

SEARCH



WINTER 2016

MAGAZINE

HISTORIC

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BLAHS

MAKING OLD THINGS
NEW





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FROM THE EDITOR

It's the end of the year and with it comes a new beginning. With the ringing in of the New Year, people turn their thoughts to resolutions and planning next year so it will be (hopefully) better than the last. Before you go on to 2017, let's take a breath. Often our lives are so busy, we don't take time to celebrate what we have achieved during the year.

I'm not a pessimist per se, but I do tend to concentrate on the things I haven't crossed off on my to do list. I bet you are the same. Rather than celebrating the multitude of things I have finished, I mourn the undone. At the end of the year, this guilt I place on myself increases with the creation of the hated resolution list. What will I do better next year? What will I organize? How will I better myself? How can I create a machine that will give me more time to do everything on my list?

This season, instead of ruminating over what you should have done or what you still have on your to do list, concentrate on what you have accomplished. What projects did you complete? What friends did you make? Did you meet any goals at work or school? Did you take any trips? Did you survive any disasters? What hardships have you endured? What issues have you battled through and come out the other side? Are there things you started but did not complete? Don't penalize yourself for what's not completed. Celebrate what has been done. Remember the old saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day." With a big problem or project, baby steps are just as important as the end result. Celebrate your stick-to-itiveness.

So this year, before writing your resolutions, which I know you will write no matter how you tell yourself you aren't doing them this year, take some time to honor what you have done. If you have trouble compiling this list, ask your friends or loved ones. They often notice what you achieve more than you do. Asking my husband what I've accomplished this year was a big eye opener. Seeing myself through his eyes made me proud of me.

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Dear SEARCH,



50 DAY TRIPS TO EXPLORE THIS SUMMER
BY EMERILYN WELLS
START EXPLORING

"Thanks to your '50 Day Trips' article, our family had a great summer exploring, and we didn't even get to all of them yet. We're looking forward to checking every one off the list by the end of the year. Thanks for getting us out of the house." ~Carole, Martinez

"I love SEARCH because you always give me new and interesting places to go in the area. I also love the book reviews and Rick's [Kitigawa] practical business tips. They make sense." ~Kate, South San Francisco



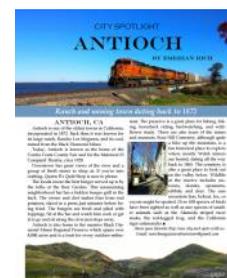
SECRETS TO HAVING A SUCCESSFUL ART BUSINESS
BY RICK KITAGAWA
For all you artists out there who are looking to create a successful business based on your art, I can sum up everything you need to know with the following two rules I give all my students in the art and business classes I teach.

"Ashley's article ['He is Brave,' Summer 2016] is so beautiful. Inspiring and very touching!" ~Alina, London

Kudos for Tim Reynold's lighter side columns:

"Great story!" ~Debbie, BC

"Funny!" ~Donna, Toronto



CITY SPOTLIGHT: ANTIOCH
BY EMERILYN WELLS
ANTIOCH, CA
Antioch is a beautiful town with a rich history and scenic views. It's a great place to visit and explore.

"I'm really enjoying the City Spotlight pieces. I never knew these little towns around here have so much history. Your spotlights have encouraged me to explore these sister cities I hardly know anything about." ~Max, Concord



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CITY SPOTLIGHT

NILES

"Home to California's earliest motion picture industry."

NILES, CA

Niles was established in the 1850's as a junction point for the Southern Pacific Railroad from Oakland and San Jose to Southern California. It was home to the first flour-ishing mill of the area and California Nursery, the largest rose plantation in the state. It is situated in what is now the city of Fremont in Alameda County.

Nile's big claim to fame started in 1912 when it was home to Essanay Studios. At the height of its movie making fame, the studio produced famous movies of the time starring Charlie Chaplin, Wallace Beery, and Ben Turpin, as well as many Broncho Billy westerns filmed along the main streets of Niles. Charlie Chaplin's famous film, *The Tramp*, was shot in Niles Canyon.

In 1956, five towns in the surrounding area were incorporated into Fremont including Niles, Irvington, Centerville, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs. Niles still managed to hang on to its roots and is home to the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum which keeps the spirit of silent films alive, showing tourists and locals the magic of the early days of film.

Today, Niles is a four block strip of land that houses over sixty businesses ranging from antique and consignment stores to crafting, furniture, and specialty shops. You can take a walking tour of the cities' historic buildings including Joe's Corner, the courthouse and jail, and Edison Theater.

My favorite spot in Niles is located in what used to be the Wesley Hotel, constructed 1907. It was one of three

BY EMERIAN RICH

hotels filled to capacity when the Essanay crew first rode into town and provided a popular hangout for cast and crew. These days it is home to Tyme for Tea, an antique store and tea room where they serve high tea daily. The beautifully decorated tea room features vignетted tables under canopies of lights. There is a cast-iron bathtub full of hats for visitors to wear for the occasion, or you may wear your own hat to partake of their sundries. On special occasions, they will have specialty teas, and I've enjoyed every single one I've been to. They especially go all out for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentines. Check their website at TymeforTea.com for upcoming events and make reservations early, they sell out quickly.

After tea, a stroll down Niles Boulevard helps take your mind off of all the calories you've just consumed. The antique stores offer everything from beautifully restored furniture to trinkets and craft items.

If your interests lie more in the historic, tour the California Nursey Historic Park, which holds 20.1 acres of greenery, as well as the Vallejo Adobe, located at the heart of the park. You can

also take a ride on the Niles Canyon Railroad or take a short car ride to visit the Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum.

Niles has activities year-round like their Saturday farmer's market and annual antique fair. For more information on events and activities, go to: niles.org. ■

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BEATING THE WINTER BLUES: Embrace Your Inner Hibernation Instinct



BY DIANNA KERSEY

want to do is cuddle up with a great book. Choose the book!

On the evolutionary scale, we haven't caught up to ourselves for still needing that downtime after harvest. Humankind has become consumed with going and doing almost every waking moment. No wonder we get the winter blahs. We're not embracing the downtime Mother Nature has built in for us. Here are a few examples of what you can do to feel good about slowing down, embracing the reflection of the past year and planning for the new one.

Recharge your batteries, learn to relax, dive into a new author book series, binge watch on Netflix. Winter is the time of year to slow down, reflect, and recuperate. Give it 30 days and see how much this will make a difference in your overall mood.

1) **Get Some Sleep** Hibernate? Absolutely! This time of year your body is in cave mode, and it's okay to sleep in or sneak in that luxurious Sunday afternoon snoozer. Harvard studies have shown the modern workforce is sleep deprived, and that leads to high health risks. It's obvious from the amount of space the drugstores dedicate to OTC sleep medicines, that people are desperate to slow down and get the sleep they need. Skip out on that extra activity and plan to be good to you. It's okay to say "no" to that dreaded holiday party. Sleep in.

2) **Meditate & Breathe** Meditate? Yes, really. Taking the time to breathe is the part of the internal reflection and being kind to yourself. Breathe through the stresses of the day, focus on the positives, and the beauty of your life while letting go of the negatives. Hundreds of mobile apps can assist you through guided meditations before you sleep or for a few quiet moments stolen every day at lunch. Google believes in meditation and being good to yourself so much they offer relaxation and think pods for their employees. One of my favorite mobile apps to help me relax and remember to breathe is the "Relax" app by Saagara.

Have you ever wondered "why" we get the winter blues? "What" causes us to feel blah? I'm sure you've read tons of articles about SAD - Seasonal Affective Disorder, but that is not what we're going to talk about today. Have you ever considered maybe we're supposed to slow down and reflect during this time of year, and that it's totally okay?

Our bodies have a natural circadian rhythm for day and night to help us go to sleep and wake up in the morning. This same concept applies to the seasons of the year. Since the dawn of humanity, we have awakened in the spring ready to plant crops, welcome in newborn animals, and prepare for the long, hot growing days of summer. Soon more hard work flies in with harvesting all your efforts in preparation to survive during winter. Once the colder months arrive that's when your body says - hey, it's time to slow down and enjoy the fruits of your labors. It's time for reflection on the past year and planning for the new year.

HOW DID WE GET SO BUSY IN THE WINTER?

It wasn't until the inventions of electricity and economical ways to transport ourselves that we began extending the bustling activities of the warmer months into winter. New sports games were adapted, and every year we're pushed into more and more activity during the colder months. We never get that chance to slow down as we used to. Constant demands of our time to go, do, and be all can weigh heavy when all you

3) **Yoga** Most people don't think of yoga as a workout, but this form of exercise slows us down and builds the foundation of strong building blocks to support your busier time of year. According to Yoga Journal, some of the health benefits of Yoga include dropping your blood pressure, regulating your adrenal glands, increases blood flow, drains the lymph, and boosts immunity. It helps you find focus, relaxes your entire system, and brings an inner warmth and peace that you need during this time of year.

4) **Spa Days** - Treat yourself to a luxurious weekend or spa day and do nothing but allow yourself some uninterrupted pampering. Work into your budget weekly or monthly massages from a licensed therapist to help work out the kinks and heal your body from the inside out.

5) **Volunteer** - You'd be surprised how a gift from the heart will do amazing things to your frame of mind. There's so much negativity in our world right now. The idea there's nothing we can do can sometimes feel overwhelming. But you Can! Find something you're passionate about and go volunteer. Maybe it is the local animal shelter or talking with veterans at the local VFW club. I guarantee you'll feel amazing and come away with new and cherished memories. All of which release endorphins into your bloodstream helping you to achieve that inner warmth and calm again.

6) **Walk the Dog** "Baby, it's cold outside!" That's what doggie winter booties are for! Taking brisk walks can help you elevate a sad mood and help you refresh. Add a daily walk with your favorite canine every day and then enjoy the relaxing downtime afterward. Ever hear of doggie yoga? Find new activities with your beloved furbabies. Animal Planet states that owning and play-

ing with your pets can have substantial health benefits, including building stronger immune systems. Pets become instant ice breakers for meeting new people, and they can help decrease blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels, minimizing risk against heart attacks. If you don't have a dog, walk anyway.

7) **LAUGH!** Laughter is probably one of the most valuable tips. Some folks tend to become so disheartened by what is happening in the world around them, that when they do try to feel better—they almost feel guilty for feeling happy. It's okay to feel good about yourself, and it's OKAY to laugh. Watch comedies, rent improv videos, go out to a comedy club, or at the very least, read the daily online comics. The Mayo Clinic states that laughter is truly the best medicine as it soothes tension, activates and re-



lieves the stress response, stimulates organs, reduces pain, and helps improve your immune system. Ever wonder why there are so many cute kittens and rainbows on the internet? People need to laugh, love, and relax. I challenge you today to smile at a stranger, laugh at something out loud, and then share a great new joke you heard.

Overall investing time this winter to recharge your batteries will give you the strength to awaken refreshed and rejuvenated for the next coming year. It's okay to feel a little blue or down, and if you do—give yourself permission to do so. It's all a part of the reflection. Invigorate yourself with the power of slowing down and renew the stores depleted from the bustling warmer months. Breathe new life into your winter and embrace a calmer, sweeter, delicious me-time. Embrace your inner hibernation!■

RETRO COOL: VINYL SHOPPING AND GIFT GIVING

BY KRISTIN BATTESTELLA

THRIFT STORES

In thrift stores, records often sell for around \$3 or less, significantly cheaper than Ebay bids, shipping fees, and potential in transit damages ruining a rare vinyl gift. At any second hand or thrift store you can examine a record for imperfections, smell it, even ask to test it – if there is also a working record player. Always check that the right record is in the right sleeve or a sleeve isn't empty. Be sure to wear clothes you don't mind getting dusty and keep wipes handy. Searching through piles and piles of vinyl can be a little dirty. Most corner thrift shops think of vinyl as an afterthought and generally don't sort inventory, increasing one's chances for finding a gem. If a run of the mill junk shop is charging higher prices for records, then they should *not* be moldy, coverless, and disorganized. Some sly places will mark up old records or all material by a particular artist just because the record is assumed collectible.

QUALITY OR QUANTITY?

However, damage goods aren't worth book values. Higher end second hand stores or record shops with any expensive record pricing will justify such prices by keeping their vinyl stock in relatively good condition and re-wrapped with grading information right on the sticker. When paying as low as \$.50 or a quarter for a 45 it's easy to take a chance on something that may skip or not play just for the sentimentality of having it to complete your collection or to frame as a gift. Occasionally, stores throw away broken records, unsold stock, or empty sleeves – perfect for the repurposing artist or cover art collector who dares to dumpster dive. Finding your nearest thrift store with a decent record inventory and getting to know their stocking habits or management personnel can also save you time and money. If a shop knows the record you are pursuing, they may call you if they come across it or give you a deal on a collection – sometimes for free if they want to unload vinyl altogether.



Get ready to go knee deep in vinyl—and I'm not talking about cheap boots. Long play records are popular once again. Whether it be the quest for a special volume, unique gift giving, or a beloved holiday record, this snap, crackle, and pop of old adds extra warmth to the chilly seasons. Getting dirty in thrift shops for vinyl is a niche hobby. However, the pursuit of music from yesteryear can be an affordable and fun quest—if you know what sellers, pricing, shopping, and equipment work best for completing your collection or finding that perfect, sentimental holiday gift. Why not drag all the family members along to sift through the often unorganized, messy, perilous piles for more fun?

If you're looking to add to an existing vinyl collection or are a newer enthusiast, here are a few tips when going hunting.

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT VINYL

Though records are often squashed in an awkward sales display, one need not be unfriendly or competitive the likes of the Cabbage Patch Doll mayhem. When browsing, a simple comment or question such as, "Lots of Christmas records in this stack." or "Have you see any Bee Gees albums in that pile?" can break the shopper tension while helping you search faster. You may even meet a DJ or fellow audiophile for a trade or private purchase. The joys of hunting for the special record far outweigh a virtual exchange, for not only may you find something unexpected, but thrift store purchases often go towards the store's affiliated charities and community programs. Indulge your vinyl shopping habits or give a unique gift and do something worthwhile at the same time.

THE PLAYER

What if you have a stack of records but no player? Buying a cheap turntable second hand may suffice in the short term but may not be that great of a bargain if not all the components work on one of those older all-in-one stereo systems. You don't know the equipment's whole story, and when the needle on the arm breaks, you'll be out

of luck if you can't find the right replacement. If you do pick up a junk shop turntable, don't expect much for the price and plan to pick up another as a backup. Fortunately, finely crafted standalone turntables or new made to look old CD/Cassette/Radio/Record Player systems are available in departments stores or online to match any décor or as the perfect present for a sentimental audiophile. One with a serious interest in having his or her vinyl go digital can also invest in a USB record player or other convertible electronics now available from long time turntable purveyors such as Crosley, who also handle warranties, repair equipment, and replacement parts for their merchandise. Smaller suitcase style record players are also back in vogue for the on-the-go college hepcat and make great gifts for downsizing for nostalgic parents. ■

What do you collect? Send pictures, comments, or questions to:
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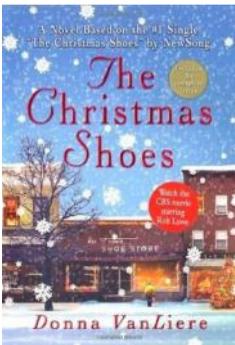
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5 GREAT BOOKS TO READ THIS WINTER

BY VALARIE KINNEY

You've been working all week and finally have some time to yourself. It's cold outside, fat white snowflakes are drifting down from the sky, and you've got a cup of hot cocoa that is calling your name. What could be a better use of that perfect winter evening than to curl up with a thick fleece blanket and a good book? Winter nights and reading go together like peanut butter and jelly. With so many options available, how do you choose which books to read? Check out this list of great, winter-themed books of various genres.

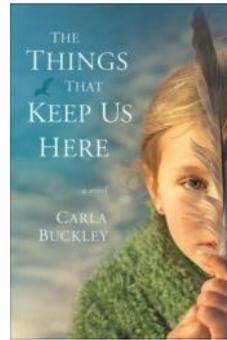


1. *The Christmas Shoes* by Donna VanLiere.

Robert is the proverbial workaholic who has lost touch with his family. Nathan is a little boy clinging to the mother he is about to lose. When they cross paths on Christmas Eve, Robert must make a decision that will impact the rest of Nathan's life.

Plainly put, this is a beautiful story that packs a heavy emotional wallop able to warm even a heart two sizes too small. Lovely to read any time of the year but especially during the holi-

days when thoughts of giving are on everyone's mind. Pro Tip: It would be a smart idea to pick up a box of tissues before you start reading.



2. *The Things that Keep us Here* by Carla Buckley.

Ann Brook is wading her way through the new experience of being a single mother and doing fairly well... until an unexpected global pandemic triggers a horrendous series of events – such as Ann being trapped in her house with her estranged husband and his beautiful assistant. This story begins just before Thanksgiving, and takes the reader through a harrowing journey that raises questions many of us would rather not have to answer.

I've read a lot of horror stories, and though this is not technically a horror novel, it scared the life out of me. The notion of natural disasters or global pandemics terrify me, and this novel was so real, so believable, I honestly spent several weeks going over in my mind what I might do in Ann's situation. Well-written and thought-provoking, *The Things that Keep us Here* is an engaging (and terrifying) winter read.

FAMILY SPA MASSAGE

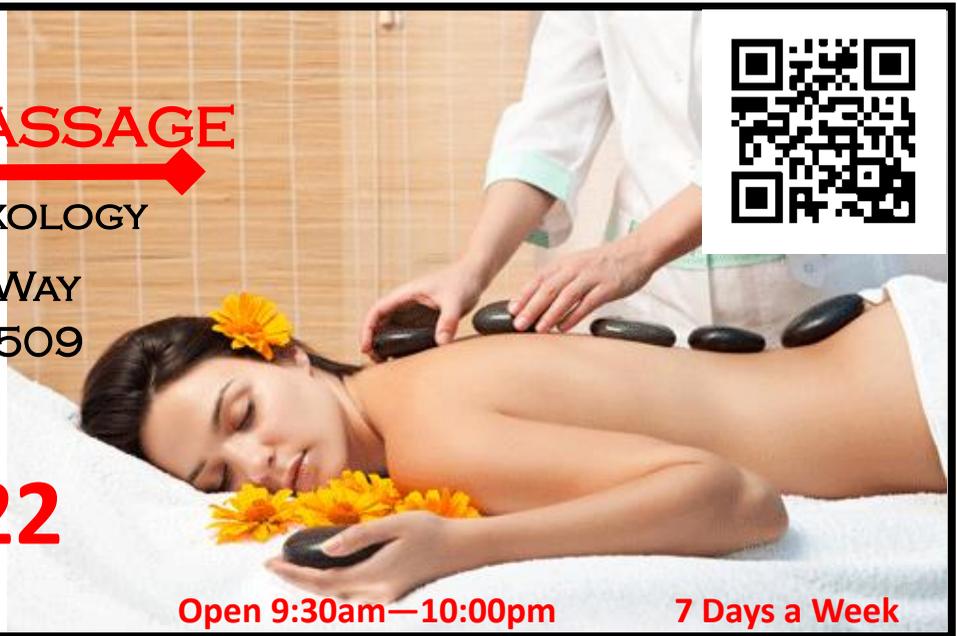
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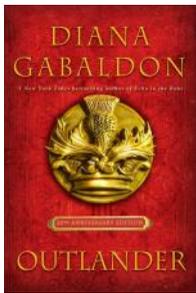
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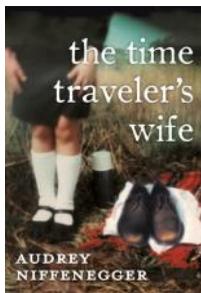




3. *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon.

In the first book of this genre-busting series, British Army nurse Claire Fraser is on vacation with her husband when she is transported back in time to 18th century Scotland. Alone in an unfamiliar land, unable to get home, Claire is forced to make unbelievably difficult decisions to keep herself safe and in the process, changes the course of her life forever.

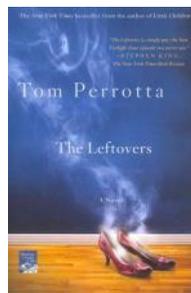
Outlander is not necessarily winter-themed, but it's a morbidly obese book, perfect for cuddling up at home with in the midst of foul winter weather. With romance, time travel, kilts, swords, and plenty of emotional angst, this is a book that can appeal to those with varied tastes in fiction. The rest of the books in the series are just as big and just as complicated. One could spend an entire winter being mentally spirited away to Jacobite Scotland. I speak from experience.



4. *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger.

Clare Abshire has always known who she was going to marry, because he's been visiting her since she was a child. Due to a genetic disorder, Henry DeTamble can time travel, and this ability proves to be both a blessing and a curse. This book explores the pain and struggle true love often tosses into our lives, and begs the question: Is there such a thing as a soul mate, or do we have control over who we fall for?

This is a beautiful story that evokes a mess of emotions in the reader. *The Time Traveler's Wife* takes place over a lifetime, weaving in and out of seasons. The main story ends in the middle of winter, which is a metaphor for...something I won't spoil here. This book reminds the reader that relationships sometimes require sacrifice and for every decision we make, the consequences could impact those we love most.



5. *The Leftovers* by Tom Perrotta.

On a day in the middle of one perfectly normal October, people disappear. They disappear while eating dinner, or working, or doing homework. *Poof* – they're gone. In the aftermath of these mind-boggling losses, people must learn to carry on, despite their questions, their confusion, and their grief.

The Leftovers is less about the actual event of disappearance and more about how people react to this level of loss. It's the way grief and struggle can fundamentally change a person, so that who they were before becomes nothing more than a memory, and who they are now is something they could never have foreseen. It's a novel about the potential changes in any of us, most of which we are afraid to look at. ■

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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

BY ELLIOT THORPE

Jules Verne's cosmopolitan *extraordinaire*, Phileas Fogg, went around the world in 79 days but we're going to do it in a mere 26 hours—except we'll be following midnight itself, specifically that one midnight every year when the whole world (more or less) celebrates the beginning of the New Year together.

We start our journey on Christmas Island, so named because it was discovered on Christmas Day, 1643, and it's the first part of the world to see the turn of the year. The island's 2000 residents are a multicultural society and, as such, no specific celebrations are had. While this may appear to give a slow start to our 26 hour party, the island itself is testament to so many cultures becoming unified.

Head to New Zealand where you'll find their outdoor festivals are a must. Wellington, the first capital city to see the New Year, has family-friendly festivals and, in true artsy city style, the entertainment consists of iconic local movies and the Wellington Orchestra during the countdown to the fireworks. Elsewhere, you can find the bars and occupants spilling out onto the balmy streets, and we can't carry on our journey without giving the "Party Capital of New Zealand" a mention. Queenstown's nightlife buzzes well after the lakefront celebrations, music event, and fireworks.

Then it's to Australia, stopping at Sydney. With astonishing fireworks displays lighting up the famous Sydney Harbour, there's not a place to go where you can't be part of the celebrations. DJs, cocktails, vibes, and panoramic views... Sydney certainly knows how to host a New Year's Eve celebration.

North now to Japan where traditional activities include watching the popular music TV program, *kohaku uta gassen*, and visiting a shrine or temple around midnight. While fireworks remain largely uncommon, countdown parties in the larger cities can be found nestled among Japanese culture.

Sri Lanka, India's 'tear-drop', is a beautiful

country, and we find ourselves on Negombo Beach, taking in the cool sea breeze as we watch a myriad of fireworks reflect like sprites over the Indian Ocean. Of India itself, lending its cultures and styles to tourism, a variety of restaurants and hotels add to its natural allure, creating the perfect destination for a laid-back but fun New Year celebration.

One of the world's most major and interesting festivities takes place in Russia, overshadowing Christmas in importance, and the Russians celebrate not once but twice. The first is, as most would expect, on December 31st. Many attend concerts or fireworks with the largest at the Red Square. With families coming together for a very late dinner, a short presidential address starts on TV at 11:55pm local time, and the Kremlin Spasskaya Clock Tower chimes midnight with the Russian national anthem playing. Then the festivities really begin with most people only leaving the house to see friends or enjoy New Year's Eve parties and nightlife. New Year's Day is when the Russian Santa, *Ded Moroz*, visits children to pass out gifts, with his granddaughter, *Snegurochka*, to help him. Rather than having Christmas trees, families decorate a New Year's tree, called a *Novogodnaya Yolka*, and it is left up to celebrate both New Year's holidays, the second 'New Year' celebrated with just family on January 14th.

In the UK, celebrating the New Year begins in earnest for most people with offices and major stores closing early. Most will head towards a pub or a bar and stay there until the chimes of Big Ben in London sound the midnight hour. The partying continues into the early hours and usually, until daylight. Trafalgar Square has become, in recent years, the place where everybody descends in the thousands. Scotland, however, has its own proud heritage. Lively and full-on, Hogmanay is the Scots' New Year's Eve with origins reaching back to the winter solstice celebration among the Vikings. A New Year hasn't been truly experienced unless you've been to Scotland, and they definitely don't do things by halves.

From the chilly UK we go to Rio de Janeiro where millions of people from around the world gather to experience the majestic fireworks across miles of beaches, especially in Copacabana. Celebrating Rio-style is filled with parties and a firm grasp on tradition. In clothing for example, wearing white signifies peace; green means good health, yellow, money. Red is to attract passion and romance, and purple denotes inspiration. Eat seven pieces of raisins by midnight—but be careful not to discard any seeds. Keep them in your wallet and you will surely have money in there all the time. Lemanja, a popular goddess in the Brazilian myths, has control over the waters. It's important to appease her with gifts such as flowers, and your good luck can increase if you jump over seven different waves while making your New Year's wishes, one for each wave.

We're home now, and here we enjoy our New Year celebrations as much as our global cousins, although in the early years of the colonies, this type of celebration was often frowned upon, particularly by religious communities. Around the start of the 1900s, New Year's Eve celebrations in America started to appear, and the first Ball Drop in New York's Times Square was held in 1907. Today many still wrap up against the cold to witness the world famous event. A few hours later in San Francisco, 200,000 bundled-up to meet for waterfront fireworks, a tradition as the city usually hosts a free waterfront midnight fireworks show. The fireworks are usually synced to music, played out through speakers set up along the promenade, stretching from Pier 14 down almost to the Bay Bridge.

We're not quite finished yet though.

Christmas Island saw the first of the New Year celebrations. Baker Island is our last stop, and the very last place in the world to ring in the change. It follows the style of most of the world, fireworks and parties with perhaps a tinge of awareness that it's bringing the festivities to a close for another twelve months.■

How did you celebrate your new year? We at SEARCH would love to hear about it. Send your new years celebration ideas to: searchmagazinesubmissions@gmail.com

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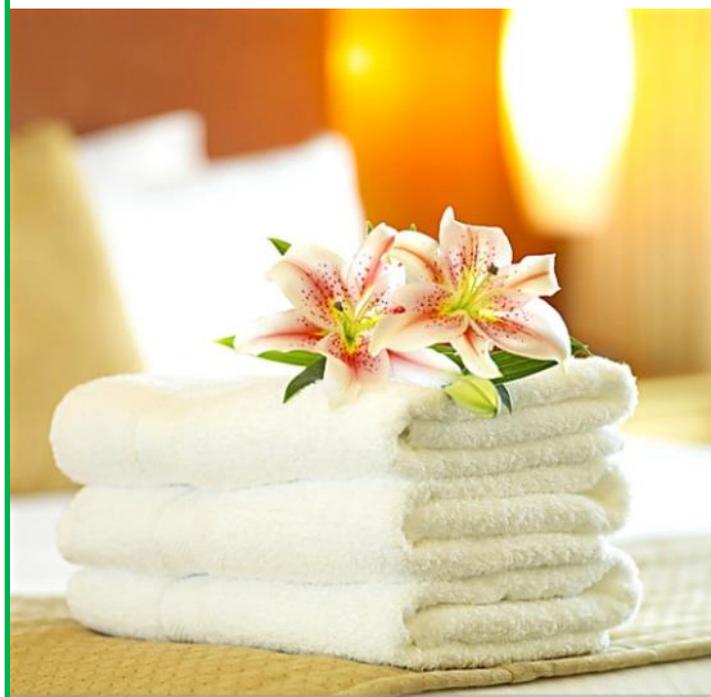
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TECH TO HELP ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE

BY RON VITALE

We are all busy with one thing or another, but what if there were tools to help make things easier? Thankfully, with a little bit of ingenuity, you can now solve some simple problems that take up time. Efficiency equals more time with how busy we all are in our day-to-day lives, using these tech tips can help make a dent into earning back some of the day. Minutes saved here and there add up to less stress and frustration as well as more time. Whatever you decide, give these tech tips a try, and then sit back and relax with that extra time you'll gain. Want to learn? Here we go!

WHEN IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW ON?



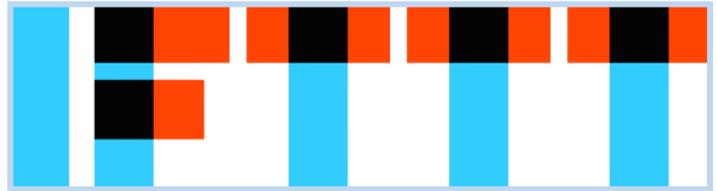
Let's face it: The days of the *TV Guide* are long gone. These days it doesn't matter what cable carrier you have, using your cable box's guide is clunky to say the least. To get around that, download the "Next Episode" app for your phone

and add all your favorite TV shows to it. You can even add shows that are exclusive to Amazon or Netflix.

Once you load your phone, you can easily pull it out and find when the next episode for your favorite shows are coming on next, even if it's next year. If you're looking to watch a new show you heard about, you can look it up, read a short description, find out what channel and time it's on, what's similar to the show, read a short synopsis of each episode that's already aired, and even watch the trailer.

IF THIS, THEN THAT (IFTTT)

Automation is a big thing in tech these days. With all of us being busy, wouldn't it be great to have technology connect similar things and do something with that information? At work, when I receive certain emails from a particular vendor,



I have a filter to file those emails away in a specific folder. Imagine if you could take this idea and be much more productive in all sorts of ways. For examples when I log into YouTube, if the video is a song, it's automatically added to my playlist on my Spotify account. No longer am I wasting time trying to find a song.

TO DO LISTS



Another great free app for your smartphone is Wunderlist. With the free version, you can create simple "to do" lists tied to your phone. Once you get started, you can create as many lists as you want and even build reminders.

With Wunderlist, you can plan out, not just recurring events, but one time issues. With each list, you can add a file, comments, subtasks, and set the reminder to be repeated or for one time. I often use my smartphone as extra memory, enabling me to take a photo to see exactly what I need when I go shopping. Being able to attach an image saves me time in writing out the full brand name also.

The real power in Wunderlist is its sharing feature. The free version has limited sharing capabilities, but the premium version allows for unlimited assigning, subtasks, and files. You may not want to pay \$4.99 a month (or \$50/year) for the premium features, but if you want to use this for work and family, it might be worth the investment. ■

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PUNK DRUNK LOVE: A DETROIT STORY



Photo by Eric Bucholz

With the expansion of the terminals at the Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), lots of people traveling from west coast to east coast are discovering a new layover. Flights with overnight layovers are vastly cheaper and built into some of the new flight and travel apps. Detroit has been out to shed its bad boy reputation, and I thought I would see what all the travel talk was about.

There is a huge artist scene in Detroit. Photographers, like my friend Erik Bucholz, suggested I check out the newly emerging music scene. UFO Factory (2110 Trumbull St), a venue located in Hamtramack, (the Polish sector of the city) is both a bar and a social club. Detroit has seen a reinvention of punk music. Whether it's music or food, Detroit has been taking the great elements of the world and making its own versions for years. Punk music is no exception.

BY MICHELE ROGER

One rising star, Mikal Barteel of The Idiot Kids, agreed to an interview to talk about his band and his city. Lead singer and song writer of the band, Mikal, describes the band, as punk with a story to tell. He, drummer Ryan Chlebek, and bassist, Nicholas Zambeck grew up together and were friends who just started playing music. Punk music was more befitting the energy level they had for the music they composed. Over time, they've developed their unique sound and say it's "glam punk with theatrical aspects." They attribute some of that sound's influences to David Bowie and Fugazi. Unlike other bands, they do not use a set list but play to the unique energy of the crowd at each concert. Take a listen at:

theidiotkids.bandcamp.com

Mikal attributes his success and wellbeing to composing music, which helped him cope with his chronic anxiety. His songs tell the tales of gender bending, coming out of a religiously conservative family, and the struggle to appreciate himself. Through the musical expression of The Idiot Kids, he offers a sort of therapeutic outreach for all ages. That's one of the reasons he loves UFO Factory and Detroit. Some of the shows are for all ages. Detroiters and day travelers alike come out to support the new and upcoming musicians as admission is often a donation. Don't forget to come to the UFO Factory with a hearty appetite. Along with great music, the bar serves up unique, gourmet hot dogs that have local foodies singing their praises.

While some would say it was time to hit the casinos of the Motor City, my philosophy is the farther off the beaten path, the better. Remember, you can travel the world and walk into a thousand casinos, but there is only one Detroit Cork town.

Travel tip: Detroit's town center, Hamtramack, Cork Town, and Greek Town have excellent police presence despite the rumors. If you stick to well-lit areas, there is security at nearly every corner. As a lone female traveler at night, I felt very safe. Just don't stray into the lesser known suburbs.

My pursuit of a great night in Detroit lead me from Polish immigrant Hamtramack to the old school, Irish immigrant settled Cork Town. This section of Detroit is famous for its St. Patty's Day parade as well as the award winning and nationally recognized barbeque and blues at Slow's. The barbeque at Slow's is great. On the other hand, it's the macaroni and cheese that has travelers and foodies talking. If you've spent your Detroit layover swimming in the velvety goodness of award winning mac and cheese, finish the night off by walking next door of Slow's and discover the Sugar House.

Playing eclectic music from a selection of Detroit based musicians, this cocktail lounge and bar is always packed whenever I stop in. No matter if it's a Tuesday or a Saturday night, the word is getting out that the Sugar House, by far, is the best place to get a delicious cocktail in the entire city. With literally hundreds of spirits to choose from, you can peruse the staggering menu listings and combinations. I do what any good traveler does. I ask the bartender the best course of action, who suggests I tell him some of my favorite spirits and flavorings, and he will customize a drink all for me. I confess, my all-time favorites are vodka, champagne, and citrus. In under two

minutes, my own personalized 'French 75 With A Russian Twist' is presented to me. One part Grey Goose, one part Champagne, and one part freshly squeezed limes. It's delicious and served with an edible flower floating on top. The White Stripes rocks in the background and penetrates the throng of melted conversations in a room full of happy patrons.

Detroit has always promised a metamorphosis. It has been a long, hard struggle with years of investing to see it come to fruition, but I've left inspired. Businesses and banks are returning. Young professionals are renting

apartments along the river front. The streets are filled with residents and visitors walking to lunch, dinner, and concerts. Creativity in food, music, photography, and theater has returned or rather, let's be honest, talent and dedication never left Detroit. It just took a little time for it all to pay off and make a positive change. I might book another trip soon, just so I can come back to Detroit and enjoy another layover.

In the meantime, check out the new release by the Idiot Kids as well as their Facebook page for West Coast tour dates. Facebook /theidiotkids or jettplasticrecordings.com. ■



HISTORIC SHADELANDS RANCH



BY EMERIAN RICH

Shadelands Ranch House is one of those places you might pass by in Walnut Creek and not even know it's there, yet this historic house is a building block for all that Walnut Creek has come to be. The farm was established in 1856 by Hiram Penniman and became one of the first and

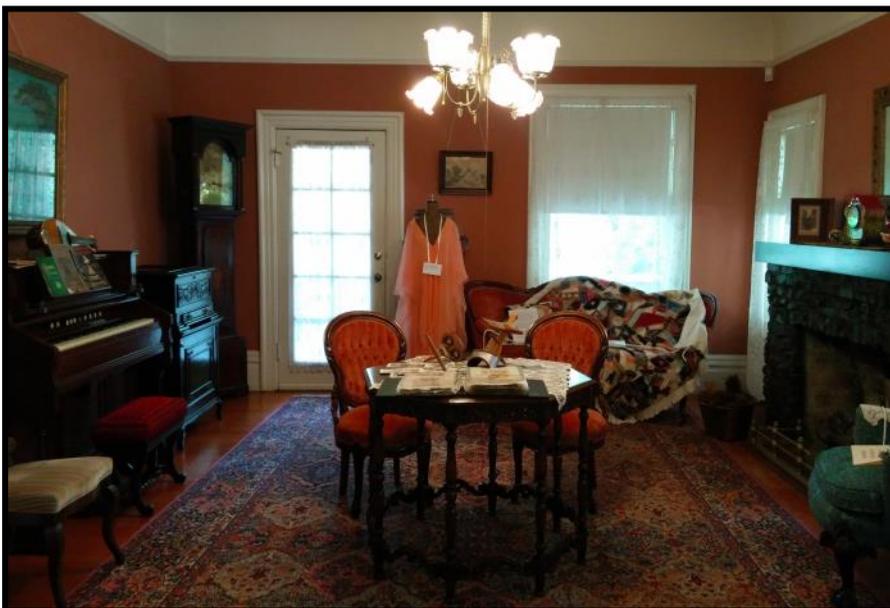
largest farms in Ygnacio Valley. While much of the farm land has now been dedicated to the Shadelands Business Park, the main house remains as a testament to the Penniman's impact on the area. Completed in 1903, the Colonial Revival house and museum is now the home of the Walnut Creek Historical Society.



Not only is the architecture a history lesson, but the society has made sure to include those little things in the house that history buffs especially enjoy such as personal items from top hats and grooming items to desk accessories and kitchen tools. The house is so decked out, you get the feeling the 1900 family still lives there and has simply stepped out for a walk among the walnut groves.

When in operation, Shadelands Ranch grew a variety of crops including peaches, pears, apricots, grapes, almonds, walnuts, and prunes, which became the Penniman's big seller. The house hasn't had many owners in its over 100 years. After the Penniman's, the house became home to Shadelands School for children with cerebral palsy.

While touring the grounds, it's evident why Walnut Creek residents take such pride in this historical landmark. With the grand columned front porch and large golden oak front door, the house beckons visitors to enter with promises of a taste of local history. Inside, the Walnut Creek Historical Society has strived to keep the history alive with the cozy parlor and elegant dining room decked out with period furniture. You can still see the original gas-to-electric converted light fixtures and the Penniman's own Stella music box Circa 1897.



In 1970 the house was given to the city of Walnut Creek for use as a museum. The Historical Society opened the museum in 1972, but it wasn't until the late eighties that they were able to do more extensive renovations, made possible with a find in the attic. Several rare Frank Lloyd Wright pencil drawings and architectural designs were discovered which were auctioned at Christie's in New York for \$244,000. With this boost in the restoration budget, the society was able to construct a gazebo and bathrooms as well as restore other parts of the house.

Thanks to an archive of Penniman letters detailing home decorating plans the Walnut Creek Historical Society even knew what color to paint the walls. Today Shadelands Ranch Museum not only stands as a symbol of where Walnut Creek has come from, but also serves as a beautiful location for weddings and events. Every winter, the Walnut Creek Historical Society hosts several teas which sell out early and start booking October 1st. Volunteers serve about 1,400 people every year, and the proceeds go back into the upkeep of the home. If you can't make it to a tea, a holiday fair is also open to the public and features over forty vendors of handcrafted gifts. As if the house couldn't get any more beautiful, just wait until you see it be-decked in all its holiday finery.



Shadelands Ranch Museum is located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. They have tours weekly, and you can find out more about this house at:

www.walnutcreekhistory.info ■



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Pictures courtesy of WCHS

COLORFUL MURALS BRINGING OAKLAND TO LIFE

BY SUMIKO SAULSON



Photo courtesy of Dan Fontes

Oakland is well-known for its vibrant art and culture scene, which includes First Fridays Art Walk, galleries, cultural centers, dance halls, concert halls, and poetry cafes. Neighborhood cultural fairs and festivals help make the city's daytime offerings as exciting as its nightlife. One prominent aspect of Oakland's visual arts scene is street art. Graffiti artists, taggers, and muralists contribute to the array of colorful exterior artwork. Paint isn't the only medium used to create these works of art. Mosaic murals are increasingly popular.

Murals such as "Past/Future" mural at the Hamilton Apartments at 2101 Telegraph Avenue help raise the morale of the community. The mural features a painting of Ray Charles on one side and a richly hued study of two young African American women on the adjoining, street facing side with the word "Future" across the top. It was created by a muralist who lives in the building. He changes the artwork a couple times a year.

Many local murals are tagged by graffiti artists. Replacing the mural after some time is a way to address the issue while honoring the temporary nature of the original street art. Different muralists take different approaches to tagging. Some of the local mural creating collectives work with graffiti artists, and several were even started by them.

A local muralist, Dan Fontes, has been painting in Oakland for close to thirty-five years and doesn't devote a lot of time to repairing the murals. "I respect graffiti artists' work and try to leave it alone," said Fontes. "In the case of my Lake Merritt mural project, graffiti was the principal reason why it was lost. Tagging is so common now, it's not just teenagers. Middle aged lawyers do graffiti now in their expensive suits. Thousands are occasional taggers and slap artists. You'd be surprised."

He started out the way many young muralists do, learning by working with more experienced artists.

"I started in 1980 doing a small mural on a classroom wall at Cal State Hayward. My first real mural was the Redwoods piece in Oakland on Carson Street under the freeway in 1981. I apprenticed with local artists whose work I was drawn to," Fontes says. "Now often neighborhood groups are adopting places because cities like Oakland can't deal with the sheer volume of the phenomenon. That's become a tsunami-like culture shift since I started out."

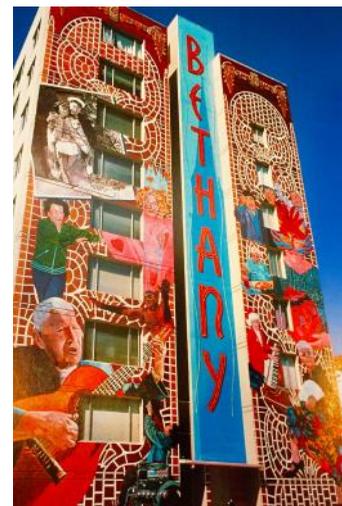


Photo courtesy of Dan Fontes

Kristi Holohan, the Youth Internships and Community Director at Rock Paper Scissors Collective, repairs her murals, yet holds deep respect for street artists. "Graffiti is another form of expression. At this point we can clearly say that urban style work is not a trend. Major museums showcase graffiti artists, and it has become a recognized movement in art history. As a society, we need to take a deeper look at how we criminalize and frame this conversation. These are valuable forms of expression. You can read the language of our culture on the walls, and it speaks loudly."

Apprenticeship continues to be a large part of the way young street artists learn today. The Dimond Park “Sausal on My Mind” located at the Lion’s Pool is one of the projects Kristi Holohan worked on with a group of young, aspiring artists. It shows native wildlife and educates visitors to the park about the kinds of creatures living there.

“My work is primarily embedded in the communities in which I live. I open my mural design process and creation to the immediate project population that will live with the work. My working practice is to utilize my technical skills to create community collaborative work using integrative practices. Usually people involved are business districts, community groups, schools, churches, youth, young people who have court hours to work off, homeless, and individuals in the neighborhood. Art is a fantastic way to bring people together to create a shared vision. Most of our work together explores nature, history, ancestry, and modern culture.”

Another mural she created is the Courtland Creek mural, a beautiful ode to wildlife in the midst of a local park. This mural was sought after and paid for by a neighborhood improvement organization.

Maxwell Park was a haven for garbage dumpers and criminal activity before members of its Neighborhood Council joined together to revitalize with a series of mosaic murals on the bathroom, trashcans, and on a retaining wall near the playground.

Roberto Costa is the artist behind the city’s mosaic mural phenomenon. He started out decorating garbage cans in the Allendale neighborhood where he lives. Soon, they spread to Fruitvale, the Dimond, and Maxwell Park. Now you can see them all over Oakland. Costa works with neighborhood groups to get these projects started

Businesses sponsor mural work on their buildings. Oakland graffiti abatement ordinances make it so store owners can be fined \$2000 for failure to remove graffiti. Murals are a creative



Photo courtesy of Kristi Holohan

and attractive way to avoid fines while enhancing the communities their customers live in.

One such work is the “Abundant Knowledge” mural on the side of Marcus Bookstore, at 3900 M.L.K. Jr. Way in Oakland. The Community Rejuvenation Project created a series of vivid images portraying African American historical figures and books with community-relevant titles. They worked with local filmmaker Baba Jahahara Amen-RA Alkebulan-Ma’at and bookstore owner Blanche Richardson who sponsored the project. The black history theme is appropriate to the historical business, established in 1960, which is the oldest black owned bookstore on the West Coast.

Murals have far-reaching impact on Oakland. They beautify the city and bring communities together.

“Murals spawn imagination, wonder and pride in locality and can drive inspiration for change. They add vibrancy to an often otherwise grey concrete world. They give neighbors a topic of conversation, a daily engagement, and a chance to discover stories between themselves and visuals,” said Holohan.

Roberto Costa/Mosaic Mural Project
localwiki.org/oakland/Mosaic_Tile_Trash_Cans

Dan Fontes

www.dfontes.com

Kristi Holohan/Rock Paper Scissors Collective

Rpscollective.org

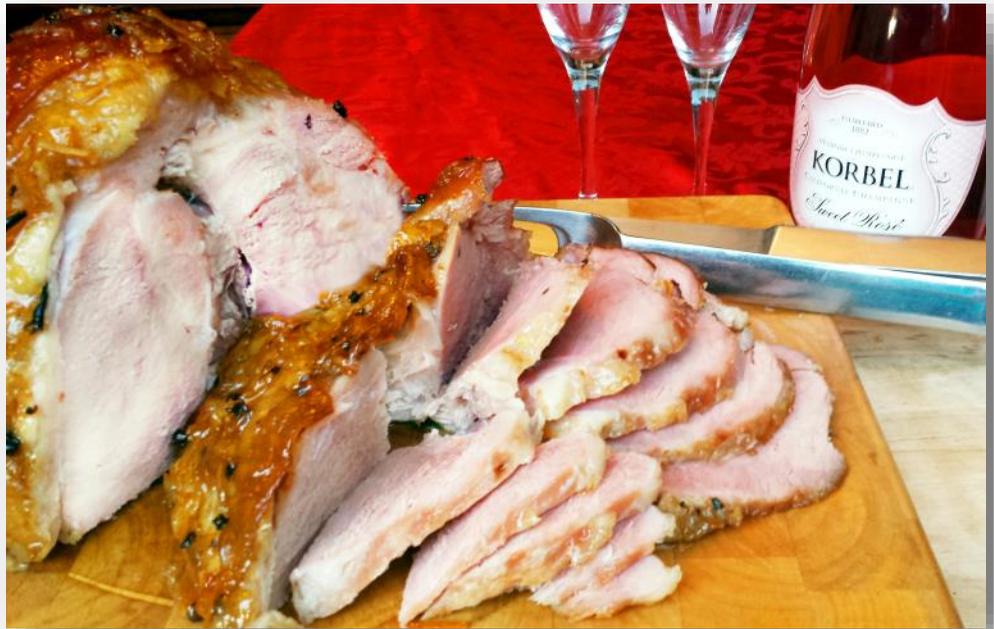
Community Rejuvenation Project

crpbayarea.org ■

CLOVE STUDDED HAM WITH ORANGE GLAZE

BY BRIAN & PATRICIA DAKE

Baked ham is well-known as a traditional main course for the holidays. This year we invite you to dress it up with cloves and an orange glaze. The cloves add an extra special flavor to a familiar dish. With the sweet marmalade glaze, this ham is guaranteed to fire all your taste buds for unforgettable flavor. If you desire a celebratory flare, pair it with a rose cuvee in champagne glasses.



INGREDIENTS:

Ham

- ◆ Ham, half, bone-in, uncooked
- ◆ Cloves, whole
- ◆ Water for roasting pan

Glaze

- ◆ 1 3/4 cups Sweet Orange Marmalade
- ◆ 2 tablespoons water
- ◆ (optional) 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon Black Pepper



TOOLS:

- ◆ Oven at 325 degrees
- ◆ Cutting board
- ◆ Paring knife
- ◆ Roasting Pan, 2 piece (pan and rack)
- ◆ Aluminum foil
- ◆ Stovetop
- ◆ Sauce Pan, 2 quart
- ◆ Spoon, cooking
- ◆ Silicone basting brush
- ◆ Meat Thermometer
- ◆ Carving knife and fork

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Arrange oven racks to hold roasting pan with ham, leaving at least 1" clearance.
2. Assemble roasting pan with the rack.
3. Using a paring knife, make a cut to the plastic wrapping on the ham and drain and dispose of juices.
4. Remove all packing materials from ham including any plastic disks placed over the end of the cut bone.

HAM

Place ham on cutting board cut-side down.

1. Using the point of the paring knife make a small cut at the top of the ham and insert a clove stem side first into the cut, leaving the rounded end of the clove outside of the ham. Proceed in a circular manner making rings of cloves around the ham that form a diamond-shaped pattern until the pattern covers all of the uncut sides of the ham. The cloves should be spaced on the diagonal at 1" apart.
2. Transfer ham to middle of roasting pan rack with cut-side down.

3. Using aluminum foil, cover the uncut sides and top of the ham making a loose foil lid for the ham.
4. Place ham in pre-heated oven.
5. Before closing oven door, carefully pour 1 to 3 cups of water into roasting pan without getting ham wet. Be careful not to over fill pan as you will need to be able to remove the pan without spilling the hot liquid. Do not let the pan boil dry, but add more water as required.
6. Wash cutting board with soap and water and dry to prepare cutting board for carving of the ham.

HAM COOK TIMES

An uncooked bone-in half of ham should weigh anywhere from 5 to 8 lbs. See tips section for alternatives to using uncooked ham.

Type of Ham	Minutes per lb
Fresh Ham, uncooked	35 to 40
Smoked Ham, Uncooked	22 to 25
Smoked Ham, cooked	18 to 24

GLAZE

1. Begin about 30 minutes prior to the end of the ham's cook time.
2. Place two tablespoons of water into saucepan.
3. Spoon in 1 3/4 cups of sweet orange marmalade.
4. Optional: add 1/8 - 1/4 teaspoon of freshly crushed black pepper to the glaze.
5. Place sauce pan over medium heat, stirring periodically to prevent burning.
6. When the glaze has melted, remove from heat.
7. Carefully remove the ham from the oven being careful not to spill the juices from the roasting pan and place the pan on a heat resistant surface before removing and discarding aluminum foil hood.
8. Using the silicone brush, paint the glaze on

- the ham from the top to the bottom.
9. Place the ham back in the oven for 5-10 minutes to set the glaze. Repeat applying the glaze and returning ham to oven for two to three more times as is necessary to achieve an even glaze.
10. Remove the ham from the oven when the center of the ham has reached at least 145 degrees (being careful not to touch the thermometer to the ham bone as it will cause a false (elevated) reading).
11. Allow the ham to rest outside the oven at least 5 minutes.
12. When the ham is cool enough to handle, transfer ham to cleaned cutting board.
13. Using carving knife and fork, carve ham into slices and serve.

TIPS

- ◆ We prefer to use King Kelly Orange Marmalade for this recipe, although Smucker's makes a good sweet marmalade as well.
- ◆ A "Sweet" marmalade must be used to achieve the desired results. Using a standard "Bitter" marmalade will, in our opinion, produce an unappetizing flavored ham. If in doubt use a marmalade with the word "Sweet" in the title.
- ◆ Although we recommend an uncooked bone-in half of ham (butt or shank), if you are not able to find an uncooked ham, a smoked (either uncooked or cooked) bone-in half of ham may be substituted, keeping in mind that smoked hams vary widely in flavor, need different cook times, and may not provide as consistent results.
- ◆ To compute cook times for weights of ham, use the table to find the minutes/lb cook time and multiply it by the weight of the ham.
- ◆ Many hams will provide you cook time and temperature information on the packaging. We recommend in these cases you use the information provided with the ham to cook that specific ham.
- ◆ Use the drippings from the roasting pan to make gravy. ■

*Did you make this dish?
Send us pictures of your creations at:
searchmagazinemail@gmail.com*

MAKING OLD THINGS NEW

BY SUZANNE MADRON



Sometimes we hold onto things. Luckily, furniture can hold its own and be recycled and repurposed. That old beat-up coffee table? Totally salvageable. That old wooden table with the turned legs piled on the side of the street? New end table. For free. The beaten up antique at the yard sale going for \$5? Negotiate and bring home a new heirloom for \$4.

For this example, I'm using an old telephone table and an old coffee table. Both pieces were things one of my old landlords was getting rid of, so when I moved, I took them with me. Free antique furniture? Yes, please. Ready to make some furniture that goes beyond the plain old solid-painted re-hash? Read on.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A piece of furniture to work on, made of wood
- Sandpaper, both rough and fine grain
- Artist acrylic paint in colors you would like. I like the paints used for crafts
- Paintbrushes in various sizes. Preferably the ones used for acrylic and oil paintings, but if you have a larger area to cover, get larger brushes, too)
- Citristrip is much less harsh than your typical stripper, and you can use it in the house with open windows or stripper of your choice
- Blue masking tape to cover areas you don't want to paint or to create a design
- Paper towels or rags to dry your brushes and to wipe off stray paint
- Old sheets to use as dropcloths under and

around your project

- An old jar or mug for holding rinse water for your brushes, heavy enough to keep from tipping over when the brushes are in it.
- Sealant either polyurethane or a clearcoat)
- *optional*: mementos that are relatively flat
- *optional*: clear resin

CREATE

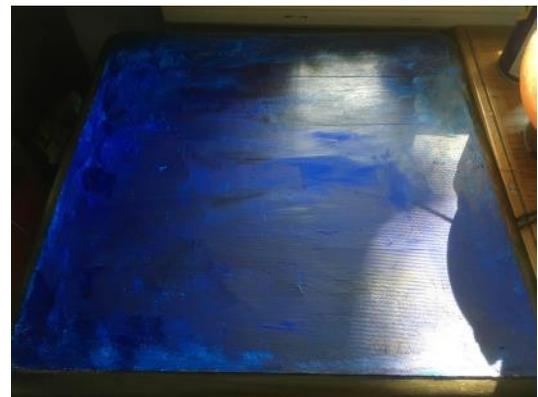
1: Pick the area you want to paint on your piece of furniture. If the top is the only part that's beat up, you don't have to strip the whole thing, you can just paint the top. It adds character to an old milkstained table when the top looks like stained glass.

2: Prepare your working area. This project will take a few hours, so plan accordingly.

3: If stripping your piece of furniture, strip away.

4: Sand your surface. If your furniture is really beat up, you will want to start with the rough grain sandpaper. If it's not beat up much, a light sanding with fine grain sandpaper will smooth it. You can also use thicker acrylic paint to fill in any gaps when painting.

5: With a damp (NOT wet) cloth, wipe the surface to clean it of any debris.



6: If you plan on creating a design or using the natural routed edge of the furniture as a frame for your new art, this is the time to break out the masking tape and block off any areas you don't want to get paint on. Use your fingernail to press the edges of the tape against the piece to keep paint from leaking under it.

7: Paint your background. For the two projects pictured here, I've thrown the paint directly onto the table surfaces and mixed with a dry paintbrush to create a kind of stained glass effect and give some depth.

Pause: Let the paint dry. Acrylics are more forgiving and have a faster dry time than an oil paint. A few hours is all you'll need as long as there's not a lot of humidity in the air.

8: Paint any accent areas such as the routed edge if so inclined. For our telephone table, I used a watered down metallic acrylic wash to add some shine to the edge without affecting the original milkstain.

9 (optional): Paint a design. For the coffee table, I painted a rose and a stained glass style edge. For the telephone table, a plain blended blue top and nothing fancy.

Pause: Be sure to let your paint dry completely before moving on to step 10. If the paint is tacky to the touch, it is NOT dry. In humid areas, let your project dry in a room with air conditioning or a dehumidifier for best - and faster - results.

10: Once the paint is completely dry you can include mementos by gluing them to the tabletop. Postcards, coins, money, stickers, even costume jewelry pieces or clockwork, etc. can all be used to decorate, just make sure the pieces are flat or have been hammered into the wood until level with the tabletop.

When the glue has dried, to seal, put a clear coat on your furniture if using as a table. If you've used chairs as your project, you can skip this part.)

11: Allow the clear coat to dry completely before adding a second coat.

12: Repeat Step 11.

13: Once your table is completely dry set it up and enjoy. Again, if it's tacky to the touch, it is NOT dry and anything you place on the surface will adhere to it,



TIPS

- If using a table with a raised edge, you can use clear resin poured into the basin of the table - BUT be sure the table is level first. If you are creating your masterpiece in a basement or garage, note the slope of the floor, because there is one, especially if there is a floor drain present. Use a level and some folded napkins/papertowels/ folded paper or shims to bring your tabletop level before pouring the resin or polyurethane.
- Give your project a few days to ensure it is completely dry before using it. If using resin or multiple (more than three) layers of polyurethane, give your project at least a week to dry. You want the surface to harden completely before use.
- **Use coasters!** Not only will they add class, but they will protect your masterpiece.■

Share your crafting results with us! Send pictures, comments, or questions to:
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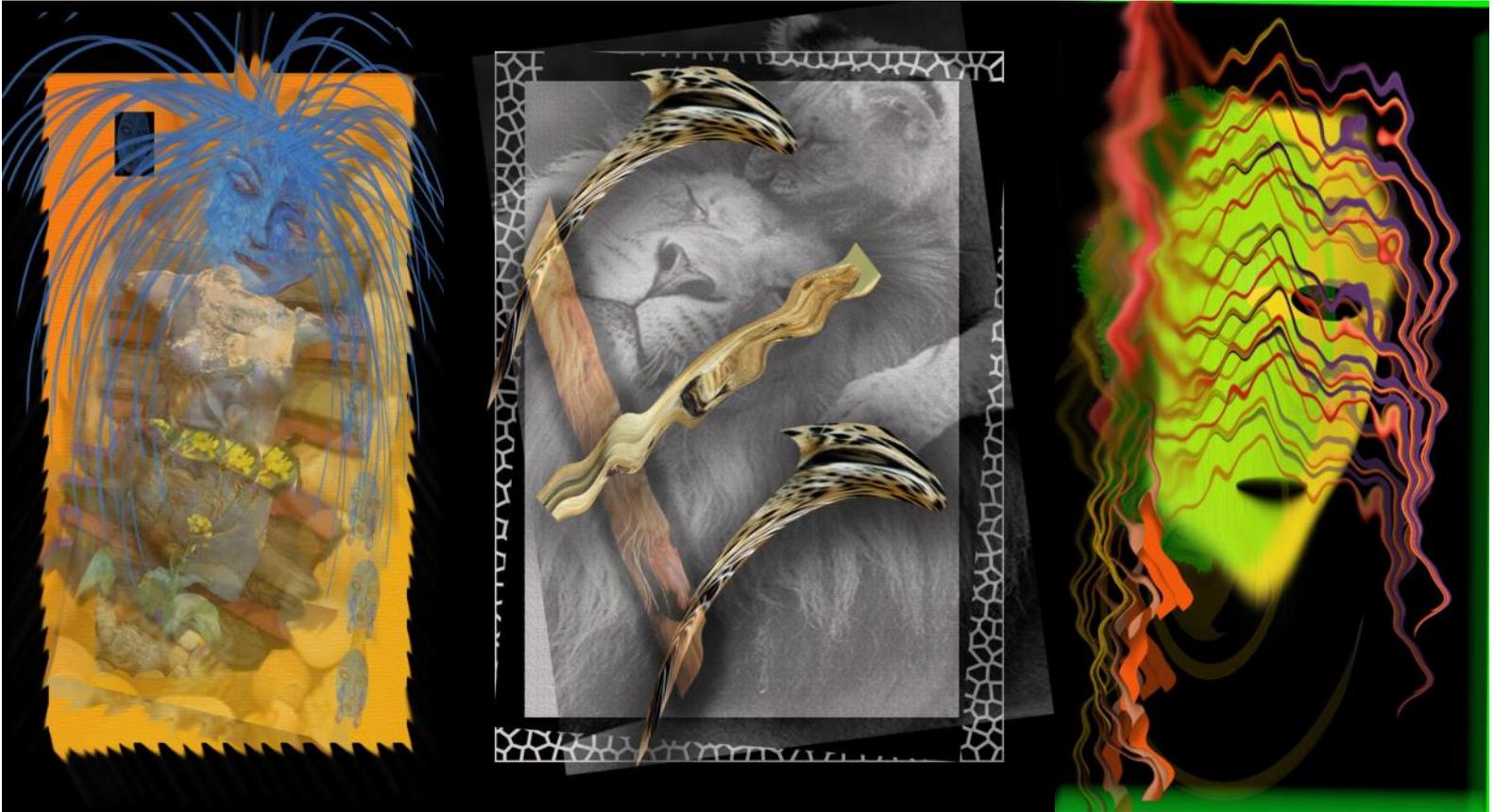


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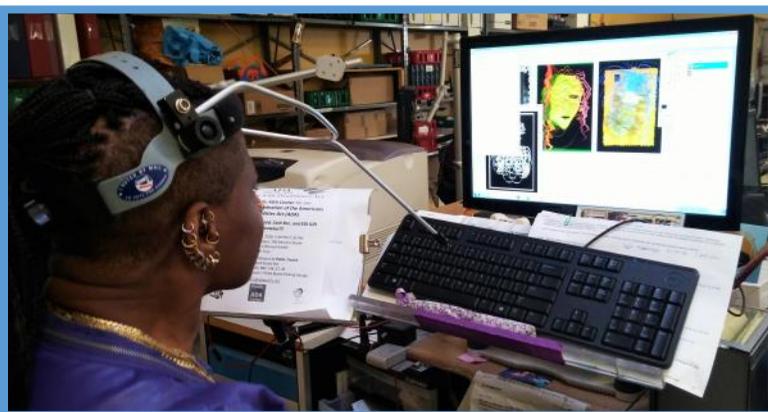
MONIQUE HARRIS



ARTIST, POET, UNSTOPPABLE CREATIVE BY EMERIAN RICH

Monique Harris is a woman with cerebral palsy who has accomplished more in her lifetime than many of us without the challenges she's had to overcome. Monique grew up in Philadelphia and came to the Bay Area with her artistic mother when she was twelve years old.

"You can do anything you want," Monique says. "You should just have fun. It just takes hard work, but you can do it."



Starting off in business school, Monique earned her degree at twenty-four. Using a head wand, she can navigate the computer, and a mentor taught her to use Photoshop about seven years ago. She hasn't looked back. Her art pieces are composite pieces created fully on the computer.

Monique owns her own graphic business, sells her artwork around the Bay Area, writes poetry, and creates communication books for organizations like Contra Costa Health Services. Her next ambition is to create a poetry art book which I have no doubt she will accomplish.

She is an inspiration not only to those with disabilities, but to any of us struggling with a task we think is too hard to accomplish. "You can do anything you want," Monique says. "You should just have fun. It just takes hard work, but you can do it."

She *does not* back away from the word no. "They said I couldn't have children, but I did. They said I couldn't get a degree, but I did."

Monique has an unstoppable drive to create, but what inspires her art? "I'm inspired by everything around me. I like people like Prince. They do their own thing and don't care about what people think. They just do what they have the passion for."

Monique has inspired me to pick back up those projects I thought too hard to finish. What will she inspire you to do? ■



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THE LIGHTER SIDE: BACHELOR TO GRANDFATHER IN A BLINK

On my 41st birthday, I was a childless bachelor with a long history of living loose of foot and free of fancy. On my 42nd birthday I was four months into a terrific relationship that would last another thirteen years. Then, without any warning whatsoever from a certain inebriated palm reader or the sweet Psychic Tradeshow Tarot reader, I celebrated my 43rd birthday as a *grandfather*. Yes indeed, I went from childless bachelor to grandfather in a blistering eighteen months. Somehow this old dog had managed to skip parenthood completely and jump straight down the rabbit hole to grandparenthood.

Baby Jake was born very suddenly due to an abruption his mother suffered. They were only a couple hours from either one or both of them not surviving. He was a lot of weeks early and spent most of it imprisoned in the Neonatal Care Unit under heavy guard. It was a long time before I was allowed to hold this little bundle of wonder, but I did get to see him incubating a few hours after his hatching. He was wrinkly, and red, and so tiny I was afraid to even breathe near his chamber of life. As time passed, he grew strong and bigger.

When Jake-the-Snake finally came out of the hospital, he was hale and hardy and his young mother, Ashley, needed a freaking night out. She'd been at the hospital every day for months, at first terrified, then worried, and finally just ready to bring him the heck home. Ash and her mom, Sue—the Grandma to my Grampa—came to me with a request. How comfortable would I be babysitting Jake?

"Sure! How hard can it be? Feed him, change him, put him to bed."
"Yup. Pretty much."

So it was decided. The girls went out, and the boys stayed in. We watched a little TV, drank a little scotch, smoked a pack of smokes, and shot craps until his little premie arm was all tuckered out. Okay, maybe we just watched TV. I fed him a little, then he fussed, and his diaper got changed. It was a little loose in the legs, but I didn't want to cut off his circulation. What I didn't know about was the need to cut off the flow of poop down his legs. Oops. New diaper time.

I called it a night shortly thereafter, but every time I put him in his bassinette-thingy, he fussed and cried. When I laid him on the bed, though, he shut right up. Problem solved. He could sleep next to me.

Well, between me thinking he needed a new diaper

BY TIM REYNOLDS

every time he so much as farted, and my fear of dozing off, rolling over, and crushing him, I didn't sleep much, and by 'much' I mean 'not at all'. The good news is, at no time did he have to sleep with poop next to his skin. This Grampa changed that little farter's diaper thirteen times that night. His mother has never let me forget that.

Oddly enough, I was still given custody of Jake for short periods of time over the years. When he was two-and-a-half, we hopped on a city bus and made the trip to the local old-timey heritage park with the 19th-century amusement park, a steam locomotive, a paddleboat, and ice cream. If there's something Grampa's love more than ice cream, it's sharing ice cream with their grandson. Of course, if no one tells Grampa that Grandson is lactose intolerant, the ice

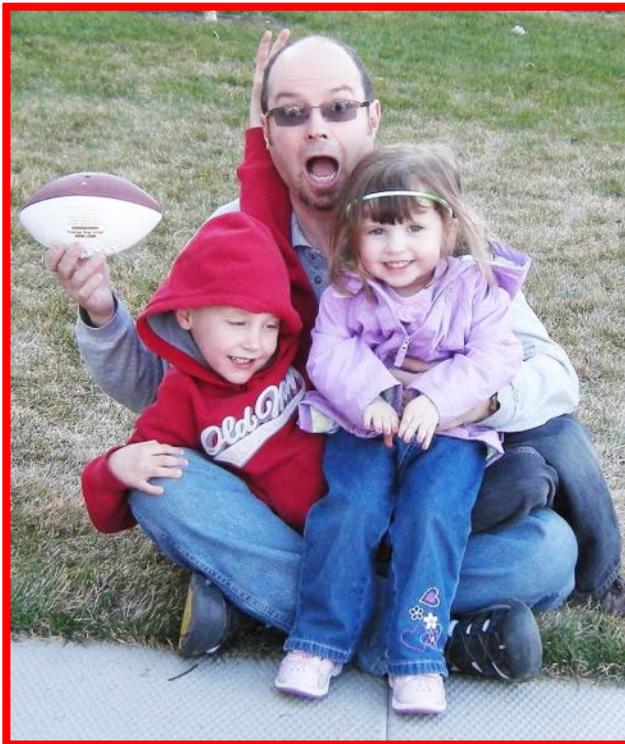
cream might be a bad idea. On the way to the park, Jake looked up from his umbrella stroller and said "Just went pee, Grampa. Not poo, just pee." After I fed him ice cream and took him back to his mother, there was a lot of poo. The poor little fella suffered for two days.

Not long after this my mother came out to visit. Since I live in the west and she's two time zones away back east, we don't see each other too often. We decided to aim for neutral ground for her first meeting of both Ashley, her two teenaged brothers, and baby Jake. Mom, Sue, and I arrived at the restaurant at the same time as Ash and the boys in their car. Before I continue, let me say that every time Jake called me "Grampa" it wrapped my heart in a 1000-watt hug. It was the coolest thing *ever*, but none of those other times com-

pared to him climbing down out of the car that day and running across that parking lot shouting, "Grampa! Grampa!" and leaping up into my arms, in front of my mother. She was speechless. It was great.

When Jake was four, his parents decided to give him a little sister, and along came Cadence. By the time you read this, Jake will be almost fourteen, and Cadie almost ten. Cadie still runs up and jumps in my arms for Grampa hugs and a kiss, but Jake has graduated to the two-pat man hug. It's still a big hug, but we pat each other on the back twice, and then break. It's the manly thing to do.

If my fondest Jake-moment so far is his running across that restaurant parking lot, then my best-so-far Cadie-moment was when she hopped up on the coffee table so she could reach my shoulder height, held her arms open, and said, "Let's dance, Grampa!" ■



"Be true to your authenticity and innovate with brave ammunition."
-K. Abernathy

Kimberly



Are you an existing, new or upcoming entrepreneur? Do you have business goals? This audiobook is an easy-to-listen-to, relaxed, and easy-to-understand work. It's a great book for helping you to expound on your vision and put it into action - through 12 elaborated tips on what it takes to move forward. This is an undeniable source of motivation, bursting with inspiration for the entrepreneurial mind, from the desk of an average member of society.

Can You Action Past Your Devil's Advocate? is jam-packed with success tips, famous quotes, and profiles of iconic, successful leaders and mentors, plus a variety of main take-aways. Let's listen so we can move on to excellence, creating our own success stories!

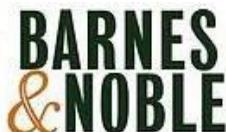
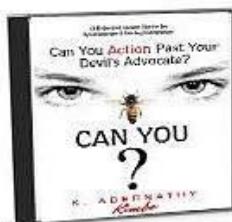
This book will provoke you to rise to the challenge and overcome obstacles. It will lead you to fight for your life and your dreams and point the way toward reaching the top at your full potential, in full force.

"We all have a little entrepreneur inside of us. Wanting to leverage it is what gives us an entrepreneurial spirit and an entrepreneurial mind. Actually doing it makes one an entrepreneur." — K. Abernathy Can You Action Past Your Devil's Advocate

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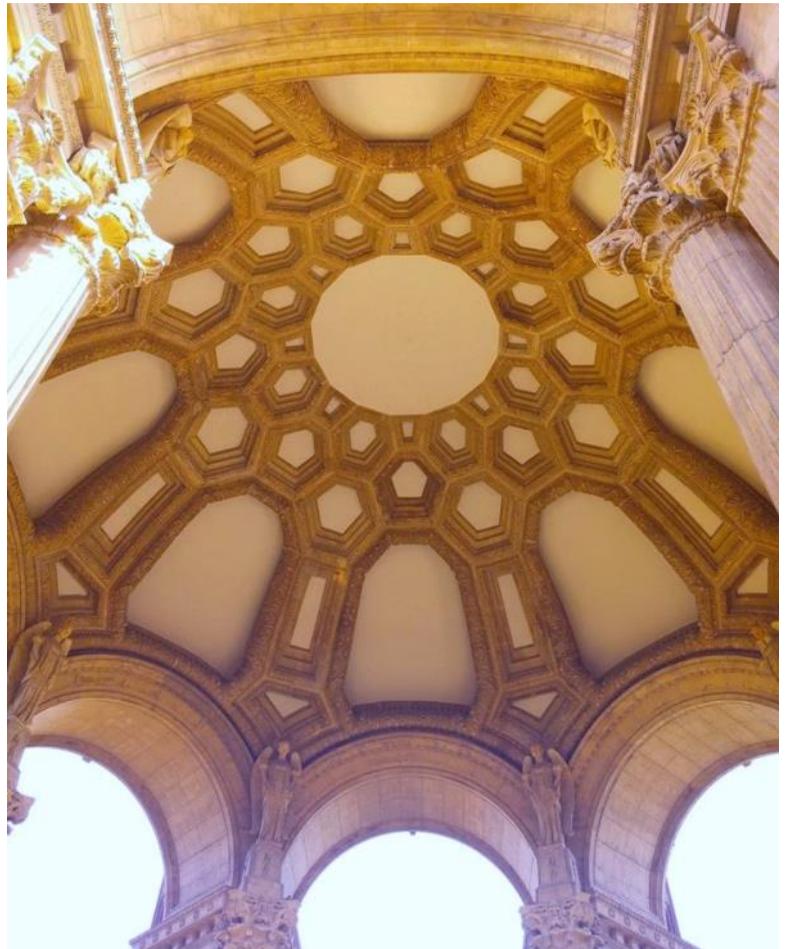
BAY AREA: THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS



BY EMERIAN RICH

Walking under the grand arches of the Palace of Fine Arts is so breathtaking, I find it hard to compare to anything in the Bay Area. Sure maybe if you visited the Pyramids of Giza or the Pantheon in Rome, you would feel the same inspiring experience, but this is in our own backyard.

For those of you unaware of the palace's history, it was constructed in 1915 for the Panama Pacific Exposition. Its purpose was to exhibit art and was to be torn down directly after the event. As one of the only surviving structures of the fair, it's amazing to note it's still in the same spot as originally built. Designed by Bernard Maybeck, an arts and crafts movement architect and instructor at UC Berkeley, the structure was inspired by Roman and Greek architecture. While most of the exhibition structures were torn down or relocated after the event, the palace had a friend in Phoebe Apperson Hearst (Mother of William Randolph Hearst). Phoebe, always the activist, founded the Palace Preservation League even while the exhibition was still running. However, while Phoebe had saved the structure, it wasn't stable since it had been made as a temporary set.



The structure we enjoy today is actually a replica of the palace, constructed in 1964. Still it's no less compelling. Maybeck's original design stands now in concrete, retrofitted in case of earthquake, instead of a mere flimsy plaster. Bordered on the sides by eucalyptus trees and a man-made lagoon, it's home to swans, ducks, and other small animal life. Although pictures show the grandness of the structure, its majesty is something you must visit in person. Standing 160 feet tall, bordered by elaborate Romanesque statues, this structure is sure to take your breath away. Visiting, you will be transported back in time, whether it be to 1915 and the fairgrounds or to ancient Rome. In a part of the country where most of us live in side-by-side track homes or tight fit Victorians, structures are never this tall and vast. Even as a local, I find myself looking up in awe like a tourist, unable to capture the grandness in a blink of an eye or a snap of a photo.

For locals, it's best to tour the palace on a non-weekend day as parking is limited and crowds can be thick. Still, expect crowds no matter when you go. Thanks to this unique structure, it's a favorite spot for tourists and wedding parties for photos.

The Palace of Fine Arts is located at:
 3301 Lyon St, San Francisco
 For special events and rental information, go to:
palaceoffinearts.org■



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EVENTS

CRYSTALCON IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Authors Michele Roger, Emerian Rich, and Heather Roulo at CrystalCon, Sept. 2016

September 2016, *SEARCH* contributors Michele Roger, Heather Roulo, and Emerian Rich attended CrystalCon, a symposium of Science and Fiction in Seattle, Washington. The authors explored the dark origins of fairy tales and discussed how bedtime stories still influence us as adults.

For more information on future CrystalCon events, go to:
crystalconseattle.com ■



CrystalCon Creator Crystal Connor and author Michele Roger

CON-VOLUTION IN BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA



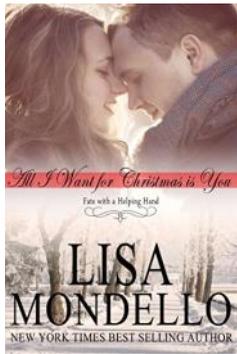
October 2016, *SEARCH* contributors Emerian Rich, Laurel Anne Hill, Loren Rhoads, and Sumiko Saulson attended Con-Volution, a science fiction, fantasy, and media convention in Burlingame, California. For more information on future Con-Volution events, go to: con-volution.com ■

*Would you like SEARCH to attend your next event? Contact us at:
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SEARCH FAVORITES

BY EMERIAN RICH

BOOK



Lauren is a tortured soul with a background that has her thinking she will never find a love, especially one she can trust. When Kyle comes around, she figures he's just like all the rest. Her perception of him being an untrustworthy loser is something he has to fight hard to live down, but for

her, he will.

This is a great love story for any woman, but will hit home with anyone who's been or grew up with a teen or single mother. Kyle's family is the kind that seems unbelievable, and their love and acceptance help Lauren realize Kyle just might be ok.

A fun, fast read, *All I Want for Christmas is You* is set in the best time of year when everyone wants to believe there is someone out there specially made for them. What more could a single mom want, but a man who desires her and loves her daughter as well? I highly recommend. ■

BEAUTY



Looking for a refreshing, powerful makeup remover without all the harsh chemicals that can dry out your skin? Klorane floral makeup remover gently removes makeup, even waterproof eyeliner, without harsh chemicals. Being allergic to a lot of smells, I am also able to use it without worrying because the scent is light and fresh, unlike some other cleansers that tend to add too much scent. In a test between my old makeup remover wipes and this brand, Klorane took just one pass to

clear away makeup rather than 4 to 5 scrubblings with the other brand. This product is hypoallergenic, silicone-free, and vegan. Made specifically to be gentle to eyes, it does not irritate my eyes like some other brands and still leaves my skin fresh and clean. Klorane can be found at Sephora.com or search your favorite online beauty supply store. ■

OFFICE



Okay, I'll be the first to admit I'm a pen snob. Nothing is worse than you are happily writing your brilliant idea on paper when the pen skips, gets goopy, or has uneven ink. Good pens at a good price are hard to find, but I have fallen in love with the new gel Inkjoy pen from Paper Mate. With the Inkjoy, writing is smooth, not skippy, and the feel of this pen in your hand is quite pleasant. I was curious about the "fast drying" claim because, although I love gel pens, they tend to stay wet longer on the page and smear. I could not smear this pen when I tried. It really did dry fast. The design is very pleasing to the eye, and I like the little plastic pocket clip over metal ones. My favorite feature of these pens is that they come in tons of amazing colors ranging from pink, green, and red to the hard to find yellow, brown, and teal. ■

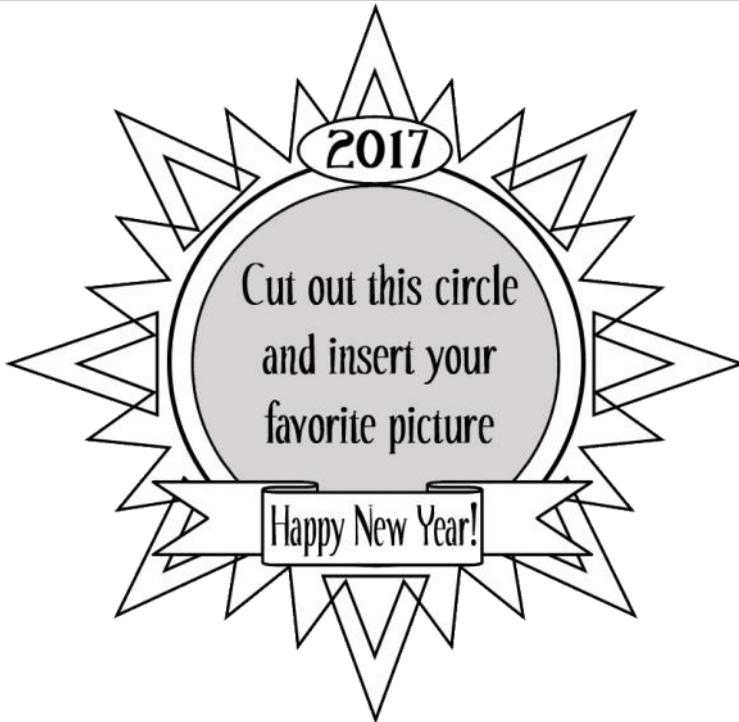
PARMA DELICATESSEN

and their popular crab sandwich. Their hot food is spectacular and varies day to day. My household is obsessed with their generous portions of good ole' spaghetti and meatballs which comes with a salad and fresh bread. Parma also has a catering menu with reasonable prices and many different items to choose from. Their service is impeccable and always friendly. For more information, go to parmadeliconcord.com. ■

EATS

Concord's biggest secret is a family-run delicatessen on Clayton Road. Parma Deli is located in the El Monte Shopping Center best known for the giant, city-protected Blue Gum Eucalyptus Heritage tree marking the entrance. Along with all the usual standards, Parma has some unique sandwiches like the hard to find olive salad stuffed muffaletta

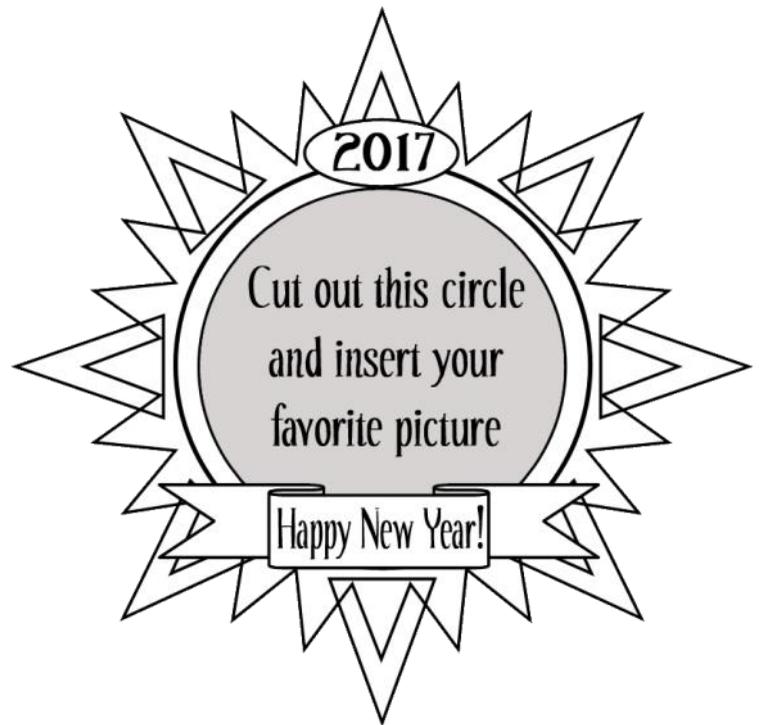
USHER IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A DECORATIVE COLORING BOOK ORNAMENT



You will need:

- ◆ Two photos of you, your family, your pet, or anything else you find inspiring.
- ◆ Crayons or colored pencils
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Tape
- ◆ Glue stick
- ◆ Ribbon or string
- ◆ *Optional: Glitter glue pens or metallic permanent markers.*

1. Color the two sides of the frame in colors that compliment your photos.
2. Cut out the two sides of the frame.
3. Cut out the inner circle (grayed area) of the frames.
4. Measure that your pictures will fit inside the hole. Nicely without cutting out any important part.
5. Using the circle cut from inside of the frame, cut your pictures a little bigger than the circle.
6. With a piece of tape, secure your pictures to the ornament picture window.
7. Place the ornament frames back to back. Make sure to line up the points as best you can and ensure both sides are right side up. Attach them together with a rolled piece of tape.
8. Gluestick between the frames and carefully smooth out all the points so that they are stuck together and there are no bubbles.
9. Poke a hole in the top point and hang with ribbon or string.



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