

#### **LN Contributors**

























Anne Laure Pineau At 32, Anne Laure is a Parisian journalist working for national magazines (ELLE, Paris-Match, Liberation) on many subjects, from the far-right and conservative movements in France, to the Angola Prison Rodeo in Louisiana. She has the absolute conviction that her job is political and can enlighten the human complexity. As a feminist, as an anti-racist and as a lesbian, she is working daily to give a space to the untold stories. (Photo: Juliette Robert).

**Beth Shipp** is the first Executive Director of LPAC, the lesbian Super PAC that builds the political power of lesbian, queer, bisexual and transgender women by electing candidates who champion LGBTQ rights, women's equality and social justice. She is a political strategist with more than 20 years of experience working for women's reproductive rights, Democratic candidates and progressive causes. Prior to joining LPAC, Ms. Shipp was the political director for NARAL Pro-Choice and worked on a variety of federal and state campaigns throughout the nation.

Carl Matthes is the current president of UGLA, Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance, an organization providing a support system for gay men, lesbians and education for individuals and the community He is a columnist on the Lesbian News, owned and published by his sister, Ella and her wife, Gladi. He was editor of the GLAAD/newsletter, and a GLAAD/LA representative on the Board. In July, 2008, Carl was legally married to Carl Johnson, his partner of 50 years, by Los Angeles City Councilmember Jose Huizar. It was a unique gay/lesbian double ceremony as Carl's sister Ella and her partner Gladi were also married by Jose.

Carla Ferrer Russo, PhD is a Professor of Natural Medicine, a Registered Yoga Instructor, and a pioneering Behaviorist & Life Coach in the field of transformation and consciousness for healthy lifestyle living. For over twenty years, Dr. Carla's work has focused on sharing both her personal and professional experience addressing the whole being, mind, body and spirit; empowering profound personal and professional break-throughs for individuals and organizations throughout the United States and United Kingdom (EU).

Christin and Ashley Kelly-Brown are owners and wife team of LunaBella Makeup and Hair in Santa Barbara, CA. Originally from Oakland, CA. they met there at 17 years of age and have been together for over 12 years. Legally married in California on October 3, 2008, their company has since taken off. They absolutely love not only what they do but also how uniquely they work together.

**Dian Katz** works a variety of arenas. With a background in Marriage Counseling and a history as a professional performer, she's LN's Entertainment Editor and Self Help columnist. Dian's also authored a book entitled: Love Hurts A Spiritual Journey to Wholeness. She sometimes works the motivational speaking circuit. Dian's an award winning drummer with her own rock band. Out of all the many hats she wears, performing and writing are her biggest passions.











**Dina Evan, PhD** is a noted speaker and veteran activist for LGBT Women's and Human Rights. She is a professional counselor and spiritual coach working with individuals, couples and organizations from coast to coast. She has authored three books, Inspiration Cards, Calendars and Meditation CD's. She provides tools for creating successful relationships which she believes are the path to consciousness. Dina feels the highest assignment today is simply waking up. (602) 997-1200 • www.drdinaevan.com

**Gladi Adams, PhD** is a native New Englander who was recruited in Boston by the Los Angeles Unified School District to teach English in L.A. She studied at Boston University, Cal State Northridge, California Western and UCLA. She retired as a secondary school principal after 35 years in the system. She is married to Ella Matthes, publisher, and they have been working on the LN together since 2005.

John Esther For nearly a dozen years, Movie Editor John Esther has been writing for Lesbian News. Over time, he has written more than 100 articles for LN on film, music, theater, ~ and culture. His monthlymovie column, Eye C, is currently the longest consecutiverunning - movie column in LN. John also contributes articles to numerous other publications, plus his own blog. John is currently a Board Member of the Gay and Lesbian Entertainment Critics Association (GALECA).

**Juno Parreñas, PhD** has been a regular monthly columnist at the Lesbian News since 1997, when she was seventeen years old. Since then, she has lived in three continents, five countries, ten cities, and has three degrees: a Bachelor's from UC Santa Cruz, a Master's from the University of Amsterdam, and a PhD from Harvard University. When she's not writing about sexuality, politics, pleasure, culture, desire, and social relations, she works on her research involving orangutans.

Lynda Montgomery was born in Long Beach, a small town in Canada. She loves a parade, so she moved to Long Beach California, a big town, so she didn't have to be all alone in the Gay Pride parade! She is an activist for animal rights and gay rights, giving priority to gay animals! As a stand-up comic she has survived many dive bars, festivals, and comedy clubs. She is currently trying to get booked onto the "Olivia Cruises" because she heard it's a great place to meet women!

**Mona de Crinis** grew up in a world without Xbox or Netflix, when tweeting was something birds did and "Pinterest" was a bad typo. She relied on her fertile imagination for fun quickly discovering that words threaded together could create a vibrant tapestry of expression. This awareness sparked a passion and subsequent career. For more than 20 years, she wrote and edited for regional and niche publications. She has authored over 100 published articles. Mona lives in Palm Springs with partner, Lori, and four furry kids.

Mona Elyafi has been writing celebrity magazine profiles, entertainment news and lifestyle columns for two decades. She currently writes for the Huffing ton Post, and serves as the West Coast correspondent for Diva Magazine (Dubai's leading Women's fashion magazine) writing 1!11 pieces on Kim Kardashian, Kimora Lee Simmons and Denise Richards. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, raised in Paris, France, residing in Los Angeles, Elyafi has spent 20 years working in entertainment publicity, heading her own PR Company, ILDK Media. She holds a Master of Arts in journalism from New York University.





























Morag Hillsinger Reba Birmingham is our LN poet, writing until recently under the Nom de Plume Morag Hillsinger. She is also a practicing lawyer and an author with Regal Crest Publishing. Her debut novel, Floodlight, is now available on Bella Books, Amazon and Kobo. It is the first in a series about the LGBT characters that inhabit the fictional town of Merryville California. It is quirky and fun. The sequel will be released in 2018.

**Nat Burns** is an award-winning novelist and journalist who lives and writes in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has authored novels in several genres for four different publishers and has just released her eleventh novel, a lesbian romance called Lights of the Heart. Her shorter works and essays have appeared in more than fifty publications and she's been writing for LN since 2009. Burns is now writing full time after retiring from her career as editorial systems coordinator for a medical publishing company. *www.natburns.com* 

**Nikki McCauley** was born in Pittsburgh, PA. She graduated from Robert Morris University and spent ten years with Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, CA. Accomplishments: PilotGodless- 2010-2012; CD- Spoken Word 2005; Warner Bros. Writer's Workshop 2003/2004; Poetry Book- Inditing Poetry 1999. Scripts: Law & Order; The Practice; Cold Case; CSI Las Vegas.

**Robin Tyler** is a pioneer activist in the LGBT community. In the 1970's, she became the first 'out' lesbian or gay comic on television, albums and in concert. In addition to 25 Women's Music and Comedy Festivals, Robin produced the main stages for 3 OD of the LGBT Marches on Washington. Robin and her wife, Diane Olson, were the first lesbian plaintiffs to file the lawsuit that brought marriage equality to California and were the first to marry in Los Angeles County.

**Sally Sheklow** came out in 1973 and has been with her "wifey" for 25 years. They live in Eugene, Oregon with their two cats. Sally's "Living Out" column first appeared in Lesbian News in 1999, and twice won both the Houston Press Club's Lone Star Award for best magazine column and Best of Eugene's "Best Writer" award. Sally teaches Queer Studies at Portland State University, performs with the all-lesbian improv troupe WYMPROV!, and makes art out of old buttons.

**Shawn Ryan** is a lot of things. He's an Actor/Singer/Writer/Director and Camp Director but fancies himself a Dancer/Poet/Lyrical Savant/Brother/Son/and Terrific Husband. His greatest wish is that someday Barbara Walters will come out of retirement and make him cry on ABC. He lives in a state of adoring bliss with his husband, actor John Ainsworth, and their furry children, Mr. Kitty and Gazpacho the Chihuahua. It seems as though things couldn't get much better, but day by day, they to do. Follow him on www.shawn-ryan.com

**Sherron Mills, N.P.** has been a lesbian health care practitioner and activist for many years. In 1980 she co-founded Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, the country's first non-profit clinic to serve the lesbian community. She then went on in 1984 to launch Pacific Reproductive Services to provide sperm bank, fertility and insemination services primarily to III lesbians. Knowing that many of her clients would greatly value the opportunity for their children to meet their sperm donors, should they wish to do so, she was an early pioneer in recruiting men who would contractually agree to meet a child at least once after he or she reaches 18. As a result, PRS today has more 'Willing to be known' sperm donors than any other U.S. sperm bank.

















**Stephanie Papadakis** is originally from southern California. Stephanie knew she wanted to live in San Francisco from the age of 10 (but had no clue she liked women). When she's not working at a lesbian travel company in SF, she spends her time cooking delicious paleo meals, climbing rugged mountains, exercising daily, researching random trivia knowledge, making "dream lists" on Airbnb, and planning day-, weekend- and weeklong dates with her partner, Sara.

**Sweet Baby J'ai** is a writer, singer, composer, arranger, educator, and the Artistic Director of the Palm Springs Women's Jazz Festival. A creative force on the music scene for over two ~ decades, she tours the world with her genre-defying work, which both embraces and expands - jazz tradition. She has worked in various capacities, including talent buyer for major music events throughout the country. She also serves as Creative Managing Director for the Educational Theatre Institute.

**Toni Hart** has had many careers, including her favorite- freelance writing. Early on she was a child actress and after college, became a designer of women's & children's fashions. After a pause to have three children, she turned to Mortgage Banking, retiring years later as VP/Administrator of the mortgage Dept. She's become a hard working volunteer for many venues. To support her wonderful gay daughter, her attention is now zestfully supporting the LGBT cause.

**Victoria Bearden** has practiced astrology for over 30 years, with clients across the country and abroad. To set up a personal consultation you can call her at 760-634-1028 or visit her website at www.astrologysandiego.com



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Pioneering feminist and founder of Lesbian News



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#### LESBIAN DATING PERSONALS

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#### K.D. LANG AT 25

#### Celebrating the return of *Ingénue*

By Joseph F. Nacino

distinct voices of the musical Performances Special." world with the release of her second solo album, "Ingénue."

Last year, Lang marked the 25th anniversary of also one of the icons of the LGBTQ community. her Grammy award-winning album with a tour, "Ingénue Redux," in Australia and Canada. Likewise, her label, Nonesuch Records, released **Breaking expectations** a remastered version of the album.

wenty-six years ago, K.D. Lang Theatre in San, Antonio, Texas, can be viewed in an interview with The Advocate. transitioned from a Canadian on PBS channel on December 14 as "K.D. country singer to one of the most Lang - Landmarks Live in Concert - A Great "''Ingénue' was a change in vernacular and

milestones not only for this iconic singer, but me," Lang explained.

She continued the celebration of the album's Lang released this album: not only did she show would still be accepting of her. release this year with concerts throughout the her incredible vocal range and distinct style with

vocabulary in that it was personal-finding some romantic space. It was time. It was me. I had It's a great way to cap one of the incredible gotten to a time and point where I wanted to be

Thus, she faced a possible career-ending fate with her decision to come up with an album that was entirely different from her previous work. And by coming out, she wasn't sure if the music Twenty-six years is indeed a long time since industry, especially the field of country music,

US. One of the performances, at the Majestic this release, she also came publicly as a lesbian. But the world accepted both her music and who





she was—and this proved to be one of the small steps of how the mainstream began to accept the LGBTQ community.

The reviews of the album were mostly positive, and the album itself achieved double-platinum status and multi-million sales, as well as scoring a Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for Lang. What's more, in 1993, she had an unforgettable Vanity Fair cover with model Cindy Crawford that had Lang seated in a barber's chair with her face slathered in shaving cream, and Crawford behind her holding a razor.

Fast forward to 2017, Lang told fellow songwriter Laura Veirs during an interview with NPR about the experience: "It's been an interesting journey. When I first pulled the record up—because I don't listen to my own music—I pulled it up maybe about a year ago to start preparing for [the live shows]. And it was just so difficult to listen to it."

"But then, like the second and third times I listened to it, it started to pull me in. And I started to develop a whole new relationship with it. And I guess, ultimately, I came to the conclusion that my job now 25 years later is to perform and to offer Ingénue up as neutral and as open as possible," she added.

She further explained in an interview with Rolling Stone about this neutral approach: "Not void of emotion by any stretch of the imagination, but I don't need to imprint myself or my experiences or my emotion on it any more than they're already there. What I really want to do is invoke the relationship the listener has to that record and their history with the record."

As for coming out back then, she said: "I was scared but I'd gotten to a place where I went, 'It doesn't matter.' I mean what matters is that my music is honest and if I don't have success, [at least] I'm doing something that's honest."

#### **Revisiting the Magic**

During her concerts revisiting the album, Lang showed that she's not lost her touch of being, as Mikael Wood of the Los Angeles Times called her, "a singular figure" of "a post-modern torch singer working in the country idiom (or maybe next to it) to reflect her life as an openly gay







woman."

her in a way from the need to reimagine familiar material in order to keep it interesting."

got only one place to find it. And what a rich dichotomy," she said. experience it remains," he said.

to sing the ten songs of the "Ingénue" album in audience during her recent tour. Many of them 25th Anniversary Edition" was released by their original order, from the soft salsa feeling are probably hoping to revisit the magic of Nonesuch Records last year and the two-disc of "Miss Chatelaine" to the yearning finale of Lang's songs in "Ingénue." "Constant Craving." Expect her also to sing some choice songs, like her rendition of Leonard And when you see the vision of her dressed in unreleased performances from Lang's 1993 Cohen's "Hallelujah."

about the feeling of something "unknowable" of singing about you. the album, Lang said, "I think there's a reason

for that. I think there's a reason it resonated with **Editor's Note**: the gay culture. Being gay is a pretty cryptic, Lang's singularity is what makes her unique, elusive existence. I think the vulnerability and Aside from showing on your local PBS channel Wood wrote, and why "no one has followed honesty, but again, as you say, obtuse vibe of on December 14, the concert will be available precisely in Lang's footsteps, which insulates "Ingénue," I think that spoke to a lot of people." to stream the following day via PBS Passport at

"I think people knew what that felt like and special benefit for PBS supporters to access an what that meant and also that it was our own on-demand library of over 1,000 hours of quality "You want the aesthetic and emotional prison that we were trying to break out of, but public television programming. Contact your experience of "Ingénue"? Even now, you've it was also our comfort zone. So, it's a complex local PBS station for details on PBS Passport.

That's why it's no surprise that Lang likes to will be available December 14 via MVD During her performance, you can expect Lang joke that she sees a lot of senior gays in her Entertainment Group. K.D. Lang's "Ingénue:

her usual black suit and white collared shirt on MTV Unplugged episode, recorded in New York the concert stage, you'll feel that it's 1992 again City's famed Ed Sullivan Theater. When asked in that same Rolling Stone interview and you're hearing Lang sing, and she's really

pbs.org/gperf and PBS apps. PBS Passport is a

Likewise, the concert DVD and Blu-ray also set includes remastered versions of the album's original 10 tracks as well as eight previously



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GEMS OF THE ITALIAN & FRENCH RIVIERA CRUISE (OCT. 5-12, 2019)



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#### **BODY HEAT: CRASHING THE MODERN**

#### Auction at the Petersen Automotive Museum

By Lili Lakich and Juan Larios

artwork as follows:

fuel injection system failed on my beloved 1973 72 hours. Volvo P1800 ES in 1990, I couldn't find anyone

s described in her own Twice it died in Ventura when I was trying to and margaritas he said, "Why don't you cut a words, neon artist Lili Lakich go to Santa Cruz. So I bought another vehicle wedge out of it and wrap it around the corner of outlined the creation of the and the Volvo sat in front of my house for 15 a wall." "That sounds difficult and expensive," I years while I tried to come up with a good idea said. A few days later I thought it sounded like a of what to do with it. Then in September, 2005, great idea. Especially when Juan said he would "When the computerized it was cited and had to be off the street within help build it.

who could fix it to where it would stay fixed. When I told my friend Juan Larios over dinner could cut the car if we plotted the 90-degree

Art at Art's Auto Wrecking in El Monte said he



**Body Heat: Crashing the Modern** By Lili Lakich & Juan Larios at the L.A. Auto Show in 2006

FROM THE AUCTION CATALOG:

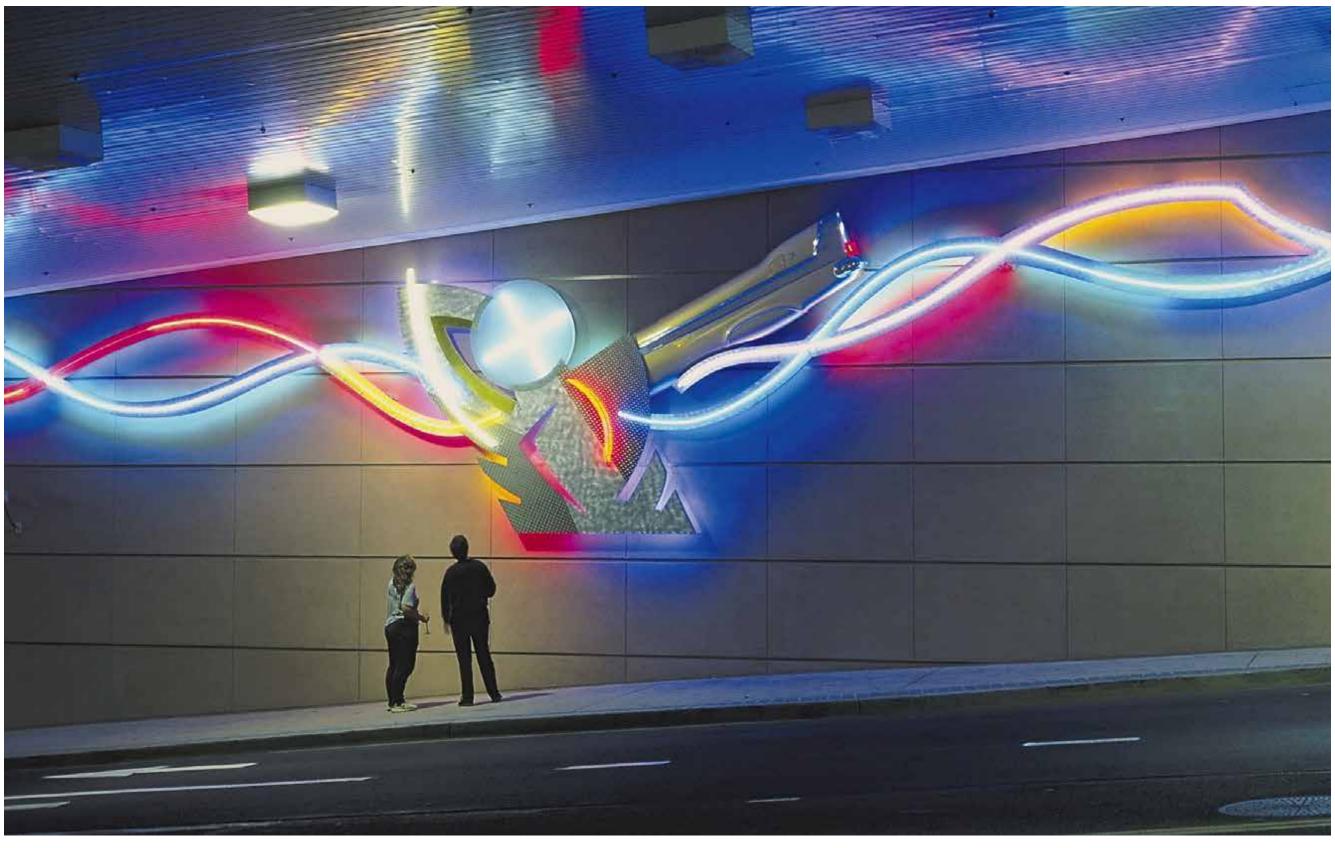
Estimate: \$30,000 - \$50,000 Offered without reserve

RM | Sotheby's - THE PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM AUCTION 2018

Offered on: Saturday, December 8, 2018

A stunning installation by the preeminent neon artist utilizing a Volvo P1800, painted aluminum, canvas, wood, film, and of course, neon

Dimensions: 101 × 180 × 96 in.



L.A. Angel By Lili Lakich, 1992

Commissioned by Metropolitan Structures West for California Plaza in downtown Los Angeles. The angel's wing is a 1957 Plymouth Fury quarter panel.

part.

For musicians, there is a saying that in order to The car still has its axles with four wheels so it the Petersen since its grand remodel. Set for get to Carnegie Hall you have only to practice. is easy to move. The animated neon comes off December 8 in Los Angeles, the sale features But for artists there is no comparable way to get the walls, the walls come out from behind the more than 60 eclectic, highly desirable motor into the Museum of Modern Art. Practicing won't car and the Volvo's 2 axles and 4 wheels make cars representing a cross-section of important do it as the Art World is controlled by a small it easy to steer it onto a tow truck. It breaks eras and categories in collector car history, cabal of museum curators, gallery directors and down in an hour and sets up in an hour and a against the backdrop of a museum dedicated wealthy collectors.

Modern.

I included Picasso's Les Desmoiselles d'Avignon Internationally recognized as a pioneer in the visit rmsothebys.com. because it is one of the best works of art at art of neon sculpture, Lakich has been working MoMA and one of my favorite paintings.

We finished the work the day before it Drive-In, 1984, and L.A. Angel, 1992. She was

angle. That was the difficult part. And Kevin at premiered at the L.A. Auto Show in January, the founding director of the Museum of Neon Super Auto repair in Los Angeles said he could 2006 where it was seen by one million people Art. restore it to its former beauty... minus the middle in ten days. And, to our delight, thousands of of the car, of course. That was the expensive visitors photographed themselves in front of the Body Heat: Crashing the Modern will be offered sculpture.

half."

So I thought the only way to get there is to crash Body Heat: Crashing the Modern follows in the the cars, a selection of significant memorabilia it. Hence the idea — Body Heat: Crashing the tradition of car-related sculpture which includes and automotive art, including Lakich's piece, Edward Kienholz's 1966 work Back Seat Dodge features in the auction. For event details, the '38 and Dustin Shuler's Death of an Era, 1980. complete catalog, and to register to bid, please in the medium for five decades and has created Lili Lakich Studio several other car-related sculptures including www.Lakich.com

as part of RM Sotheby's Petersen Automotive Museum Auction, the first auction staged at to preserving Los Angeles as the capital of car creativity, consumption, and culture. Beyond



Drive-In

By Lili Lakich, 1984.

Commissioned by Unity Savings Bank, Beverly Hills

Collection:

Murray Pepper, Beverly Hills

The tribute to Dolores' Drive-In in Beverly Hills features a 1957 Chevy Bel Air quarter panel.



Back Seat Dodge '38

By Edward Kienholz, 1966.

Collection:

Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



**Death of an Era**By Dustin Shuler, 1980.



#### **THANKFUL**

#### A special message from the founder of Women On A Roll

By Andrea Meyerson

a few thoughts with you... California fires.

If you or a loved one has lost a home and needs I'd also like to take a moment to express my

holidays quickly difficult times recently. Although I feel deep experiences, too numerous to count, and have approaches, I'd like to share sadness for many things currently happening in explored some of the most beautiful and unique the world, it is our community that continues to places in the world together. I am truly grateful give me hope. It is your friendship, your support, for the opportunity to serve you and am humbled First of all, I'm sending out and especially the love I feel from so many of to be an integral part of our community. my sincerest condolences you that continues to drive me. I hope you all for those who have been affected by the feel that same friendship and love from me as May your Holiday celebration be filled with love well as it lives within my heart always!

a place to stay, please reach out to me. I will be gratitude to you. In the 23 years I have been happy to assist with finding temporary housing running Women On A Roll, I have met so With Much Love & Appreciation, within our network during this transitional time. many wonderful women, many of whom I now Our country has been going through some call "friend." We have shared extraordinary Andrea Meyerson

and joy and continue to reveal all there is to be thankful for!





Actually, between the warm water, endless sunshine and incredible variety of things to eat, drink and do, it's quite easy for everyone to go a little overboard in Key West.

fla-keys.com/gaykeywest 305.294.4603



HOHTARAM



#### JINX BEERS OBITUARY

#### Pioneering feminist and founder of Lesbian News

Columbus Day, October 12, 1933, in Pasadena, Festival. California.

Rights Task Force (including co-chair of the last Memoirs of an Old Dyke. LRTF Lesbian Conference), the Equal Right Amendment, and many other causes.

She was presented with the Southern California grand nieces and nephews. Women for Understanding Community Services Pride Parade in Hollywood; presented the Long the Archives. Beach Lambda Democratic Club's Outstanding Woman Award in 1990; and was inducted For details: into the LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame in <a href="http://www.mazerlesbianarchives.org">http://www.mazerlesbianarchives.org</a> Philadelphia in 2017s. She was the subject of a chapter in Profiles Encourage by Pamela S. Johnson (1988).

In 2006, Beers was honored by being included in two publications: Feminists Who Changed America: 1963-1975, by Barbara Love, and Gay LA: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians, by Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons. In 2007 her autobiography was published.

In 2009 she was given a Rainbow Key Award by the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board of West Hollywood. In the same year the City of West Hollywood and the Lesbian Visibility Committee honored Beers as the third recipient of the prestigious Etheridge Award for her "extraordinary" contributions to the lesbian community.

inx Beers, Founder of The Beers spent sixteen years in the United States Lesbian News and a community Air Force and Air Force Reserve and was a activist for more than 40 years, member of Veterans CARE/AVER from its Los died on October 4, 2018, at Angeles inception. In 2003 she was invited to the age of 84. The cause of ride on the Veterans CARE float in the San death was renal failure due to Fernando Valley Gay Pride Parade, and in 2012 complications of diabetes. Beers was born on she was a speaker at the Antelope Valley Pride

For many years she was an active member of the Besides founding the LN and publishing it for Los Angeles Chapter of Sister in Crime and had its first fourteen years, she participated in such two short stories published in their anthologies. community activities as the fight against the She was also a devout supporter of the June Briggs Initiative, Take Back the Night marches, Mazer Lesbian Archives, which is a recipient National Organization for Women's Lesbian of all proceeds from Beers' autobiography:

> She is survived by a sister, Virginia King of Tennessee, two nieces, five nephews and many

Award in 1986; honored by Christopher Street Donations in her memory may be made to the West in 1987 with the Dick Michaels Media June Mazer Lesbian Archives. A Memorial will Award and a prominent position in the Gay be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, at

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Long Beach, CA





#### 'TRANSGENDER' COULD BE DEFINED OUT OF EXISTENCE **UNDER TRUMP ADMINISTRATION**

From the October 21, 2018 New York Times

By Erica L. Green, Katie Benner and Robert Pear

considering narrowly defining gender federal civil rights law.

as a simple concept. Conservatives, especially born with, according to a draft reviewed by The "This takes a position that what the medical

he Trump administration is evangelical Christians, were incensed.

biological, Now the Department of Health and Human immutable condition determined Services is spearheading an effort to establish a "Sex means a person's status as male or female genitalia at birth, the legal definition of sex under Title IX, the federal based on immutable biological traits identifiable most drastic move yet in a civil rights law that bans gender discrimination by or before birth," the department proposed government wide effort to roll back recognition in education programs that receive government in the memo, which was drafted and has been and protections of transgender people under financial assistance, according to a memo circulating since last spring. "The sex listed on obtained by The New York Times.

Aseries of decisions by the Obama administration The department argued in its memo that key unless rebutted by reliable genetic evidence." loosened the legal concept of gender in federal government agencies needed to adopt an explicit programs, including in education and health care, and uniform definition of gender as determined. The new definition would essentially eradicate and other arenas where gender was once seen determined by the genitals that a person is

Times. Any dispute about one's sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing.

a person's birth certificate, as originally issued, shall constitute definitive proof of a person's sex

recognizing gender largely as an individual's "on a biological basis that is clear, grounded federal recognition of the estimated 1.4 million choice and not determined by the sex assigned in science, objective and administrable." The Americans who have opted to recognize at birth. The policy prompted fights over agency's proposed definition would define sex themselves — surgically or otherwise — as a bathrooms, dormitories, single-sex programs as either male or female, unchangeable, and gender other than the one they were born into.

Education Department's Office for Civil Rights people who should not have them. in the Obama administration and helped write transgender guidance that is being undone.

the population from civil rights protections and revise the definition of sex under Title IX. roll back the Obama administration's more group embedded in the nation's health care law. decision.

Several agencies have withdrawn Obama- Mr. Severino, while serving as the head of the and a national survey of elderly citizens.

For the last year, the Department of Health and Human Services has privately argued that the In one commentary piece, he called the policies

Catherine E. Lhamon, who led the to wrongfully extend civil rights protections to a man or a woman on the entire nation."

Civil Rights at the department, declined to series of maneuvers, large and small, to exclude his role in interagency discussions about how to

people from serving in the military and has purpose of federal civil rights laws resulted from with the hashtag #WontBeErased. legally challenged civil rights protections for the their own reading of the laws and from a court

era policies that recognized gender identity in DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society schools, prisons and homeless shelters. The at the Heritage Foundation, was among the administration even tried to remove questions conservatives who blanched at the Obama about gender identity from a 2020 census survey administration's expansion of sex to include gender identity, which he called "radical gender ideology."

community understands about their patients — term "sex" was never meant to include gender a "culmination of a series of unilateral, and what people understand about themselves — is identity or even homosexuality, and that the frequently lawless, administration attempts to irrelevant because the government disagrees," lack of clarity allowed the Obama administration impose a new definition of what it means to be

"Transgender people are frightened," said Sarah Roger Severino, the director of the Office for Warbelow, the legal director of the Human Rights Campaign, which presses for the rights of The move would be the most significant of a answer detailed questions about the memo or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. "At every step where the administration has had the choice, they've opted to turn their back on transgender people." After this article was fluid recognition of gender identity. The Trump But officials at the department confirmed that published online, transgender people took to administration has sought to bar transgender their push to limit the definition of sex for the social media to post photographs of themselves







#### Travel

#### NOT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The 5 best Christmas destinations in the USA

By Wyxie Carolina

of holidays that forces us to USA. tap into our childlike spirits and embrace the beauty of winter. We all celebrate the holidays New York City in different ways. Some will definitely be away from all the craziness and buzz at work snow. or school and spend time with family, relatives, and friends.

Of course, Christmas is one of the best times windows at famed department stores. The giant know how to celebrate Christmas in style. of the year to make a journey and celebrate pine Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center is a

he Yuletide season brings with yourself with a trip that lets you explore any of like the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and it the lights, sounds, and aroma these awesome Christmas destinations in the New York City Ballet's version of the classic

#homefortheholidays while others will surely be New York City is one of the best places to visit Las Vegas, Nevada on a #holiday #travel. But most of us will agree any time of the year but it is especially dazzling

in other parts of the country. This year, treat gorgeous annual tradition. Live performances The Vegas strip will be full of holiday spirit

Nutcracker are a must-see. If you've been nice the whole year, visit the man dubbed to be the "real Santa" at the Plaza Hotel.

that the Christmas season is the best time to get during the holidays with all the lights and the Las Vegas is known for doing everything big. Christmas is no exception. Las Vegas kicks the holiday season up a notch by transforming into Many travelers go to NYC for Christmas shopping a massive colorful Christmas display, making it to find unique gifts and enjoy holiday-themed the best destinations in the USA for those who



decorations, lights, and mega-Christmas trees. Denver like the Zoo Lights and Holiday Carousel Watch the iconic Bellagio Fountains dance to at the Denver Zoo. the tunes of the season and surround yourself with thousands of twinkling lights and snowflocked trees at the Bellagio's Conservatory & Orlando, Florida Botanical Gardens. Enjoy a winter wonderland corner of Las Vegas.

#### Colorado

and bright during the Christmas season.

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas at the across the state. Breckenridge ski resort or join the jet set in Aspen, Vail, and Steamboat Springs. Also, there

as the casinos try to out-do each other with are many family holiday attractions to enjoy in Chicago

during the festive season.

Light displays, parades, and festivals fill Chicago in December, making it a magical time to be in the city.

Every year, the Daley Plaza is packed with over of decorations, carolers, and holiday music from Where is the best place to celebrate the magical a million visitors who come to browse the candythe different parks and promenades to every season but at the most magical place on earth? striped stalls in the Christkindlmarkt (German Thanks to Florida's enchanted world-famous Christmas Market) for loads of traditional items, theme parks and annual Christmastide parade, handicrafts, and special German drink and anyone can have an extra dose of fun and magic food. This German market may be the largest in the US, but it's not the only holiday attraction Chicago is famous for. The Magnificent Mile is Experiencing a white Christmas in beautiful Allthebigfour Orlandothemeparks—Walt Disney adorned with hundreds of illuminated Christmas snowy mountain slopes and cozy chalets can World, Universal, SeaWorld, and Legoland— trees and designer shops such as Tiffany & Co make your holiday getaway fun and extra special. have something special to celebrate the holiday and Armani outstage each other with elaborate Many of the most popular resort towns to go for season including a list of events, parades, and window displays. Chicago River comes alive with skiing in the US are in Colorado and they really shows. But even without setting foot inside the glittering fireworks shows and Michigan Avenue give the extra effort to make guests feel merry theme parks, you'll find plenty of unique ways glitz with processions of marching bands and to celebrate the holidays in Orlando like boat brightly-colored floats. Famous museums like parades and festive light displays in many cities the Museum of Science & Industry have annual holiday exhibits.



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#### MoviesEyeC

#### RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

#### A wrecking hit sequel

By John Esther

Studios and distributed by Walt studio's 57th feature- length film. It is the second at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles on installment of the Wreck-It Ralph film series and November 5, 2018, and was released in the After a conversation with Fix-It Felix Jr. in Tap is directed by Rich Moore and Phil Johnston, has grossed \$132 million worldwide and received onto the Internet via the arcade's newly installed Lynch, and Ed O'Neill reprising their roles from Reilly and Silverman. the first film, with Alan Tudy k returning to voice a new character, alongside new additions to the cast including Gal Gadot, Taraji P. Henson, Bill PLOT Hader (in an uncredited role), and Alfred Molina.

since Winnie the Pooh in 2011, which was a stuck. A player accidentally pulls the wheel and return Vanellope to Sugar Rush.

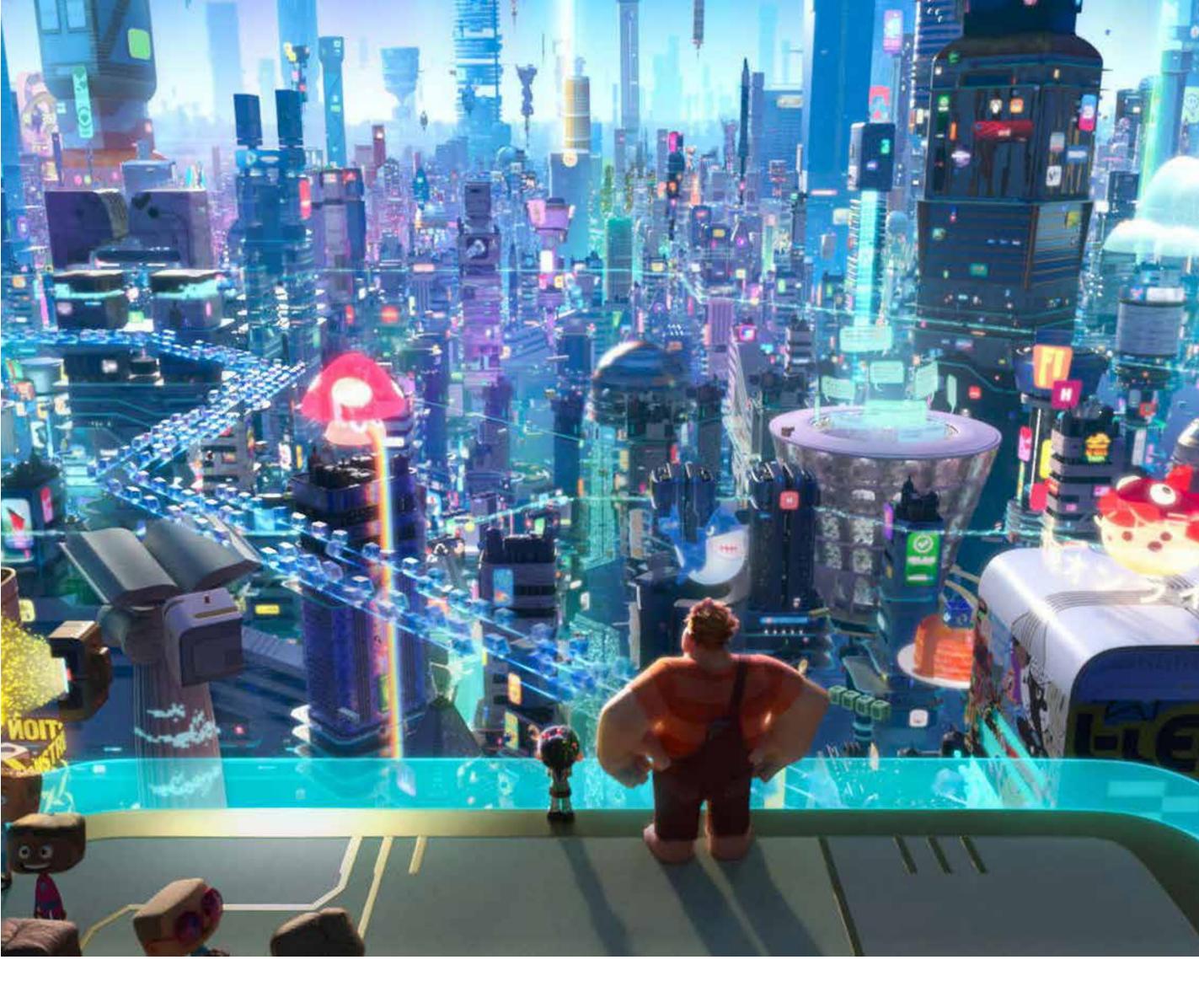
2018 American 3D computer- Adventures of Winnie the Pooh. It is also the Litwak accidentally breaks it while trying to animated comedy film produced studio's first animated sequel to be created by reattach it. Finding the replacement part to be by Walt Disney Animation the original film's writing/directing team.

Disney Pictures as well as the Ralph Breaks the Internet had its world premiere citizens homeless.

alph Breaks the Internet is a sequel to the 1977 animated film The Many off the console while trying to free it, and Mr. prohibitively expensive, he has no choice but to unplug Sugar Rush, leaving Vanellope and its

the sequel to the 2012 film Wreck-It Ralph. It United States on November 21, 2018. The film per's, Ralph decides to venture with Vanellope written by Johnston and Pamela Ribon, and positive reviews from critics, Box office \$332.5 Wi-Fi router, in order to obtain a new wheel on executive-produced by John Lasseter, Chris million who called it a "worthy successor" and eBay. They find one being auctioned off and Williams, and Jennifer Lee. It features John C. praised the animation, humor, characters and place a winning bid, but must pay for it within 24 Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jack McBray er, Jane storyline, as well as the vocal performances of hours. To raise the money, they turn to a popup advertiser named Spamley, who sends them to steal a valuable car from the online game Slaughter Race.

Ralph and Vanellope steal the car, but its owner Six years after saving the game Sugar Rush from Shank forces them to return it to her after a high-Talks for a Wreck-It Ralph sequel began in Turbo's revenge, Wreck-It Ralph and Vanellope speed chase throughout Slaughter Race. Shank October 2012, and went through three different von Schweetz are still best friends who hang compliments Vanellope's driving skills, causing scripts before settling on the final plot. The film out every night after work in Litwak's Family Fun Ralph to worry that their friendship may be in was officially announced in June 2016, with Center and Arcade. Vanellope's frustration over jeopardy, and points the pair toward the video much of the original cast confirming they had the predictability of her game prompts Ralph to sharing site BuzzzTube. After meeting with its signed on, with new members being added in create a secret bonus track for her. She enjoys chief algorithm Yesss, Ralph decides to raise 2018. It marks the first feature-length theatrical the track but overrides the player controls to money by creating a series of videos that play sequel from Walt Disney Animation Studios race on it, causing the steering wheel to get off popular trends, intending to buy the wheel



where she meets the Disney Princesses and Vanellope in a server reboot. gains from them the inspiration to return to conversation between Vanellope and Shank, in Internet to create thousands of clones of him. which Vanellope expresses her desire to leave the arcade.

Desperate to keep Vanellope as a friend, Ralph she, Ralph, and Yesss try to lead them turns again to Spamley in search of a way to into an anti-virus software trap. The tactic make Slaughter Race so boring that Vanellope fails and Vanellope is captured; Ralph tries will not want to stay. Spamley leads him to unsuccessfully to fight them off, then calls them Double Dan, a virus designer hiding in the dark out on their selfish possessiveness and admits

for this job and is assigned to a Disney fansite, causing the game to crash and nearly killing Princesses save him from the fall.

As the clones begin destroying the Internet with Vanellope through video chats. and form a giant Ralph in search of Vanellope, web. Double Dan gives Ralph a virus that can that Vanellope's desire to enter Slaughter Race

Ralph's videos become a viral sensation, and replicate and broadcast any insecurity it finds. does not mean that their friendship must end. Yesss sends her staff into the Internet to spam. When Ralph unleashes it in Slaughter Race, it. With his insecurities resolved, the giant Ralph users with pop-up ads. Vanellope volunteers homes in on Vanellope's glitch and spreads it, disintegrates and drops him, but the Disney

The Internet is restored, and Vanellope decides Slaughter Race. Meanwhile, Ralph successfully Ralph admits his misdeed to Vanellope, who to stay in Slaughter Race. Coming to terms with earns enough money to cover the eBay bid, but is angrily tells him to leave her alone. The virus the changes in his life, Ralph returns to the crushed upon reading viewers' rude comments escapes from Slaughter Race, scans Ralph's arcade and has the replacement wheel shipped about his videos. He inadvertently overhears a insecurities, and spreads them throughout the to Litwak so that Sugar Rush can be replugged. He begins participating in social activities with other game characters, while staying in touch



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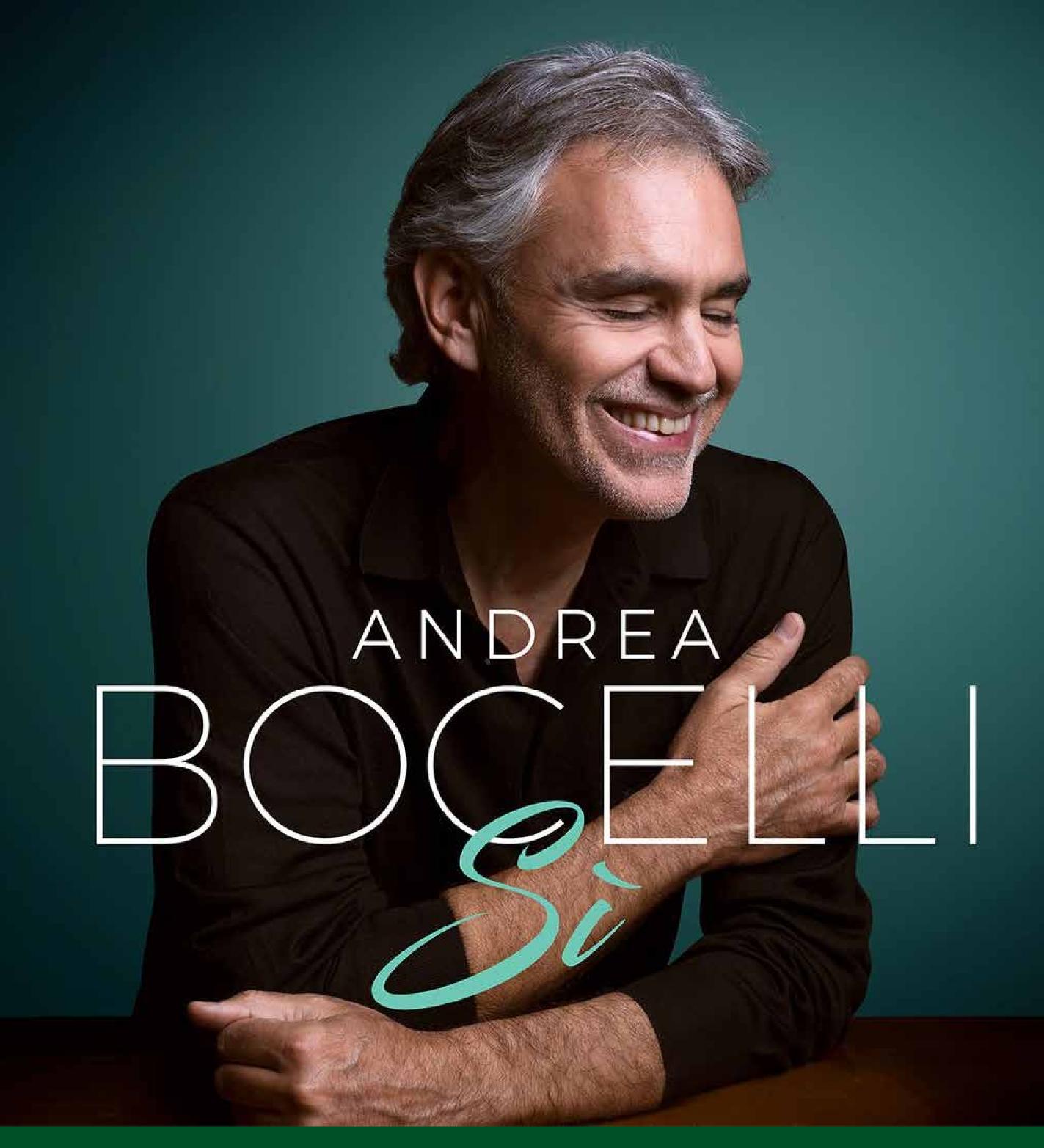
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**Notes From Nat** 

#### **BOCELLI'S "SI" AND A STAR IS BORN**

Instantaneous light and stars flourish during a loving holiday season

By Nat Burns



producer, Andrea of Merit in the Italian Republic, has a voice bars to make extra money. described by many as the most beautiful in the world.

month, just in time for that perfect last-minute the young man and they eventually performed song is a measured success. The power and This song rocketed to stardom and became a https://youtu.be/swBiCtezKZ8 gravitas of Bocelli's voice still lightens the huge hit throughout Europe. Soon Bocelli had a listener somehow. Perhaps it is what we imagine manager and a new career. as heavenly nectar that beckons us toward eternal peace.

Bocelli was born in 1958, in the small village of La Stera in Tuscany, Italy. Born with congenital "Ali di Libertà" — https://youtu.be/-8S4GttKphg glaucoma, he completely lost his sight when he was about twelve. His love of music began early "Amo and he started piano at six years of age, later be/4uj8bLek5UI

he luxurious sounds of Italian learning to play other instruments such as flute, light to any holiday season. only fourteen. While in university, studying to you add the remarkably touching video. This tenor, a knight in the Order become a lawyer, he continued to sing in piano

After practicing law for a little more than a year, Bocelli was heard singing by Italian tenor Singer Josh Groban sings a duet with Bocelli as His twenty-sixth album, Si, was released this Luciano Pavarotti. Pavarotti began promoting well.

> Si contains twelve tracks, each one a standalone marvel. Here's a sampling.

Soltanto Te"

singer, songwriter, and record guitar and saxophone. He was well-versed in This album also features other artists, including Bocelli popular classical music by the age of seven. He Bocelli's son, Matteo. Their duet is perhaps the undeniably bring instantaneous won his first singing competition when he was most beautiful on the album, especially when

> "Fall on Me" with Matteo Bocelli — https://youtu. be/ChcR2gKt5WM

holiday gift. The album rivals perfection. Each "Miserere" by Italian rocker Zucchero together. "We Will Meet Once Again" with Josh Groban —

And then, of course, there's the duet with pop star Ed Sheeran.

"Amo Soltanto Te" with Ed Sheeran — https:// youtu.be/4uj8bLek5Ul

https://youtu. ©2018 Reprise Records



classical, the other, by song, a modern balladic that's thirty-plus tracks. or hard rock work.

The 2018 release of the A Star is Born film is a youtu.be/52nfjRzlaj8 remake of the most recent 1976 version starring directed the film.

"Shallow" by Cooper and Gaga — https://youtu. as Cooper's backing band, as well. be/bo\_efYhYU2A

simultaneous release of the A Star is Born wide array of musical styles and there are fifteen youtu.be/8uGVZoqJjn4 Soundtrack. These two albums are certainly dialogue tracks that will take you through the at either end of the musical spectrum, one experience as though seeing the movie. Yep, ©2018 Interscope Records

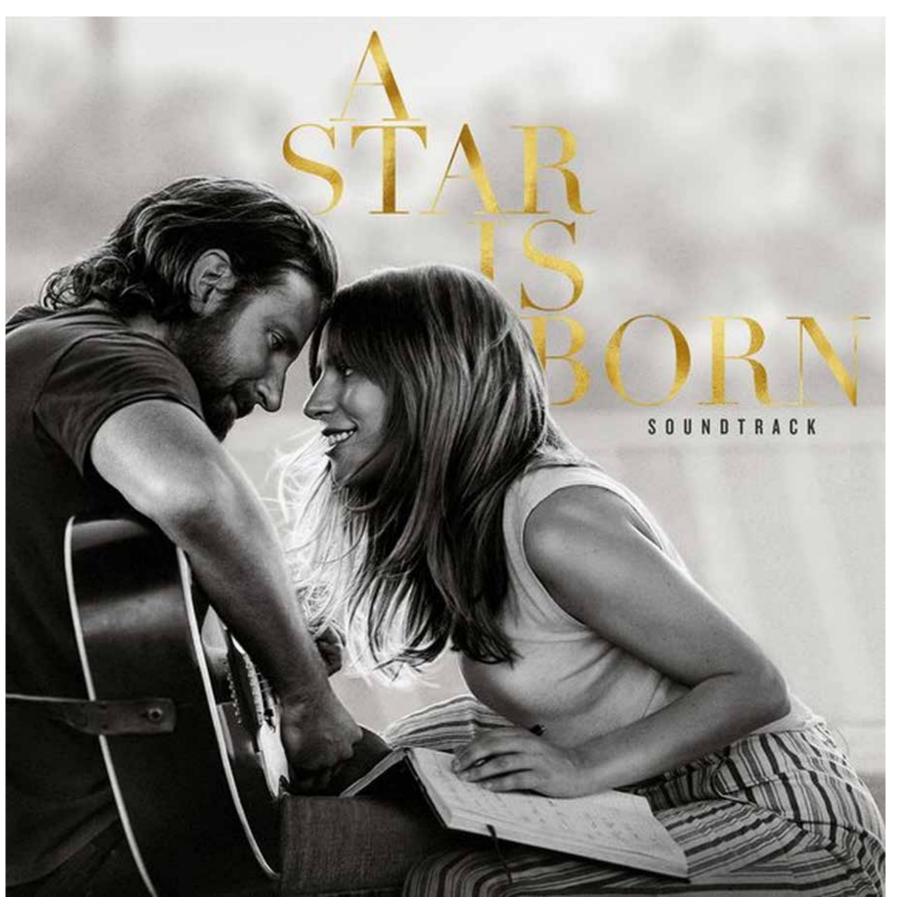
Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. This Cooper reveals that he worked closely with music lover in your life. release features Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper singing coaches for the two-year production as the star power. It's no surprise that Gaga of the film. He then enlisted Lukas Nelson, Happy Holidays! performs many of the songs on the album, but performer and son of singer Willie Nelson, as most of the songs in the movie. His band, Lukas and paste them into your browser. Nelson & Promise of the Real, appear in the film

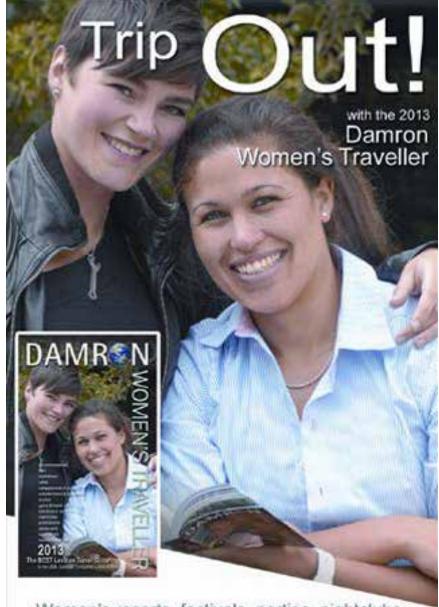
Interestingly, this release topped the almost This lengthy album features nineteen songs in a "Look What I Found" by Lady Gaga — https://

While Bocelli's album, Si, is a pure celebration "I'll Never Love Again" by Lady Gaga — https:// of life's joys, the A Star is Born Soundtrack is about life's many struggles...and its joy. Either one would be the perfect holiday gift for the

who knew Cooper had singing chops? He also a music consultant. Nelson ended up writing Always remember, if the links won't open, copy

'Til next month— Nat





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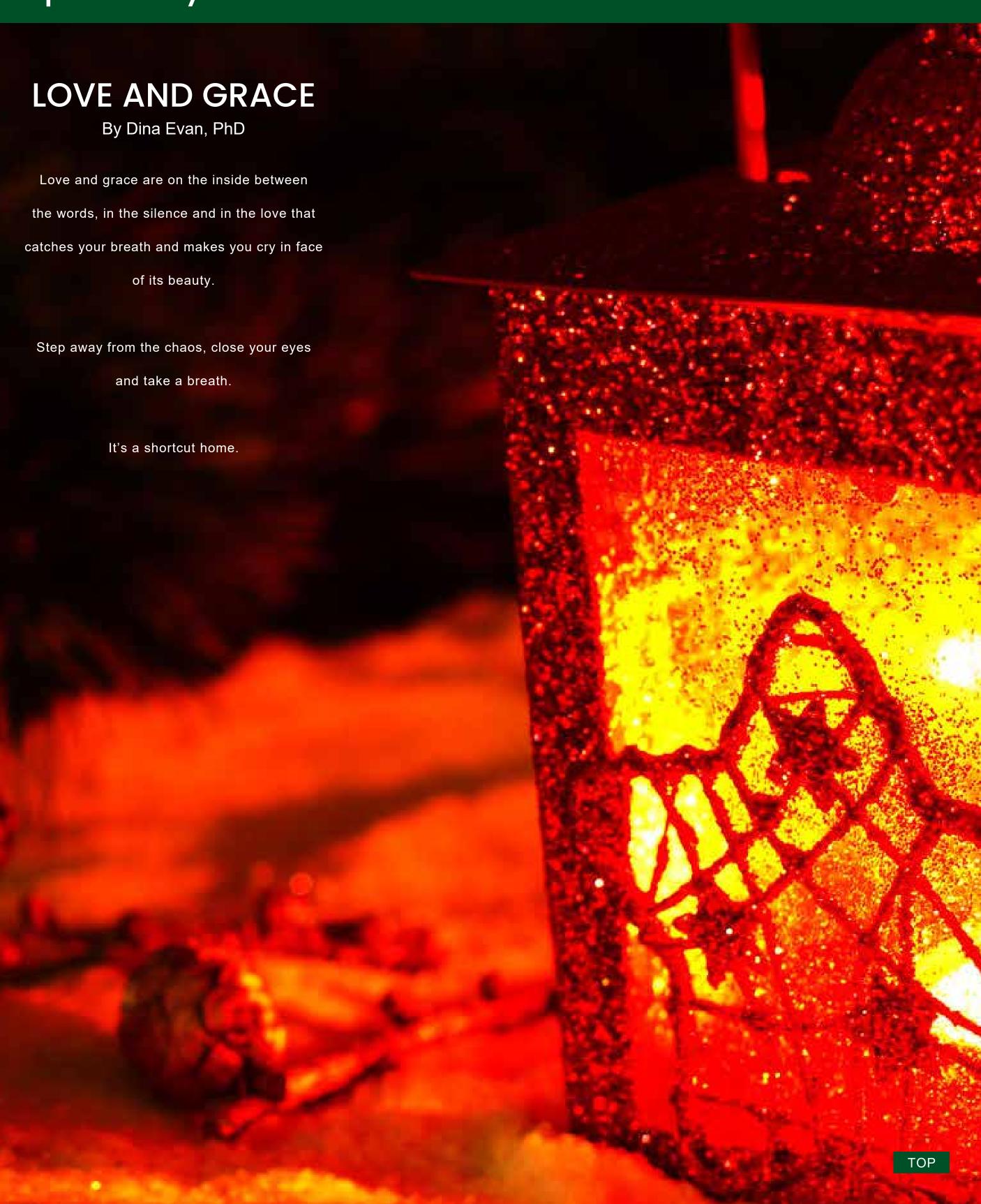
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# Spirituality



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#### Words that Make Sense

#### SOMETHING TO LAUGH AT

Laughter can't hurt... and it CAN heal!

By Toni Hart

body into thinking it's real and all the good laughing at you, but with you. effects it brings.

there are laughter groups all over the country, all have problems now and then, some big some What fun is that! where a trained laughter specialist leads you into small, but trust a boost of good laughter to lift laughing exercises? In a few minutes, there's you out of the doldrums. Your problems will So, when you're loaded down with problems smiling and laughing. Actually, you don't need solutions more easily. anyone to lead you because it's easy to do it contagious!

dialogue and just acting like what you're saying but they don't seem to be so overwhelming, and

ou may not be aware that is hysterically funny. You can slap your knees, you have helped combat them. laughter can heal and also throwback your head, and just let out a howl. I've make your problems lighter tried it standing in front of a class, and before Sometimes when I'm sitting in front of my (or at least feel lighter!). You I knew it, everyone first starts laughing timidly computer trying to think of ideas or solve a also may not know that even and then breaks into a roar. You've never felt so problem, I remember this laughter trick. Before "fake" laughter can fool your good, and they do too! Remember, they're not I knew it, I'm chuckling away, and ideas seem

You can start by telling some jokes or a funny wonders for your day—you still have problems, right?

to start pouring in. And you know what else? I stopped being so serious and actually feel a lot Trouble is, we don't laugh enough. We may better. Someone else in the house may peek in Laughter brings good air into your body and go days without even a snicker. Gosh! Without and ask me what's so funny, and again, before I helps you feel terrific all over. Did you know laughter, you may feel glum or depressed. We knew it, they're joining me in hilarious laughter.

not a frown in the whole group, and everyone is still be there, but now you may be able to find you're having trouble solving, take a moment to put on a BIG smile and break into laughter. Even if it's not real at first... it soon will be. Your day yourself. It works a lot better if you have a few Laughter does other good things as well. It will be lighter and solutions to your problems friends or a roomful to join you. It's definitely brings fresh oxygen into your lungs, lifts your will seem to come from out of the sky. Anyone chin, and helps turn that frown on your face into nearby will notice the difference and may join an upward smile. Laugher and a smile can do you in your laughter break. The more the better,

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#### **Positive Reflections**

#### HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

Getting to know a familiar stranger can be very rewarding.

By Dian Katz, MS

this only happens to those with 6th sense and you have known her all of your life. maybe we should listen to spiritual gurus out there and try to develop ours?

ave you ever met someone for Imagine going to a crowded place where you with her. On that day, my usual vet was not in the first time and felt like you need to sit down and wait until your name is so they had another vet filling in. After waiting have met them before or like called—it could be at an airport, a doctor's office, in the waiting area for some time, my name was you have known this person a waiting area or really just about anywhere. So finally called. I was brought into a room and was all your life? Some call it fate as you are sitting there, a woman leans over to told that the vet would be there shortly. I had or kismet. Others call it a grab a magazine on the table next to you. She no idea who would come in, and I didn't care. I karmic experience or synchronicity. It gives you sits down, and before long, the two of you are just hoped it was a veterinarian who knew what a feeling that the person you just met may be a conversing about something. However, as you he/she was doing and could help my doggie. soulmate or some sort of spiritual partner that begin to chat, you have this feeling like you have In walked a fairly tall woman with a kind smile. you were destined to meet. When this happens, met this person before. Clearly, you haven't, but For some reason, when she walked through should we make sure to get to know this person it sure feels like you have. You ask, "have we the door, I felt so at ease. I instantly knew she better or is it too strange that we should turn met before?" She replies no, but you can't seem would be a very compassionate person and around and run the other way? Could it be that to put your finger on it but it absolutely feels like not like some of the clinical doctors who often look at our pets or us. I don't know how I knew she was a kind woman, but I did. "Hello," she I had an experience just like this. I once brought said. "What seems to be the problem with your my sick pup to the vet to find out what was wrong puppy today?" The doctor, I will call her Lucy

accent felt so familiar. In fact, Lucy herself felt just talked about my dog. extremely familiar, and I didn't know why! I had more to it, and I couldn't figure it out.

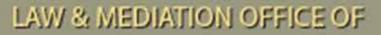
Lucy and I continued talking about my doggie. done anything like this." I didn't think she was best interest to say anything. However, more After I felt like I got many of my questions being unprofessional. I thought she was being than likely, exploring it further and letting the answered about my pup, I wanted answers real. In fact, I was thrilled she opened up and other person know could lead to a marvelous about her. I knew it is not really proper to ask shared something to me rather than just stating outcome. It probably is more of a "what does personal questions to your vet or a doctor unless the facts. If only all people were allowed to my gut says to do" situation. The bottom line is about. I did want to tell her that having a sick much better world. So I encouraged Lucy to tell amazing relationships, romantic or platonic, dog at this time was even more difficult because me more about her father. She shared while come out of that familiar feeling. Because when my father had just passed away. I shared about tears streamed down her cheeks. This was the we feel THAT comfortable, it's usually a sign we my dad, what happened to him and how we just oddest situation, but it absolutely felt amazing are going to really enjoy this person's company. had a memorial for him. I just felt so comfortable to be in the presence of a genuine deep soul. with this woman like I could tell her anything. At that moment, she suddenly couldn't hold back. After Lucy was done sharing, I told her, "Lucy,

country many of my relatives came from. Aha! and thought I was a freak? I told her I was so have been great friends ever since. That's why she felt familiar, I thought to myself. sorry. She said, "Oh no, no need. Your story reason why. There seemed to be something expecting this at all. You see, my father passed whenever you meet someone that seems so

for this column, had a very distinct accent. I tears. Uh oh. Did I get too personal? Maybe I I feel like I have known you forever. Perhaps couldn't figure out where she was from, but her should have not mentioned my dad story and that is why I wanted you to tell me more. I don't usually ask my vet or doctor personal questions, but I just feel so comfortable with you like we never met Lucy before. She examined my dog I have never seen a vet or doctor almost start have been friends for lifetimes!" To my surprise, and told me she wanted to run some tests on her crying. Lucy was extremely apologetic and Lucy said she felt the exact same way. She to rule out a few things. I felt compelled to ask dabbed her eyes with a tissue. Was it something wasn't trying to chat me up to make me feel her where she was from. She told me and it was I said? Did she know I was having these strange good. She was really being honest. We ended a European country that was very close to the thoughts of knowing her from somewhere up actually exchanging phone numbers and

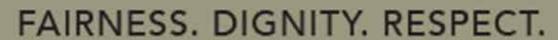
But I still have this feeling that it wasn't the only about your father touched me deeply. I wasn't So what does this all mean? It means that away not too long ago as well. Again, I am so familiar, look into it. Don't just shrug it off and sorry for being so unprofessional. I have never forget about it. It might not always be in our it pertains to what you came to see the person express themselves, we'd probably have a to marinate on it. Sometimes, some of the most So the next time this happens to you, examine it and see what develops.

TOP



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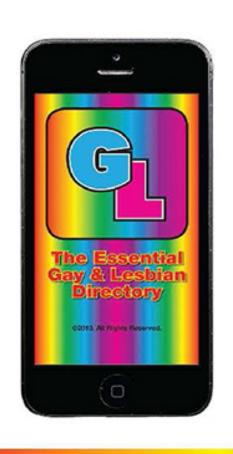
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## HotSpots

#### SPOT ON DECEMBER

Ready for some holiday fun?

By Dian Katz, MS



month! Jingle bells time! are ringing, houses are lit up, families you are reading this

at this time of year. and hopefully we each my iPhone, which will transfer over to my Apple "Lesbians Who Tech + Allies is the largest spread around, and it's spilling over into all of event. the Hotspots I am about to tell you. So shake

glorious up that snow globe ladies. It's Holiday Hotspots All you techies out there, hold your smartphones

#### are gathering, and LESBIANS WHO TECH AND ALLIES

Hotspots column! Loved ones come together Wait just a minute! I am typing something on

and head to LESBIANS WHO TECH AND ALLIES holiday party in New York on December 10th. It's going to be all kinds of fun. There will be food and drinks and opportunities to gab about all of your gadgets.

can spread a little joy to the world. No Debbie Watch, which will jump in the cloud and pop LGBTQ technology community in the world— Downers this month. You just keep reading, onto my iMac and iPad. Sheesh, I am all techie committed to visibility, intersectionality, and ya hear me? I have lots of holiday cheer to right now. I need to go to this upcoming holiday changing the face of technology. The 40,000 non-binary, LGBTQ women, queer women of color (and our allies) in tech who make up our community come from every background and business contacts. Networking Mixers are held offers private cruises. Wouldn't that be awesome live in over 40+ cities worldwide," says Lesbians the first Thursday of each month and are a to get a bunch of friends and take a holiday boat Who Tech.

If you are interested, CLICK HERE and schedule LAGLCC. it in your electronic calendar. Of course, if you Square. Maybe you might want to ring in the cards. Well alrighty then, let's do it! New Year in Times Square? It's always so you knows...

benefit of Chamber membership. Each mixer is ride? That would be incredible!!! I will even put free for members/\$20 for future members," says on a beard and red hat and you can come to

ARE in New York, there are always a plethora I'm going to get my fanny over to Wolfgang, have of things to do in the holiday spirit. One can go me a nice meal, and network with some cool check out the lighting of the tree in Rockefeller women. They encourage you to bring business Newport Harbor Christmas Boat Parade last

festive there. And of course... pssst... we are For more info on this holiday mixer, shake your your holiday event a huge success and provide everywhere! So I'm sure you will find plenty of snow globe and visit: www.laglcc.org/events/ a unique festive experience that will carry details/laglcc-december-2018-networking- on long past the event concludes. Whether a mixer-320

sit on Santa Dian's lap! Okay, don't all jump at once <gigglesnort>.

"With over 100 companies/groups served during year, Newport Landing knows what makes a holiday event a success. Our goal is to make company Christmas party or after party event, Newport Landing offers private cruises that can fit all size groups and budgets. With cruises throughout the month of December, customized times and cruise lengths are an option," says

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Wolfgang Puck in Los Angeles.

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#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN IN THE ELLA FESTIVAL

#### **ARTS**

There's some holiday cheer happening over ELLA FESTIVAL from December 28 to January plenty of people who can't afford to go anywhere in the windy city of Chicago. Join other ladies 2, 2019, in Mallorca, Spain. at the 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS luncheon on December 10th at the This fabulous extravaganza entails fine dining, Can you imagine how sad it would be to be all Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, IL.

This wonderful luncheon is put on by mean come on! Who wouldn't enjoy sipping a nursing home, hospital, homeless shelter and Steppenwolf. "Steppenwolf's annual Women cool one and lounging around over there with all other places where we are needed. A few hours in the Arts Luncheon honors women for their of the ladies!!! This sounds fabulous. Not only of our time can mean the world to someone. distinguished careers in theater, television, will you get to dine in some of the most amazing and film. Past honorees include Steppenwolf hotels and tours, but the Ella Festival also Happy Holidays my dear readers. May you all ensemble members Joan Allen and Martha includes ringing in the new year. New Year's enjoy the wonderful celebrations and Hotspots Plimpton, Julianna Margulies and Mary-Louise Day includes having lunch by the sea. Oh and happening around the world during the month Parker, along with Claire Danes, Phylicia let me tell you, this is no ordinary sea! We are of December. And LN wishes you and yours an Rashad, and Sarah Paulson. Proceeds from the talking stunning views, clear crystal waters, and extraordinary holiday and a Happy New Year! luncheon support the next generation of young luscious colors. I'm getting ready as we speak. See you next year! leaders in the arts," says Steppenwolf.

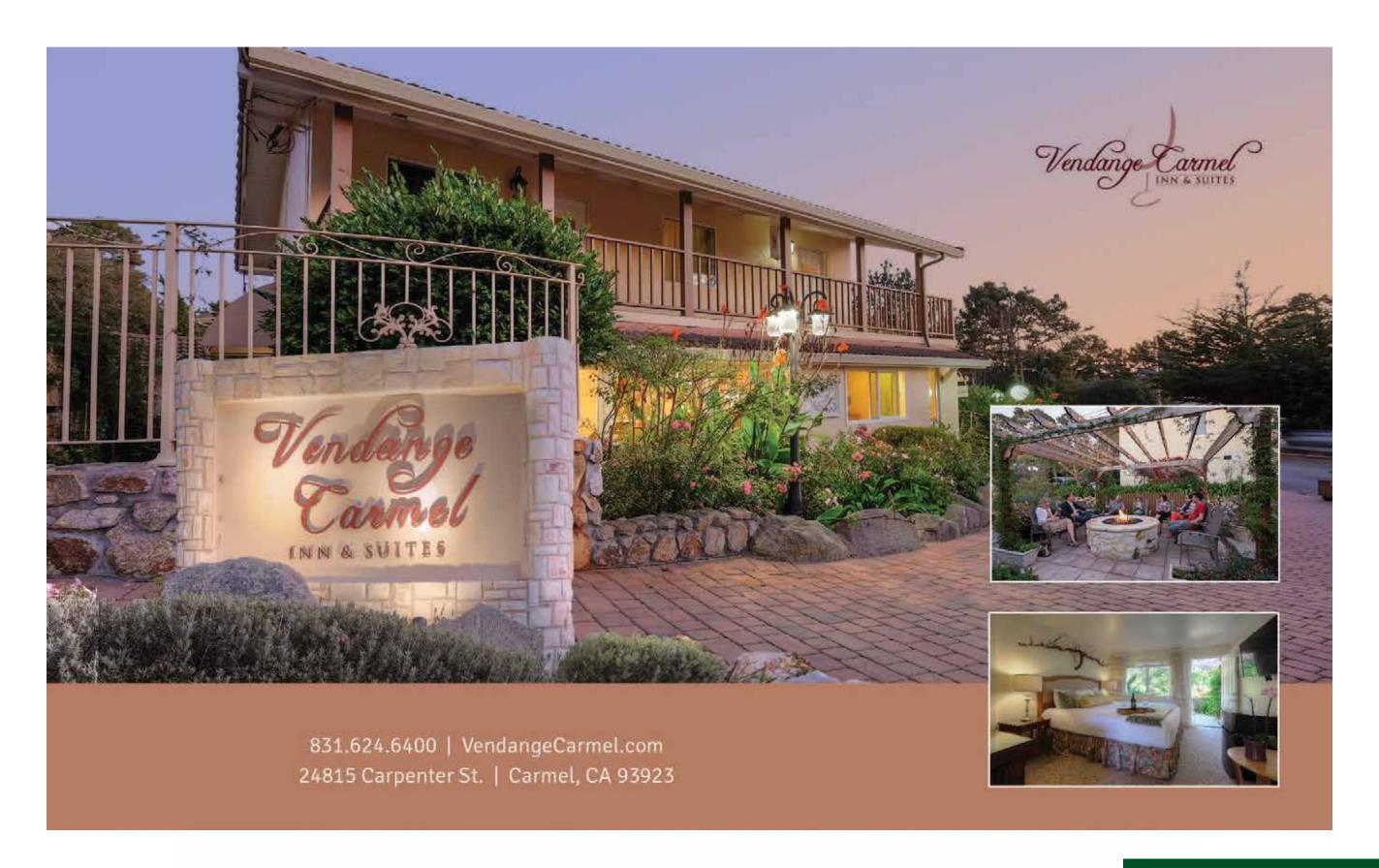
visit: www.steppenwolf.org

dancing, gatherings and of course, gorgeous alone during the holidays? Some of you may women. It's a party in the Balearic Islands!!! I have experienced this. So make time to visit a

Time to jet over to the Mediterranean to catch For more information, fly through the wind and a few rays and socialize with the incredible partygoers. Interested? Then dance over to the computer and visit: ellafestival.com

There are so many things one can do during Over on the other side of the globe is the huge this season. But we must remember, there are or for some reason unable to do so. This is a terrific time to reach out and help these folks.





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# INN & SUITES

nation located in the village of Carmel - in a lifetime stay. Their gardens, the grand erous 650 square feet of living space. by - the - Sea. It is the first wine themed pergola, drinking a glass of wine around With a California King bed, 50" high defi-Inn in all of Carmel and Monterey.

Each room is named after a local winery. more memorable. These partnered wineries design their own rooms in their own creative man- There are 18 rooms in the Inn which is The Inn offers breakfast daily. Wine and beautiful beaches.

Vendange is the perfect getaway desti- You'll see what makes Vendange a once The separate Cottage Suite offers a gen-

and high-definition flat screen TV.

the fire pit, or stopping by the lobby for nition flat screen television, gas fireplace nightly hors d'oeuvres, will make your trip and kitchenette, it's the perfect place for a honeymoon or romantic getaway.

ner, providing guests with a memorable owned and operated by the Lee family. Themed Rooms: are Dawn's Dream, and fun experience. Carmel Beach, has Sleeping areas are appointed with mem- Galante, J. Lohr, Joullian, Manzoni, McInexquisite shops, world class restaurants ory foamtop beds, deluxe linens, WiFi, tyre, Otter Cove, Pierce Winery, Tudor, Twisted Roots, Ventana, Cima Colina.

## Poetry

#### ONE SIDE OF A PHONE CALL IN THE U.S.A.

By Morag Hillsinger

Our families are blessed.

. . .that's right.

We're descended from Settlers – not immigrants! (she laughs)

There is not enough to go around anyway, it's just math.

The Statue of Liberty never meant this, I mean, the numbers."

. . .

No, I think he's right. It's time to build a wall to keep us, you know,

Good Christians in and those . . . other people out . . . cause they're the worst of the worst, right?

The want to take our jobs, right? Go on welfare.

. . .

What do you mean by that?

Me pick lettuce?

Bus tables?

Please.

That's not what I'm talking about and you know it.

This is an invasion, and infestation!

What are you talking about? Dog whistle? You're making no sense.

. . .

God uses a salty sailor to do his dirty work. You and I both know. . .

Stop that! Our troops do things on our behalf to keep us safe, it's always been that way. Why are you talking about Dole? This is America.

. . .

Tear Gas? That's fake news.

. . .

I'm hanging up now.



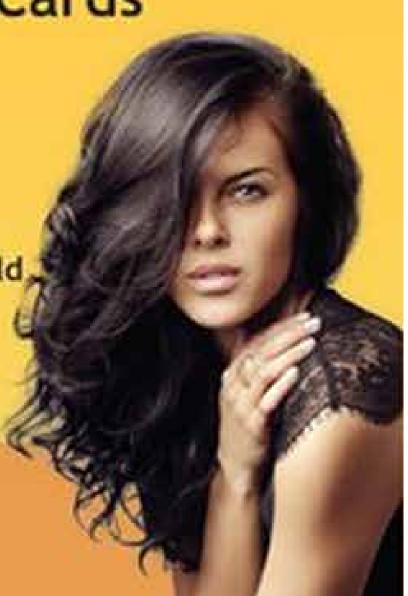
# Nat Burns Books

2018 By the Wind's Will
2017 The Liaison
2017 The Rustle of Leaves
2016 The Wittering Way
2016 Lights of the Heart
2015 Nether Regions
2014 Family Issue
2013 Poison Flowers
2013 Gospel
2012 The Quality of Blue
2012 Identity
2012 The Book of Eleanor
2010 Two Weeks in August
2010 House of Cards

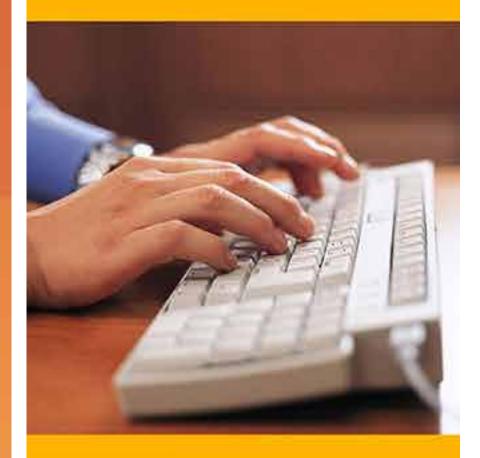
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# Femastrology

#### DECEMBER 2018

By Astrologer and Psychic, Victoria Bearden

et ready to switch gears, day of the New Moon in Sagittarius. This is really be somewhat turbulent during the first week of turnabout. Mercury, the chance. With Mercury going direct on the same unfolds. go Direct in Scorpio on December 6, 2018, the is a positive change, but things will continue to and a sense of adventure. The Sun and Moon

as December 2018 begins big! New Moons always give us an opportunity December, so be patient. You will undoubtedly with a big astrological for a new start. It's like a clean slate; a second begin to get more and more clarity as the month

planet of communication, day, we get to make a U-turn and start going in There's a New Moon at 15° Sagittarius on has been retrograde since a more sensible direction regarding problems December 6, 2018, at 11:30 pm PT, a favorable mid-November, creating a certain amount of from the previous month. Be patient, stay day to set intentions for the next month. Fire confusion, frustration, and inertia. Mercury will grounded, and keep your wits about you. This sign Sagittarius awakens enthusiasm, courage, in Sagittarius will square mysterious Neptune, the light will return to the world. Sound familiar? 2019 will be another year of great change, and highlighting our need to face the truth and to checks.

Yule time celebrations is a big party. Woohoo! healing issues about our mothers and fathers. Gather the tribe! We made it through another

make it through the cold months! The shortest Many will be happy to see it go. But a lot of to your reality, no matter what the planets are day and longest night of the year ushers in the what got stirred up this year was important. doing! Be positive, proactive, and progressive. return of the light, and is believed to hold a Lessons in life don't come about when things. Affirm the good and stand in the light. You will powerful energy for regeneration, renewal and are just peachy keen. They come about when be in fine company, and together, we can do self-reflection. There is evidence that suggests challenges arise. Take some time this month anything! Winter Solstice was honored and acknowledged to count your blessings, and review the major as far back as Neolithic times. For pagans the lessons you may have learned this year. What Opportunity Days: holiday is referred to as Yule and is a celebration problems did you wrestle with? What truths December 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, of the Goddess (Moon) energy. Symbolically, were revealed? What would you like to continue 26, 30, and 31 Wow! the Moon will give birth to the Sun (Son), and to work on? What would you like to let go of?

potential breakthroughs. Taking stock of your uphold honesty and openness in our relationships. There's a Full Moon at 0° Cancer on December 2018 revelations will help you prepare for what Secrets and lies may be uncovered at this time, 22, 2018, just after Winter Solstice. This is lies ahead. We are truly in "interesting times," which could lead to difficult, but important reality a truly special and powerful Full Moon. Great and 2019 will make that old saying abundantly insight is possible, as Watery Cancer stimulates clear. Our "group karma" is on full display, as Winter Solstice falls on December 21, 2018. our intuitive nature, and practical Capricorn we humans struggle to learn about the use The Sun goes into serious Earth sign Capricorn, gives us the impetus to bring our insights and and abuse of power and our resources. Our and the winter cycle beings. But at the core of all visions into reality. This vibration is helpful for relationship to one another, and to the planet, needs some serious therapy! Will we cave in to our base nature, or rise towards our evolving year! Break out the mead!!! Let's hope we 2018 has been a year of trials and tribulations. potential? Always remember, you hold the key

#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

sails during this fortunate period. Expand Venture Forth!

#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It's time to lighten your load and clear your vibration. Let go of unwanted baggage. just around the corner. This is a time of intense now, so get your calendar in order. Attend to your bonds. Pay attention to finances and be December Mantra: Constructive Energy conservative with your expenditures. Your December Mantra: Let Go

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Sagittarius energy puts some wind in your Now Powerful and exciting things are developing fortunate period, so if you want to take a gamble in your relationship life. Single Geminis on something, now is the time. This is wonderful your horizons. Learn something new. Put could meet a new love. Your close contacts with energy for recreation and interaction with kids. your spiritual beliefs to the test, and manifest others will be fateful and eventful. Partnership Let your hair down and take some time to play something amazing! This is a good time for energy is enhanced. This is a good time to hire and renew your spirit. Your December Mantra: travel, educational pursuits, test-taking, and a professional, such as a doctor, attorney, or Fun legal issues. You may be feeling a little battle CPA. Other people will be helpful, so if you need weary from challenges from Saturn and Pluto, a favor, now is the time to ask. You might have to Virgo (August 23-September 22) but this month, you'll get your much needed make difficult decisions and distancing yourself "shot in the arm." Your December Mantra: from negative relationships that are bringing you down. Your December Mantra: Unity

#### Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Make a conscious effort to tie up loose ends, zone. This is a productive period, so your projects may unexpectedly show up. This is a generally both in business, and in your personal life. If you should move along nicely. Cancers who need a positive period, but you will need to be careful see certain things coming to a natural ending, job may hit pay dirt, so go on those interviews. about miscommunication, both personally, and let them. Don't worry, as new beginnings are You will benefit greatly from a steady routine professionally. Your December Mantra: Peace and meaningful interactions with loved ones. any health issues you may have been ignoring. Libra (September 23-October 22) Iron out difficulties and find ways to strengthen Do things that will increase your vitality. Your

#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

you. Single Leos will be lucky in love. This is a

🥎 Focus on your personal life and things that make you feel solid, secure, and happy. Harmonize things in your home environment. Spend time with family members and loved ones. Make peace and well-being a priority. And get This is a fabulous time for advancement. a little "alone" time, too. You might need some Positive things are happening in the work time for self-reflection. People from your past

There is a lot going on. Ideas are flying around in your head. Focus them! There is a tendency to become scattered and lose yourself in the minutia of day to day activities. Fiery planets light up the creativity zone. But this is a highly creative time and you'll want It's your time to shine. Express yourself. to use it for something important. Information Put your best foot forward. People will notice you receive about work and projects could prove been absorbing towards positive and directed action. Your December Mantra: Centered

#### Scorpio (October 23-Novemeber 21)

Your December Mantra: Abundance

#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a very beneficial period. Jupiter Aquarius (January 20-February 18) has recently entered your sign, and opportunities for advancement will arise. People

again. Your December Mantra: Breakthrough

#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You need to balance your inner needs with your real-life demands. People may want Pisces (February 19-March 20) time to invest, buy, or sell. Get your time, need extra burdens at this time. Don't sign up Tune In

Expansion and new opportunities are December Mantra: The Future beginning to materialize. This is a terrific will tend to see you in a good light, so put time for group projects, networking, and career. yourself out there if you need to sell yourself. It's also a good time for socializing in general. This will be great for work and career, but also a You will benefit greatly from being around

invaluable. Your inspiration could be sparked in boon for your personal life. If you feel like you've people who share your values. Others help you a productive way. Don't lose site of your goals been holding yourself back, now you can break expand your horizons. This is an important time and priorities. Apply the knowledge you have free. Things you tried that didn't work out in the to focus on your goals. You may find finances past have a good chance of working now, so try a little stressed, but this should improve in the New Year. Be conservative with investments and expenditures for now. Your December Mantra: Growth

financially beneficially period. This is a good you to step in and take charge, but you don't 💌 Take stock of your achievements this year. You should have a great deal more energy, and money into alignment with your true for anything unless you really want to. You need perspective about things now. This will help values. If you feel something has become an some time to find your equilibrium. If you can you make decisions about your overall life energy drain, or a financial drain, fix it! This is take a little time off to just goof around, do so. direction. Think about the Big Picture and put also a highly creative time. Artistic or inventive Take care of health issues. If you need to make more energy into the things that really matter projects will succeed. Have fun with people of routine dental or medical appointments, do it. to you. Advancement is possible in the career like mind. Single Scorpios will be lucky in love. You will benefit greatly from body work and area. But if you work more, you should be other forms of therapy. Your December Mantra: compensated. Don't let people take advantage of your willingness to help. Channel your energy into areas that will benefit YOU for a change. Be a little bit selfish. You've earned it. Your

TOP

# **Domestic Abuse / Violence**

Domestic abuse and violence have been front-page news lately, and a topic of discussion throughout the country. The US Department of Justice defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner."

It can be: Physical; Sexual; Emotional; Economic; and/or Psychological.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, there is help out there.

Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

# GAY USA



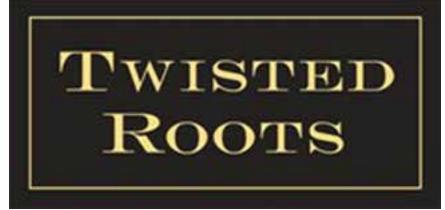
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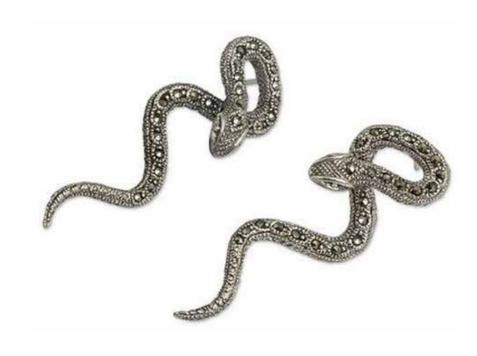
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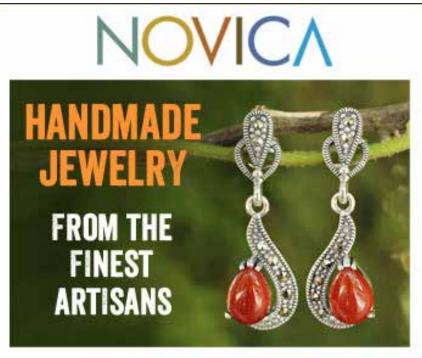
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lover, especially when it is designed delicately and neatly, featuring the small black glitter of body.

to work with Novica that so much opportunity would come to me. To share my work with the The Artisan - Narinee: I am Narinee a jewelry readers of The Lesbian News is a dream come

> and myself and to provide an income for the artisans that work with me.

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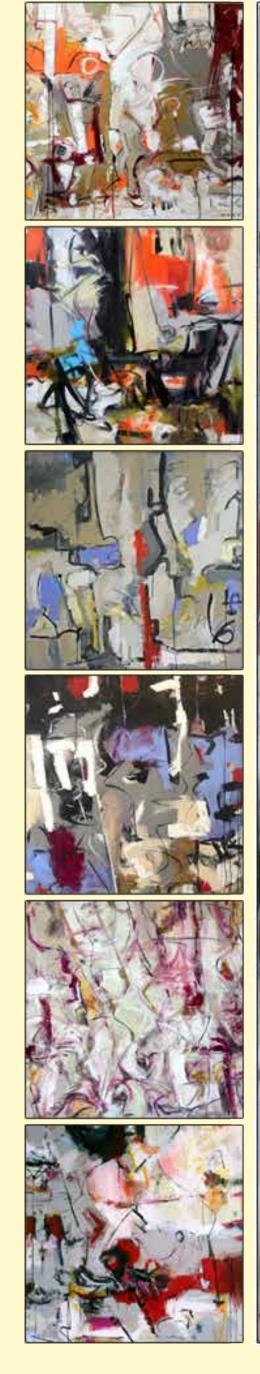
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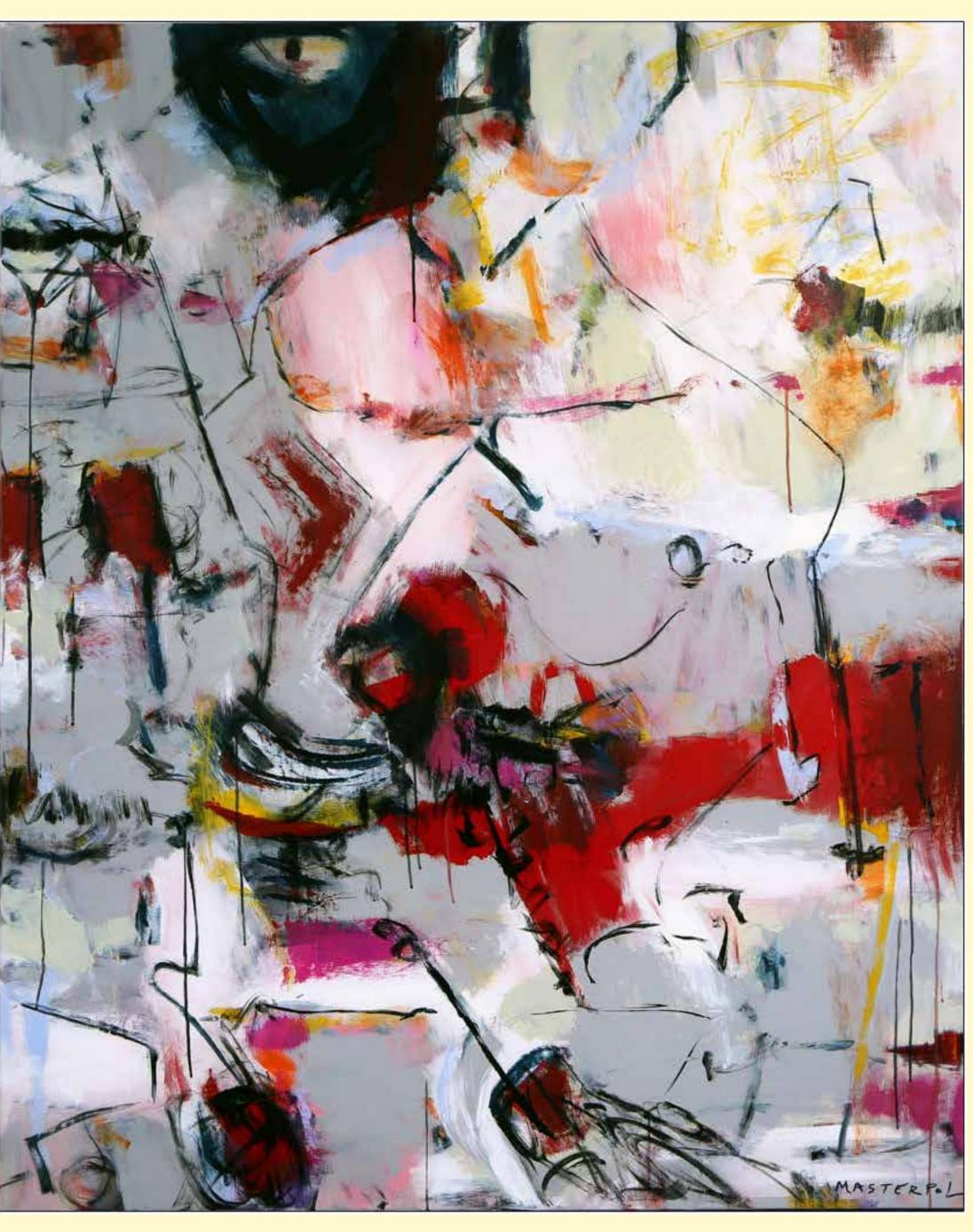
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## MAS TER POL

# Rose Masterpol Gallery







# Rose Masterpol Gallery

drawn line assumes a rhythmic animation akin of space. to graffiti writing and on occasion even cartoon energy of the "street" to painterly effect.

De Kooning, Kline, Gorky, and Motherwell as or their method. Indeed, she comprehends the

n her work of the past three years Rose models, and their influence is readily apparent. examples of De Kooning, Picasso, et al, as just

into non-objective painting, perhaps even a kind to the bold moves and bright contrasts of more profoundly as a painter. of notation; certainly, she is re-purposing the today's pop idioms she picks up on their spontaneous response to artists who have come influences with voluble confidence, studying and between them. before her. She cites Joan Mitchell, Pollock, "feeling" rather than simply imitating their imagery

Masterpol has been oscillating between Masterpol recapitulates that influence with that - examples of spirit, more important to a drawn line, animated by color as well remarkable intelligence and sensitivity: these her for their attitude than for their manner. She as its own flagellating trail, and a more are genuine, unabashed Abstract Expressionist has learned from them, for instance, to pace painterly stroke that provides given works right down to their Surrealist reliance on herself across a visual field – but the pace she expanses with texture as well as hue. The the impulsive mark and their Cubist articulation maintains is entirely her own. She has learned to segue strategically from color to color rather than simply dump paint in various areas – but caricature, seeming almost choreographed. The irony is that Masterpol's more "historic" the colors result from her own perception, and Here Masterpol, deliberately or not, proposes painting is, if anything, less studied than her her segues embody her own sensibility. With a translation of hip-hop and other urban dance more "contemporary" work. When she responds every lesson learned, Masterpol finds herself

stylizations no less than on their power; she Rose Masterpol would seem to be two painters in reflects the fact that, even while they depend one. In fact, she is one painter paying attention That level of energy carries over into Masterpol's on boundless invention, the popular arts allow to two modes of expression. Both those modes larger, even more ambitious canvases; but in their artists limited freedom. Like any good pop are urgent and convincing, and she responds to these, she puts aside the self-conscious project artist, Masterpol capitalizes on such restraint by both with insight, conviction, and unmistakable of contemporary reflection and allows herself playing off it, letting restricted modality amplify personality. Those two modes would seem to the luxury of pure painting. If the "drawn" her inventiveness. For truly liberated painting, have little to say to each other; but, like someone paintings manifest a vigorous but studied however, she turns to a tradition of liberty that brought up bi-lingually, Masterpol speaks both response to pop culture, the "painted" paintings she can only inherit from fellow painters. In this with poetic fluency and effortless translation, embody Masterpol's equally fervent but entirely regard, Masterpol proceeds in the wake of her finding - and building - vivid connections



# **Twisted Roots Vineyard**

awaiting a new start to our growing season. be achieved. Currently the vineyard is pretty bare, so much so canes all over the place. That being said, this go around. is a very important time of the year, a time that a skill that requires experience and judgment we would end up over working the vines and Current-Releases

that one might not see the future as too bright, If we leave too many buds, which means lots

can determine the production and quality of the When it comes to our "1918" Old Vine Zinfandel of twigs. grapes that will ultimately become our 2015 vineyard, the entire situation of pruning changes. vintages. Even though our family has been at As you can see from the picture here, these this for three generations now and almost 100 vines are wild and twisted by their very nature, Cheers, years, it is still the time of year that causes us so pruning becomes very difficult. The key to concern. Pruning is an art of delicate balance; our rich, bold, yet soft flavors in our "1918" Old Josh Ruiz too much will cause small, uneconomical crops; Vine Zinfandel wines, is pruning these vines Co-Owner/Winemaker too little will cause over-cropping and low- so that they don't over produce and over work quality fruit. Pruning also facilitates cultivation, these old vines. With most of thewood on these disease control and harvesting, when the vines vines being dead and hollow, if we leave the For more info: are trained to a grow in a particular shape. It is same number of buds as the rest of our vines, http://twistedrootsvineyard.orderport.net/wines/

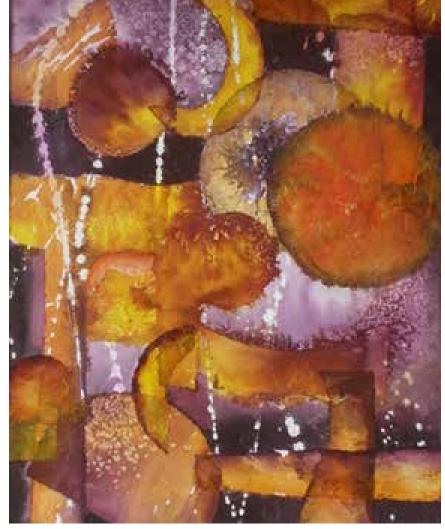
Happy New Year! Well we are officially into the and cannot be done by machine. Ross, who end up killing the old vines. While only 4 acres New Year and that means a fresh new start, with spent his entire life on the vineyard and learned remain of the original vineyard from 1918, we new goals and expectations of what is ahead from his father on how to properly prune our always struggle with wanting to maximize the of us this year. Well the vineyards of Twisted vines, so that just the right amount of grapes number of bottles each year, we always want Roots are no different, we too are eagerly would be produced and the best quality would to protect our family history and want to make sure that the vines are going to be around for the future as well.

given the almost dead look to the vines. This of grapes will be produced, then our wine will So next time you are out and about, and happen time of year, the vines are completely dormant be light and flabby, too few buds and we lose by a vineyard, remember that while it might look and bare, with all the leaves falling off and the tonnage and don't have enough great wine to like nothing but twigs, there is a lot more going on out there. Someone, somewhere is focused and concerned about how to handle this mess

# Susan St. Thomas Gallery













## "Stardust Reveries"

An exhibit of celestial abstract art by Susan St. With over 40 years as a professional astrologer, precision painting and loose free flowing washes, Thomas at the Sebastopol Gallery, 150 N Main Susan combines her fascination with the language she integrates avariety of innovative techniques St. Sebastopol, CA 95465. www.sebastopol-gallery.com 707 829-7200

of the stars and her lifelong expression as an to express her imagination. artist. This collection is inspired by the images a boundless realm of ever changing form.

captured by the Hubble telescope of deep space Reception for the artist plus 14 other gallery member artists: October 11, 4-6pm.

Susan uses layered glazes of acrylic to create Free artists talk, "Art and Astrology" at the depth and a dance of light and color, sometimes gallery: October 22, 7pm. mixing media and collage. Capable of both

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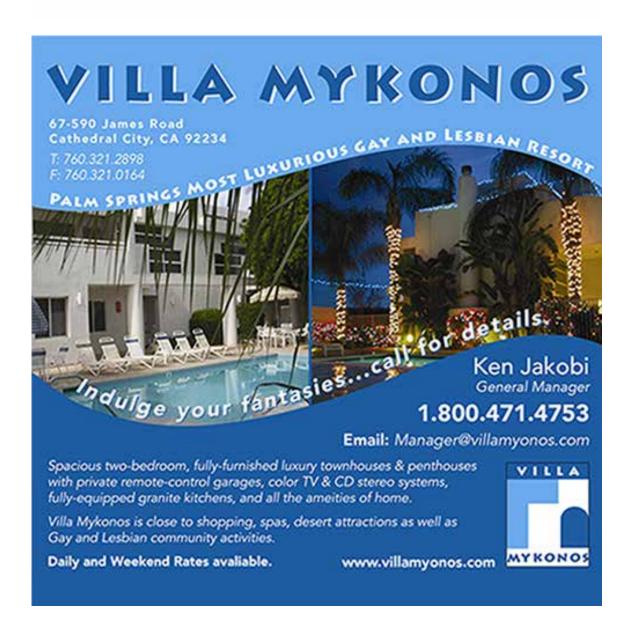
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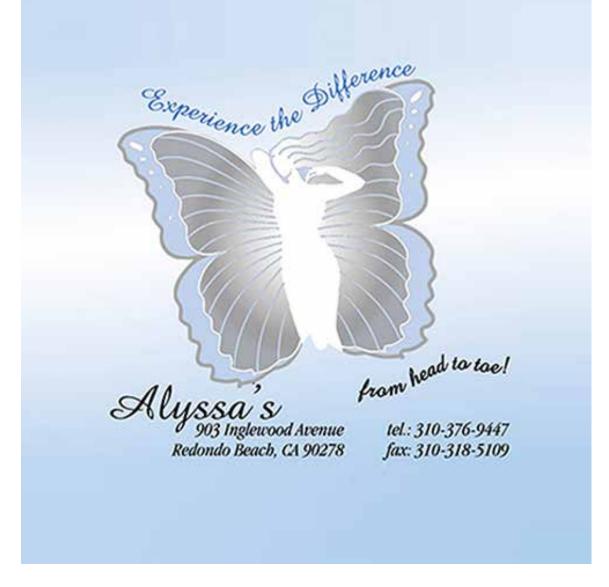
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