

SEARCH



WINTER 2017

MAGAZINE

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Dear SEARCH,

The word cozy conjures up images of comforters and warm socks up by the fire with a good book. Cozy can mean cuddling up with your favorite person and a movie. Cozy means comfortable, safe, and comfy.



A cozy memory for me is when I was a child sitting by my grandmother as she crocheted a new lap rug, with one of her very own creations covering our laps as we watched TV. Gram was a woman who couldn't sit still and do nothing. She had an antsy "do-er" bug that inspired her to make dolls, tissue boxes, afghans, you name it. If it required yarn and a needle or hook, it was destined to become her project, but she didn't just make these things for herself and her family. Every year, she crocheted a thousand afghans to give away at nursing homes. Her gift of crocheting spread coziness throughout the care facilities of Colorado Springs. It's a gene she passed on to me. I've decided I will continue her tradition of selflessness this year by donating some of my crocheted items to those who need a piece of cozy to get through the winter. It might not be a thousand pieces like Gram, but hopefully it will bring cozy to a few people who really need it.

What are your favorite cozy activities? This issue of SEARCH will help you stay inside and keep cozy as we explore cozy books, music, and food. For you who like going out in the cold, we'll add in some fun adventures away from home, like touring the Galindo house in Concord or shopping at SCRAP.

Emerian Rich
Editorial Director

Want to share your story?
We here at SEARCH would love to hear from you.
Send to: searchmagazinesubmissions@gmail.com

What is your favorite cozy winter activity?

"We went to Indian Springs spa in Calistoga over Christmas two years ago. It was perfect."

Loren, San Francisco

"There's a little village of rental cabins called St. Orres on Highway 1, North of San Francisco. There's no telephone, internet, or cell phone service. Nice restaurant, too. Luxurious and primitive at the same time."

James, Sunnyvale

"We had a wonderful time at Sorensen's Resort, near Lake Tahoe."

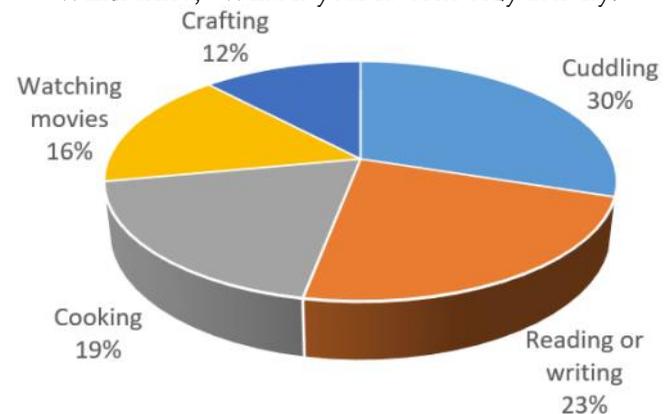
Marsha, San Francisco

"I like to get away at least once a winter. Vegas flights aren't that expensive if you book at the right time."

Tammy, Pinole

SEARCH Magazine "Cozy Activity" Reader Poll

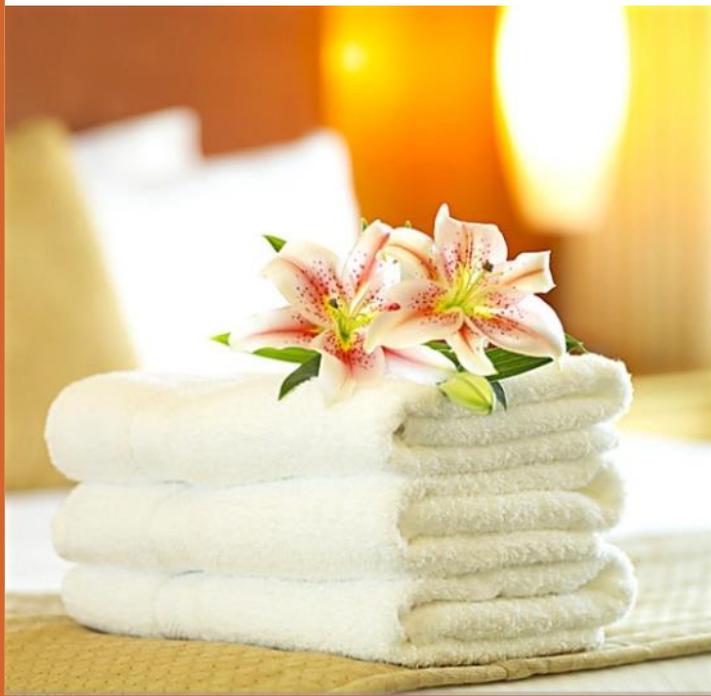
When asked, "What is your favorite cozy activity?"



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Galindo House,

a giant part of Concord and Contra Costa history. We go inside the house built by Don Francisco Galindo and his wife Maria Dolores Pacheco.

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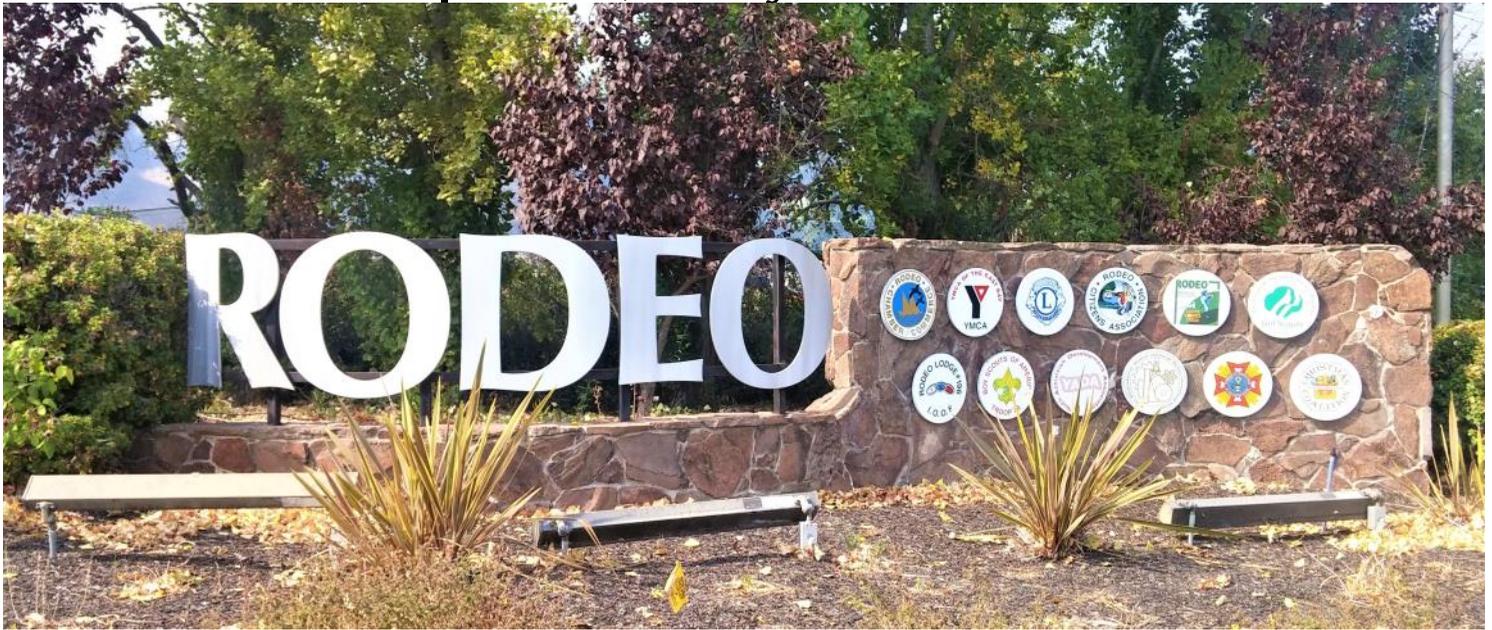
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Something to do While You Coze



Rodeo, California was not my first choice to live in. It's a small town on the north-western edge of the San Francisco Bay Area. It isn't tony, or upscale, or even hipster. What it is, however, is easy. Easy to get to and out of. Easy to stay in and make a quiet home. We've been here five years and will probably stay five more.

Rodeo is bisected by the I-80 freeway. The built up part of town can be divided into three areas: Old, Mid-Century, and New. Most of the Rodeo town limits is open space where cows graze, and there is rumored to be an old military installation somewhere. Regardless of where you are, you can see a field of grass.

In the "old" part of town are cute three and four bedroom houses built before WWII. Sitting porches with views of rose bushes are the primary look and feel. Many have back decks have a view of San Pablo Bay. Most of the Mid-Century houses were built for servicemen returning from WWII as starter homes, before they got work in the oil refinery, the primary industry in Rodeo, or the dynamite plant that used to be in the next door town of Hercules. These are small, two bedrooms with galley kitchens, but many have been upgraded by new owners. Lastly, the New part of town is on the other side of the freeway with houses built in the 1990s and 2000s. These are proper four and five bedroom ranch style houses with yards and modern amenities.

The population of Rodeo is turning over. When I moved here, most of my neighbors were in their 80s. Those houses have been sold, bought by young fami-

lies and single people looking for a starter house. This makes for an eclectic mix of established folks who will gladly talk about the old Rodeo Swim Club, closed long ago, and the new, energized folks who talk about the new housing development that's going up on the Rodeo Swim Club's land. Many of my new neighbors are immigrants, which brings with it a great diverse feeling where everyone wants to get along and have a nice place to live.

There are a few local establishments worth stopping at. Flippy's is the breakfast joint of choice, while D's does burgers for lunch and dinner. There's Ricky's, a bar/restaurant that serves the best roasted/fried chicken I've had outside of my mother's house.

As the clientele of Rodeo has gotten younger, there's a definite push for more activities. A local winery, Four Fools, has taken up shop in an old boat house, and they host a Thursday Food Truck event that is always packed. We go for the chicken wings and inexpensive tastings, then stay to watch the sunset over the water.

Rodeo is literally the kind of place you drive through, but once you're here for any length of time, it endears itself to you. Quiet, racially diverse, community-focused, easy, it's the kind of place where three generations live within the town limits, but they can still accept newcomers. If you're looking for a nice stable community to call home for a while, I'd totally recommend it. ■

*Share your favorite Bay Area city and spots with us.
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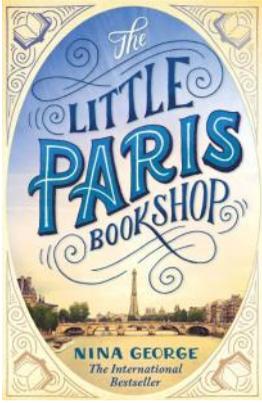


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BOOKS | *Five Books to Achieve Cozy* BY MICHELE ROGER

Winter requires a bit of self-care. Reaching the state of “cozy” is a complex process as the temperature drops. Here are five books to inspire that wonderful state of winter bliss in all of its forms.

For Your Heart



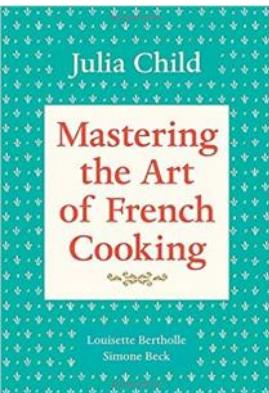
1. *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George

If you love to read, the thought of a “book doctor” may have danced across your wish list at some point. In *The Little Paris Book Shop*, instead of therapy, the broken hearted of Paris flock to Monsieur Perdu and his floating barge of literary apothecaries. On the barge, he will “prescribe” a book to cure your sadness, heal your heart and help you to venture out into the realm of love once more. The big question is, can Monsieur Perdu mend his own heartbreak?

Maybe so.

“Monsieur Perdu sensed eyes brushing over him from under mascaraed lashes. If he caught, held, and returned a woman’s gaze, he would already be entangled in the ‘cabeceo’, the silent exchange of glances that was the currency of every tango negotiation, an “invitation with the eyes.”

For Your Body

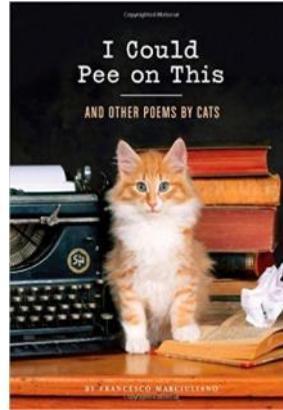


2. *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* by Julia Child

Okay, okay this book has been a classic and on the shelf of every serious cook for over twenty years, but in winter it’s worth pulling down from that shelf. A dark and dreary, winter day is transformed into a dance in the kitchen when *Mousseline Au Chocolat* is in the near future. Simple ingredients like dark chocolate, strong coffee, sugar, and butter are easily a staple in nearly any kitchen. Add a few egg yolks and whisk. My own childhood is filled with fond memories of chocolate mousse. It’s like a kiss from

your grandmother and her infectious laughter.

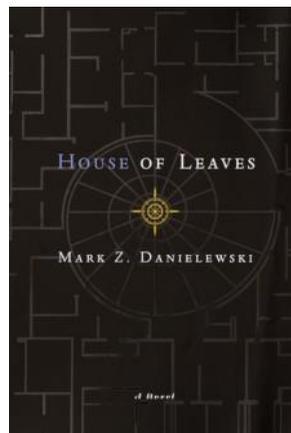
For Your Soul



3. *I Could Pee on This- And Other Poems by Cats* by Francesco Marciuliano

Laughter is good for the soul, and this tiny book of poems and companion photos delivers. From poems about cats waking their owners at 5am by licking their nose to, yes, peeing on their owners favorite sweater, few people could keep a straight face while reading this book. Give this book as a Winter Solstice gift or keep it for yourself when you need to chase away the winter blues.

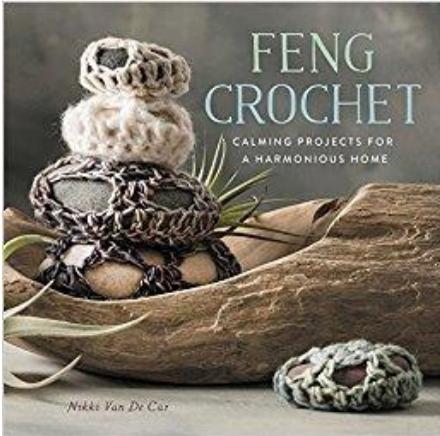
For Your Head



4. *House of Leaves* by Mark Z. Danielewski

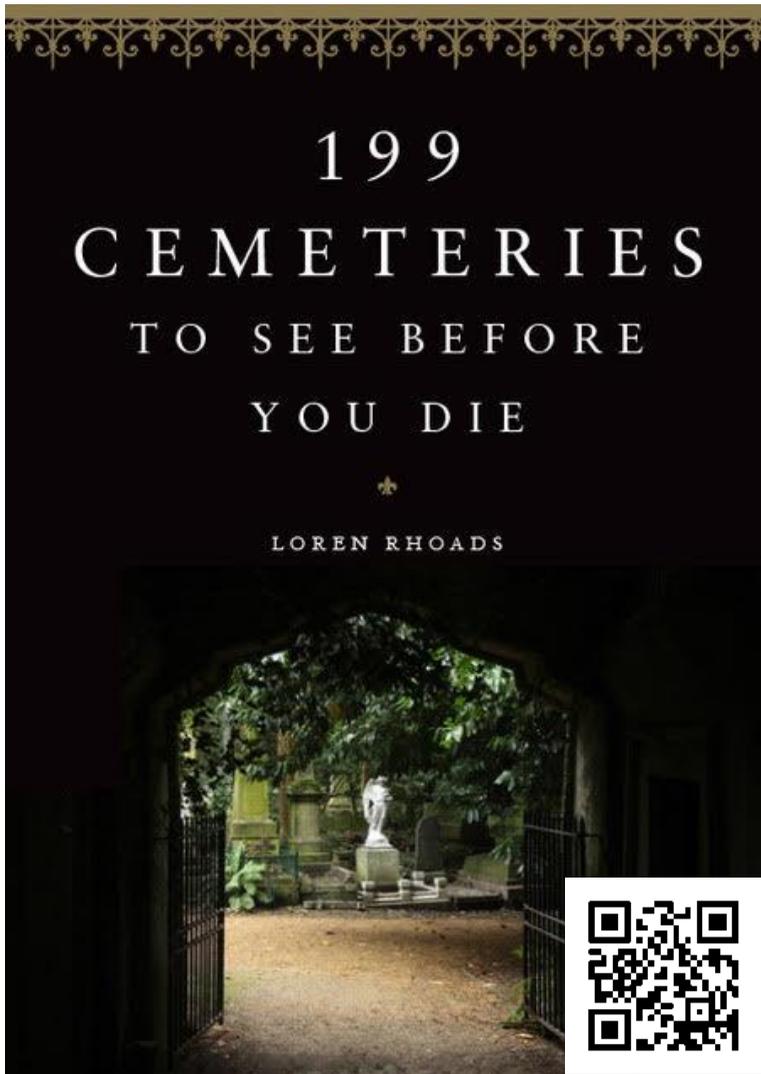
Or in this case, a book that will mess with your head. Originally a book that was passed around on the internet and also as a stack of papers amongst artists and occult book shops, *House of Leaves* was eventually published officially in book form in 2000. Haunting and vividly written, the narrator takes the reader for a ride where one questions sanity vs. reality at every turn. One part modern horror story, one part psychological reality thriller, *House of Leaves* had me turning the pages long into the night while hiding deep under layers of protective blankets.

For Your Hands



5. Feng Crochet- Calming Projects for a Harmoni- ous Home by Nikki Van De Car

Creating spaces in your home is important; especially when the winter weather inspires inside dwelling. Nikki Van De Car offers crocheting projects that add harmony and peace to home spaces. From lampshades to rugs to curtain ties, the avid fan of crochet will find these new projects a refreshing change from the hat and scarf project routine. Folks new to crocheting will find beginning projects like napkin rings. With winter being the season of gift giving, readers might find that they can add handmade items to their lists of gifts to send to loved ones. ■



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“That Feeling”

by Emmy Z. Madrigal

Rock front man Greg Stang, falls in love at first sight when he overhears the melancholy piano playing of the hauntingly beautiful Raven. Will she return his affections? Or is he just another guy blindly following her?

“The Unusual Manners of Mr. Aarons”

by Lela Bay

Emmaline is taken by Mr. Aaron’s good looks and peculiar interests, but it appears like he’s after her cousin. Beautiful Catherine Connorsfield is the more sensible choice, but will she have him? More to the point, will Emmaline stand by and let her?

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TECH | Stay Cozy Inside with Tech BY HEATHER ROULO

When winter arrives, it's nice to curl up on the couch and stay cozy by the fire. Technology is here to help you find excuses to remain indoors. Check out what's happening in home automation, entertainment, and at-home dining.

HOME AUTOMATION



If you spend the holidays traveling, it's nice to have the powerful ability to change which lights are on in the house, monitor it remotely with motion sensors, or even watch a video link of your driveway with network enabled cameras.

Setup is still a bit tricky, and you may have to use a combination of systems to get just what you're looking for. Hue light bulbs, SmartThings outlets, and Ring doorbells offer options to put you in control.

While you could check your SmartHome app on your phone, adding a central hub, like Amazon's Echo or Google Home, allows you to verbally control your automation.

If your plan is to remain planted on the couch, nothing could be cozier than telling your house to turn down the lights and up the thermostat. Spend a few hours setting up home automation so you can either hibernate for the winter or control from afar.

MEAL DELIVERY SERVICES



Stay at home and veg while your food arrives on your doorstep with the growing number of meal delivery services. Blue Apron, HelloFresh, and Sun Basket are just a few of the companies vying for your dinner dol-

lars. Most offer a free trial period, so you can check out their menu options and discover whether the only thing stopping you from a show-stopping meal is a little shopping. The box contains all you need and recipes so you can prep, chop, and cook something new and amazing.

GAMING

Nintendo Switch Winters in California are so mild, it isn't necessary to huddle indoors for warmth. With Nintendo's Switch, you don't have to choose between couch potato and adventurer. Nintendo's Switch is a hybrid console, meaning it is both at-home console and portable game play device. Simply remove it from the dock and attach the wireless controllers to carry it anywhere you go.

The Legend of Zelda Breath of the Wild



For those of you still obsessing over the beautiful open-world in Breath of the Wild, enjoy the much-anticipated downloadable content to add an original story, expanding the world of Hyrule as well as a new dungeon and more challenges.



Terraria: Otherworld

The release of an expansion for Terraria, one of the most popular games in the world, adds fun as players adventure through an alternate dimension to restore a corrupted world. It combines sandbox gameplay, role-playing, and strategy.

VIEWING

Star Wars: The Last Jedi in theaters

STAR THE LAST JEDI WARS

Anticipation is high for the release of Star Wars: The Last Jedi on December 15, 2017. Rey continues her epic adventure as she joins Luke Skywalker and Star Wars fans rejoice. Watch for the return of Poe, Finn, and some last glimpses of Carrie Fisher as Leia Organa.

Game of Thrones Season Seven on Blu-Ray

GAME OF THRONES

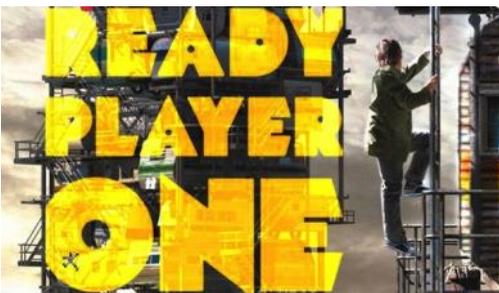
If you haven't been able to keep up with the HBO fantasy series about dragons, undead, killer kings, and even more ruthless queens, now's your chance to grab those discs and gorge on the season just past. After all, winter is coming.

Travelers Season 2 on Netflix

TRAVELERS

If home automation and meal delivery fail you, tune into the Netflix series Travelers to see people more confused about modern life than you. These time travelers, stuck in the bodies of present-day people and trying to ride the wave of change, are held together by a team of talented actors.

Read Ready Player One



As the release of the Steven Spielberg directed movie approaches on March 30th, 2018, read the futuristic novel that revels in 1980's pop culture references. Wade Watts enters a virtual world to join in a challenging hunt that might save his favorite (virtual) world.

Even better, put on the audio book, appropriately read by Wil Wheaton. Everyone needs a DeLorean with the Ghostbusters-logo in their lives. ■

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For most women, pregnancy is a joyous, healthy time. For others, it can be nine months of discomfort and anxiety. Don't worry, if you are one of those women who haven't had it easy. I'm here to tell you, you are not alone.

The doctors had told us we wouldn't be able to conceive. We had tried for years, but it just wasn't happening. When I found out I was pregnant, I was overjoyed. The baby was a gift I'd longed for. I had the normal baby-momma fears. Something would go wrong with the baby. I would die and my husband would have to raise our child alone. The baby would die, and I wouldn't be able to handle it.

As the pregnancy progressed, issues started to crop up like gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, high blood pressure, anemia—the list was depressing. With each diagnosis, my worries increased. As we neared the due date, I just knew I would have an aneurism or heart attack during labor. I told my husband, my mother, my friends, but they all assured me it was normal to have these fears and my “pregnancy brain” was just playing tricks on me.

Finally, the doctor said we needed to deliver early. My body was heading into eclampsia, and she was worried I would start to have seizures or my kidneys might shut down. They performed a C-section, I had pain meds, the baby was born, and nothing bad happened. Although a preemie, he was healthy, and I was alive. All I had to do was rest and heal. I hadn't died of a heart attack. My brain was aneurysm-free. I was completely out of danger—until I wasn't.

The day after my release, I didn't feel well. I was

understandably tired, but also, I was having trouble breathing. It was June—hot—and allergy weather. I took a shower, trying to clear the gunk from my lungs. When that didn't work, I took a mild, over-the-counter decongestant. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't sleep. We called the advice nurse and took my blood pressure, which wasn't too high, but my pulse was off the charts.

By the time we got to the ER and they asked me to fill out paperwork, I was so out of it I couldn't tell time. I remember looking up at the clock but not being able to calculate what those hands on the clock face meant. I said, “Um, I can't figure out the time.” They rushed me into the ER, and everything sped up. I remember them testing my pulse and dozens of people around me in scrubs yelling things. My chest hurt badly, and I reeled back, my gaze falling to the upside-down heart monitor, which read two sets of triple digit numbers. I remember thinking, “That can't be right. Only one of those numbers is supposed to be three digits.” My husband came into the room and the look on his face was indescribable shock. I remember yelling, “I love you!” before they ushered him out, pulled the curtain, and I blacked out.

Three days later I woke, unsure if I'd made it or not. They told me I'd had Post-Partum Congestive Heart Failure (PPCHF). I'd lost consciousness, and they'd brought me back. My lungs had filled with fluid, and my heart had grown to three-times its size. It would take a while to get better, but I would live.

Twelve years later, I am fine, and my heart sustained no lasting damage. PPCHF is extremely rare and—unlike other versions of congestive heart failure—is in most cases fully recoverable.

So, PPCHF is survivable, but the reason I've shared my story with you is this, if you are pregnant, please keep alert about your health even after delivery. Watch for the warning symptoms I've talked about in this article—shortness of breath, not feeling quite right—and alert your doctor if you think something is wrong. The most important message? Don't let doctors or people around you dismiss your concerns with, “Oh, it's just pregnancy brain.” You know your body. Listen to its warning signals. You never know when your intuition will alert you to a real danger.■

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.

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-K. Abernathy

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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!

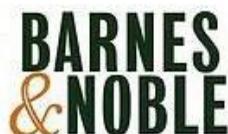
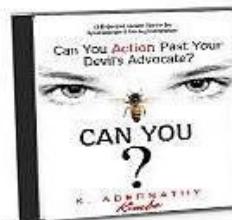
This book will provoke you to rise to the challenge and overcome obstacles. It will lead you to fight for your life and your dreams and point the way toward reaching the top at

"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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TRAVEL | *Iceland: The Land of Fire & Ice* BY KAY TRACY



The land of Fire and Ice, Iceland (pronounced more 'Iss-land' by the locals) is an island nation in the north Atlantic, easily reachable by air from either coast of the US and a handy way point for flights further east to Europe.

With exciting scenery, occasional volcanic activity, and a chance to see the Northern lights, this is a country of vibrant culture, creative people, and unusual sights.

The entire population of Iceland is about 380,000 people, and the language is Icelandic, though many can speak English. It is polite to try to learn at least a few words, such as Ja' for yes. Nei means no, Takk Fyrir or Takk is thank you. Speak English, and you might find someone who wants to practice their English with you.

The local currency is the Icelandic Kronur or ISK. Exchange your money at the airport to avoid a fee. The average exchange rate is about 110 isk to the dol-

lar as of 2017. Debit and credit cards are accepted, though your bank will have some fee. Check before you travel.

A conversion app is handy if you have a smartphone as the country is metric and Celcius. You might not be able to make calls if you phone is region locked, but most of Iceland is internet connected, WiFi readily available, even on the country-side buses.

The Voltage is 220-240, and uses the euro- two round prong plugs. Buy an adaptor for your charge devices. You need a voltage converter only for things like a hair dryer. Checking the compatibility before leaving is wise.

Before you leave the airport get the "Big Map" of Iceland, free at the kiosks.

You can find rental cars, though the insurance coverage—a must—is limited. You can be liable for stone damage from the gravel or rock roads regardless of insurance purchased. Be aware. The country's bus service, the STRAETO is very comprehensive. There is also the Flybus that runs from the airport into Reykjavik, stopping at the hotels and hostels on the way. There are taxis as well, though they can get costly. Locals tend to walk or take the STRAETO in towns.

Hotels, hostels, and camping are available, and for those who want them, there are camper rentals as well.

One saying there every traveler should know is, "There is no such thing as poor weather, only poor clothing." It's possible, on any day of the year, to experience almost every weather you can think of. High winds? Snow in June? Rain? Bright sunshine? All in the same day? Yes! Plan your attire for layers and flexibility. Avoid umbrellas or wide brim headwear. The wind loves them.

You might ask what is there to do or see? It depends on what you like. Iceland has a thriving art and music scene with galleries all over the country. There are tour companies that will take you hiking on volcanic glaciers, diving in fissures and lava caves, horseback riding, or hiking up waterfall trails.

Into history? There are museums galore, along with guided bus tours to famous area landmarks. During the spring and summer, the local re-enactor groups have fairs and markets at various towns and locations.



Looking for fiber arts? The Alafoss wool store is for you. Icelandic sheep are known for more than just their meat. They produce wool with two

layers, soft undercoat and longer water resistant guard hairs. Almost every grocery store will have wool and knitting supplies, but if you take the bus or drive to the town of Mosfellsbaer just outside Reykjavik, the Alafoss wool store will be a treat. Be sure to get your tax tag for wool or other things you will take home to be sure you can get your refund at the airport.

Iceland offers exciting and unique local fare, as well as their take on international cuisine. Seafood is a staple, along with lamb and dairy products. The local fast food favorite is the Pylsur or hot dogs. Made with a combination of pork and lamb meat, these can be found everywhere in the country with the different towns having their own style of serving and condiments. There are Quizno's, which have a lamb sandwich that is quite tasty, Domino's Pizza, and Subway. There are options for vegetarian diets as well, like Flatbaken's vegan pizza.

Looking for something more relaxing? There are the swimming pools heated by geothermal water. If you like the mud smear scene, be sure to check it out the Blue lagoon, a spa attraction between the Keflavik airport and Reykjavik. For a less expensive treat, go to any of the local city pools, relax in the hot pots,

or do your laps in the long pools. Bring your swimsuit and towel, but know that you must shower before getting that suit on. They provide the soap and showers.

A bus excursion to the "Golden Circle", Thingvellir, Gullfoss, and Geysir, provides excellent scenery and the chance to see and learn about several famous landmarks. As you go there's easy walking on marked trails with a stops at the local shops and eateries. While AAA does not offer any services or maps, if you have the card, bring it. The excursion companies will sometimes offer a discount for AAA cardholders.

Keep in mind that if you travel out of the capitol area, some services might be difficult to find. ■



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FOOT**

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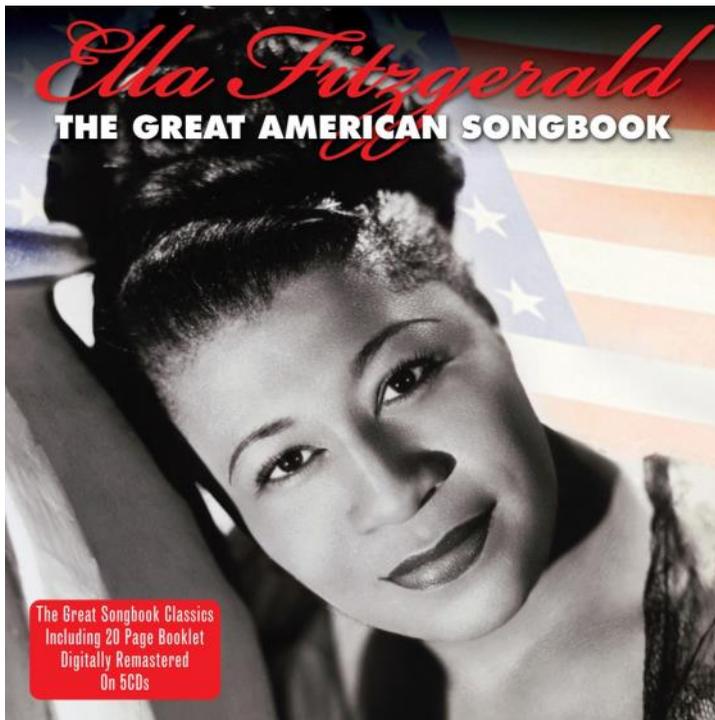
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Jazz is a music form that has, arguably, untold variations. Its back catalogue of artistes and hits is as endless as a hot summer's day and as equally as evocative.

Once such artist was born a century ago, on April 25, 1917. From humble beginnings to an astonishingly talent-drenched career, Ella Jane Fitzgerald was determined to make the best of what she had, against challenging odds.

Her father disappeared when she was a baby. Her mother, Tempie, and stepfather, Joe, did all they could for Ella and her sister, Frances, until tragedy struck. Tempie died from injuries sustained in a car accident. Joe died some time later of a heart attack. After a few run-ins with the police, young Ella was sent to a reformatory, enduring endless beatings by the staff. Escape was the only option and proved to be the founding drive in her life forever after.

She entered an amateur talent show in 1934, all set to show off her dancing skills. When an outstanding performance from a previous dance act knocked her

confidence, she decided—on stage, in front of an impatient audience—to instead sing *Judy*, a song by Hoagy Carmichael which had been a favorite of her mother's, when sung by Connee Boswell.

One song wasn't enough for the audience who had sat enraptured during her off-the-cuff performance. So she sang the flip-side of Connee's single, *The Object of My Affections*.

Ella's shy, reserved personality melted away whenever she was on stage. She knew even with that initial, hesitant start, that she wanted to sing in front of people for the rest of her life. Yet professional recognition did not come to her overnight. She continued to enter and consistently win a multitude of talent shows until the beginning of 1935, when her performances won her a week's slot with the Tiny Bradshaw Band at the Harlem Opera House. She'd befriended Benny Carter, saxophonist and arranger. He supported her fledgling career by introducing her to established professionals in the business. Their friendship was lifelong, and they often worked together in the years to come.

Decca signed Ella in 1936. Her first recording with them, *Love and Kisses*, though not a great seller, did showcase her talents outside of Harlem's Savoy Ballroom, where she was performing at the time with Chick Webb and his band. Her breakthrough hit didn't appear until two years later with an embellishment of the nursery rhyme *A-Tisket, A-Tasket*, reaching number one in the pop charts for seventeen weeks.

In the wake of her nationwide fame, she deeply felt the loss of Chick, who died in June 1939 from spinal tuberculosis. She reluctantly became bandleader of Ella and Her Famous Orchestra. In 1942 she went her own way, a decision fueled by her occasional recordings with the Benny Goodman Orchestra and her own side-line project of Ella Fitzgerald and Her Savoy Eight.

Her Decca contract continued, after amassing something like 150 recordings on the label with Chick. While much of her sound up to that point was considered disposable pop novelties, somewhat unfairly, her popularity continued to flourish. She started working with high-caliber artists such as Louis Jordan, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Bill Kenny.

Towards the end of the 40s, jazz music underwent gradual changes. The Swing era and the touring bands were in decline. Bebop was on the rise. With Ella already noted for her tonally pure, flawless diction, she needed to learn new disciplines to reflect the evolving musical styles. She introduced scat singing into her repertoire, employing—to quote the *New York Times*—"...the technique with such dazzling inventiveness."

She moved to the screen, notably appearing alongside Janet Leigh, Edmond O'Brien, Lee Marvin, and Peggy Lee in the 1955 jazz-filled Warner Bros. release of *Pete Kelly's Blues*. While her career on the big screen seemed to be no more than cameos here and there, she made a large number of guest appearances on the TV variety series of Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, Dean Martin, and Pat Boone among others. She had exposure with a whole range of artists and styles, even taking on Gilbert and Sullivan's quirky *Three Little Maids* alongside Joan Sutherland

and Dinah Shore.

After Decca, she was signed with multiply labels, recording songs by Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Irving Berlin, and Jerome Kern. Working with notables such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Andre Previn, she released material up until 1989, when she was in her seventies.

In her personal life, she found less success, having been married twice. Her second, in 1947, was to the famous bass player Ray Brown. Together they adopted her sister Frances' son, christening him Ray Brown Jr. Six years later they divorced, but still performed together.

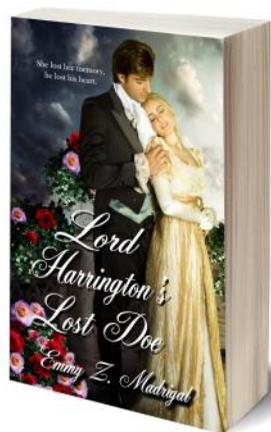
She was a fervent supporter of charities, establishing her own Ella Fitzgerald Foundation in 1993.

Diabetes, respiratory problems, and congestive heart failure led to a decline in her health. She passed away on June 15, 1996 at seventy-nine.

Ella Fitzgerald was known as the First Lady of Song, a title well-earned and absolutely true.■

Lord Harrington's Lost Doe

By Emmy Z. Madrigal



Lord Alexander Harrington's life is rather tame until a shoeless, coatless waif is found wandering his estate with no memory of who she is. Despite his stoicism, Lord Harrington finds himself drawn to the lost girl who he compares to a scared doe. Caring for her illness despite speculation of her mental state, he develops feelings for her.

Is she an escaped lunatic, or simply a lost woman desperately in need of his help? A revelation about his own family's history with the mental asylum down the road causes him to question his feelings. When a massive fire breaks out on estate grounds, will he lose her forever?



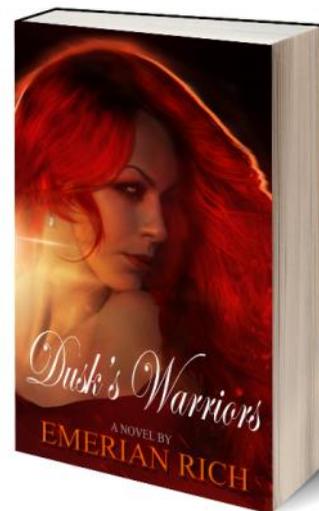
Dusk's Warriors

BY EMERIAN RICH

Heaven has opened up and welcomed the vampires of *Night's Knights* into a new reality. As they struggle to find their place in their new world, trouble brews on Earth.

Demon servant, Ridge, is causing havoc by gathering up all the souls on Earth that have been touched by immortality. When he injures one of the *Night's Knights* crew, he launches a war between the vampires of Heaven, the Big Bad in Hell, and a mortal street gang of vigilante misfits.

Will Julien, Markham, and Reidar be able to defeat the evil that's returned, or will they once again need Jespa's help?

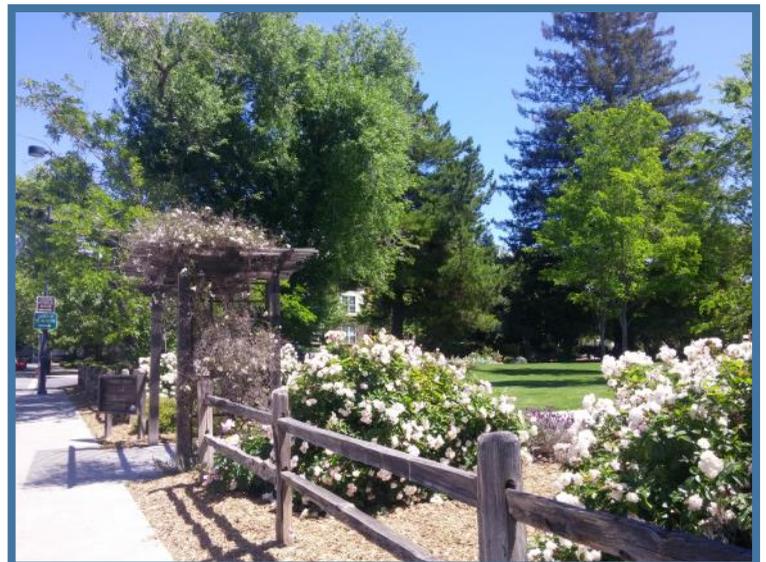




FEATURE | *Galindo House, Concord* **BY EMERIAN RICH**

Most Concord residents never knew the Galindo house existed until a few years ago when the Concord Historical Society took charge of the estate and cleaned up the trees and greenery in front of it.

Located at 1721 Amador Avenue, Galindo House was built in 1856 for one of Concord's founders, Don Francisco Galindo and his wife Maria Dolores Manuella Pacheco. The six-room farmhouse sat on the then seventeen-thousand acres of land granted to Galindo after the Mesoamerican War. The names Galindo and Pacheco will sound familiar to residents because many of our streets and buildings are named after the founding fathers. Don Salvio Pacheco's Adobe at 1870 Abode Street—belonging to Maria's father—is another notable building still standing from that time period, but Galindo House was the first wooden house built in town.





Rose Room



Dining Room

In the late 1870's Galindo house was expanded into ten rooms when their eldest son, John, and his family took up residence. John's granddaughter, Ruth Galindo, was the last of the family to live there until she passed in 1999. Ruth willed the house to the city of Concord to become a museum and later was acquired by the Concord Historical Society in 2010. The house didn't suffer much damage during the 1906 earthquake and still stands where it was erected in 1856.

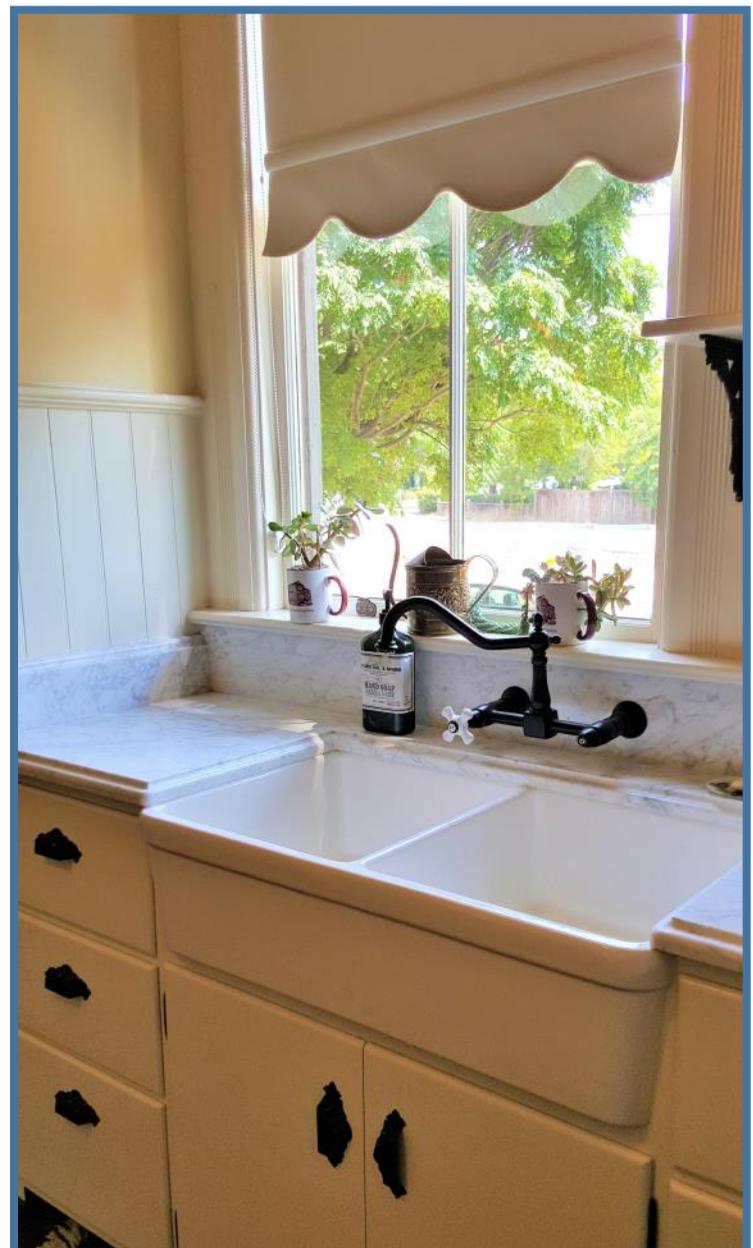
The house has been lovingly restored and retains much of the original woodwork. The tour is led by pleasant docents well-versed in the history of Galindo and Concord. "The painters took great care to restore it the way it used to be, to paint every medallion with colors from the era," Concord Historical Society's President, Carol Longshore, says.

During the tour, you will first be led into the Rose Room, which was used for entertaining and special occasions. It has a coal burning marble fireplace. The Galindo's traded wheat and cattle for coal from Nortonville, home of Black Hill Diamond Mines' owner, Noah Norton. Nortonville is the area we now know as the Black Hill Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch, home of the infamous Rose Hill Cemetery. Also on display in the bedroom is a collection of Galindo books, some of them in Spanish.

The dining room is in what was their original living room. They added the ornate fireplace and the bathroom in the 1870s upgrade. The house is furnished in all of Mrs. Galindo's China and even her own tablecloth. The elaborate red and green wallpaper in the room is an 1800's design reminiscent of the original wallpaper chose by the Galindos. The high chair was used by the family since the early 1900's.

When the farmhouse was first built, they had a separate cook house for safety. With the 1870s up-

grade, the kitchen was added along with a pantry. In the kitchen you can observe many of the old kitchen tools the Galindos used, along with the old O'Keefe & Merritt Grilleator oven, which gave cooks a nifty cook time list right on the door to assist in cook-





Galindo's roll-top desk, signed inside by the man himself.

In the green bedroom, which was used by Harold, you'll find little statues of Don Quixote somewhat like the superhero figures you might find in children's bedrooms today.

Closets in those days were considered rooms and thus taxable, therefore most of the rooms do not have closets. There is only one upstairs and it contains an interesting artifact, a spring-loaded hat hook which Ruth could pull down to reach her hat. The upstairs bathroom is built on what used to be the outside porch where Harold used to sleep, finding outside more comfortable than in. There is a crucifix in each room because faith was very important to the Galindo's and you will find three gen-

erations of furniture belonging to the family throughout the house.

Perhaps the most interesting room is the Pink Bedroom, a beautiful room that belonged to John and Marina Galindo, before becoming Ruth's room. Furnished with a giant wooden bed and an armoire filled with Ruth's clothes, it's definitely the jewel in the Galindo House crown. The kind and happy spirit those whom knew Ruth speak of can be felt in her bright, sunny bedroom. Her volunteer vest from Mount Diablo Hospital hangs proudly among her more frilly frocks. A collection of perfume bottles, hat pins, and other toiletries are on display as well as her hair receiver, a favorite item kept by Victorians to hold hair later used for pictures and crafts. Because Ruth was a great traveler and loved to go to Spain, there are various pictures and decorations from Spain in the rooms.

As well as volunteering at Mount Diablo Hospital, Ruth was a Spanish teacher at Mount Diablo High School her whole life. Her fondest wish was for the Galindo house to become a museum to share the heritage of Concord and Contra Costa County and it is finally being realized due to the hard work and dedication of the Concord Historical Society.



The Galindo House is now a part of what will be the Concord History Campus where you can hold weddings in the garden and gazebo area. In the top floor of the re-located Masonic Temple next door, there will be a museum, while the bottom has been named the Fireside Room and is available for events. The Concord Historical Society is very much invested in creating a great campus where Concord history can be preserved. Events during the year such as wine tastings and the annual Gingerbread House Boutique and Craft Fair raise money to help with preservation. The Concord Historical Society is also raising money to have a statue of Don Francisco Galindo erected and they hope to have it up by the Concord 150-year anniversary next year. Galindo House has tours every Sunday and is ADA approved for those with disabilities. To visit, donate, volunteer, or be a part of the Concord Historical Society, visit concordhistorical.org. ■



Docent Isabel Hill and Concord Historical Society President, Carol Longshore.

Visit Galindo House
year-round for house tours
and special events.

Go to:
concordhistorical.org
for more information.



Ring in the sights, sounds, and scents of the holiday season with the inaugural **Gingerbread House Boutique** at the best new venue in Concord, the Concord Museum and Event Center. Enjoy premier holiday shopping with gifts created by local artisans, artists and vendors just for you. And while you're at it, tour the historic Galindo House next door, decked out in its holiday finery!

Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th, 2017
Boutique: 11AM-5PM and Galindo House Tours: 1PM-4PM
Address: 1721 Amador Avenue, Concord, CA 94520
Benefits the Concord Historical Society

FOOD | *Braised Tri-Tip*

with Sherry-Mushroom Gravy



Winter is a time for cozy meals and comfort food, a time to let the oven heat up the house while cooking a fabulous dish perfect for sharing with those we love. A tri-tip beef roast fits the criteria. Add in some sherry-mushroom gravy, and you have an ideal entrée for cold weather and stormy nights. We've spent years enjoying and refining this recipe, and it has become a much-requested favorite among our friends and family.

For side dishes to complement the main course, we recommend baked potatoes cooked until soft, then served with butter and sour cream. The addition of a green vegetable also makes for a pretty presentation, but since it is a time for enjoying cozy comforts, I would encourage you to choose your favorite vegetable regardless of color. Everything from old-style green beans to whole kernel corn, steamed broccoli to sweet cooked carrots will pair

BY BRIAN AND PATRICIA DAKE

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 2.5 lb. Tri-tip roast, trimmed
- ◆ 2 teaspoon Creole Seasoning (Tony Chachere's)
- ◆ Cooking spray
- ◆ 2 tablespoons oil
- ◆ 2 oz. butter
- ◆ 8 oz. mushrooms
- ◆ 1/2 cup cream sherry
- ◆ Water
- ◆ 5 teaspoons corn starch
- ◆ 2 Knorr beef bouillon cubes
- ◆ Black pepper, fresh ground

well with this dish. Combine with warm bread rolls to round out the meal.

For a wine pairing, red is definitely the way to go, and I suggest an old vine Zinfandel with complex flavors and a peppery finish to bring out the richness of the meat and gravy. Then set a beautiful table, light some candles and enjoy a cozy meal with the people you cherish most.

Here's to the delights of indoor days and longer nights spent with our loved ones.

PREPARATION

- ◆ Rub creole seasoning on all surfaces of the tri-tip roast. Let roast sit for 5 minutes while you slice the mushrooms into 1/8 inch slices.
- ◆ Use cooking spray to coat the inside of a 12-inch non-stick fry pan.
- ◆ Add oil and butter to fry pan and place on stove-top at medium-high heat.
- ◆ Place roast in fry pan and thoroughly brown all outside surfaces. When roast is browned on all sides, remove to a plate to rest, reserving drippings.

COOK ROAST

- ◆ Pour 2 cups water in pot and add beef bouillon cubes. Stir over high heat until bouillon dissolves and the liquid has just begun to boil.
- ◆ Place roast in pot "fat" side down with the cream sherry and meat drippings.



- ◆ Bring the liquid back up to a slow rolling boil and cover with the lid.
- ◆ After 1 minute, reduce stovetop to low heat and simmer for 45 minutes. Do not remove the lid during this time.
- ◆ Verify roast has completed cooking using a meat thermometer. The center of the roast should be at least 145 degrees for medium, 155 degrees for medium well.
- ◆ Remove roast to cutting board to cool. Reserve the pot with its remaining liquids to make the gravy.
- ◆ Add any collected meat drippings from the setting roast to the pot to supplement the gravy.

COOK GRAVY

- ◆ Add mushrooms to liquid already in pot, and cook over high heat for 3 minutes. Add fresh ground black pepper to taste.
- ◆ While mushrooms cook, dissolve 1 tablespoon of cornstarch in 1 cup water.
- ◆ When mushrooms are ready, add cornstarch mixture and continue to stir gravy over high-heat until it reaches the desired thickness.

SERVE

- ◆ Using a carving knife and fork cut roast into slices and layer on a serving plate. Pour a thin stream of gravy over the sliced roast.
- ◆ Pour remaining gravy into a gravy boat and

serve with roast.

- ◆ Fresh baked dinner rolls, potato dishes, and steamed vegetables side dishes all make good companions for this main dish.■

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Photo on location at Folklore in Conrad, Montana

What's better than taking time out for yourself, pouring a nice cup of yumminess, and settling down with a great book or slowing down to take in the view from your porch? We've put together a list of drink ideas sure to warm your heart and tantalize your taste buds all winter long.

Do you dream of making delicious, gourmet, hot beverages? Do you love all the variations of hot cocoa and apple cider, and everything else in between? Do you hate paying super-uber high prices for the gourmet delights in fancy restaurants? We've got the ideas here to give you the edge up on the next office party competition to show off your apron prowess. You're assured to win accolades around the water cooler with these awesome hot drink variations to keep the cooler temps from chilling you to the bone this season.

HOT CHOCOLATES

From as early as the Mayans in 3000 BC, chocolate or cocoa has been delighting the taste palette of people worldwide with myriad varieties of textures, sweetness, and accoutrement. Let's explore just a few of these varieties and see which one tickles your fancy.

- ◆ **Cardamom Spiced Hot Chocolate** – Blend milk or cream, cocoa powder, maple syrup, vanilla extract, cardamom pods, cinnamon sticks, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves.
- ◆ **Spicy Chile Hot Cocoa** – Add a little kick to your drink with Ancho Chili Powder, Cocoa powder, sugar, cinnamon, and a pinch of cayenne.
- ◆ **Slow Cooker, White Hot Chocolate** – Combine white vanilla baking chips, milk, heavy whipping cream, and miniature marshmallows for this wintry treat and wake up to a scrumptious treat.
- ◆ **Vegan Coconut Orange Chai Hot Cocoa** – A yummy blend of almond and coconuts milks, star anise, black peppercorns, cloves, cinnamon, fresh ginger, cocoa powder, vanilla, and orange slices.
- ◆ **Hot-Cocoa Peppermint Affogato** – What a perfect way to end a meal with milk, cream, sugar, vanilla bean, bittersweet cacao, cocoa powder, ground espresso, and mint chip ice cream.

HOT APPLE & PEAR CIDERS

Pacify that west coast chill with these delicious variations of ciders. Even though in Europe apple ciders were consumed as early as 55 BC, it didn't reach the American shores until the 17th and 18th centuries when colonists were successful at planting seeds and cuttings from our neighbors across the pond. It's been a favorite ever since.

- ◆ **Hard Hot Caramel Cider** – Everyone loves this favorite! Stir in caramel sauce and vanilla into your favorite apple cider and voila. Enjoy.
- ◆ **Ginger Orange Mulled Cider** – Super simple, but oh so delish. Combine apple cider, cinnamon sticks, whole cloves, navel oranges, and fresh, peeled ginger.
- ◆ **Spiced Pear Cider** – Brew together allspice, cloves, cinnamon sticks, unsweetened pear juice and pear nectar for a slightly different taste on an old favorite.

- ◆ **Slow Cooker Pear Cider** – This one takes a little patience, but the result is worth the wait. The combination of pears, oranges, cinnamon, star anise, fresh ginger, nutmeg, and maple syrup will explode flavor on your tongue.

HOT COFFEE & TEAS

Coffee and tea are as American as apple pie no matter where and when the drink originated. They are here to stay. On the average, Americans consume 146 billion cups of coffee and 84 billion servings of tea per year. It's natural we would want to spice up these favorite pastimes.

- ◆ **Vanilla Tea** – What a mouthwatering version from an old tea favorite. Brew orange pekoe tea, milk, sugar, vanilla extract, and use cinnamon to top off this delicious tea.
- ◆ **Crème Brulee Latte** – Indulge in this variation of brewed coffee, brown sugar, vanilla extract, cream, caramel syrup, whipped cream, caramel sauce, and toffee bits.
- ◆ **Star Anise Mocha** – A delightful blend of espresso, star anise, honey, vanilla, steamed milk, and cocoa powder.
- ◆ **Blood Orange Citrus Infusion** – Decadently mix organic black tea, lemon myrtle, blood orange peel, grapefruit, and bergamot for a unique flavor to savor all the way through spring.

SOME LIKE IT SPIKED

Who doesn't like to add a little zip to their faves now and then, especially for a hot toddy right before bed? Check out some of these classic hot drinks to warm you up on these cooler nights.

- ◆ **Hot Buttered Rum** – Mixed dark brown sugar, butter, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and spiced rum will keep this drink a staple in your kettle this fall.
- ◆ **Blueberry Tea** – This drink does not have any blue berry in it, as it is named after the berry taste it creates. Combine orange pekoe tea, Grand Marnier orange liqueur, and amaretto. NOMS.
- ◆ **Hard Apple Cider** – An alcoholic version of the traditional drink combined with Smirnoff Kissed Caramel flavored vodka and cinnamon. Fuse for a delightful, creamy concoction.
- ◆ **Pumpkin Green Tea** – Ooh la la. Combine cinnamon and your favorite sweetener, brewed green tea, pumpkin puree, and vodka. Be sure to strain and rim the glass with brown sugar. ■



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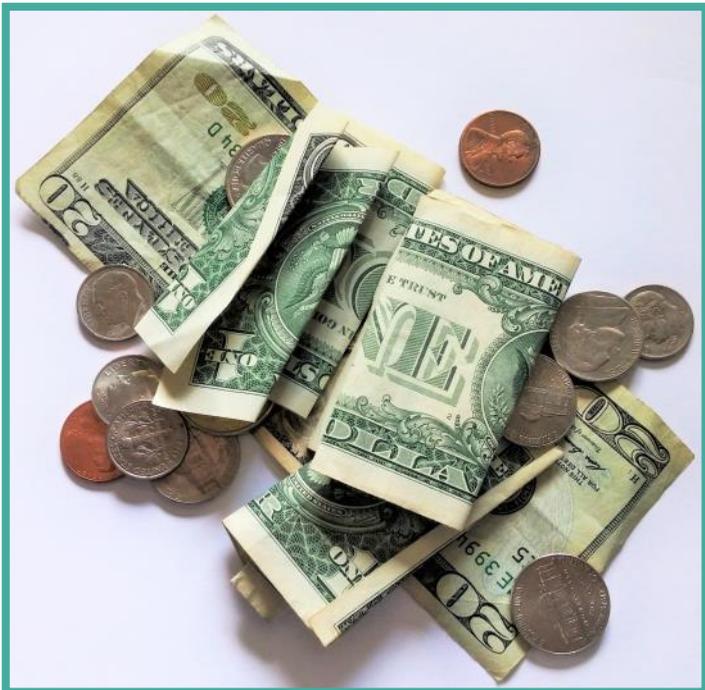
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If you're reading this article, you probably don't come from a long line of money. You're not an heir to a fortune. Your ancestors were beholden to others for a living. Wage earners. If we think about the word 'worthy', you literally come from a long line of people whose financial 'worth' came from a bartered paycheck. Money is not a judge of your worthiness, yet it is human nature to mistake the two. Not always to our detriment.

Recently I listened to Bill Murray describe Gilda Radner's capability of always getting a job. He credited her affluent upbringing and said it gave her a confidence that she would always have money. She didn't question her worthiness, and she always got the job.

It's not your worthiness that is the issue, but your confidence **IN** your worthiness.

Acknowledge things you don't know about money. For example, debt is bad, right? We've all got that friend who has credit card debt to the tune of double digit thousands. Seems pretty bad, except there is good debt and bad debt. A good debt is one where the payments are easily made and the money was spent on something that generated income. A good example would be rental property. A bad debt is one where you need to continue paying off the debt long after whatever the value to be had from the expense is over or has been diminished.

At the same time, believe in yourself. If you cannot see yourself as earning \$100,000 a year, likely no one else will. Treat yourself as if you believe in yourself. Sometimes that means you incur a bad debt here or there because it was for something you really wanted. Take the opportunities to experience abundance and affluence and see them as flowing to you naturally.

We fear what we do not understand. Your journey to more financial abundance begins when you set the intention to honestly learn one new thing about finances and how they work. We learn best when we are having fun, so try to find an aspect you enjoy. Find a mentor who has already done what you would like to do. Study. Hush any voice that says you could never earn money living your passion. Celebrate your victories and be kind to yourself.

I chose to study the stock market, largely through the television show *Mad Money*. I lived frugally and in a relatively short time I had about \$6000 with which to begin investing.

Remember that mentor? Whether or not you like him, the current President of the United States of America owns businesses who have utilized bankruptcy as a financial tool on six occasions without even a trace of shame. Meanwhile, I was recently beating myself up simply because I couldn't pay more than the minimum on some credit card debt.

Give yourself a break. You are no better and no worse than anybody else. Trust that everything always does work out in the end and remember, fear lies. ■



GOTHIC & FANTASY

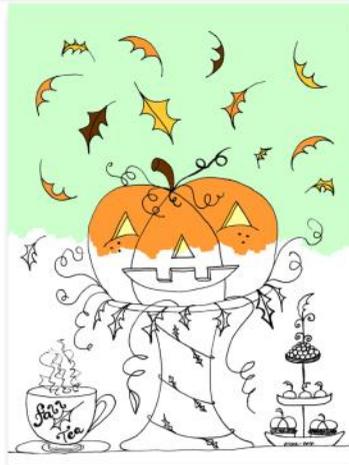
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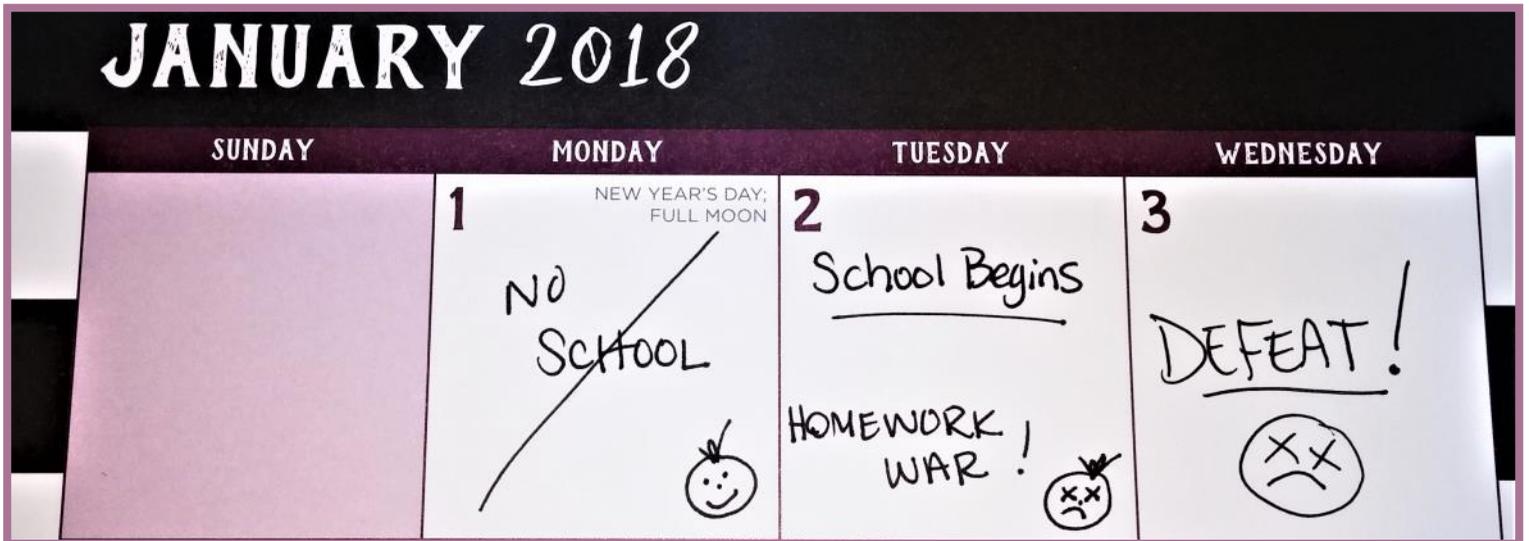
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imagination take you?





When Winter break is over and school is back in session, the temporary ceasefire is over. We're back in the trenches for the Homework War.

I love my sons. My boys, John and Michael, are the two most important people on the entire planet. There are many joyful moments with my boys, but there is also a really staggering amount of frustration.

John has come so far from the days when we had to have a behavioral specialist and a one to one aide come to our home and “play” kindergarten with him until he got the hang of his first icon-based schedule. John's a sophomore in high school now. Even with the adjustments made for his autism, the assignments are getting more complicated and more difficult. Today's Video Production homework included a handout that explains the five types of documentary film making. I read it over. No wonder John tried to say he didn't have any homework. Each of the five types is explained in a paragraph where at least half of the words must be translated from the abstract into the concrete before John has any hope of really understanding what they mean. Imagine having to break down the meanings on seventy different words, with repeated efforts until the meaning of each word is grasped. Now imagine doing that five times in a row. That's, only, if every-

thing goes smoothly.

Again and again John kept rejecting my explanations of the assignment. It didn't seem to matter to him that he's part of a team and everybody has to make his or her contribution for the group project to turn out well. John loves superheroes. Even my explanation about how Superboy or Robin would never let his teammates down had no visible effect. John just kept refusing to do the assignment, repeating the same phrases, over and over.

“It's too hard. I can't understand these words. My mind is too mixed up. My mind won't let me do this.”

At times like this I ask myself, how much of John's resistance is his processing disorder, and how much is simple teenage stubbornness about doing homework? I don't know. I can't tell. I have no idea if there is a way to make the distinction. I feel terrible frustration and heartbreaking sorrow for my son.

Does he really believe these things he's saying? Does he really see himself that way? I can't ask, because I do know that John is clever enough to take any road available out of a task he wants to avoid. One of the first things I teach a new aide is to watch out for John's sneaky streak. He will play Mom off Dad until he gets the answer he wants. We all have to talk to each other to make sure John isn't trying to get away with something. This leads to even more frustration with running all over the house. Double-checking with each other is tiresome.

It gets to a point where I have to treat the homework issue as a discipline problem and start taking away privileges such as computer time. Like most boys his age, John loves his electronics, so this is usually effective. Today, however, John got to the point of being in tears over his frustration with the assignment. What am I supposed to do? Punish my ASD child for being the way he is, something over which he has very little control? A large part of me cries out against that injustice, and yet, I know I have to hold the line and get John to do his homework. If I don't, the problem will snowball into notes from the teacher and meetings with the case-worker with John being tagged with even more stigma over his diagnosis.

“It’s too hard.
I can’t understand
these words.
My mind won’t
let me do this.”

I hate watching my son suffer. I hate being the cause of any further suffering, especially when I don't know whether or not that's what I'm doing to him.

Every single day is a battle. I love John. On the hard days, I try to make sure I give him extra hugs or praise or whatever it takes. ■

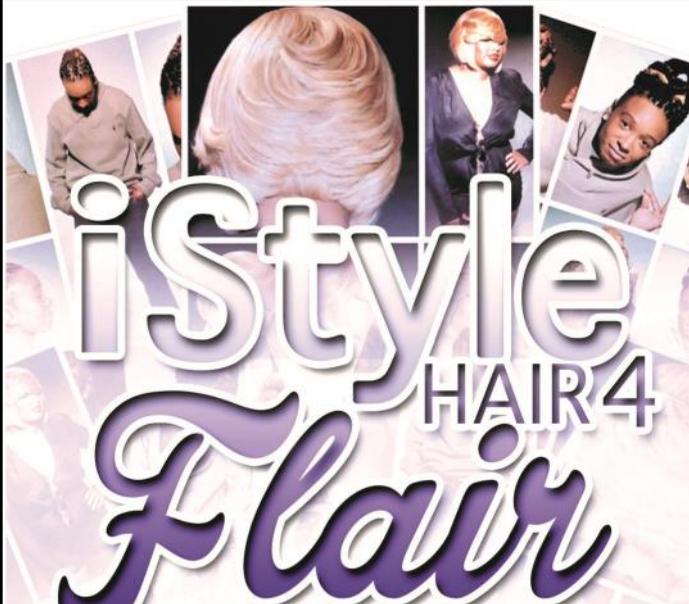


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...and the search for cozy.

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there lived a prince who was *trés* un-cozy and mucho unhappy.

The internet had not yet been invented, and he was forced to meet his princesses the old fashioned way—by placing an ad in the local door-to-door-delivered free Pennysaver paper.

His Royal Self didn't fancy piña coladas or getting caught in the rain, so he turned to his Royal Minister of Public Relations, which, in a kingdom of one, was the frowning face in every mirror. Between the two of him, he penned the perfect, shallow, no-fail, courtship decree.

"Ladies, when was the last time you received a rose and a poem? Why sit at home when the last of the romantics is 27, a University grad, cartoonist, writer, dance demon, Billy Joel junky, Mozart maniac, 5'9", 140 lbs. and questing for a princess, 19-30, slim, pretty, who appreciates sunsets and unicorns. Send note, photo, phone!"

The decree was posted for all the kingdom to see, the ad was answered, phone calls were exchanged, a date was set, descriptions were shared.

She: tall, slender, shoulder-length blonde hair, wearing a long navy-blue coat.

He: An eye patch, a cane, and a limp.

She: Ha ha! You wouldn't dare!

He: Of course not.

He dared. In a scruffy old coat, wearing an eye patch, using a cane, walking with a limp, Prince Goofball was seated at the diner's counter when the beautiful princess walked in and sat two seats down, ten minutes early. She didn't notice his Royal Dareness, looked right past him, looking for the *other* him, with the rose and the poem.

Five minutes after he was due, the daring prince limped past to the diner's communal commode where he changed swiftly into the Royal Button-Down

Shirt and Classy Coat, sans eye patch or cane. With poem and rose in hand, he returned to the counter, to the princess.

"Hi."

"Hi."

"I was watching for you but didn't see you come in."

"I was already here. Eye patch, cane, two seats down." He dangled the Royal Eye Patch.

"No way!"

"Way!"

Much laughter ensued, but, alas, no cozy second date was had. Royal bummer.

Prince Goofball had recently graduated from American Sign Language Level One and was so certain he was fluent enough to date a hearing-impaired

princess, he answered an ad, dated such a princess, and learned that his fluency was greatly over estimated. In a phone conversation in which he spoke, and a TTY operator typed. His princess typed back, and the operator read the reply to the prince. The relationship was suddenly over, but on that auspicious day, the TTY operator was a knight named Michael. Sir Michael read the fateful incoming missive to the prince.

"Hi. I think you're a really nice guy, but I don't think we should see each other any more."

The words were the princess' but in Sir Michael's voice. What could the prince do but laugh? No matter how he felt about the break-up he had suspected was coming, having embarrassed Sir Michael be the one to break up with him was just too surreal to take offense. He thanked the princess, thanked Sir Michael, then threw the Pennysaver out and swore himself to life as a bachelor.

Lo, these many decades later, though the Internet has been invented, Skype and FaceTime have arrived, and communication around the world happens lickety-split, the aging prince has redefined cozy as a big comfy couch, a Netflix binge, and his three wee wonderful beasts from the Royal Menagerie. ■





Emerian Rich's book release, Alaskan beading class, and discussing *SEARCH* Magazine.

Women in Art Exhibit, August 2017



Sumiko Saulson's art at

Expressions Gallery

2035 Ashby Ave.

Berkeley, California, 94703

510.644.4930



San Mateo Public Library, October 2017



Authors Sumiko Saulson, Trinity Adler, Laurel Anne Hill, and Emerian Rich.



SCRAP is an awesome place for crafters, teachers, and makers. Essentially an art and crafts thrift store, this nonprofit is a great place to both donate and shop.

Calling themselves “a source for the resourceful”, SCRAP is a creative re-use center, material depot, and workshop space founded in 1973. Breathing new life into old objects, SCRAP reduces waste by diverting over 200 tons of materials heading to landfill every year. For those looking for a learning opportunity, SCRAP offers classes and workshops. Some are regular drop-in events, while others require registration beforehand.

Located at 801 Toland Street, San Francisco, this is a creators dream. Supplies are inexpensive and range from fabric and home decorating items to paper, craft supplies, crayons, and books.

Educators will love the large selection of National Geographic, postcards, and other paper supplies for creative projects. Interior designers will find house décor scraps like old

light fixtures, fabric remnants, and picture frames. They even have gift boxes, baskets, and scrapbooking paper for the pretty-makers out there.

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS

- 1.) Weekdays are best due to its popularity. Weekends aren't impossible, but parking is easier, and it's less crowded during the week.
- 2.) Bring your own bags because as soon as you walk in, you will want a goody receptacle to start collecting. Bring several bags. If you're like me, you'll find more there to take home than you expect.
- 3.) Don't miss checking out the free areas on your way out. Things they can't sell or that have been around for a while end up in the free bins. Things like used binders, CD cases, and new but outdated letterhead can come home with you for the small price of...nothing.



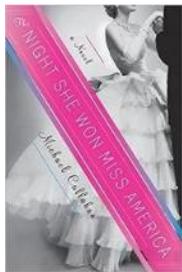
Ever since I found this place it's been a favorite haunt of mine. I go there for inexpensive yarn, buttons, and writing notebooks. What will you find?■

Do you have a Bay Area Attraction you'd like us to cover?

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BOOKS



Betty is a small-town gal who doesn't really want to enroll in the Miss America Contest. Her mother pushes her into it. Soon she finds herself in Atlantic City and caught up in the excitement and drama of the contest. She's the first gal from Delaware competing in five years and everyone—including herself—discounts her ability to actually win.

Griff is a local, society rich boy and Betty's escort for the festivities. He's just as cool as his name hints, and although he's a little odd at first, Betty warms to him more than she expects to.

Her roommate Ciji, the gal from Rhode Island, is a fireball bombshell who is destined for Hollywood. A smitten reporter Eddie falls into the story, and then you've really got something. This is a great book for those of you looking for a different read.

Betty is young and innocent and makes mistakes that someone older might not have, but she owns her actions, and that makes her an interesting character. I loved the story and encourage you to try it out if you're looking for a fun, fast-paced book. ■

EATS



Noodles & Company is our newest food obsession. First, choose your favorite noodle from around the world. Thai, Italian, Japanese, or even good old mac and cheese. Some are spicy, some mild. Next, add your favorite protein like beef or chicken. They cook up your creations fresh for your individual taste. My favorite? Butter noodles and chicken breast, which is perfect for my plain, allergic diet. They also have one of those nifty pick-and-choose drink machines that are sweeping the nation. You know, where you can add cherry or vanilla to your favorite soda drinks. Jumbo desserts are on the menu if you are in the mood for a Rice Krispie treat or giant cookie. Order online to save wait time. Located at 1110 Concord Ave, Concord. ■



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You're working or doing errands and before you know it, it's time for dinner. You're too tired or busy to stop everything and cook for the family. If you need dinner in a flash and are sick of pizza, check out the new-ish company DoorDash. The app enables you to order food from dozens of restaurants in your area for a small fee. Load up the app, pick your favorite place, order your favorite dishes, and in 30-40 minutes you will have dinner at your door. Know your day is going to be a nightmare? You can even pre-order and time the delivery. The restaurant choices vary by location, but they range from fast food like Panda Express, Subway, and Jack in the Box, to more substantial meals from restaurants like Claim Jumper and Benihana. They even deliver drinks from places like Jamba Juice, Starbucks, or 7-11. So next time you're in a rush and need food quick, don't despair, just DoorDash. ■

WEBSITE



Looking for a free site to keep your family tree and investigate ancestors? WikiTree is the place. You can search for profiles and information, while keeping your family stats together in one free site. You can populate your family profiles to either be seen by the public, or mark them private. WikiTree is a collaborative family tree site with a mission to grow an accurate, single family tree that connects all users and is freely available. They also send out monthly newsletters telling you what's new and allowing you to connect yourself to famous people like Jane Eyre and Duke Ellington. ■

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ACTIVITY | Cozy Quizzes

BY EMERIAN RICH

Cozy Riddles

1. I'm something that you wear that always comes in twos, I am a layer between your feet and shoes.
2. I'm found in socks, scarves and mittens. I'm found in the paws of playful kittens. What am I?
3. My spine is stiff, my body is pale, but I'm always ready to tell a tale.
4. I can't be roasted, but I'm not a turkey. I can be pressed but I'm not a button. I can be brewed but I'm not a beer.
5. I have a plug but I'm not a sink. I can be mounted but I'm not a horse. I have a screen but I'm not a computer.

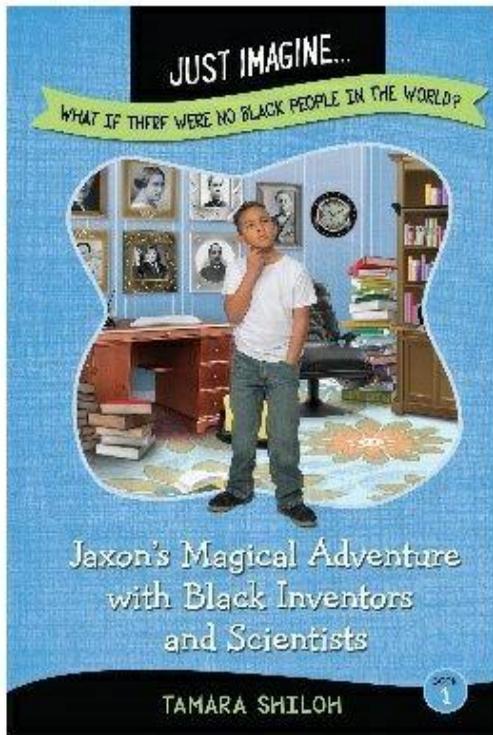
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The Engine Woman's Light by Laurel Anne Hill

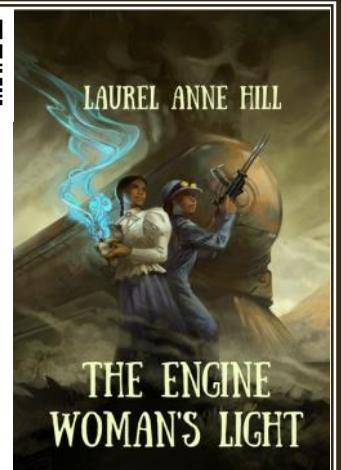
A Life-Saving Mission

A mystical vision of an airship appears to fifteen-year-old Juanita in 1894. The long-dead captain commands her to prevent California's thrown-away people—including young children—from boarding trains to an asylum. That institution's director plots murder to reduce the inmate population.

Spirits watch over Juanita. But who is she? A mystic in love who holds life sacred? Or a ghost-possessed railroad-saboteur?

To save innocent lives Juanita must take lives of the corrupt. How can she reconcile her assignment with her belief in the sacredness of all human life? And will she survive to marry her betrothed?

Juanita sets out despite inner trepidation to sabotage the railroad. Her ancestor Billy, the ghost of a steam locomotive engineer, guides her. Then bit by bit, she discovers the gut-wrenching truths all of her ancestors neglected to reveal.



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