

INSIDE:

2008 Holiday Gift Guide

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PULL-OUT SECTION

CHICAGO

# Free Press

Vol. 10, No. 14

A COMMON VOICE FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 26, 2008

INSIDE:

are met by LOVE, not genitalia!

Marriage Equality  
Fundamental  
Human Rights



FREETIME

FREESTYLE

LOVE 'SICK'

FREESTYLE

## California on the march

Protests continue in Sacramento; Calif. Supreme Court agrees to hear case  
PAGE 6

AP Photo/Robert Durrell

Protesters march in front of the state Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008 during the latest of several demonstrations held around the country since Californians adopted Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.



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# THE CALENDAR

ABSOLUTE MUST-DO, MUST-SEE EVENTS OF THE WEEK

**WED**  
NOV 26

**THU**  
NOV 27

**FRI**  
NOV 28

**SAT**  
NOV 29

**SUN**  
NOV 30

**MON**  
DEC 1

**TUE**  
DEC 2

■ **Lesbian Community Care** Project holds its free, monthly drop-in night for LBT individuals from 6-8 p.m. at Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd. LCCP provides medical and mental health screenings during the drop-in session, and an expert discusses health topics from 6-7 p.m. Visit [lccp.org](http://lccp.org).

■ **Test Positive Aware Network** provides Pulse, a safe place for HIV-positive people, every Thursday. The event takes place 6-10 p.m. at The North End, 3733 N. Halsted St., in the back bar. Visit [tpan.com](http://tpan.com).

■ **Female artists perform** during tonight's Dive Me at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., followed by an open mic. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. There is a \$10 suggested donation. Call (773) 729-5511.

■ **Local group Actor Slash Model** holds a fundraiser starting at 9 p.m. for its upcoming documentary film "The Christmas Schooner" at 7 p.m. Park Fieldhouse, 2200 N. Oakley Ave. The free bazaar runs through Nov. 30. Call (773) 263-6882.

■ **Grab some handmade gifts** for the holidays at the Bucktown Bazaar from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Holstein Park Fieldhouse, 2200 N. Oakley Ave. The free bazaar runs through Jan. 1. Call (773) 883-1090 for tickets.

■ **Chicago and other communities** today observe World AIDS Day. For a list of several area events, see page 4.

■ **Equality Illinois** celebrates the transgender community during tonight's Holiday Party & Table Captain Reception for the Transgender Community from 6-8 p.m. at Soderack, 3349 N. Halsted St. RSVP at (773) 477-7173 or [rspv@eqil.org](http://rspv@eqil.org).

■ **Jennifer Poupard and Robber's** Daughter perform during Homolatta starting at 7:30. Tonight's show at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan, is free. Visit [homolatta.com](http://homolatta.com).

■ **Harold Washington Library**, 400 S. State St., presents celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz, who discusses her new book "Annie Leibovitz at Work" at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call (312) 747-4300.

■ **Chicago Area** Vanguard artists and musicians perform in the AIDS Adult Songbook, a tradition started by the late baritone William Parker. A 6 p.m. reception and awards presentation precedes the 8 p.m. concert at University of Chicago's Court Theatre, 5635 S. Ellis Ave. Tickets are \$25 for the concert and \$75 for the concert and reception. Visit [brownpapeickets.com](http://brownpapeickets.com) or call (773) 753-4472.

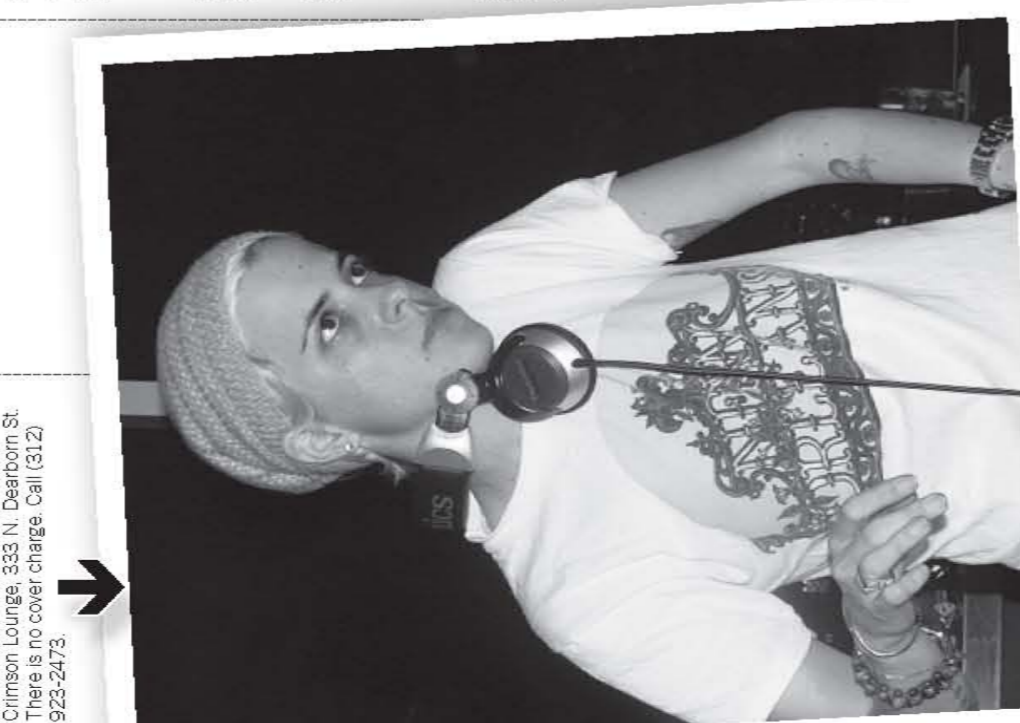
■ **Mix Nite** club presents its LGBT event, Ear Robic Sundays. Mix is located at 2943 N. Halsted St. There is no cover, and the doors are open 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

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# 2008 Holiday Gift Guide

PULL-OUT SECTION

## Gifts, from A to Z

COMPILED BY LISA NEFF  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**A** is for a coustic. The Vers2X audio docking station and speakers for iPods is smaller than a breadbox. In fact, it is about the size of a box of tissues and, available in four different woods, made to fit just about any home or office décor. [www.versaudio.com](http://www.versaudio.com)



**B** is for blast. For the shoot-em up kid—or the kid at heart—Nerf makes a big, bad Vulcan EBR-25 blaster to rapid-fire soft darts that intimidate an opponent on the make-believe battleground. The toymaker also debuted the N-Strike Switch Shot EX-3 for Wii gamers to use for shooting games and for old school dart-gun weapons experts. [www.hasbro.com](http://www.hasbro.com)

**C** is for cold. Sure, during the holidays hot chocolates and ciders, steaming coffees and hot toddies entice. But how about the gift of summer in December with a six pint of ice cream—Graeter's famous French pot ice cream in a vari-

ety of flavors (black raspberry chip, mocha chocolate chip, caramel, strawberry and a very Christmassy peppermint). Have you ever seen someone frowning while eating ice cream? [www.graeters.com](http://www.graeters.com)



**D** is for decorative. German engineers designed the Sonoro Audio tabletop radios with lots of bling, disco-styling, pop accents, and, of course, optimal sound. The Cubu is a cube-shaped modern MP3/CD dock radio that fits in small spaces and adds a touch of color to a room. [www.sonoroaudio.com](http://www.sonoroaudio.com)

**E** is for elegant. Jaques of London puts a royal touch on classic games—hand-polished backgammon sets, hand-crafted croquet sets and an exquisite collection of chess sets, including a replica of a set first made by Jaques in the 1890s. [www.jaqueslondon.com](http://www.jaqueslondon.com)

**F** is for flesh (or flash). The American Association

for Nude Recreation is offering one of the more unique boxed sets this holiday season. AANR's Nakation kit includes a Nakation beach towel, sunscreen, savings vouchers, a guide to nude recreation in America, a full-color Nakation travel map and temporary "I'm in a Nakation state of mind" tattoos. [www.aanr.com](http://www.aanr.com)

**G** is for green. Heard the saying, "The pen is mightier than the sword?" The new Bamboo Tornado from Retro 51 is lightweight, ergonomic and the barrel is made from solid bamboo, a durable hardwood that's also eco-friendly. And for each pen sold, Retro 51 makes a donation to the Arbor Day Foundation's Rain Forest Rescue fund. [www.retro51.com](http://www.retro51.com)

**H** is for homey. So, your California friends have 100 fantastic photos from the historic California wedding. They could store them away in a photo album or on a DVD. Or they could load them for display on a Coby Electron-



ics digital photo frame, with changeable faceplates and the capability to play MP3 recordings for photo slideshows. [www.cobyusa.com](http://www.cobyusa.com)

**I** is for international. So, the former high schooler on your list graduated with credit for three years of French, but the ability to say little more than, "D'ou viens-tu." Rosetta Stone can be a quick and effective way to pick up a second language—or as many as 31 for the newly ambitious. The program features speech recognition technology to help perfect pronunciation, as well as a feature that tracks progress. [www.rosettastone.com](http://www.rosettastone.com)



**J** is for just cause. Visitors to Cheeseburger in Paradise like theirs with "lettuce and tomato, Heinz 57 and French-fried potatoes, big kosher pickle and a cold draft beer" in the spirit of Jimmy Buffett, they also like just causes. New Cheeseburger in Paradise T-shirts on sale at the restaurants are just

that, raising money for VH1's Save the Music Foundation. [www.cheeseburgerinparadise.com](http://www.cheeseburgerinparadise.com)

**K** is for kick ass. The custom-ordered electric motorcycles from Hybrid Technologies produce zero emissions and get about 120 miles on a 6-8 hour charge. Cyclists also need not worry about oil changes or engine mess. [www.hybridtechnologies.com](http://www.hybridtechnologies.com)

**L** is for loud. The age of the art guitar is over. The age of the television's Guitar Hero World Tour, the latest installment of the best-selling game. Xtreme sports gamers can go cart racing, log jumping, snowboarding and skating with Active Life Outdoor Challenge (for Wii). And girls and guys with spirit can bring it on into their living rooms with We Cheer (for Wii), a totally addictive game in which the remote controls become pom-poms and the gamers become squad-members with attitude. [www.activision.com](http://www.activision.com), [www.namcoban-daigames.com](http://www.namcoban-daigames.com)

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M is for memory. The Riata Yago USB Hub Drive adds USB ports to machines to increase the number of mobile devices a computer user can hook up. The drive also contains memory—as little as 1 GB and as much as 4 GB. [www.ritekusa.com](http://www.ritekusa.com)



N is for nifty. Samsung's S2 Pebble MP3 player fits in the pocket like a rounded, polished stone. The hand will come to think of the player as a good-luck charm. The head will like the 240 songs the little gem can play. [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

O is for odd. Arthur Court designed a whimsical frog pitcher for The Palmont Chicago's aria restaurant. In addition to its decorative properties, the aluminum pitcher keeps beverages ice cold for long periods. Diners can now have a pitcher—and not by dining and dashing—for their home. [www.arianachicago.com](http://www.arianachicago.com)

P is for practical. For the traveling salesperson, the roving reporter or the chained-to-

desktop worker on the gift list, CableOrganizer.com offers the Wheelmate Steering Wheel Desk, which simply hooks up to an auto steering wheel to create an ergonomic desk. [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com)

Q is for quick. A body needs get up and go for speed and distance, but quality athletic shoes help. ProGrid Ride shoes from Saucony features lots of cushion and flexibility, plus a lightweight, breathable upper. [www.saucony.com](http://www.saucony.com)

R is for robotic. Ah, how Disney's big offering this holiday season is Wall-E, a robotic toy that looks just like the robot in this year's blockbuster film. Wall-E is an advanced robot—highly emotional. [www.disneyshopping.com](http://www.disneyshopping.com)

S is for sexy. Some will consider the leg lamp, a replica from "A Christmas Story," a major award. Some will consider it so sexy. And yes, the leg lamp comes shipped in a box marked "Fragile" and "His End Up," just like in the movie. [www.redniderleglamps.com](http://www.redniderleglamps.com)

T is for time and temp. OK, people can look out the window and know whether the sun is shining or snow is falling. But in Chicago, all that may change in 10 minutes. Vantage Pro2 Weather Stations show highs and lows for virtually all weather variables



and the local weather forecast. [www.davisnet.com/weather/products](http://www.davisnet.com/weather/products)

U is for unusual. This one may appeal to sci-fi fans. And this one may appeal to leather enthusiasts looking for an odd toy. CBS Consumer Products' Captain Kirk chair is officially licensed and features a swivel design, light up controls and sound effects ("Lt. Uhura, open a channel to all decks") from the "Star Trek" series. [www.daimondselecttoys.com](http://www.daimondselecttoys.com)

V is for voyager. Full-size kayaks are not the most convenient vessels for Windy City dwellers even a block from the lake. But the SportFisher Inflatable Kayak stows away in small places until the fisher,

Charitable donations: Gifts that keep on giving

BY MATT SIMONETTE  
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes it seems like your friends and family have everything.

Why bother with a new kitchen gadget when all they do is get take-out? What's the point of new clothes when they roller coaster from one size to the next? How can you tell what DVDs they already own?

And, when you boil it all down, do they need any more stuff?

This holiday season, maybe they would appreciate a gift to a local or national charity given in their name.

A charitable donation sometimes requires just as much research and shopping as a regular holiday gift. Fortunately, that research can almost always be done online.

Start out by looking to the recipient's passions. Have they been involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS? Consider an organization like AIDS Foundation of Chicago ([aidschicago.org](http://aidschicago.org)) or Chicago House ([chicagohouse.org](http://chicagohouse.org)), to name just a few. If they have ties in the GLBT community,

they might appreciate a donation to Center on Halsted ([centeronhalsted.org](http://centeronhalsted.org)) or Human Rights Campaign ([hrc.org](http://hrc.org)). Do they love animals? The Humane Society ([hsus.org](http://hsus.org)) or the Illinois Anti-Cruelty Society ([anti-cruelty.org](http://anti-cruelty.org)) might be the way to go. Folks with highbrow tastes might appreciate a contribution to the local public TV station or an arts organization. [justgive.org](http://justgive.org), [www.charitablegiftgiving.com](http://www.charitablegiftgiving.com) and [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) are just three websites that can help you locate a worthy charity. Incidentally, if you still need to buy a gift, remember that many individual organizations might have items for sale on their website.

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December 5, 6 - 10 PM  
**Late-er Night Andersonville**  
December 18, 6 - 10 PM  
The shops are open late with BIG discounts on great gifts and eats plus free refreshments, entertainment and pictures with Santal Pick up a Late Night coupon at Andersonville businesses.  
**Julmarknad "Holiday Market"**  
December 6 & 7  
A host of holiday festivities throughout the neighborhood, centered on the Julmarknad crafts fair and traditional Swedish entertainment at the Swedish American Museum.  
**St. Lucia Festival of Lights**  
December 13, 4:45 PM  
Swedish American Museum  
5211 North Clark Street  
A candlelit, carol-filled procession down the sidewalks of Clark Street, followed by singing and treats at the Museum. Museum admission is \$1 or a can of food to benefit the homeless.

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Sun 11-6

For more holiday information go to [www.andersonville.org](http://www.andersonville.org).