

# Planes, Trains & Autos

SRMC Santa Rosa  
Mothers' Club



December ♥ 2016

m a g a z i n e





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www.santarosamothersclub.org

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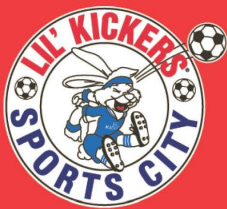
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# Letter from the Editor

## Happy Holidays

By Dara Kasza



Happy December Mama's! This issue could not have come at a better time for me as we are about to hop on a plane to Mexico with our 2.5 year old in tow. The flight is only 3.5 hours but lets be honest, any amount of time in a confined space with lots of other people who don't want to hear a screaming toddler is a little unnerving. By now I have totally broken down and resorted to letting her watch a movie on the plane or better yet, I try to schedule flights during nap time so us parents can actually relax a little or watch a movie or sip a glass of wine (not chug it). Stella has some great tips on the next page and definitely check out Roseanne's tips on page 9, she has included a few I have never heard of so that was a plus!

Besides the challenges of traveling with children this month, we will all have the challenge of keeping them entertained at holiday parties. One of the greatest ideas I've seen in action was a "Kid's Only" room. The entire floor and half way up the walls were covered with butcher paper. There were crayons, markers and playdough laid out to be used however and wherever they liked. Every kid was ecstatic with the lack of restrictions and needed to be coaxed out of the room for dinner. I'm sure the idea of a "Kid's Only" holiday movie scheduled before or after dinner would give parents some time as well.

Whatever holiday your are celebrating I want to wish happy, happiest holidays to all you mama's and your families. I hope you have the very best year and send lots of love!

Dara

### Housekeeping

Opinions expressed in this issue are those of the contributors. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by SRMC of any products or services. The editor reserves the right to accept, edit, or reject any

content submitted to the magazine.

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**THIS ISSUE MADE POSSIBLE BY:**  
WINE

**COMING NEXT: Techno Baby**

Have an idea for an issue theme or article? Please email

[editor@santarosamothersclub.org](mailto:editor@santarosamothersclub.org)

# Letter from the Executive Board

## Traveling with Kids

Stella Outchkova



### Travelling with kids? Don't do it! Just kidding... Kind of.

#### At the Airport

- Have a bag full of tricks. If you're traveling with a child too young to distract himself, include plenty of small toys, games, stickers, magnets, and coloring books in your bag. (Once on board, don't whip them all out at once or let him rummage through -- take them out one at a time and let him play with each until he's really ready to move on to the next distraction. And leave toys that make noise at home. Your fellow travelers will thank you for it.)

- Always ask about available seats. If you didn't purchase a seat for your toddler (kids under 2 years old can sit on your lap), expect a full flight and know your chances of getting one are slim. But ask anyway.
- Take advantage of early boarding. When they make the call for travelers who need extra time to board, go for it. Use the time to stash bags where you want them before the overhead bins fill up. Get everyone situated and happy.

#### For the Drive

- If you're driving to your destination, do a bit of homework ahead of time to make sure that you aren't going to be on the road during heavy traffic times. If possible, avoid traveling on Fridays and Sundays if you are driving in areas with heavy traffic. It's hard to do, but by leaving really early on a Saturday morning vs. a Friday afternoon can save hours of time on the road. There is nothing worse than being stuck in traffic with small children! You don't want to make an already long trip even longer.
- Pack the car the night before and leave early in the morning when kids are in their calmest state. Leave early in the morning to avoid traffic. Do this because kids travel best in the morning. We pack the car the night before and as soon as everyone rolls out of bed we hit the road. The morning hours are always calmer times when everyone is rested and the kids are more content to relax in the car. Parents often think *"let's leave in the evening so the kids will sleep on the drive..."* This usually backfires.
- Don't swear at the other cars on the road because your kids will hear and they won't forget and they will remind you over and over that you said a bad word.

And relax! Ask for help when you need to or just go with it!

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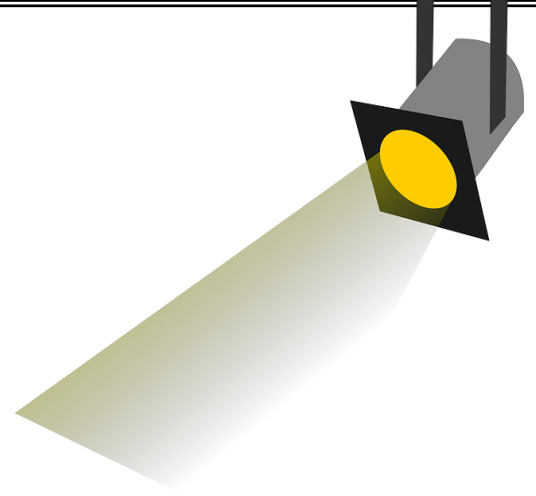
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# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



**Name:** Alicia Grieve

**Where are you originally from?**

I was actually born in Santa Rosa, but grew up north of here in Redwood valley, CA.

**Tell us about your family:**

My fiancé, Jacob and I have two beautiful girls, Mili and Bexley. Mili will be three in January and Bexley turned one in August. We just moved to Santa Rosa in July of this year. Before moving here, we were going back and forth from Reno, NV, where I had a small salon business, to San Francisco, where Jacob worked in finance. Jacob got an opportunity here in Santa Rosa we decided to take. We are really loving it so far!

**What TV Show/Book/Music are you loving right this minute?**

I just got done watching Californication on Netflix. I wish it never ended!

**What is your favorite place to go with your family?**

Our favorite place to go is San Francisco for the weekends.

**What's your dream job?**

Being a stay at home mom has always been a dream of mine. I am so happy to be living that dream now! Leaving my business and family behind in Reno was a very hard decision, but I knew I wouldn't regret it. My next dream is to hopefully open up a little bakery with custom cakes and beautiful sugar cookies.



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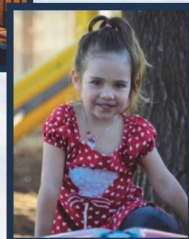
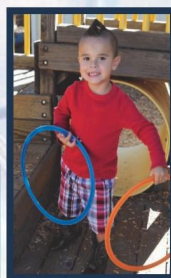
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# Ask the Expert: Traveling with Kids

By Roseanne Fallin

Leaving the house for an errand run is already difficult when you've got children in tow. You pack the baby bag, you make sure you've got treats but what to do when you're heading off for a road trip, a weekend getaway, or a day trip to see the grandparents? Packing light isn't always an option when traveling with kids but you may be able to lessen the load with the following tips.

## **Book a suite**

If traveling with multiple children, having the extra space will help you and your family feel more comfortable. Setting a space devoted to the kids will let you have a place for a pullout bed for a toddler or floor space to make it feel like a sleepover.

## **Pack some trash bags**

These will help keep a hotel room dark while the little ones nap. Keep the car clean by covering the car seats when eating on the road. Or, hold wet or dirty clothes after a long day at the beach.

## **Ship items to your destination**

When you have bigger necessities like a high chair or a Pack N' Play, checking these items for a flight or using precious cargo space on a long road trip are less than ideal. Instead, ship these items ahead of you so they're ready at the hotel or with the relatives you're visiting. You can do the same with diapers, wipes, and baby food using the many online services that will ship your items for free or little cost, if traveling domestically.

## **Stick to nap and bedtime routines**

This will help lessen the chance of meltdowns and help transition the kids between vacation and when getting back into the groove of things once you return.

## **Eat where kids can play**

Stop at kid-friendly eateries so the little ones can burn off excess energy after being confined on long road trips. Also a good time to make use of bathroom trips when rest stops are far and few between stops.

## **Get a another plane seat**

Buy another seat for a flight if you can or see if you're able to get reassigned next to an empty seat when traveling with a child under age 2. The flight will go much smoother if your baby is able to relax in their car seat or in their own space. Make sure you use an FAA-approved car seat. The car seat should have a label that states "This restraint is certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft."

## **Other quick and easy tips**

- Pack your shoes in shower caps. Keep those dirty soles from touching clean clothes.
- Put dryer sheets in suitcases. Offset the odor of dirty clothes and prevent static.
- Use a hotel garbage can as a sink stool so the tykes can brush their teeth and wash their hands.
- Use the flexible fabric bandages from your first aid kit to cover outlets to keep kids from playing electrician
- Pack a night light to help the little ones make their middle-of-the-night bathroom runs in unfamiliar rooms.

# Recipe Mama

## Snowman Pizza

Kids can help!

Roll dough, make snowman and add sauce, cheese and pepperoni.



What you need:

Dough

3 1/2 Cups whole wheat flour

1 Cup white flour

2 Tsp. active dry yeast

1 Tsp. sugar

1 1/4 Tsp. salt

1 1/2 Tsp. olive oil

1/4 Tsp. garlic powder

2 Cups water

1/4 Cup grated parmesan cheese

Other ingredients:

Tomato sauce

Mozzarella cheese

Pepperoni

Capers

Carrot

Directions:

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Slowly add water, a little at a time, knead until dough is firm and smooth. Using olive oil, grease bowl and place dough ball in bowl, turning once so all surfaces are oiled. Cover with a cloth or plastic wrap and let rise in a warm spot until double in size, usually about 2 hours.

Place dough on a well-floured surface and roll dough to about 1/4 inch thick. Cut out three different sizes to form each snowman, by hand or using pastry cutters. Assemble snowman on baking pan, attaching "balls" by pressing together. Add sauce, cheese and Snowman decorations. Cut pepperoni into scarves, piecing two pieces together, if necessary. Make noses by cutting tiny carrot triangles.

Have a recipe you love and is kid friendly? Please send to me at [editor@santarosamothersclub.org](mailto:editor@santarosamothersclub.org)

# Recipe Mama

## Hanukkah Puppy Chow

Take an old tradition of Puppy Chow and give it a Hanukkah twist with this delicious dessert snack. It's the perfect blend of salty and sweet...and a hint of blue!

### INGREDIENTS

3 Tbsp. peanut butter  
1 bar of nondairy white chocolate  
1½ c. gluten free cereal  
¼ c. powdered sugar  
3 Tbsp. nondairy white chocolate chips  
1 handful gluten free pretzel sticks  
blue colored allergen-friendly candies (I used NoNo's)

### INSTRUCTIONS

In a microwave safe bowl, warm up the peanut butter and white chocolate together until just melted.

Place the cereal in a large plastic bag, add the melted peanut butter and white chocolate to coat the cereal. Add the powdered sugar, seal, and shake vigorously until evenly coated.

Pour into a bowl, add the pretzels, white chocolate chips, and NoNo's (or other blue-colored candies).



Have a recipe you love and is kid friendly? Please send to me at [editor@santarosamothersclub.org](mailto:editor@santarosamothersclub.org)



## Why use playdates and playgroups for your children?

Playdates are great for kids! They learn how to interact with other kids, they learn how to share, and just how to get along in general. And it gives parents a great opportunity to connect with other adults to talk about parenting, but also to talk about things totally unrelated to being a parent, which is refreshing.

Using a playdate as an opportunity for parents and children alike is important, experts say. But before you get out your calendar and start making calls to other parents, it's important to understand playdate etiquette. Remember that there's more to it than just scheduling a time, date, and place to meet. Age, frequency, and location are just a few of the important factors to take into consideration when you're planning your little one's social calendar.

### All Aboard: Traveling Playdates

This month, we're giving you some ideas for playdates that are centered around travel or ways you can survive your travel!

#### Sonoma Train Town

Not far away and lots of fun for your train-loving kiddos! Located just one mile south of the Plaza in Sonoma, Train Town features a quarter scale railroad on 4 miles of track. Each train trip lasts 20-minutes and goes through tunnels, over bridges and makes a stop in Lakeview- our miniature town and petting zoo. Our train ride is handicap accessible! In addition to the train, we offer six amusement rides. General admission and parking are free of charge!

#### Pacific Coast Air Museum

Have a little one that wants to get up close and personal with planes? Head to the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa! The museum is dedicated to promoting and preserving aviation history through the acquisition, restoration, and display of historic aircraft. The museum displays a varied collection of over 30 American military, propeller and jet, aircraft. Children under 6 are free.

#### Create a Race Car Coloring Mat

Create a fun coloring project for a group of kids that also doubles as a fun play space for your next playdate. Lay down some butcher paper and draw roads, houses, trees, and any other sights you might see on an upcoming trip. Let the kids color in and add to the drawing. They can then use the mat to imagine all the places their cars can drive. This works great for a group of your friends or if you're stuck at grandma's house with just a few toys.

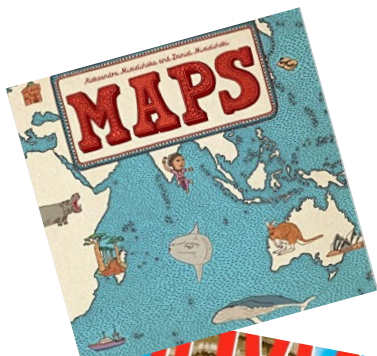
**Interested in joining, co-leading or leading a playgroup within SRMC?**

**If so, please contact [playgroups@santarosamothersclub.org](mailto:playgroups@santarosamothersclub.org)**

# Books for Kids: Community

By Margaret Lamar

Books about the travels and journeys of children.



**Maps - ages 7 and up**

**Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski**

Travel the world without leaving your living room. This book of maps is a visual feast for readers of all ages, with lavishly drawn illustrations from the incomparable Mizielinskis. It features not only borders, cities, rivers, and peaks, but also places of historical and cultural interest, eminent personalities, iconic animals and plants, cultural events, and many more fascinating facts associated with every region of our planet.



**Olivia Goes to Venice- ages 3-7**

**Ian Falconer**

In her first brand new adventure in three years, Olivia takes her discerning eye for style to beautiful Venice on a family vacation that involves dodging pigeons in the Piazza San Marco, gorging on gelato, and barely staying afloat in a gondola.



**The Airport Book - ages 5-7**

**Lisa Brown**

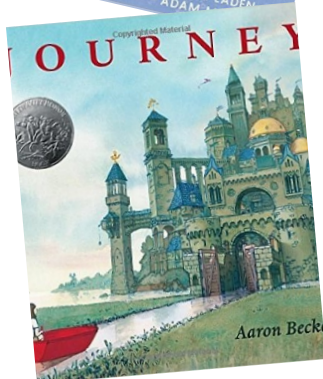
Follow a family and the youngest member's favorite sock monkey through all the inner and outer workings of an airport. In a book that is as intriguing as it is useful and entertaining, we follow a family on its way through the complexities of a modern-day airport. From checking bags and watching them disappear on the mysterious conveyor belt, to security clearance and a seemingly endless wait at the gate to finally being airborne. But wait! There's more! The youngest family member's sock monkey has gone missing. Follow it at the bottom of the page as it makes a journey as memorable as that of the humans above.



**Are we There Yet? - ages 4-8**

**Nina Laden**

We've all been there. Or more accurately, we've all been with kids in the backseat clamoring (over and over!) "Are we there yet?" In this genius of a picture book, bestselling author Nina Laden combines forces with dynamic illustrator Adam McCauley to turn that dilemma on its head. Fun for kids and adults, the book is filled with details that readers will want to hunt for (over and over!). Buckle up and enjoy the ride



**Journey - ages 4-8**

**Aaron Becker**

Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination — and unexpected friendship. A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire? With supple line, luminous color, and nimble flights of fancy, author-illustrator Aaron Becker launches an ordinary child on an extraordinary journey toward her greatest and most exciting adventure of all.

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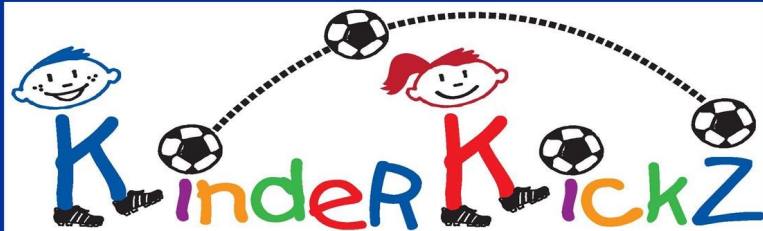


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**¡NOSOTROS DOS!** (The Two of Us!) 4-6 year-old

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# SRMC Calendar of Events: December 2016

## December 1, 2016

### **Windsor Town Green Holiday Celebration**

**5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Windsor Town Green  
701 McClelland Drive, Windsor, California 95492

This Annual Holiday event on the Windsor Town Green features many family-friendly activities, including free arts and crafts for kids, free gingerbread cookie decorating, a free holiday dance party for youth, \$10 photos with Santa (including free digital copy), \$1 horse-drawn wagon rides, and more! Join the fun! Performances from local youth choirs will begin at 5 p.m. and local food vendors will be available to purchase hot food and non-alcoholic beverages. The event will also feature the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove which lines much of the Town Green. The culmination of the event will be the lighting of large holiday tree near the stage. Families will have the chance to participate in a holiday sing-a-long with the Windsor Youth Community Choir as they wait for Santa and Mrs. Claus to be delivered by the Windsor Fire Protection District on the Fire Truck! Don't forget to bring your letters to Santa to place in the mailbox located in the center of the park and bring your unwrapped toys to donate to the Marv Stubbs Toy Drive.

### **Preschool Storytime**

**11:00am**

Central Santa Rosa Library  
211 E Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

## December 2, 2016

### **Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC**

**2:00pm**

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**8:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse  
52 W. 6th Street,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

A CHRISTMAS CAROL was an immediate tradition for Playhouse patrons last season, and we are bringing it back! This riveting, serious, funny and ultimately joyous new stage version of the story banks on Dickens' original story's beauty and durability, but moreover it's blazing theatricality. Veteran actor Charlie Siebert will once again bring the famous tale of Ebenezer Scrooge to life on the stage for the whole family this Holiday Season!

\$15-\$33

## December 3, 2016

### **Science Saturday at Environmental Discovery Center**

**1:00pm to 3:00pm**

FREE. Tangible experiments & projects let children explore the natural world. Every first Sat. 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Event is free. Parking \$7. 393 Violetti Rd., Santa Rosa.

### **Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus**

**11:00am to 3:00p**

Montgomery Village. Hwy. 12 at Farmers Ln., Santa Rosa.

The Christmas couple will be in their photo studio every weekend thru the holidays.

### **Mercatino di Natale - A Christmas Festival**

**11:00am to 5:00pm**

St. Rose Parish Hall 320 10th Street, Santa Rosa, California 95401  
Mercatino di Natale, An Italian Christmas Festival. The North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation and Slow Food Sonoma County North are bringing the traditional Italian Christmas marketplace to Santa Rosa. On December 3, 2016 inside at the St. Rose Parish Hall from 11:00 to 5:00 pm, you are invited to celebrate the holidays Italian-style at Mercatino di Natale. It's a day of holiday lights, pine boughs, Christmas trees, presepe (Italian Nativity), Befana (Italian Christmas witch) for the kids, silent auction, Italian food, wine, beer and of course a fantastic mercato of artisan food and crafts for you to shop. Live entertainment is by Sheri Mignano of Due Zighi Baci and Coro Allegro. Tickets are available through the NBICF office, at 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa (707-591-9696) or at BrownPaperTickets, <http://brownpapertickets.com/event/2667032>, \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door.

### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**8:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse  
52 W. 6th Street,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

A CHRISTMAS CAROL was an immediate tradition for Playhouse patrons last season, and we are bringing it back! This riveting, serious, funny and ultimately joyous new stage version of the story banks on Dickens' original story's beauty and durability, but moreover it's blazing theatricality. Veteran actor Charlie Siebert will once again bring the famous tale of Ebenezer Scrooge to life on the stage for the whole family this Holiday Season!

\$15-\$33

### **Le Cirque de Bohème - A Winter Circus for the Holidays**

**1:00pm and 3:00pm**

\$30 Adults; \$22 Kids (15 years and younger)  
Cornerstone Sonoma  
23570 Arnold Drive  
Sonoma, California 95476

"Somewhere" is a travel through time with an

original main character called the Bohemian of Paris. The story takes place during the beginning of the 20th century in Paris. Created in Paris during a period called "les Années Folles," this 1920's old style Circus is based on the French tradition and will transport you and your family to a mysterious dream world. Delight in work of world class performers including a Unicycle, Hand to Hand acrobats, Mime, Clown, Tight-Rope funambule, Hand Chair Balancing, Trapeze and Hooper Aerialists and more! Enjoy this French Holiday Tradition in the beautiful gardens at Cornerstone Sonoma. Le Cirque de Bohème is an intimate gathering limited to 140 guests per show under our charming circus tent in the gardens at Cornerstone.

### **Hora de Cuentos para Niños/Bilingual Storytime (edades/ages 0-5)**

**10:15am to 11:00am**

Roseland Community Library  
779 Sebastopol Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

¡Bienvenidos a la Hora de Cuentos para Niños en español e inglés!

Vamos a leer cuentos en español e inglés.

Para niños de 0-5 años

¡Gratis!

Welcome to Spanish Bilingual Storytime!

We will read stories in Spanish & English.

## December 4, 2016

### **Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus**

**11:00am to 3:00p**

Montgomery Village. Hwy. 12 at Farmers Ln., Santa Rosa.

The Christmas couple will be in their photo studio every weekend thru the holidays.

### **Sunday Boating at the Barn**

**10:00am to 1:00pm**

Free. Volunteers help you try a non-motorized vessel—canoe, kayak, rowboat, or sailboat—on the Petaluma River. Open year-round. Sundays. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. David Yearsley River Heritage Center. Copeland & D Streets, Petaluma.

### **Astronaut Lullabies Planetarium Concert**

**3:00pm to 4:00pm**

SRJC Planetarium  
1501 Mendocino Ave  
Santa Rosa CA 95401

Expect a heart expanding, multi-sensory journey as a live planetarium show is choreographed to Jim and Kathy Oceans' thought-rocking collection of original astronomy inspired "space music". From "Sugar in Space" to "Coming of Age in the Milky Way", you are invited to contemplate our place in space on our "pale blue dot" home world. Come see why Examiner.com called ASTRONAUT LULLABIES "out of this world".

### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**2:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse  
52 W. 6th Street,



# SRMC Calendar of Events: December 2016

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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\$15-\$33

## **Le Cirque de Bohème - A Winter Circus for the Holidays**

**3:00pm and 5:00pm**

\$30 Adults; \$22 Kids (15 years and younger)

Cornerstone Sonoma

23570 Arnold Drive

Sonoma, California 95476

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## **December 5, 2016**

### **Museum Mondays for Little Ones**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**

Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.

Cost: \$5 per child

Charles M. Schulz Museum

## **December 6, 2016**

### **Toddler Time (18-35 months)**

**10:30am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

### **Babytime (0-17 months)**

**11:15am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Delight and stimulate your baby's senses with bouncing rhymes, songs, fingerplays and simple books! Babytime lasts 20 minutes followed by

playtime. Babytime is free and no registration required. For children ages 0-17 months, with a caregiver.

## **December 7, 2016**

### **Wee Read**

**11:00am**

Rincon Valley Library

6959 Montecito Boulevard

Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays and simple stories for babies and toddlers and their caregiver. Wee Read lasts 20-30 minutes and is followed by playtime. Wee Read is free and no registration required. For children 0-35 months.

### **Preschool Storytime**

**11:00am**

Rincon Valley Library

6959 Montecito Boulevard

Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

## **December 8, 2016**

### **Preschool Storytime**

**11:00am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

## **December 9, 2016**

### **Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC**

**2:00pm**

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

## **December 10, 2016**

### **Pictures with Santa and Mrs Claus**

**11:00am to 3:00p**

Montgomery Village. Hwy. 12 at Farmers Ln.,

Santa Rosa.

The Christmas couple will be in their photo studio every weekend thru the holidays.

### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**2:00pm and 8:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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\$15-\$33

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**3:00pm and 5:00pm**

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## **Hora de Cuentos para Niños/Bilingual Storytime (edades/ages 0-5)**

**10:15am to 11:00am**

Roseland Community Library

779 Sebastopol Road

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

¡Bienvenidos a la Hora de Cuentos para Niños en español e inglés!

Vamos a leer cuentos en español e inglés.

Para niños de 0-5 años

¡Gratis!

Welcome to Spanish Bilingual Storytime!

We will read stories in Spanish & English.

## **December 11, 2016**

### **Sunday Boating at the Barn**

**10:00am to 1:00pm**

Free. Volunteers help you try a non-motorized vessel—canoe, kayak, rowboat, or sailboat—on the Petaluma River. Open year-round. Sundays. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. David Yearsley River Heritage Center. Copeland & D Streets, Petaluma.

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### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**2:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

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Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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## **December 12, 2016**

### **Museum Mondays for Little Ones**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**

Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.

Cost: \$5 per child

Charles M. Schulz Museum

## **December 13, 2016**

### **Toddler Time (18-35 months)**

**10:30am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

## **Babytime (0-17 months)**

**11:15am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

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books! Babytime lasts 20 minutes followed by playtime. Babytime is free and no registration required. For children ages 0-17 months, with a caregiver.

## **December 14, 2016**

### **Gingerbread Houses for Little Ones**

**(ages 0-5)**

**10:00am**

Rincon Valley Library

6959 Montecito Boulevard. Santa Rosa, CA

95409. A gingerbread house making time especially for young children ages 0-5 years. Drop in and create a gingerbread dream! All materials provided.

## **December 15, 2016**

### **Preschool Storytime**

**11:00am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

## **December 16, 2016**

### **Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC**

**2:00pm**

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science.

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## **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**8:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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\$15-\$33

## **Family Movie Night**

**4:00pm to 5:45pm**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Come join the Central Library at this monthly movie series every 3rd Friday night!

There will be snacks and family fun movies to enjoy!

## **December 17, 2016**

### **Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**2:00pm and 8:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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\$15-\$33

## **Pictures with Santa and Mrs Claus**

**11:00am to 3:00pm**

Montgomery Village. Hwy. 12 at Farmers Ln.,

Santa Rosa.

The Christmas couple will be in their photo studio every weekend thru the holidays.

## **Santa Claus Helicopter Fly-In**

**10:00am to 2:00pm**

Pacific Coast Air Museum

1 Air Museum Way

Santa Rosa, California 95403

Don't miss Santa Claus flying in to the Pacific Coast Air Museum in a shiny turbo-powered "sleigh." Check out the vintage aircraft and enjoy the festivities. There will be treats for the kids, a chance to sit on Santa's lap, and fun for the entire family. There will be jumpees for the kids, hot food and drinks, and other activities. This annual community event is proudly sponsored by PCAM and Active 20-30 of Santa Rosa, without whose generosity it would not be possible.

## **Le Cirque de Bohème - A Winter Circus for the Holidays**

**3:00pm and 5:00pm**

\$30 Adults; \$22 Kids (15 years and younger)

Cornerstone Sonoma

23570 Arnold Drive

Sonoma, California 95476

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## **Hora de Cuentos para Niños/Bilingual Storytime (edades/ages 0-5)**

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**10:15am to 11:00am**

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Santa Rosa, CA 95407

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Vamos a leer cuentos en español e inglés.

Para niños de 0-5 años

¡Gratis!

Welcome to Spanish Bilingual Storytime!

We will read stories in Spanish & English.

**December 18, 2016**

**Sunday Boating at the Barn**

**10:00am to 1:00pm**

Free. Volunteers help you try a non-motorized vessel—canoe, kayak, rowboat, or sailboat—on the Petaluma River. Open year-round. Sundays. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. David Yearsley River Heritage Center. Copeland & D Streets, Petaluma.

**Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**2:00pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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**11:00am to 3:00p**

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**3:00pm and 5:00pm**

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Cornerstone Sonoma

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limited to 140 guests per show under our charming circus tent in the gardens at Cornerstone.

**December 19, 2016**

**Museum Mondays for Little Ones**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**

Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.

Cost: \$5 per child

Charles M. Schulz Museum

**December 20, 2016**

**Toddler Time (18-35 months)**

**10:30am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

**Babytime (0-17 months)**

**11:15am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Delight and stimulate your baby's senses with bouncing rhymes, songs, fingerplays and simple books! Babytime lasts 20 minutes followed by playtime. Babytime is free and no registration required. For children ages 0-17 months, with a caregiver.

**December 22, 2016**

**Preschool Storytime**

**11:00am**

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

**December 23, 2016**

**Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC**

**2:00pm**

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science.

This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

**Dickens's Christmas Carol**

**7:30pm**

6th Street Playhouse

52 W. 6th Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

A CHRISTMAS CAROL was an immediate tradition for Playhouse patrons last season, and we are bringing it back! This riveting, serious, fun-

ny and ultimately joyous new stage version of the story banks on Dickens' original story's beauty and durability, but moreover it's blazing theatricality. Veteran actor Charlie Siebert will once again bring the famous tale of Ebenezer Scrooge to life on the stage for the whole family this Holiday Season!

\$15-\$33

**December 24, 2016**

**Pictures with Santa and Mrs Claus**

**11:00am to 3:00p**

Montgomery Village. Hwy. 12 at Farmers Ln., Santa Rosa.

The Christmas couple will be in their photo studio every weekend thru the holidays.

**December 26, 2016**

**Museum Mondays for Little Ones**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**

Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.

Cost: \$5 per child

Charles M. Schulz Museum

**December 30, 2016**

**Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC**

**2:00pm**

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science.

This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

**December 31, 2016**

**Happy New Year, Charlie Brown!**

**10:00am**

\$12 Adults; \$8 Seniors (62 and over with ID); \$5 Youth/Students (4-18 or with valid student ID); FREE for Museum Members & Youth 3 and Under.

Charles M. Schulz Museum

2301 Hardies Lane

Santa Rosa, California 95403

Ring in the New Year with Snoopy, hands-on crafts for kids, and Santa Rosa's only Up-Down and Baby Balloon Drops at noon, and root beer toasts at noon and 3:00 p.m.! The Museum opens at 10:00 a.m. on December 31. 52 W. 6th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

## Elf on the SHELF GIVEAWAY!!!



Whether you love him or loathe him, the Elf on the Shelf has become a beloved tradition for families across the country. And as each year passes, Santa's little helper finds him or herself in more elaborate situations. Unfortunately, not every parent has the time, craft skills, or desire needed to construct such jaw-dropping scenes. But that doesn't mean you have to throw in the metaphorical towel.

Who hasn't spaced out about moving the elf one night only to be met with questions from prying tots in the morning? Even if you do remember, in the middle of such a hectic time, it can be almost impossible to think of a new creative spot to put the little watcher every single night!

But help is here: **Have a great idea you'd like to add?** Look for the special post on our **Facebook page** and **post a picture of your elf.**

All pictures and ideas will be entered into the December giveaway! **Happy Holidays!**

(Heeeeeee's Back! Let's not go this far, hehe)



# Special Dates with your Little One

By Stella Outchkova



With the chaos of juggling our own schedules with our kids' calendars, it's easy for your quality time to be limited to carpool conversations and the bedtime routine. Penciling in some one-on-one time with your children may require a little extra effort, but it'll pay off in spades. Here's some ways to stop stressing and start making memories:

- Get Crafty. Sometimes staying home is the easiest and best way to bond. If you have multiples, plan some crafty QT during their nap time or when dad or someone else can take them out for a bit.
- Play tourist in your own town. We often take for granted that our own town or city has some pretty amazing sites to see. Spend an afternoon exploring with your little one. Head off to a destination that you've always wanted to check out, or take them to one of your own favorite spots that they haven't seen yet.
- Get active. Depending on the age, bring your child along for a jog in a stroller, a side-by-side power walk, a class at the gym, or whatever other fitness fun suits your fancy. There may be a chill in the air, but don't let it slow you down. Bundle up, and hit up a local nature trail, park, or boardwalk (hot cocoa in hand, perhaps?) for some outdoor exercise and conversation.
- Doing the 9-5. If you're a working mom, make arrangements to bring your child in to visit your office for the day (or, depending on their age, an hour or two). Give a better understanding of what you do for a living, and spark a conversation of what they could see themselves doing as an adult.



# CRAFT CORNER

## Holiday Countdown!

By Dara Kasza

Add a dose of color and whimsy to your **Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza/Festivus** countdown with this punch-out Advent calendar.



loop of string into them.

1. For the base, cut a 10- by 15-inch piece of corrugated cardboard.
2. Cut 12 toilet paper tubes in half, then paint the tubes and the base white.
3. Dip the bottoms of the tubes in tacky glue and place them on the base in a grid, leaving about a half inch of space between them. Let the glue dry.
4. Cut tissue paper into 48 (3 1/2-inch) circles. Inside each tube, place a treat, then lay two tissue paper circles over the top of the tube. Stretch a small rubber hair band over the tissue paper and the tube so that the paper is taut.
5. Add vinyl number stickers to the tissue paper.
6. To hang your calendar, cut slits near the top of the cardboard and insert a

## Felt Creations!

By Dara Kasza

### How To Make a Felt Christmas Tree (or any holiday symbol)

You'll need a few supplies for this Christmas craft.

#### **Supplies:**

- Green felt (approximately a yard)
- Various colors of felt for decorations
- Scissors
- Cardboard or Card Stock
- Glitter glue, sequins, or other accessories for decorating
- Adhesive strips or Velcro strips

**Directions:** Draw your tree outline on the green felt.

You should be able to find the large felt on rolls at your local craft or sewing store. The easiest way to draw your tree is to fold the felt in half and draw the outline on the one side of the fold so that when you cut it out each side is exactly the same.

Use the cardboard or card stock to make a template for your ornaments. An easy way to make a circle ornament is to find a cup or glass around your home and trace the circle so it's perfectly round.

If you want to get a little creative you can do different decorations besides just round ornaments. If you have large cookie cutters you can trace those for ornaments. Other things you could include on your tree are teddy bears, snowmen, hearts, presents, candy canes, and Christmas lights.

You will also want a star or other topper for the top of the Christmas tree as well.

Once you have all your templates made then trace them onto the felt and cut them out.

You can use them just as they are as plain decorations or you can use glitter glue, puffy paint, sequins or other items to decorate the ornaments as you want. You can also use the other felt pieces you have to embellish the ornaments as well.





**SRMC** | Santa Rosa  
Mothers' Club

**mission statement:**

provide an environment where mothers and young children can develop friendships and community, exchange information, and have valued opportunities for social interaction with other mothers, children and families.

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