

Homecoming

Going home, for the holidays, never meant going where I lived,

but where I began, a place of origin, where what I think of as my *self* was born.

That home is where the past is alive, where home is more than structure—

4 walls & a roof do not make a home—but a presence of safety, a memory of warmth.

And for so long, I thought it took two to make a home, like fire, kindle & spark.

Yet now I know the idea of home is singular & particular: wherever I choose,

anchored by remnants of that original home: a tin flour-sifter, a clown-faced cookie jar,

my mother's hand-written recipe for Red Velvet cake that crowd every kitchen I've claimed as my own.

Look beyond cliché-Home is where the heart isreach beyond the known-There's no place like home-

To find what remains: an idea of belonging, Driving us toward acceptance, where our selves

Can breathe & pause & catch fire, Like a poinsettia's flame against winter.

- West Hollywood City Poet Laureate Charles Flowers



Join the City of West Hollywood for these Holiday and Winter Programs!

Winter Sounds

Holiday Jazz Concert Saturday, December 14, 2019

City Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard Free, RSVP:

www.weho.org/wintersounds

Vibraphonist Nick Mancini brings his quintet to perform a special holiday jazz concert.

The Nutcracker

Sunday, December 8, 2019 12 pm

Plummer Park, Fiesta Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard Suggested donation \$10

For additional information call: 310-980-3171

A special performance by Avanti Art Center's student dancers.

West Hollywood Artists and Icons/WeHo Reads: Felice Picano

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard

www.weho.org/wehoreads

Join us for and event with longtime West Hollywood author Felice Picano followed by a holiday reception.

"Colibri" - Gala Concert and Awards Ceremony Sunday, December 15, 2019

12 pm Plummer Park, Fiesta Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard

For additional information: 323-848-7988 or info@uidarts.org

An international vocal competition for young performers.

Special thanks to the artist Shag for his cover artwork. The Shag Store 8443 Melrose Avenue West Hollywood, CA 90069 www.shagthestore.com

Drag Queen Story Hour: **Holiday Edition**

Saturday, December 28, 2019 11 am

West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard Free, 310-625-5340

Come join us for a special Winter/ Holiday Drag Queen Story Hour. For children of all ages.

#BOOM! 2020: The Boom Ball

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Boulevard

boom2020.eventbrite.com

#BOOM! is a premiere alcohol and drug free New Year's event, sponsored by the City of West Hollywood. #BOOM!'s purpose is to create a safe space for the West Hollywood community to celebrate New Year's Eve, where alcohol and drugs aren't the focus.

Save the dates for upcoming free Winter Sounds concerts

with Dhara on January 11, 2020, and the George Sarah Ensemble on February 8, 2020.

www.weho.org/wintersounds

The City of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station are partnering to give back to those in need this holiday season with the

29th Annual West Hollywood Toy and

Food Drive with toy and clothing donation bins at City Hall (8300 Santa Monica Blvd.) and the Sheriff's Station (780 N. San Vicente Blvd.). Online donations can be made to: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/todri.

For more information about City of West Hollywood programs please visit www.weho.org @wehocity @wehoarts