December 2023

Local Festivus

This year, more than ever, it seems a little extra holiday spirit could do all of us some good. Lucky for us, we live in a city full of festive opportunities no matter what you celebrate. Here are a few of my favorite places to get into the spirit:

- Brea Eagle Hills Christmas Lights
- Candy Cane Lane in El Segundo
- Candy Cane Lane in Woodland Hills
- Dana Point Harbor Holiday Lights and Board Parade of Lights
- Descanso Gardens' Enchanted Forest
 of Light
- Holiday Road at King Gillette Ranch
- Imaginarium at Pomona Fairplex
- L.A. Zoo Lights
 - Lightscape at Los Angeles County Arboretum
- Marina Lights and Boat Parade Spectacular
 - at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey
 Mission Inn Festival of Lights
- Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting Celebration
 - Upper Hastings Ranch Holiday Light Up
- Wakefield Winter Wonderland
- Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena
- Manhattan Beach Pier

Simple Shortbread Cookies

There is nothing better during the holidays than a wonderful shortbread cookie. This is one of the simplest crowd pleasers for a party or to simply keep around the house. For a twist, finish with sea salt or work orange zest into the dough!

- 1 C Unsalted Butter
- 1/2 C Sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 C salt
- 2 C All Purpose Flour

Method:

Beat the butter, sugar, vanilla and salt on medium high until pale and fluffy.

Add the flour and mix on low until a stiff dough forms. Make sure to scrape the sides of the bowl and only mix until just formed into a dough.

Turn the dough out onto a plastic wrap lined counter and shape into a tube (1" - 2" in diameter) using the plastic wrap like a tootsie roll wrapper. Chill in the refrigerator for 30 - 60 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°F.

Once chilled, remove the plastic and slice cookies about 1/4 -1/2 inch thick.

Bake cookies on a lined sheet tray for about 20 minutes. Let cool for at least 10 minutes.



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CALIFORNIA PROPERTIES

Top Ways to Support Local Businesses this Holiday Season

Do you know why one of the busiest shopping days of the year is called "Black Friday"? It's because it is traditionally the day that retailers go "into the black" or turn a profit for the first time in the year. This leaves them precious little time to sell their wares before year's end. This year, let's support the small businesses. Here are some ways to do that:

Organize a Small Business Crawl

Gather your best friends together and plan an event where you visit several small businesses in your local area.

Partner with a Small Business

If you own a business or offer a service, consider collaborating with another local business to offer a special promotion.

- Recommend favorite places to others Leave positive reviews online Join memberships or rewards programs Reschedule if you cancel an appointment Opt for takeout instead of delivery apps Like, share, tag and follow on social Join the email list Buy gift cards
 - Share your love with a generous tip Attend sales and special events

Local Activities and Events

- Now January 7: Dinos Alive Immersive Experience
- Now Jan 31: The Dr. Seuss Experience
- Now December 31: The Hill | Los Angeles Presents "Holidays on the Hill"
- Now December 31: Merry Melrose
- December 9: Holiday Family Faire & Family Movie Night at Will Greer's Theatricum Botanicum
- December 16: A Charlie Brown Christmas 5K / 10K
- December 16: Beyond the Streets Holiday Market
- December 17: Valley Youth Philharmonic Orchestra's Winter Concert

Oh by the way... I'm never too busy for your referrals



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