerts for music fans starved of live entertainment. Read on for details on these exciting ticketed events.

Audra McDonald

Broadway, TV and movie star Audra McDonald teams with NY City Center for a virtual online Gala filmed live onstage. This intimate digital presentation pairs McDonald with her longtime collaborator and music director Andy Einhorn, who will accompany the Tony, Grammy, and Emmy award-winning singer on piano.

Join Audra for an evening of songs that showcase her extraordinary vocal range in popular standards from the Great American Songbook and classics from the golden age of Broadway. The online Gala premieres Dec. 9, 2020 and will be available on demand through Dec. 16 for \$35. For more information, visit www.nycitycenter.org.

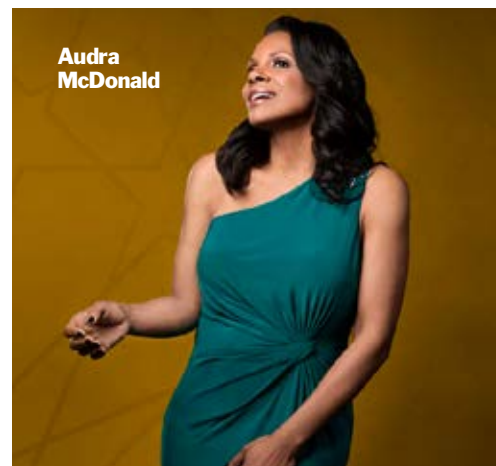
Andrea Bocelli



Andrea Bocelli

After creating the biggest musical moment of the pandemic year with his record-breaking Easter Sunday livestream, Andrea Bocelli will be staying in a holiday streaming spirit this December with a follow-up event, "Believe in Christmas."

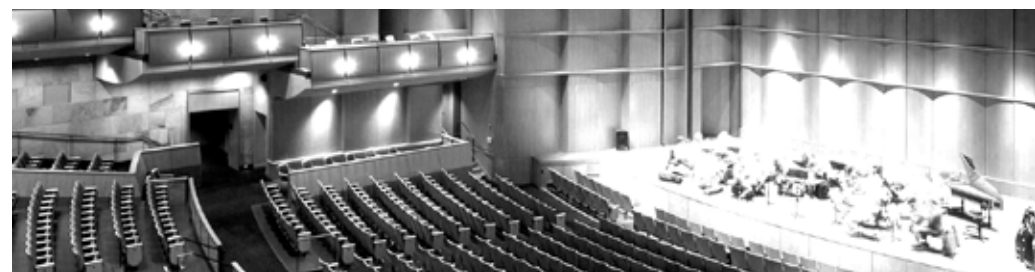
Bocelli will perform from the Teatro Regio di Parma opera house in Italy on Dec. 12, and "Believe in Christmas" is being offered as a pay-per-view event. Franco Dragone, of Cirque du Soleil fame, has signed on as a creative director for the concert. Go to www.andreabocelli.com.



Audra McDonald

Mondavi Center Season Cancellation

With reluctance, the Mondavi Center has reached the conclusion that in 2020-21, for the first time in its almost twenty-year history, it will not present a season of live events. This arises as a result of the current pandemic, with both national and international artists canceling their tours and with the continued restrictions on indoor events.



The Mondavi Center has said repeatedly that they would return to presenting events only when it was safe to do so - clearly that time is not yet at hand. But while their theaters will remain dark for the remainder of this season, they want you, the loyal public, to know that we are fully committed to returning to a season of live events in 2021-22. The Center is in the process of putting together what we believe will be a remarkable Mondavi Center season, typical in its excellence and

variety, and presented in a manner that keeps the health and safety of their audience and artists at top of mind.

In the meantime, stay tuned as more Mondavi Center virtual HomeStage events are added in 2021, in addition to the ones announced last week.

The Mondavi Center remains constant in our dedication to serving their mission to Illuminate, Educate and Connect. There are brighter days ahead, and they are eager to share them with you.



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1



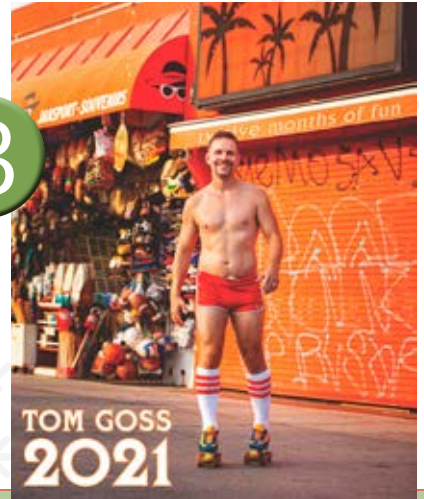
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2



Look sexy just in time for Santa in fabulous frames from our friends at Styleyes Eyewear in Midtown Sacramento! As for Eric and tell him Outword Magazine sent you! Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am-4pm by appointment only, masks required. Call 916-448-2220 to make an appointment during store hours or email Gloria@styleyes.biz!

3



2020 was the worst wasn't it? Well 2021 is bound to be better with this fun loving, body positive calendar from Tom Goss. Enjoy 12 months of sexy, sweet and colorful pics, designed to put a smile on your face each and every morning. Got something you want to celebrate? Then customize the calendar with your own picture and message on a day of your choosing. <http://tomgossmusic.com/shop/2021-beefcake-calendar>.

4



Thank your friend for being a friend with this Golden Girls puzzle from the Strapping Store in Oak Park! Size: 18" x 24" & 500 pieces. \$28. Get "puzzled" amongst many other things here: <https://www.strappingstore.com/> Can't find the perfect present? They have gift cards, too!

5



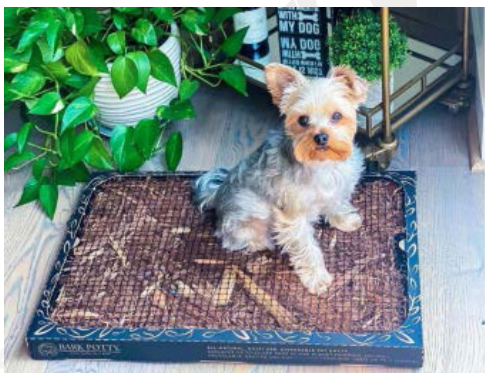
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6



You've always heard being salty was a bad thing, but this time it's good. Give your loved one the gift of relaxation in a halotherapy room at Heavenly Salt Therapy in East Sacramento. They also offer other services such as an infrared sauna, and a hyperbaric chamber. Find them online here: <https://www.heavenlysalttherapy.com>

7



Has the dog urine odor been "hounding" you? Bark Potty has a solution that is totally paw-esome! This eco-friendly potty pad replaces up to 60 pee pads (!) with it's proprietary bark that naturally neutralizes odors! Bark Potty is made of real bark and like real grass, contains the natural smells that compel dogs to "go." \$38 or subscribe and save! <https://barkpotty.com/> and Amazon.

8



Take em to the the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe at Northstar California, and experience 'Ten Days of Magic'--a daily lineup consisting of elaborate feasts, interactive family activities and vibrant celebrations from December 24 to January 2 including mixology classes and tastings, stargazing events, Christmas and New Year's events, and more. Details here: <https://adobe.ly/34CesGV>

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Gift Guide



9



Is music their thing? Gift the newest release from Tay Tay! Taylor Swift "Folklore"—our own Ron Tackitt says, "It's a wonderful album. Our Arts Editor glossed over it a couple of issues ago, but I think it is so much better. Forget that it is Taylor. This is a stunning body of work, well recorded, expertly arranged and lyrically captivating. I'm buying a couple of hard CDs. One for myself, and to support Taylor, but a couple more to people that I think would love it, but might not normally get past the artist." \$13 at <https://store.taylorswift.com>.

10



Unique gifts that are both affordable and support local artists are always at the top of any great holiday list! Kennedy Gallery in the heart of Midtown is the perfect place to find that one-of-a-kind item your special someone will cherish! Vases, baskets, t-shirts, lamps, paintings, sculpture and much more! From pop culture to the truly avant garde, find beautiful gifts in all price ranges. <http://www.kennedygallery.net>

11



Fry it up in a Misen 8" Non-Stick Skillet! Ron says, "I have not mentioned Misen in the pages of Outword, but I have sent a set of their knives to my step mother, and she loves them. My brother is trying to fry the perfect egg these days and I think he would appreciate a decent frying pan to try it in. Of course, I wouldn't mind having one myself..." \$55 - <https://misen.com>. Use code TRYMISEN20 for 20% OFF.

12

Sacramento



Give the gift of a Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce membership! Becoming a member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is a great way to demonstrate your company's commitment to diversity, inclusion and regional business development. Prices begin at \$50 for college students, \$200 & up annually for all others. For details go to: <https://business.rainbowchamber.com/member/newmemberapp/>

13



Make their coffee table just a little more adoreable with "Palm Springs - Modern Dogs At Home" by Nancy Baron. Ron highly recommends this book: "I gave mention to this picture book in a past issue, but I was so intrigued that I ordered one for myself. I'm glad I did. I wish it as physically larger, but regardless Nancy does use a whole page for each image. And they are really wonderful. If you like the whole Palm Springs vibe, or know someone that does, and they like dogs, this a nice little book that will put a smile on people's faces, for sure." Hardcover \$24.99, Amazon. Link to buy: <https://www.amazon.com/Palm-Springs-Modern-Dogs-Home/dp/0764359967>

14



Hi there, I'm Mary! Every small batch of my artisanal loaves and pastries is truly a labor of love and made with only the freshest, simple ingredients in my certified home bakery. I can't wait to share them with you! To order your loaf, go to: <https://butterflybakerysac.square.site/>

15



Most of us love to dine out, so there's always the tried and true restaurant gift card. What this suggestion lacks in originality, it makes up for in goodwill and good eating. We all know what a hard time it is for restaurants (and bars) right now. Some are better equipped to handle social distancing than others, but they are all trying to figure out how to make it work within the guidelines. Try to find a place that has ample room for outdoor seating, like Scott's on the River or La Cosecha in Caesar Chavez park, and both of them also have great food, by the way, not just wonderful patio areas! Be sure to call the restaurant you are interested in purchasing from, and make sure they are able to accommodate at this time.

16



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17



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San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Rings In The Holiday Season With (at) Home for the Holidays

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig and Executive Director Chris Verdugo have announced that Home For the Holidays, SFGMC's holiday tradition usually held at San Francisco's iconic Castro Theatre, will be presented as the all-virtual holiday extravaganza, (At) Home For the Holidays.



San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the annual concert, this year's show will feature joyous music—including upbeat, show-stopping numbers, updated, modern takes on old favorites, and the world premiere of "Merry Everything"—as well as heartwarming videos, and a few surprises! Special guests include Tony Award winner Laura Benanti, comedian and "RuPaul's Drag Race" champion Bianca Del Rio, India's first openly gay royal figure Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, San Francisco Philharmonic, and more. (At) Home For the Holidays will take place on Thursday, December 24 at 5 p.m. PST. Tickets range in price from \$25 (single ticket) to \$60 (group viewing) and are on-sale now at www.sfgmc.org. A limited number of VIP packages are also available for \$150 and include a selection of holiday treats and libations (available for San Francisco Bay Area residents only).

"This annual holiday tradition began in 1990. The chorus gathered at the Castro Theater on Christmas Eve to bring a bit of bring home and family to those who had none due to the ravages of the AIDS pandemic," says Seelig. "Since we won't be at home at the Castro, we'll be peeking into the homes of chorus members—masked and distanced—to see how they celebrate. We are also thrilled to visit Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, one of India's most outspoken LGBTQ+ rights activists, in his home in India as he brings holiday greetings. We are excited to be in your home for the holidays." Adds Verdugo: "Music is an inextricable

part of our lives—especially during the holiday season—and this year we need it more than ever. As we continue to distance and are unable to be with family and friends this holiday season, we wanted to do our part to bring us together in shared musical experience infused with cheer and love. And for the first time ever, we'll be able to share our holiday tradition across the country and even the globe."

Founded in 1978, SFGMC sparked a nationwide LGBTQ choral movement after its first public performance at a vigil on the steps of City Hall following the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Since then SFGMC has been embedded in the fabric of San Francisco. It has soothed souls in pain, lifted spirits in triumph, and has remained a steadfast beacon of hope.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards bringing renewed audience and choral industry acclaim. Recent touring schedules, recordings, and outreach programs have broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and groundbreaking performances. In 2019, SFGMC acquired a historic facility that has become its permanent home for rehearsals and offices. The building also serves as the first-ever National LGBTQ Center for the Arts, a community space for LGBTQ artists and arts organizations.

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Sac Movie Theaters Close Again

By Chris Narloch

I rushed out to Roseville to see Kevin Costner's latest movie after I heard the news that Sac County had moved to the Purple Tier, where indoor dining and entertainment are disallowed. After I saw "Let Him Go," even that theater (Century Roseville), which is located in Placer County, is now temporarily closed.

So, for the time being, it's back to Netflix and other streaming platforms, unless I decide to bundle up and brave the West Wind Drive-In in Rancho Cordova, which is still open for socially distant vehicular moviegoing seven nights a week.

I just may do that over Thanksgiving weekend - if it's not raining -- since the drive-in is currently playing a new Vince Vaughn horror comedy ("Freaky") that looks like kind of a hoot.

If you're looking for new movies to watch while we're stuck inside on these cold nights during the shutdown, I have a couple excellent recommendations for home viewing - and one dud to avoid. Read on for what films to see and what to flee.

Come Away

"Come Away" should be retitled "Stay Far Away" because that was my reaction after falling asleep several times while watching this mopey melodrama, which unsuccessfully attempts to meld the Peter Pan story onto Alice in Wonderland.

Angelina Jolie and David Oyelowo make a handsome couple, but they don't have much to do except look sad after one of their sons dies young, leaving his surviving brother and sister (Peter and Alice) to escape into a world of their imagination.

Director Brenda Chapman give the movie a lovely glow, but although the film is pretty to look at, the script fails to surmount its gimmicky, high concept premise. "Come Away" is now available on Amazon Prime Video.

The Sound of Metal

This dynamite drama features an awards-worthy performance by the Muslim rapper-turned-actor Riz Ahmed ("Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"), who plays a sexy, young, punk-metal drummer who loses most of his hearing and is forced to confront the prospect of also losing his livelihood.

Ahmed gives a very strong, complex performance as a sometimes-stubborn man who wants to live his life on his own terms and resists a permanent diagnosis of deafness. The movie is made even more visceral thanks to its sound design, which often lets us experience what Ahmed's character hears (or fails to hear). "The Sound of Metal" will be available via Amazon Prime Video on Dec. 4.

Let Him Go

This movie, which is not yet available for home viewing, was still playing at the drive-in as I wrote these reviews, although I don't know for how long, so I recommend seeing it there or at an indoor theater, once they reopen (hopefully soon).

"Let Him Go" is the kind of moody, character-driven drama that needs to be seen on the big screen, where the actors' larger-than-life talent can be fully appreciated. Kevin Costner and Diane Lane, who have been movie stars for decades, give superb performances as an older married couple in Montana circa 1963 who endeavor to rescue their young grandson from his violent surroundings after their son dies and his widow remarries an abusive man.

Lane is especially tough as an iron-willed woman who packs up a gun and confronts the evil matriarch (a sensational Lesley Manville) of her grandchild's new family. Alternately somber and suspenseful, "Let Him Go" is violent but not overly bloody, and I enjoyed the way the filmmakers successfully mashed up the thriller, drama, and Western genres.

Wolfwalkers

Fans of classic, hand-drawn animation should love this beautiful new movie, which reminded me at times of the classic work of Japan's Hayao Miyazaki.

Based on Gaelic folklore, "Wolfwalkers" follows a young apprentice hunter who comes to Ireland with her father to wipe out the last wolf pack, during a time of magic and superstition.

Our heroine instead becomes friends with one of the wolfwalkers, who can transform from human form into wolves, and she is torn between duty and her heart. The story is as simple as a fairy tale, but the film is often enchanting and undeniably lovely to look at. "Wolfwalkers" will premiere on Apple TV+ beginning Dec. 11.



Angelina Jolie and David Oyelowo star in "Come Away"



Riz Ahmed stars in "The Sound of Metal!"



Diane Lane and Kevin Costner star in "Let Him Go"



A still from "Wolfwalkers"



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Many of our advertisers have cut their advertising budgets, or have completely stopped advertising in our magazine altogether.

We have never asked for help before, however, in order to keep publishing online and to keep paying our staff of three and a few of our writers, we have established this site for our readers or local businesses should they wish to support us. If you consider us as a valuable and vital resource for the LGBTQ+ community, thank you in advance for your support.

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Book Den Warehouse Update

- Winter 2020 -

Sacramento County is in the most restrictive Purple category of COVID-19 restrictions, and may be issuing fines for non-compliance. We want to keep the Book Den operating so we will continue, as long as possible, to have twice monthly warehouse sales by appointment only.

The next sales will be December 5 and 19 and are all by appointment only. To make an appointment, please email Pam at macsa46@gmail.com. In addition, on January 9, 2021, we will have a resellers only bag sale. You must be able to prove you are a reseller. Then on January 23, there will be a bag sale, by appointment, for the general public.

We will also be cutting back on donations and volunteer sorters. This will make it difficult to get through the huge number of donations already brought in and the ones that have been previously scheduled into the beginning of December. **We will have NO ROOM to take any more donations until after the 9th of January.**

Please call or email after the January 9th for donation appointments. Appointments can be made by calling (916)731-8493 or email macsa46@gmail.com.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. Grab a few books, make a cup of tea or pour a glass of wine, and settle in to wait this out.



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Get Your Theater Fix Virtually

The devastating shutdown of the arts due to COVID-19 has forced theaters to pivot to online offerings such as Zoom fundraisers and/or filmed versions of past productions. Read on for information about artists who are presenting more innovative theatrical fare during these dark times for the arts.

Breathe.

Based on the true story of a young Black actress/playwright's personal journey towards activism, "Breathe" fuses live performance, cinema, performance art, and believe it or not, artistic swimming, in a hybridized narrative that could only be born during these challenging, yet galvanizing, times.

A one-woman, theatrical, multi-media performance, this form of artistic activism premieres virtually on Friday, Dec. 11, and includes two live-streamed and two encore performances on YouTube and Twitch. Go to <http://breatheshow.eventbrite.com>



City Theatre

City Theatre at Sacramento City College continues its extraordinary 2020-21 season with an online streaming premiere of ten new, short, seasonal-themed plays called "Zoom for the Holidays."

Luther Hanson will direct the 10 short plays by eight playwrights. In addition to the plays, new monologues will be presented between each play, and the online performance will be a collaboration between the theatre and film faculty.

The production opens with a live streaming performance on Monday, November 30 and plays through Sunday, December 13. For more information, visit www.citytheatre.net



Broadway Cares

Theater fans will want to visit <https://broadwaycares.org/pre-event/> to find out how to donate to a great cause (if they can) and also enjoy three terrific online events this December. BC/EFA (Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS) will offer free streams of a trio of not-to-be-missed performances that month.

"Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens," an online revival of an acclaimed series of songs and monologues celebrating the lives lost to AIDS, is first up on Dec. 1. Next up on Dec. 11 is the first streamed performance of the hilarious Off-Broadway hit "Who's Holiday!" That raunchy riff on Dr. Seuss stars the great Lesli Margherita as a middle-aged, trailer trash, post-Grinch Cindy Lou Who.

The third free stream benefiting BC/EFA is "Home for the Holidays," a new seasonal concert on Dec. 15 starring many of the biggest names on Broadway, including Carolee Carmello, Alan Cumming, André De Shields, Lena Hall, Heather Headley, Ramin Karimloo, Karen Olivo, Jelani Remy, Conrad Ricomora, and more to be announced.



Unleash Generosity

December 1, 2020

Every year, on GivingTuesday, we mobilize millions of people across the globe to show up, give back, and change their communities. The goal is to create a massive wave of generosity that lasts well beyond that day, and touches every person on the planet.



GIVING TUESDAY

Help improve the Lives of Animals and People on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday is quickly approaching. As you consider where your donor dollars should go, please give some thought to Friends of Front Street Shelter. We're committed to assisting the Front Street Animal Shelter achieve its goal of saving the lives of all stray, abandoned, and abused animals who come through its doors. We raise private funds to support the many programs and activities needed to care for and find loving, forever homes for homeless animals and to get owned animals back home where they belong. And we support causes and organizations that improve the lives of pets and people throughout the region.

As we approach the season of giving, Friends of Front Street Shelter thanks our amazing donors for your generosity. Your donations have spayed and neutered hundreds of community cats and kittens, helped the shelter's robust foster program, supported the shelter's pet food pantry for those in need, provided help to many regional rescue organizations, assisted the Sacramento County District Attorney's Animal Cruelty Task Force, and funded many other programs that help strengthen the human-animal bond. Your donations may have their biggest impact by helping us pay for lifesaving medical procedures that save the lives of hundreds of animals each year like Nancy, our rescued husky dog.

Nancy came to Front Street Animal Shelter injured and frightened from a terrible accident that left her with one leg broken and the other with severe wounds, requiring casts on both. As a young dog, not being able to run has been a struggle for her, but she is well on her way to recovery. One of her legs has healed, and the other is on the mend after a complex fusion surgery. Thanks to donors, Nancy will soon be able to run, play, and feel the breeze in her fur once again.

Each animal at the shelter requires individual attention, especially those like Nancy who come to the shelter with life-threatening illnesses or injuries - a daunting and costly task. Fortunately, our donors help us care for these animals during their greatest time of need.

We know 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. Front Street Shelter continues to need donor funds to support its innovative, nationally recognized programs, keeping up its high success rate in finding forever homes for homeless animals, reuniting lost pets with their grateful owners, and maintaining other important programs that help improve lives for those on both ends of the leash. Please consider Friends of Front Street Shelter during this year's Giving Tuesday on December 1st.

Friends of Front Street Shelter is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Visit us at friendsoffrontstreetshelter.com.



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Thanksgiving Traditions: A Craft Beer Tasting Guide to Accompany Your Thanksgiving Dinner

By Katie Richmond



Thanksgiving is bound to look different this year with restricted travel and smaller gatherings. These changes may shake up some long standing holiday traditions, however this segue from normalcy offers the perfect opportunity to introduce a few new traditions to your holiday table. One new tradition that is worth incorporating into your festivities this year is creating a craft beer tasting menu to pair with all your favorite Thanksgiving dishes. From mashed potatoes to pumpkin pie, here are some surefire ways to spice up your meal.

Turkey, the crown jewel of Thanksgiving dinner, deserves a beer that won't completely overpower it in taste but will still provide a robust and hearty flavor profile such as the Infinite Stakes IPA from Fieldwork Brewing in Downtown Sacramento. This well rounded IPA has a subtle hint of citrus and a mild hoppy aroma that has just enough body to compliment a juicy bite of roasted turkey. (Available for pickup at \$20 per 4 16 oz. cans)

Mashed potatoes are a welcomed rich and buttery addition to any Thanksgiving plate and pair well with a light and smooth pilsner that is easy to drink. I recommend the Pincushion Pilsner from Device Brewing Company in Downtown Sacramento which acts as the ideal refreshing and crisp counterpoint to a savory Thanksgiving staple. (Available for pickup at \$11.05 per 6 pack)

If you are anything like my family, Thanksgiving is not complete without a hastily served can of cranberries, left unsliced for the drama. Regardless of their presentation, a tangy sour beer will act as a surprising yet welcome contrast to the conventionally sweet cranberries. The Relentless Chaos Sour from New Glory Craft Brewery in East Sacramento does just that with a blend of cranberry, black currant, and tangerine purees to tie

everything together in a delicious harmony of flavors. (Available for pickup at \$12 per 32 oz crowler)

A sweetly spiced pumpkin pie should be accompanied by an indulgent dessert inspired stout. One of my personal favorites is the "Cats and Coffee" Bourbon Barrel Aged Stout from Burning Barrel Brewing Co. in Rancho Cordova, CA. The origin of this stout begins with a marriage between bourbon aged stout and some of the world's best coffee beans, creating an incredibly smooth final product. The cinnamon and ginger in your slice of pumpkin pie will find an excellent match with this rich coffee flavored stout. (Available for pickup at \$19 per 500ml bottle)

Now I will be the first to admit that cracking open four incredibly diverse beers on an already notoriously gluttonous holiday is a lot to ask from your stomach's endurance. If you'd rather save the calories for an extra slice of pie I can accept that. As a compromise, I suggest opting for a light pale ale that you can enjoy with your entire meal such as The Mosaic Pale Ale from Bike Dog Brewing in West Sacramento. (Available for pickup at \$14 per 16 oz 4 pack).

As always, drink responsibly and support your local businesses in the process. All beers featured in this story are from local craft breweries and are available for to-go purchase. No matter how you do it, make beer a part of your Thanksgiving traditions.

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Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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A Trio Of Queer Films For Thanksgiving

By Chris Narloch

Other than eat, sleep, read, have sex, play with your animals or watch TV, there's not much else to do when you're stuck at home during a pandemic. The good news is that three terrific queer movies will be available for home viewing by Thanksgiving Day, greatly improving your entertainment options over the long holiday weekend.



The cast of "The Happiest Season"

The Happiest Season

The most commercial of the three films is this mostly light holiday comedy starring the always-intriguing Kristen Stewart as a young woman who plans to propose to her girlfriend and then discovers on the way to her potential in-laws' holiday gathering that her wife-to-be hasn't actually come out to her conservative family yet.

Stewart is as charismatic as ever, and the strong supporting cast includes such comic stalwarts as Ana Gasteyer, Aubrey Plaza, Mary Steenburgen, Alison Brie, Mary Holland and a very funny Dan Levy, who steals every one of his scenes as Stewart's fish-and-cat-sitter and her dyke-fag (which is the male equivalent of a fag-hag). "The Happiest Season" releases Nov. 25 on Hulu.



The cast of "The Goddess of Fortune"

The Goddess of Fortune

This beautiful foreign film, in Italian with English subtitles, is currently available to rent or buy on demand courtesy of Breaking Glass Pictures, and it's worth every penny of the \$5.99 rental fee to see two very handsome Italian actors (Stefano Accorsi and Edoardo Leo) play a gay couple who become substitute dads after their single female "bestie" develops a serious illness. The large Italian cast is superb, and it's fascinating to watch the movie's surprisingly dark subplot about gay infidelity threaten to become the main plot.



The cast of "Uncle Frank"

Uncle Frank

Another queer movie that gets very dark at times, "Uncle Frank" features a career-best, awards-worthy performance by London-born actor Paul Bettany, who very convincingly plays a gay Southern gentleman who must make amends with a past tragedy after his extremely homophobic father passes away unexpectedly.

Bettany's dynamite star turn is ably supported by a host of great character actors, including Margo Martindale, Steve Zahn, Sophia Lillis, Judy Greer, Stephen Root, and Lois Smith. Even when writer-director Alan Ball's story becomes manipulative and melodramatic, the first-rate acting keeps you glued to the screen. "Uncle Frank" premieres on Amazon Prime Video Nov. 25.

One of the 1980's Most Iconic Bands, Berlin, Returns with Strings Attached to Take Your Breath Away

Nearly 40 years after the release of the track with which they have become synonymous, the Los Angeles-based synth pop group, Berlin, return with an album of their classic tracks... with strings attached. Working with a full philharmonic orchestra, "Strings Attached" sees the band revisit some of their classic tracks, from their formation in the early 1980s through to today, including, of course, the iconic theme to the movie, "Top Gun," "Take My Breath Away." Featuring the classic line-up of Terri Nunn, John Crawford and David Diamond, "Strings Attached" is perfect for both existing fans of one of the most legendary bands of the 80s and those who are being introduced for the first time.

Founded by bassist John Crawford, singer Terri Nunn, and keyboard player David Diamond, Berlin made its first national impression with the provocative single Sex (I'm A...) from the gold-selling debut EP, *Pleasure Victim* in 1982. The group was filled out by guitarist Rick Olsen, keyboard player Matt Reid, and drummer Rob Brill. Berlin's first full-length LP was the gold *Love Life* in 1984. In 1985, the group was pared down to a trio of Crawford, Nunn, and Brill. Berlin topped the charts around the world in 1986 with the single *Take My Breath Away*, the love theme from the Tom Cruise movie *Top Gun*, a track which won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and which has cemented itself as one of the most memorable songs featured in a film of all time.

Nunn left for a solo career in 1987, and Crawford and Brill teamed up in the Big F. In 1999, the band reunited to record some new studio material and also performed a concert, which, along with the new songs, was released as 2000's *Berlin Live: Sacred and Profane*. This was followed a year later by a flurry of recording sessions that included co-writing tracks with Billy Corgan, among others. The end result, *Voyeur*, was their first full-length studio release in over 15 years and has since seen the band rejuvenated, releasing three further albums - *4Play* (2005); *Animal* (2013) and *Transcendance* (2019). *Strings Attached* is both a time for fans to reflect on Berlin's extraordinary career and to look forward to more new music from a band who continue to reinvent themselves.



Berlin - photo credit Marc Green

Hot Holiday Gifts for Music Fans

By Chris Narloch

Christmas comes early this year for fans of soul music and country music, with the recent release of spectacular DVD sets devoted to the one and only Dolly Parton and to the ground-breaking '70s music show, "The Midnight Special." Both collections make great holiday gifts for the music fan in your life, or for yourself.

Dolly: The Ultimate Collection

From the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee to international super-stardom, Dolly Parton has spent the last 50 years singing and laughing her way into our hearts. We know her name, we know her songs, and we'll always love her.

And now, for the first time ever, all the greatest video highlights from Dolly's dazzling career are together in one incredible collection, courtesy of Time Life.

From her early appearances with Porter Wagoner in the '60s, through her own spectacular variety shows in the '70s and '80s, "Dolly: The Ultimate Collection" includes full concerts, television appearances, blockbuster collaborations with her closest friends, plus interviews with her celebrity outwordmagazine.com



fans and Dolly herself.

Come on the journey of a lifetime with Dolly, on 19 dynamite DVDs that feature a deep dive into her remarkable career. (There is also a less expensive version of the set available, on 11 DVDs.) For more information, go to www.timelife.com

The Soul of The Midnight Special

Fans of great R&B music will love this 5-disc set of hand-picked performances from one of my favorite television shows from the '70s, "The Midnight Special," which featured all types of popular music from the era.

"The Soul of The Midnight Special" pulls performance clips from that show that feature almost every great soul artist from the '70s, playing their hits live in front of a live audience.

I don't have room to list them all, but James Brown, Earth, Wind & Fire, Al Green, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan, Sly & the Family Stone, The Stylistics, Barry White, The Brothers Johnson, Ray Charles, George Benson, Chuck Berry, and many more are all here, in their prime.



It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas!

By Chris Narloch

Every November I look forward to reviewing the season's new holiday CDs, and I am happy to report that the awful year of 2020 can at least boast a great group of Christmas music releases. Three major country artists have new holiday CDs out, or you can choose to have a queer Christmas with Taylor Mac, or a jazzy one courtesy of "Christmas At Birdland."



Carrie Underwood – My Gift

I would expect nothing less than a classy Christmas CD from the current queen of country, on her first-ever holiday release. Carrie Underwood's song selections are typical holiday fare, but what the album lacks in originality it more than makes up for with pristine production and Carrie's powerful vocals. She was born to sing "O Holy Night" and "O Come All Ye Faithful," but the standout track just might be a duet that teams Underwood with her firstborn son, Isaiah, on "Little Drummer Boy." It's the kind of gimmicky thing I usually hate, but the kid can already belt (at five years old!), and I have to admit that their mother-and-son duet had me more than a little verklempt.



Dolly Parton – A Holly Dolly Christmas

Between her new Netflix movie, this CD, a book of her song lyrics, and a Time Life DVD collection, Dolly Parton has a ton of holiday product out this season. As she always says, "It takes a lot of money to look this cheap." I happen to love Parton so there is no such thing as overkill where Dolly is concerned, and the singer definitely delivers on her first new Christmas record in 30 years. Jimmy Fallon, Miley Cyrus, Michael Buble, Willie Nelson, and Billy Ray Cyrus join Parton for some eclectic duets, but it's Parton herself who really shines on spirited solo versions of "All I Want for Christmas Is You," "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," and especially "Mary, Did You Know?"



Ty Herndon – Regifted

Gay country hottie Ty Herndon kicks off his new Christmas album with a dynamite duet featuring Kristin Chenoweth, entitled "Orphans of God." Herndon is clearly a man of faith, and that uplifting opener is followed by spirit-filled Christmas classics such as "O Come All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night," "Silent Night," and "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Herndon's fans will rejoice because there isn't a dud anywhere among the dozen delicious tracks on "Regifted."

Meghan Trainor – A Very Trainor Christmas

This pop princess enlisted her entire family to help record this holiday disc, which is exactly the sort of energetic CD you would expect from Trainor. Disposable pop music at its finest, "A Very Trainor Christmas" combines six Trainor originals with ten cover versions of holiday standards like "White Christmas," "The Christmas Song" and "Winter Wonderland." It isn't likely to win her many new converts, but fans of the singer should enjoy "A Very Trainor Christmas."



Various Artists – Christmas At Birdland

Jazz fans will want this classy new disc, which includes timeless standards from the likes of Jule Styne and Irving Berlin, performed by great jazz artists such as Dave Koz, Billy Stritch, Klea Blackhurst, and Jim Caruso. Offbeat selections like "He's Stuck in the Chimney Again" and "Little Jack Frost Get Lost" are fun, and Donny Osmond even stops by to help out on "It's the Holiday Season."



Taylor Mac – Holiday Sauce

If you ever have the opportunity to see this gender-bending genius live, drop everything and pay whatever it takes to witness his brilliant performance art in person. In fact, you can get a sweet taste of Taylor Mac's amazing talents on Dec. 12, when San Francisco's Curran will present a livestream of Mac's acclaimed holiday variety show for just \$10, which is a steal. Tickets for "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!" are available by visiting SFCURRAN.com/holiday-sauce-pandemic! This companion "Holiday Sauce" CD features Mac's unique renditions of Christmas classics, plus wild covers of songs by Frank Ocean, the Velvet Underground and others. For more information, visit www.TaylorMacHolidaySauce.com

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Drag Queen Bingo
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The holidays this year are going to be, well, *unique*. Some family members won't be there. Others are coming, regardless of whatever's going on in the country. Still others are sending their regards and a box of presents, which is

something you might do, too. And here's the good news: books are easy to wrap, easy to box, and easy to ship. Why not try one of these great books for that person who can't make it to your table this holiday season?

Fiction

Does anybody need another book about a natural disaster? Ha, of course they do! So that's why you should look for **"The 2084 Report: An Oral History of the Great Warming: A Novel"** by James Lawrence Powell. Yes, it's set in the future. You can hope so, anyhow....

Wrap it up with **"True Story: A Novel"** by Kate Reed Petty, the story of childhood trauma and the chance for those who lived it to recover from it.

For the giftee who's about to pack up and move across the country, **"The Exiles"** by Christina Baker Kline might be a good choice for a gift. It's a novel about three women who are exiled to Australia more than a century ago when exile was punishment. Fans of **"Orphan Train,"** listen up.

For The Mystery, Thriller, Crime Novel Fan

The giftee who loves a good historical mystery will relish **"The Streef: A Deadwood Mystery"** by Mary Logue. Set in Deadwood, South Dakota, this story sees a teenage Irish immigrant whose brother is involved in a kerfuffle and she's got to clear his name. The problem? He has a golf claim and it ain't no small thing.

If there's someone on your list who likes smart crime-solvers, you'll be glad you wrapped up **"The Revelators"** by Ace Atkins. This novel features one of Atkins' best-loved sheriffs, Quinn Colson and a crime syndicate that's threatening everything he holds dear.

General Nonfiction

Give your historian something a bit

different this year by wrapping up **"Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio"** by Derf Backderf. Written entirely in graphic-novel style, it's a look the event that changed America more than 50 years ago. Wrap it up with **"The Hardhat Riot"** by David Paul Kuhn, a book about a little-remembered event that happened four days after the Kent State shootings.

Do you have a person on your list who has a serious case of wanderlust? Then wrap up **"Spirits of San Francisco: Voyages Through the Unknown City"** by Gary Kamiya, drawings by Paul Madonna. It's an easy-to-browse book of things to look for when you're looking for somewhere different to visit.

Is there a scientist in your family who also loves to be in the kitchen? You're in luck, then: wrapping up

"Science and Cooking" by Michael Brenner, Pia Sorensen, and David Weitz is a no-brainer gift to give. It includes recipes. How can you go wrong?

LGBTQ BOOKS

For the person who craves a thriller, **"These Violent Delights"** by Micah



Nemerever is the gift to give. It's a novel of two young men who meet at college and soon become obsessed with one another in different ways. But one is cruel, the other is fearful, and

you know this ain't good....

The person on your gift list who loves drag will love

"The Cockettes: Acid



Drag & Sexual Anarchy" from the archives of Fayette Hauser. It's a lavishly-illustrated 50-year anniversary look at drag and the counterculture, and it's absolutely for grown-ups.

If your giftee is a die-hard, conference-attending, never-miss-an-appearance fan, then wrap up **"Conventionally Yours"** by Annabeth

Albert. It's the story of a road trip, two fierce hate-fests, one romance, and two fanboys, but who's the biggest? Wrap it

up with **"Date Me, Bryson Keller"** by Kevin van Whye for double the love.

Here's something unique: **"They Say Sarah"** by Pauline Delabroy-Allard is a best-seller in France, and a skinny book that your giftee won't be able to stop reading. It's the story of a single mother who's living in Paris with her child. The woman has a

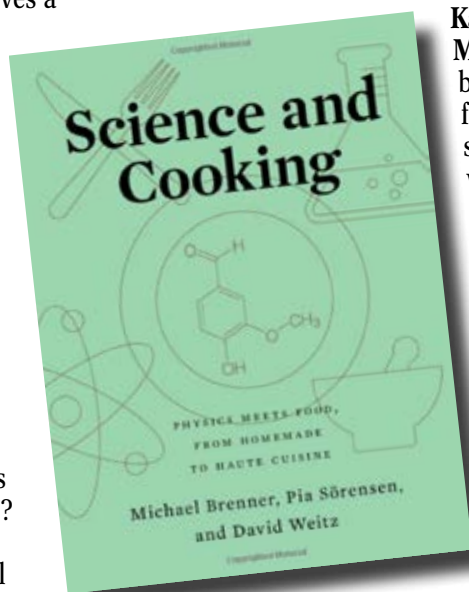
boyfriend but one New Year's Eve, she meets a woman who changes everything. Pair it with something nonfiction, like **"I've Been Wrong Before"** by Evan James, a book of essays on life, coming out, relationships, and more.

Fans of biographies will want to unwrap **"Mama's Boy"** by Dustin Lance Black. Black, a screenwriter and activist tells the story of his childhood, having been raised by a single mother who suffered a lifetime of almost-insurmountable issues, and how they came

to terms with everything they'd endured together. Pair it with **"Daddy"** by Michael Montlack, a book of essays on this and that and the other.

Another great memoir, **"Later: My Life at the Edge of the World"** by Paul Lisicky, the story of finding a place to settle down, and watching an epidemic as it changes that newly-beloved place.

Release dates change, titles change, nothing's set in stone, and books can get canceled. If you need help finding these titles or something like them, raise a flag, wave your hand, and throw yourself at the mercy of your favorite friendly bookstore owner or librarian. If you don't have a favorite, it's imperative that you treat yourself to a favorite bookstore owner or librarian today because they know all the secrets of the literary universe. They are, indeed, magical beings when it comes to books. Season's Readings, y'all!



Drop It Like Dolly!

Would you like to do something positive and meaningful about COVID? Well, you can! Donate some much needed cash to the cause for the cure. Just like Dolly Parton did!



According to a report by The New England Journal of Medicine on the Moderna vaccine there is credit to Parton and others for a donation to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Parton had stated earlier that she would be donating \$1 million dollars for COVID research and she did so through Vanderbilt.

USA Today quotes Parton's Twitter

page with this statement, "My longtime friend Dr. Najj Abumrad, who's been involved in research at Vanderbilt for many years, informed me that they were making some exciting advancements towards research of the coronavirus for a cure."

Parton also encouraged her fans to make a donation. So, here is your chance! Here is the University's web site: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu>



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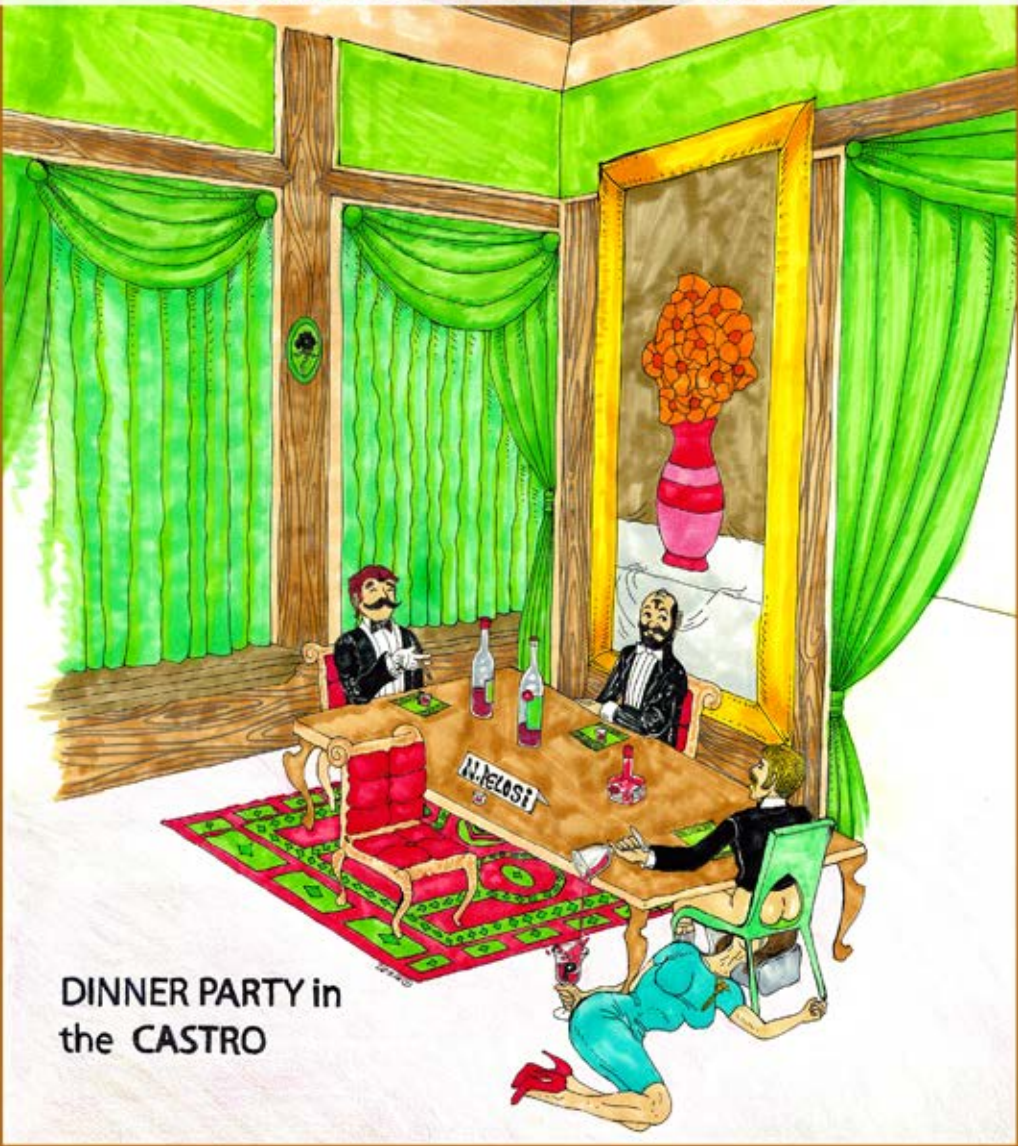
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NEED A CONDOM?



During the COVID-19 emergency response, with local bars closed, many of our condom dispensers are not available to the community.

The *Play Safe Team* reminds you to visit these locations...or order free condoms by mail.

Free condoms available at:

abatin

Abatin Wellness Center
2100 29th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
11 am-6pm

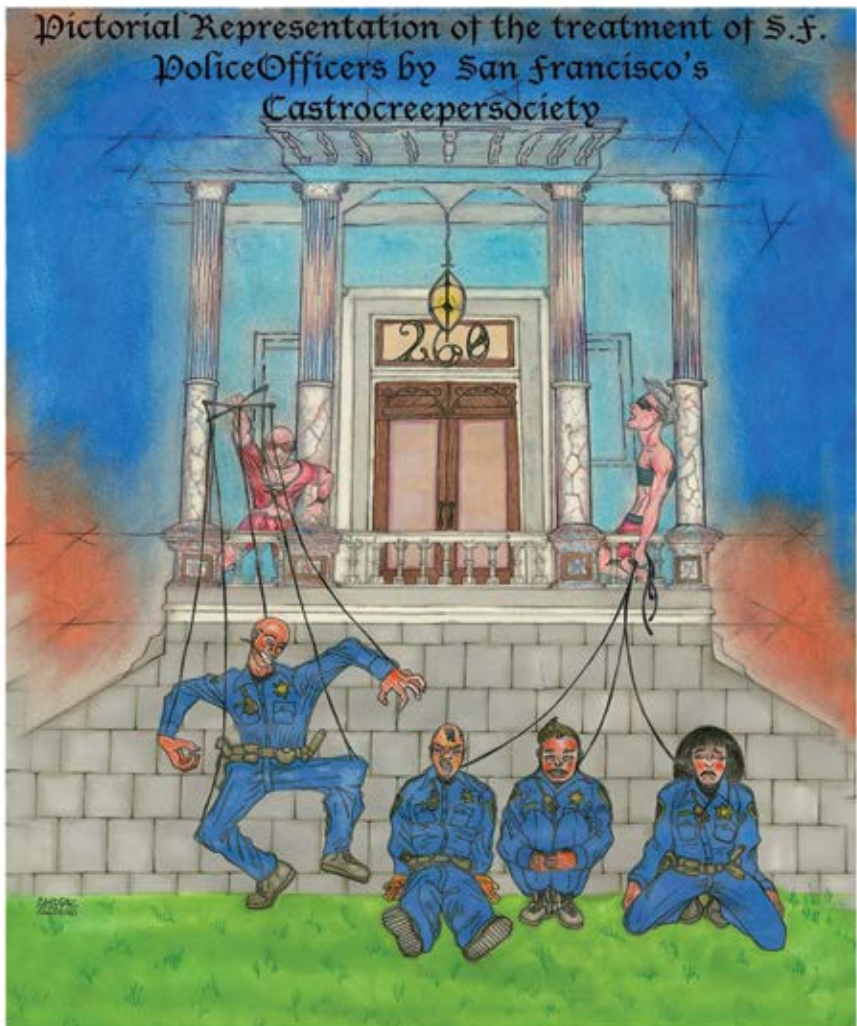
SACRAMENTO
LGBT
COMMUNITY CENTER

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1015 20th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
(outdoor dispenser in front of center)

Also visit www.SacCenter.org/Sexual-Health
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As we come together during these extraordinary times, the *Play Safe Team* will continue to work diligently to ensure your safety.

PlayButPlaySafe.org



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www.suzies.com

COVID-19 AND FLU: PROTECT YOURSELF. PREVENT THE SPREAD.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Get your flu shot early. Get vaccinated early in the fall, before the flu spreads in your community.
 - Flu shots are safe.
 - Flu shots DO NOT give you the flu.
 - Flu shots provide important protection from the flu and are especially important during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Take steps to protect yourself from COVID-19 and the flu.
 - Wash your hands often.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering in public.
 - Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - If you feel unwell, stay home, separate yourself from others, and contact your doctor.

COVID-19

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and can range from mild to severe.

FLU

Typical flu symptoms come on suddenly and include a fever, sore throat, cough and/or body aches.

SYMPTOMS

Fever, chills, body aches

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Chest discomfort

Fatigue

Headache

Loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

COVID-19	FLU
X	X
X	X
X	Less common
X	X
X	X
X	X
X	
X	X
X	X
X	Less common

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oncommunityhealth.com

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