

PALISADES NEWS

SPECIAL SECTION • DECEMBER 7, 2016

HOLIDAY

Gift Guide



Nutcracker Ballet on Stage This Month

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

The *Nutcracker* ballet was first presented at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, a week before Christmas in 1892. This production was a failure. Neither the critics nor the audience liked it, even though Czar Alexander III was delighted with the ballet.

Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky had been commissioned by mastermind choreographer Marius Petipa to compose the ballet with a score based on Alexandre Dumas's adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffman's tale *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*.

While *The Nutcracker* was not an instant success, its appeal grew, especially in the United States, and today no ballet company would think of striking it from its repertoire.

The first performance of *The Nutcracker* in the United States was by the San Francisco Opera Ballet, in 1944, directed by George Balanchine student William Christensen.

The New York City Ballet first performed Balanchine's *Nutcracker* in 1954, but the holiday ballet did not begin to achieve its great popularity until after the Balanchine staging became a hit in New York City.

By changing a few characters, Balanchine brought new life to the ballet, and that is the version American audiences have come to love.

The plot revolves around a German girl named Clara Stahlbaum and her coming-of-age one Christmas holiday. In Hoffmann's tale, the girl's name is Maria, while Clara is the name of one of her dolls. In Moscow Ballet's version of the *Nutcracker*, known as the *Great Russian Nutcracker*, she is affectionately called Masha.

The *Great Russian Nutcracker* includes other unique elements in the telling of the traditional holiday tale. The setting is in Moscow and the city's famous onion-domed skyline is featured as a backdrop. Traditional Russian folk characters (Father Christmas Snow Maiden) escort Masha and the Nutcracker Prince to their dream world in Act II.

Finally, the "Dove of Peace," exclusive to Moscow Ballet's version, welcomes the couple to the "Land of Peace and Harmony" traditionally called "The Land of Sweets."

Both versions of the ballet will be performed in Los Angeles.

Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker*: December 16 at 7 p.m.; December 17 at 1 p.m. at the Wiltern Theatre, 3790 Wilshire (corner of Western). Tickets: \$87-\$380.

Los Angeles Ballet: December 10 at 5 p.m.; December 11 at 1 p.m. at the Dolby Theatre, Hollywood and Highland. Tickets: \$41-\$374.

Los Angeles Ballet: December 16 at 7:30 p.m.; December 17 at 1 and 5 p.m. and December 18 at 1 and 5 p.m. at UCLA's Royce Hall. Tickets: \$60-\$225.



Former Pacific Palisades resident Lucia Connolly danced in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* at *The Broad Stage* in 2015.

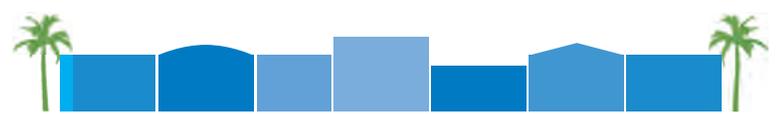
Photo: Todd Lechtick

Happy Holidays!

Special Moments

Great Gifts
of Exquisite
Lingerie,
Nightgowns,
Robes & Pajamas!

873 Via de la Paz, Pacific Palisades • (310) 454-8199
www.SpecialMomentsLingeriePacificPalisades.com


PACIFIC PALISADES
BID
Business Improvement District

**Please
Shop & Dine
At Home
In The
Village**

Celebrate the Holidays at Universal

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Fans of the Grinch, the Minions and Harry Potter can get an extra fix at Universal Studios this month as the theme park decks out its offerings with Christmas cheer.

Hot Butterbeer, a dreamy confection that tastes a bit like warm, liquid butterscotch, spices up the Three Broomsticks menu in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, while the park's "Super Silly Fun Land" hosts a crew of merry and mischievous Minions.

But the center of the festivities is "Grinchmas" in the grand piazza of the theme park where Dr. Seuss' Whoville comes to life. The Mayor of Whoville, Cindy Lou Who and various other Whos are fully decked out with the fanciful prosthetics and makeup from the movies while they roam the area and interact with guests.

Visitors can easily chat and get their pictures taken with multiple Whos, or if they're willing to stand in line for a bit, the Grinch and his trusty dog Max are also available.

Grinchmas at Universal began in 2008 and has been growing each year. The Grinchmas area was probably the most packed part of the park on this year's opening day December 3, especially in the evening when each half hour, the twisty 60-ft. tall Grinchmas tree was re-lit as part of a short comic play with the Grinch and the Whos.

In addition, the Who-liday Singers—a



The Grinch and his beleaguered dog, Max, pose in front of the 60-ft. Grinchmas tree at Universal Studios.

boy band—regularly performed a cappella concerts in full Who makeup—while the energetic Martha May Whovier and the Who dolls sang songs like Santa Baby to the crowd. Cindy Lou Who also retold Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* a number of times each day. (The festivities

continue December 10-11, and daily from December 16-January 1.)

Throughout the Grinchmas days, a number of kid-friendly activities are available. For example, the Whoville post office offers a "Grow Your Heart 3 Sizes" campaign for visitors to list their good deeds on a post-

card to mail to the Grinch. In return, a book is donated to a child in need on behalf of the sender. Kids and adults can also participate in a scavenger hunt and receive a small prize if they find six items.

Riders of the studio tram tour are also entertained by the Whos, who emerge when the tram reaches the original film sets from Ron Howard's movie. Instead of simply passing by Whoville as it does during most of the year, the tram turns into the original Whoville set, and the Whos and the Grinch emerge to dance and sing.

Universal City Walk also has its own festivities. A 40-ft. tall tree is decorated with 200,000 LED icicles that are choreographed to match the lights and sounds of the "5 Towers" plaza. Each evening, Santa sits on his sleigh to welcome and take pictures with visitors.

In addition, the dancing fountain and its 230 jets of choreographed water get a holiday makeover with red, green and white lights plus holiday music. The attraction typically is surrounded by a crowd of watchers. Brave souls try to dash through the dancing streams of water without getting wet and, of course, frequently end up getting drenched, to the crowd's delight.

Concerts at "5 Towers" and an ensemble of street performers complement the festivities at City Walk. Parking is \$10 after 5 p.m. or \$18 all day. Theme park tickets range from \$99 for children 3 to 9 years old to \$359 for a VIP experience. A one-year California resident pass is \$119.

Amusement Parks Offer Festivities

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

The sea of amusement parks in Southern California spice things up to attract holiday visitors this month.

Aside from its splash of holiday decorations, **Six Flags Magic Mountain** offers a new attraction, Santa's Wild Sleigh Ride, a virtual reality roller coaster that debuted November 19. The park describes the ride as an adventure where Santa and his reindeer battle a mischievous elf. In addition, Six Flags will have over a million holiday lights, a tour of Santa's workshop and new food options, such as hot cocoa.

Knott's Berry Farm becomes Knott's Merry Farm through January 8. Holiday decorations and lights will provide a new look for the park. Visitors can meet Santa and enjoy a variety of new shows, including a Peanuts Christmas pageant, a Snoopy ice

skating spectacular, and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. In addition, Ghost Town will feature carolers, and each night will include a light show synchronized to the song "Let It Snow," which will also have falling snow.

At **Disneyland**, the park will be decked in holiday finery, and the shows and parades get a Christmas rebooting. The parade becomes a Christmas fantasy parade, while Christmas decorations are sprinkled among the rides. It's a Small World also temporarily sings tidings of joy, instead of its usual tune.

Next door at **California Adventure**, the World of Color nighttime light show becomes a "holiday fantasy," and Santa and his elves are there to hear Christmas wishes. In addition, a Latin flair will be part of both its ¡Viva Navidad! Street party through January 8 and Three Kings Day festivities from January 5-8.

Legoland will also get into the spirit with

a life-size Lego Santa, reindeer and Christmas tree, plus holiday treats like churros con chocolate, hot chocolate and peppermint milkshakes. Holiday decorations and a holiday show in the Lego Friends area will

also enliven the park, while New Year's Eve will feature a Lego version of the Times Square ball drop with a fireworks display and a giant Lego brick dropping 22 feet in the air at 6 p.m.



On November 19, Six Flags Magic Mountain premiered the new virtual reality roller coaster, Santa's Wild Sleigh Ride.

On the Cover

Gnomes, elves and reindeer can be found at Kier Design, 15260 Antioch St., (310) 459-0980 or visit kierdesign.blogspot.com. An individual gnome, pictured on front, is \$35.
Photo: Shelby Pascoe



Pacific Palisades Interfaith clergy included (left to right) Reverend Shawn Gendel (Calvary Christian Church), Brother Ritananda (Self Realization Fellowship), Rabbi Amy Bernstein (Kehillat Israel), Reverend Wayne Walters (Community Methodist), Reverend Bruce Freeman (St. Matthew's Episcopal), Monsignor Liam Kidney (Corpus Christi), Bishop Chris Eastland (Latter Day Saints) Jane Richardson (St. Matthew's) and Reverend Eric Schaefer (Presbyterian Church).

Interfaith Service: 'Seeking the Common Good'

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Bible passage chosen for the Interfaith Thanksgiving service on November 21 was Matthew 5: 43-44: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you.'"

After a bitter presidential election that left the country deeply divided, the more than 300 people who attended the hour-long service at St. Matthew's Church sought unity and healing.

This was the 21st annual Community Service of Thanksgiving in Pacific Palisades. The town's eight religious leaders—Rev. Bruce Freeman (St. Matthew's Episcopal), Rabbi Amy Bernstein (Kehillat Israel), Rev. Eric Schaefer (Presbyterian), Reverend Wayne Walters (Methodist), Brother Ritananda (Self-Realization Fellowship), Rev. Shawn Gendel (Calvary Christian), Msg. Liam Kidney (Corpus Christi) and Bishop Chris Eastland (Church of the Latter-Day Saints)—joined to lead the service.

"My first Interfaith ceremony was 17 years ago," Kidney said before giving the benediction. "I'm the only one still here."

This year's homily was given by Walters, who joked that when he made his debut appearance in 2015 he was asked to read the traditional Presidential Proclamation, because his fellow clergy feared he might improvise. This year, he said, his peers allowed him to give the homily, and he thought it was an honor—until he was leaving after the planning meeting, and he thought he heard one of the clergy say, "sucker."

Walters said his group had planned the service before the election's outcome. But because of the division and the ugliness on all sides during the campaign, the overall theme selected was "Seeking the Common Good."

"Obviously, Jesus wasn't a Republican or Democrat or Independent," Walters said. "But the political divisions between people of his time were just as pronounced as they are in our time." He noted there were significant hostilities among the Sadducees and Pharisees and Essenes. "So, which group did Jesus favor? None, really."

Walters said that Jesus didn't categorize people the way we do today—urban liberal or Midwest conservative or African-American or high school graduate or one-percenter or Muslim or evangelical or immigrant or gay. "And then we treat and respond to those persons based on how we feel about persons

in that classification. Not so with Jesus."

Walters admitted to classifying people, saying he gives clear instructions to his secretary about salesmen: "Don't put those kinds of people through!" He said he doesn't want his time wasted and becomes irritated "by listening to a prolonged sales pitch or to a fundraising program that is guaranteed to increase my congregational giving by 300 percent."

"I tell them to call St. Matthew's," Walters

joked. "In fact, I give them the Reverend's telephone number."

He explained that he's that way about salespeople in general, and if he's in a store and a clerk comes up to him and suggests that a jacket would look good on him, "I may not say it literally but something in my facial expression or verbal response suggests, 'Go away.' My wife has more than once suggested I might be more pastoral."

Walters told the audience that in Jesus'



CANALE - MARTINEZ
salon

SERVICES

Men - Haircut Starting \$65
Women - Haircut Starting \$125

Single Process Color Starting \$85
Highlights Starting \$125

Blow dry - Starting \$65

Conditioning Treatments \$50
Brazilian / Keratin Starting \$250

'Tis The Season to Sparkle and Shine

During the holiday season mention this add and enjoy a complimentary hair gloss booked with any service.

970 Monument St. suite 204 . Pacific Palisades, Ca 90272
310.454.3444 . info@canalemartinezsalon.com



GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC @ ATAM PALISADES

ATAM Gift Certificate

Amount: 1 hour music lesson
Date: _____
Expires: _____

To: _____
From: Anthony from ATAM
Authorized by: Anthony Wamble

881 Alma Real suite 117
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
www.atamc.webs.com
facebook.com/artotechnologyandmusic 310.573.0012

Pick up a gift card for lessons at ATAM

881 Alma Real Drive suite#117
Pacific Palisades, 90272
techandmusicteacher@gmail.com
atampalisades.com
310-573-0012



time a lot of people felt the same way about tax collectors who gathered money for the Roman Empire, an oppressive regime. The collectors were seen as turncoats and most of them cheated the people they collected from.

“What did Jesus think about tax collectors?” Walters asked. “He made no condemnation of them—quite the opposite. He spent a lot of time with them.” One tax collector, Zacchaeus, was so moved by Jesus that he offered to give half his possessions to the poor and said if he defrauded anyone in the past, he would repay them fourfold.

Walters spoke about how hard it was to emulate Jesus. “We have all certainly heard of loving your neighbor and in principle you’d agree that is what we should do,” he said, but admitted personal difficulty in doing so.

“Following a contemplative retreat in the mountains or at a monastery, I’ve set out with the intent to just love everybody—even annoying members of my congregation.

“But my success rate has been limited to from several hours up to a day or two, depending on how much contact I have with people, whether I have to drive anywhere and deal with idiots cutting in front of me and if I allow myself to read anything in the news or on Facebook that reflects thinking or behavior different than my own way of thinking. If I do any of these things, I usually fall within a few minutes to a few hours.”

Walters explained that no matter one’s religious affiliation, we need to follow Jesus’ advice on loving everyone, especially those we disagree with, and not just for one



A choir consisting of singers from different congregations provided music for the Interfaith celebration at St. Matthew’s. The organist was Dr. Haesung Park.

morning or a day or two.

“If Jesus were to start making the rounds again and met with me for a little one-on-one, I wonder if he might bring up this issue. And not just about how bad things are or what I read in the comment section of Facebook posts. I wonder if he might say, ‘Wayne, you need to start loving your enemies.’ I can imagine myself saying, ‘Who, me?’ I preach about it all the time. Doesn’t that count for something?’ And Jesus would probably say, ‘That counts for something but if you won’t

or can’t love others, then how are you different than anyone else you complain about?’”

The Methodist minister concluded, “Now perhaps more than in a very long time, our country needs to be more united in ways that can ultimately reflect the beauty of the country established and envisioned 240 years ago. We have a lot to do to make sure there is liberty and justice for all, but let us be one people under God, indivisible. We have much to do that will only be meaningful and effective if we

constantly act out of love.”

In his Sharing of the Sign of Peace remarks, Bishop Eastland emphasized that “In a world that is so desperately in need of greater civility, more charity and deeper mutual respect, what a blessing it is that you would take your precious time to gather this evening, united towards this common purpose.

“You truly represent a shining example that people of faith, particularly of different faiths, can and indeed must play a critical role in addressing and resolving the many conflicts that plague our planet.”

Eastland concluded, “While we may not have the means to end all strife in the world, let us tonight recommit ourselves to bringing a greater measure of peace into our own lives, and by doing so within our families, our neighborhoods and our community. Reverend Walters spoke to us of the ‘classifications’ that can divide us, but let us instead signify this commitment to each other as brothers and sisters under one God by extending to one another the Sign of Peace.”

The evening’s offering was donated to the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness to help fund its work with OPCC, the LAPD and the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks.

The participating choirs and their directors included Corpus Christi (Will Salvini), the Presbyterian Church (Jaco Wong), St. Matthew’s (Thomas Neenan) and the Self-Realization Fellowship (Victor Long). The organist was Dr. Haesung Park, parish organist at St. Matthew’s.

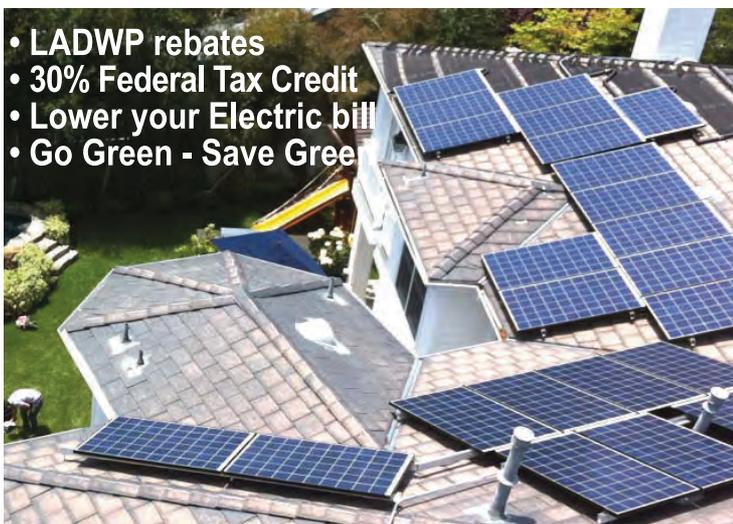
**COLLECTIONS
ANTIQUES & ACCESSORIES
For Special Holiday
Gift Giving!**



Exquisite selection of antique clocks in all sizes and shapes

www.AntiqueClocksPacificPalisades.com
15326 Antioch Street, Pacific Palisades, CA
(310) 459-9692

**Solar
SUNTRICITY**
Electricity from the Sun



- LADWP rebates
- 30% Federal Tax Credit
- Lower your Electric bill
- Go Green - Save Green

Best Holiday Wishes
**Give your household the gift
that keeps on giving**

Free Quote (310) 459-7062

Joyce Brunelle (310) 459-7062
Joyce@solarsuntricity.com www.solarsuntricity.com
Licensed, Bonded, Insured 35 yrs CA Lic #369267, B1, C10, C46

Girl Scouts Collect 351 Coats In Successful Annual Drive

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Donate a coat” flyers went up around town in early November, and members of Girl Scout Troop 565 asked people, “Have you ever felt cold?” The fourth graders explained that nearly 50 million Americans are living in poverty and a coat is something they cannot afford.

Troop leader Kristin Sibson said the girls made the flyers, typed up a press release and asked for permission to place collection bins in various locations. They also made announcements at schools and at churches.

The Girl Scouts asked for donations of clean, gently worn coats of all types and sizes. They collected coats at Palisades Elementary, Marquez Elementary, Fire Station 69, Corpus Christi School and the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

“Our drive was a HUGE success!” Sibson said. The Scouts collected 351 coats for One Warm Coat, a national nonprofit that works to provide a warm coat to persons in need. All the donated coats went to the Union Rescue Mission.

Troop members were asked why they chose this particular community service project.

“We chose to collect coats over food or toys because it is unlikely people would give

away food because they purchased it so they will have something they like to eat,” Hailey Sugarman said. “They will probably have more coats they are able to give away than food. Even though it would have put a smile on their face to give them toys, it will be less needed on a cold stormy night than a jacket to keep you warm.”

“When people are warm they feel safe and cozy,” Cate Deiter said. “This is the way I wanted to make people feel.”

“We helped a lot of people because we gathered all different types of coats: some were for really cold weather, some were for rain and some were really fashionable. There were lots of coats for kids too,” Sky Shannon said. “I hope all these coats can help people be warm and cozy this winter!”

Isabelle Kocher told the News, “My neighbor Kathy gave us a leather coat that been owned by her father, but she felt good that it would go to a good cause.”

“My favorite one was the neon yellow size 4T jacket that said LOVE,” Caroline Quigley said. “I really enjoyed collecting coats because we helped to collect a lot of coats for people who really need them.”

Since its inception in 1992, One Warm Coat has worked with its volunteers to give away more than four million coats. Visit: onewarmcoat.org.



Girl Scouts who helped collect coats were (front row, left to right) Maren Ghaffari, Sky Shannon, Sierra LaLonde, Darby Rastegar, (middle row, left to right) Cate Deiter, Caroline Quigley, Hailey Sugarman, Isabelle Kocher (back row, left to right) Dayna Danielle, Sage Denham and Claire Sibson.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

YMCA Christmas Tree Lot Is Open

The annual YMCA Christmas Tree Lot will open on Monday, November 28, and will remain open through December 23 at Simon Meadow (corner of Sunset Blvd. and Temescal Canyon Road). The sale of trees is a major fundraising event for the Y. Proceeds help support healthy programs for Palisadians of all ages; keep fees affordable; and provide financial assistance to those families going through hard times.

The lot is open Monday through Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Denise Carolyn
Pacific Palisades

Hmmmm...
One for them....
Five for ME!

www.DeniseCarolyn.com

15276 Antioch Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 (310) 868-9289

12 DAYS
of SEAFOOD
with SANTA MONICA SEAFOOD
December 12th - 23rd

Free SMS Sauce of your choice and an SMS insulated bag with a Market purchase of \$30 or more.

Spend \$100 in our Market and receive a \$20 voucher to spend on your next Market purchase.

Add an Atlantic Lobster Tail to any café entrée for \$5.

*One giveback per transaction
*Not valid with any other offer or FiveStar reward
*Must mention to staff before transaction is complete

‘Thinking Outside the Box’ Gifts



Pill Boxes

Enamel and Porcelain, varying sizes, \$10-\$15

Collections Antiques

15326 Antioch St.

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(310) 459-9692



Magnifying Glasses

\$18

Gift Garden Antiques

15266 Antioch St.

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(310) 459-4114



Slim Sonic Toothbrush

Battery-operated, fits in purse or pocket, \$17.99

Palisades Compounding Pharmacy

540 Palisades Dr.

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(310) 454-4848



Circle Scarf

In ‘Teddy Bear’ material, \$36

BOCA

1034 Montana Ave., Santa Monica

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(310) 459-7259



Metal Earth Puzzles

Objects made with Metal Sheets, \$6.95

Puzzle Zoo

15121 Sunset Blvd.

Mon.-Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(310) 454-8648



Ted's Treat Toffee

\$25

Black Ink

869 Swarthmore Ave.

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(310) 573-9905



Original Art

Purchase art, prints or give a gift of lessons

For adults or children

Katie O'Neill's Fine Art

835 Via de la Paz

katie@oneillsfineart.com

(310) 459-1030

For Sis, Mom and BFF



Evoked Leather Purse

Handmade in Aspen, \$214

Denise Carolyn

15276 Antioch St.

Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(310) 868-9289



Spandex Boy-leg

Pants, \$24 and Bra, \$38

Special Moments

873 Via de la Paz

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(310) 454-8199



BOCA Cozy-Sweaters

Cashmere-feel but washable, \$140

BOCA

1034 Montana Ave., Santa Monica

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(310) 459-7259



MOU High-Top Sneakers

Snake-leather embossed, \$260

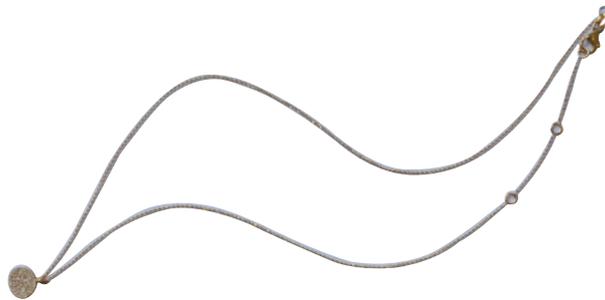
happy LA

542 1/2 Palisades Dr.

Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sun. Noon to 5 p.m.

(310) 459-5511



Gold & Diamond Necklace

\$650

David Tishbi Jewelry

859 Via de la Paz

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(310) 454-6363



Free City Sweatpants

\$128

Carly K

1047 Swarthmore Ave.

Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun. Noon to 4 p.m.

(310) 454-1086



All-Purpose Jacket

Green, \$45

Vivian's Boutique

875 Via de la Paz

Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(310) 573-1326

For Bros, Dudes and Dads



Anker Powercore

Mini Ultra-Compact Portable Phone Charger, \$39

Palisades Hi-Tech

970 Monument St.
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(310) 459-9900



True Grit Flannel PJ Bottoms

\$62

BOCA Man

1034 Montana Ave., Santa Monica
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(310) 459-7259



Every Man Jack

Body Scrub, \$7.99 and Wash, \$7.99

Pharmaca

15150 Sunset Blvd.
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(310) 454-1345



Banks Jacket

Australian clothing line, \$100

P2 Skateshop

1021 Swarthmore Ave.
Mon.-Sun. Noon to 7 p.m.
(323) 422-5578



GrillPro Barbecue Utensils

\$24.99

Norris Hardware

15140 Sunset Blvd.
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(310) 454-4116



Ukulele

Mahalo (Red), \$34.95

Makala (Green), \$49

Amazing Music

867 Swarthmore Ave.
Mon.-Fri. Noon to 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(310) 454-4669

For Babies and Kids



Kate Quinn Baby Footie and Hat

Footie \$48, Hat \$14

Merchant Marine

833 Via de la Paz
 Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed Sun.
 (310) 230-0393



Elegant Baby Sweater

\$34

Merchant Marine

833 Via de la Paz
 Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed Sun.
 (310) 230-0393



Tegu Magnetic Wood Construction

\$34.99

Puzzle Zoo

15121 Sunset Blvd.
 Mon.-Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 (310) 454-8648



Skateboards

Varying sizes and styles, starting at \$79

P2 Skateshop

1021 Swarthmore Ave.
 Mon.-Sun. Noon to 7 p.m.
 (323) 422-5578

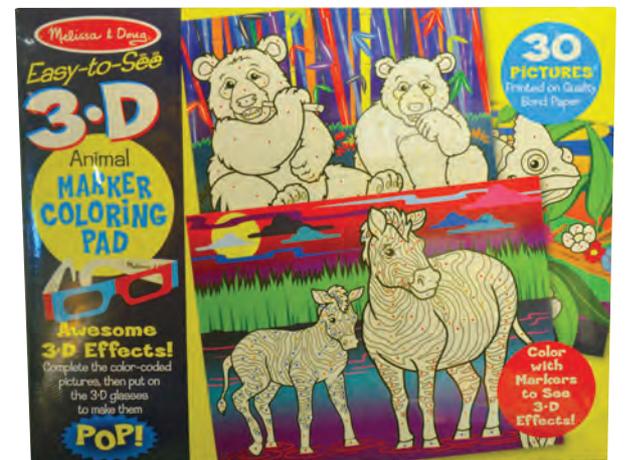


Beanbag Chair

Varied designs, \$178

Carly K

1047 Swarthmore Ave.
 Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sun. Noon to 4 p.m.
 (310) 454-1086



Marker Coloring Pad

With 3-D Glasses, \$4.99

Pharmaca

15150 Sunset Blvd.
 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 (310) 454-1345

Happy Holidays from the Marquez Businesses!

KNOLLS PHARMACY
Wishes Everyone
a Healthy Holiday Season!

**Get Your Holiday Cards
and Stocking Stuffers Here!**



Your Reliable, Friendly, Neighborhood Pharmacy
Proudly Serving the Palisades for over 20 years
Open Monday-Friday, 9 am-6 pm & Saturday, 9 am-2 pm
(310) 454-6000
16630 Marquez Ave. (Marquez business block) • fax (310) 454-0605

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

**First Time Customers
50% OFF on
Dry Cleaning**
with this ad



NOTARY SERVICES AVAILABLE!

FREE LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY

from Ronny Naidoo
RONNY'S ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CLEANERS
16648 Marquez Ave. • (310) 454-9789

PALISADES PP PLUMBING



Proudly Serving the Palisades for Over 35 Years!

Follow us on Facebook!

Happy Holidays!

VISA **MasterCard**

HONESTY • INTEGRITY • PROFESSIONAL WORKMANSHIP
• Re-piping Specialists • Sewer, All-Drain Cleaning • Earthquake Shut-off Valves
• Repair Work • Sprinkler Systems • Installation of Sub Meters & Tankless Water Heaters
16626 Marquez Ave. Ray Church, owner
email: PalPlum1@aol.com **(310) 454-5548** INCORPORATED — CA Lic. #385995

PALISADES SCREEN & GLASS
Family Owned & Operated since 1973

GLASS
✓ Custom Mirror Installations
✓ Glass Table Tops ✓ Sliding Mirror Doors
✓ Framed & Frameless Shower Doors
✓ New Window Installation
✓ We Repair All Types of Broken Windows

SCREENS
✓ Window Screens ✓ Security Screen Doors
✓ Sliding & Swinging Screen Doors



Call Us For A Free Estimate

16628 Marquez Ave., P.P. • www.palisadesscreenandglass.com
(310) 459-3596 (Emergency Service) (310) 454-3416

Happy Holidays!

Sunset CLEANERS Sunset

Always 30% discount on dry cleaning with 3 or more items.
Free delivery and pick up
Expert alterations

16605 Sunset Blvd.#104
Pacific Palisades, CA
310.459.4626



Z Ultimate Karate
Wishes You a
HAPPY HOLIDAY
and the
Safest of **NEW YEAR'S!**

16605 Sunset Blvd., Suite 102
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
310-454-1122
pacificpalisades@ultimate.com

Here to Serve You All Year 'Round—Shop Locally!

Chitwood to Direct Christmas Musical

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Ross Chitwood planned to be an opera singer.

He earned a bachelor's degree in music and vocal performance at Juilliard in 2006 and a graduate degree at Rice University in 2008. Then he started teaching.

"I found it so rewarding, that it took over," Chitwood, 32, said. "I love singing, but I love sharing that love through teaching even more."

He had previously thought that the old saying was true: those who can't do, teach. However, he has found that teaching actually offers unique rewards for both his students and himself. He has worked with numerous students to connect them with their natural voices, and his voice lessons have even helped inspire addicts in their recovery.

"What I'm doing as a teacher really does mean something to some people," said Chitwood, the music director at the Pacific Palisades Community United Methodist Church. As for his previous belief in that old saying, he admits that "the world has a way of showing you that you're wrong a lot of the time."

And Chitwood is not someone who can't "do." Palisadians might have heard him sing in this summer's Theatre Palisades production of *The Spitfire Grill*, in which he played Sheriff Joe. He later sang "Try to Remember" from *The Fantasticks* at a preview of upcoming shows during the TP awards show, and Sue Pascoe, editor of the *Palisades News*, found his performance breathtaking.

"To have a song done like he did, still sticks in my mind," Pascoe said. "It was one of those rare moments of absolute beauty."

For Chitwood though, the theater doesn't call to him as it does some performers. "I don't have any need to be on stage," he said. "It's not something I crave or desire like a lot of people." He also is not fond of acting. "It makes me feel like I'm not being true to myself . . . even though it's silly, because I know it's all just pretend," he noted.



Ross Chitwood, music director at the Palisades Methodist Church performs.

So teaching has become a passion. In addition to giving private voice lessons, Chitwood has also been working with children at the church to bring to life a new Christmas musical, *One More Angel*, which he created with colleague Joey Hargrove. The play is a 30-minute behind-the-scenes look at a group of kids putting on a Christmas play and includes music adapted from Pachelbel's *Canon*.

The show will be part of the 10 a.m. church service on December 11.

In addition, Chitwood is leading the choir in a half-hour music program on December 18 at 10 a.m. As part of the church service, the choir, soloists, a band and Chitwood will sing a wide variety of Christmas music, ranging from classical pieces to pop-

ular music.

In all of these endeavors, Chitwood uses his own teaching method, which he is distilling in a book that describes some of the benefits of both individual and group singing. For example, he has seen students who struggle with addiction change their lives in part due to their joy in singing.

"I've seen incredible transformations in people when they have a specific goal and a focus in what they're doing," Chitwood said. He described a former heroin addict who initially couldn't sing a note, but has now left the drug behind and sings in a band. "To watch his life completely change" has been rewarding, and "it made me realize that what I'm doing can matter."

He has developed a method that builds on

the natural comfort people have with their speaking voices. To help access that natural voice, he might have people call to his dog or join him in the car to sing while driving.

"Everything you're doing when you're speaking is the same thing you need to do when you're singing," Chitwood said. To eliminate the anxiety some singers have, he works to "remove the emotional side of singing. 'Are people going to like me? Do I sound pretty?'"

In the process, singers start to access their intuitive and creative side, instead of giving rein to the more judgmental, reasoning side.

Chitwood's journey to approaching voice lessons in a different way began about eight years ago when a voice teacher told him to run at an Altoid taped to a mirror while singing. The incident inspired him to leave voice lessons behind, and his thinking shifted.

"I feel like I found freedom in my voice," Chitwood said. "A lot of the things I thought were really very hard and that I couldn't do, I suddenly found weren't so hard."

Chitwood, who moved to Los Angeles from Houston with his husband five years ago, teaches voice lessons at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, a college in both Los Angeles and New York City that specializes in musical theater. He also gives private voice lessons in the Palisades, and is directing Paul Revere Middle School's musical *Hairspray*, which will open in March.

Now a Hollywood resident, Chitwood grew up in Sulphur, Oklahoma, where his parents nurtured his musical interests. He first played Wilbur in a musical *Charlotte's Web* at nine years old and kept singing in plays and choirs throughout his childhood. However, until *The Spitfire Grill* at Theatre Palisades, he hadn't performed in a musical for about seven years.

While Chitwood tremendously enjoyed the chance to dip his toes in the theater world again, he said, "I probably won't do another one for at least seven years. The experience validated that I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing."



Vivian's Boutique
Happy Holidays!

Free wrapping. Gifts \$20 and under!
Dresses, Tops, Sweaters, Leggings & Boots
Very reasonable prices

Be safe and happy,
Vivian

875 Via de la Paz 310.573.1326
Mon-Fri 11-6, Sat 11-5 www.ViviansBoutique.com

DAVID TISHBI
JEWELRY

Award-winning design
Expert jewelry repair
Recycle your gold
Painless ear-piercing
Expert watch service & repair
all luxury brands



WISHING YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS

859 Via De La Paz 310-454-6363 info@davidtishbi.com

Books Make Timeless Gifts

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

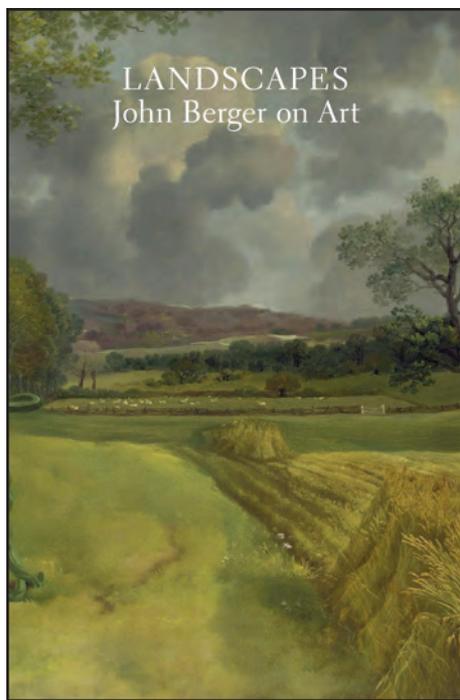
For the art or book fan on your gift list, John Evans, co-owner of Diesel, the bookstore located in the Brentwood Country Mart, shared some of his favorite picks this holiday season.

Art and Coffee-Table Books

1. *Landscapes: John Berger on Art* by John Berger, \$26.95, Verso. Last year, John Berger's book of essays on portraiture was a bestseller, and this year, Berger has tackled landscapes. *Kirkus Reviews* noted "these worldly essays are timeless, inspiring works of critical observation," while Evans said that the book will appeal to lovers of both art and literary criticism.

2. *Float* by Anne Carson, \$30, Knopf. A boxed set of 22 chapbooks of poetry and prose. *Vanity Fair* says the collection, which cover a variety of topics and can be read in any order, are "like snowflakes of literary litness," while *The Daily Telegraph* notes, "She designs her books to make you rethink entirely the way you read."

3. *Central* by Virgilio Martinez, \$59.95, Phaidon Press. Cooking and the landscape of Peru come together in this book that combines photos from the mountains to

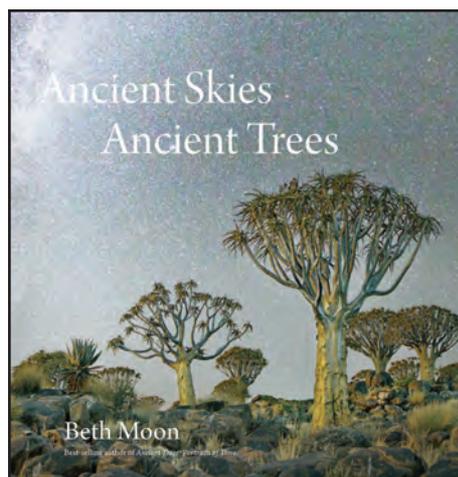


the ocean with rich descriptions of the cuisine from each region. "One of the most stunning books I've ever read," according to *The Latin Kitchen*. "The text captivates and the photos transport."

4. *Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words* by Randall Munroe, \$24.95, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Bill Gates describes this book as "a wonderful guide for

curious minds," and Evans said it combines strong graphics with intriguing facts about how things work, ranging from writing sticks like pens and pencils to power boxes. The *New Yorker* review noted, "Like any good work of science writing, [*Thing Explainer*] is equal parts lucid, funny and startling."

5. *Ancient Skies, Ancient Trees* by Beth Moon, \$49.95, Abbeville Press. The world's oldest trees photographed against the night sky illuminate this book. "The images are just haunting," Evans said. "One of my favorite books of the year." He noted that a second book, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter



Wohlleben (\$24.95), covers how trees experience the world and is a good companion book for *Ancient Skies, Ancient Trees*.

6. *A History of Pictures: From the Cave to the Computer Screen* by David Hockney, \$45, Abrams. This work is a "history of art book by one of the greatest artists painting today," Evans said. Hockney describes a picture as the only way to communicate what we see, and in collaboration with art critic Martin Gaylord, *A History of Pictures* explores the varied ways that artists have visualized our world.

(Continued on Page 14)



BUBAR'S JEWELERS
Trust, Service, Quality Since 1945

"Family Owned and Serving The Bay Area for 71 Years"



Photo: Lesly Hall

Bill Bubar
2nd Generation Jeweler
Palisades High '66

Leonel Zepeda
Jeweler
25th Anniversary

Custom Jewelry Design & Repairs
Watch Batteries and Eyeglass Repairs

1457 4th Street (at Broadway), Santa Monica
310.451.0727
(while you wait or by appointment)
www.BubarsJewelers.com



KIER DESIGN
Pacific Palisades
ANTIQUES AND INTERIORS

HOLIDAY 2016



GIFTS * TABLETOP * PILLOWS * CANDLES
BOOKS * MIRRORS * LIGHTING * FURNITURE

KIER DESIGN | PHONE 310.459.0980 | kierdesign@gmail.com
15260 ANTIOCH STREET, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272

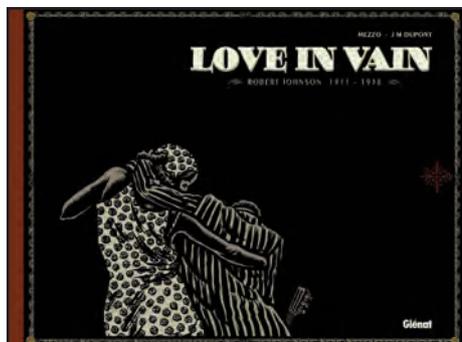


Books

(Continued from Page 13)

7. *The Art of Movement* by Ken Browar and Deborah Ory, \$50, Black Dog and Leventhal. Stunning photos display more than 70 New York dancers frozen in time and yet fully embodying movement. “It’s a celebration of the human body in its expressiveness,” Evans said. “The photographs are unbelievable.”

8. *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* by Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, \$29.95, University of California Press. *Nonstop Metropolis* is the third work in a series that also profiles San Francisco and New Orleans. Combining fact and fancy, the book includes both real and invented maps and offers a cultural history of New York. “It’s a fascinating, new creative way to look at one of the iconic global cities,” Evans said.



9. *Love in Vain: Robert Johnson 1911-1938*, by J.M. Dupont (author) and Mezzo (illustrator), \$29.95, Faber & Faber. A graphic novel depicts the life of blues guitarist Robert Johnson, “who supposedly encountered the devil at a crossroads and sold his soul,” Evans said. Although Evans is not normally a fan of graphic novels, “this is just beautiful,” he said, “and looks like

wood-block prints.” The text provides the history of Johnson, a supremely influential guitarist in blues and rock ‘n’ roll.

10. *Ed Ruscha and the Great American West* by Karin Breuer (editor), D.J. Waldie (contributor) and Ed Ruscha (contributor), \$55, University of California Press. Using reproductions of Ruscha’s paintings from 1956 through the present, the book also includes maps, photography and etchings in a survey of his exploration of the landscape of the West. His works feature the gas stations, parking lots and swimming pools of today, but also address the historical past of buffalo, teepees and covered wagons. Additionally, essays by Breuer and Waldie are included, plus an interview with Ruscha.

Fiction

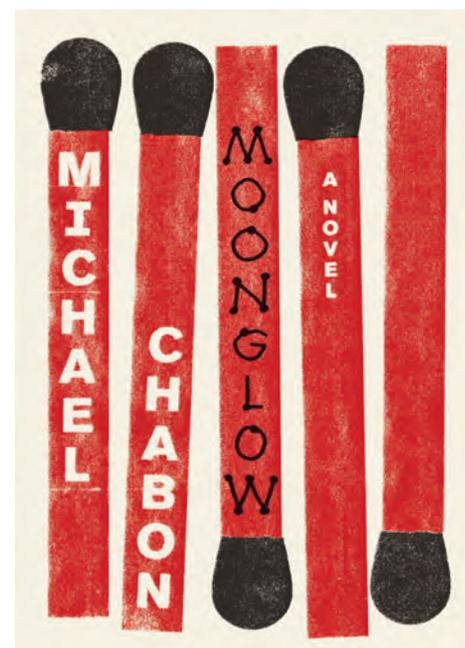
1. *Every Man a Menace* by Patrick Hoffman, \$25, Atlantic Monthly Press. This mystery offers a twisting plot filled with “noirish” characters in the drug trade in Cambodia, Thailand, San Francisco and Miami, Evans said. While in mysteries the plot often overwhelms the characters, this title incorporates both seamlessly with the “thrill of a tightly woven plot plus fine stylish writing,” Evans said. “It’s a blast for anybody.”

2. *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon, \$28.99, Harper. Equal parts memoir, biography and fiction, *Moonglow* interweaves many true stories from novelist Chabon’s grandfather’s life with his own fictional imaginings. The story grew from a week Chabon spent with his grandfather just before his death in 1989 and includes tales from World War II and the American space program. *Booklist* deems it “a masterful and resounding novel of the dark and blazing forces that forged our tumultuous, confounding and precious world.”

3. *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett, \$26, River-

head Books. First-time author Bennett details the life of a 17-year-old struggling to deal with the death of her mother and a surprise pregnancy in a Southern California African-American community. The plot is intense, and the complex characters include women who hold onto hope despite their challenges. “The writing is stunning,” Evans said. “It’s a very emotional, smart and wise book.”

4. *Today Will Be Different* by Maria Semple, \$27, Little, Brown. By the author of last year’s bestseller *Where’d You Go, Bernadette?*, this funny, insightful novel is ideal for “a person who loves to read entertaining tales of contemporary life,” Evans said. Set in Seattle, the novel, according to the *New York Times*, includes “all kinds of details, painful and perverse and deeply droll,” in “another tour de force.”



5. *The Six of Crows Duology* boxed set by Leigh Bardugo, \$37.98, Henry Holt and Co. A dark fantasy adventure filled with magic, mischief and fun, this two-book set would appeal to fans of fantasy and science fiction from young adults on up, Evans said. Written by an Angeleno, the *New York Times* bestseller *Six of Crows* and its sequel *Crooked Kingdom* cover the adventures of six outcasts, who plan a heist in the first and battle for revenge in the second book. “It’s well-plotted and just a beautiful, great gift,” Evans said.

Diesel is located at 225 26th St., Santa Monica. Call (310) 576-9960 or visit dieselbookstore.com.

Pulp 'n Hide The Candy Alley

CELEBRATING
OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY!



“Every inch is edible.

Gingerbread, Chocolate & Candy!”

It’s time to come in for your
gingerbread house & 2017 calendar!

13028 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood

310-394-0700

310-394-0714

pulpandhide@aol.com

candyalley7@aol.com

AMAZING MUSIC STORE.COM



We love to teach Guitar, Ukulele, Bass, Piano, Harmonica, Drums, and much more!



Gift Certificates • Instrument Rental & Sales
Group & Private Lessons • ALL AGES, ALL STYLES!

Est. 1980

(310) 454-4669

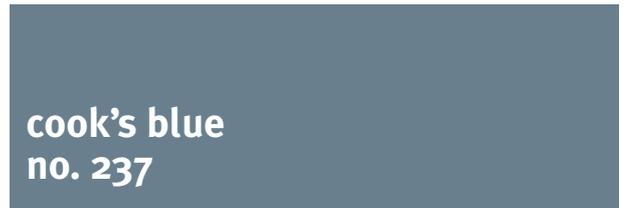
867 Swarthmore Ave.



tanners brown
no. 255



dix blue
no. 82



cook's blue
no. 237

Featuring Farrow & Ball's

Eco Friendly Paint for your Home

Since their humble beginnings in rural Dorset, Farrow & Ball has set themselves aside from other paint companies using the finest quality ingredients and pigments. With interior and exterior finishes available in a carefully edited palette of 132 colours, the paints are shaping homes around the world.



Cox Paint
www.coxpaint.com

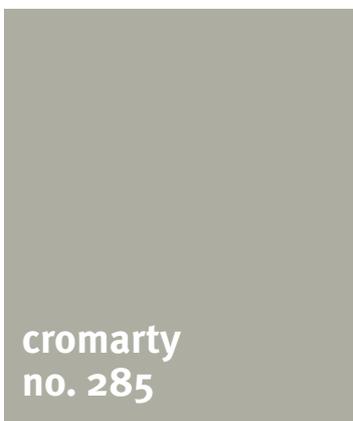
Visit our Two Westside Locations:



Santa Monica
1130 Santa Monica Blvd.
310.393.7208

Culver City
11153 Washington Blvd.
310.838.2284

FARROW & BALL
CRAFTSMEN IN PAINT AND PAPER



cromarty
no. 285



pitch blue
no. 220



We moved to
Montana Avenue,
just in case you
were wondering
where to find
great gifts,
good cheer
festive fashion
and old friends.



BOCA
1034 Montana Ave.
310.459.7259



Come hang out
at our new location
and peruse the
gift potential.

BOCA man
1034 Montana Avenue
in the courtyard
310.454.3891