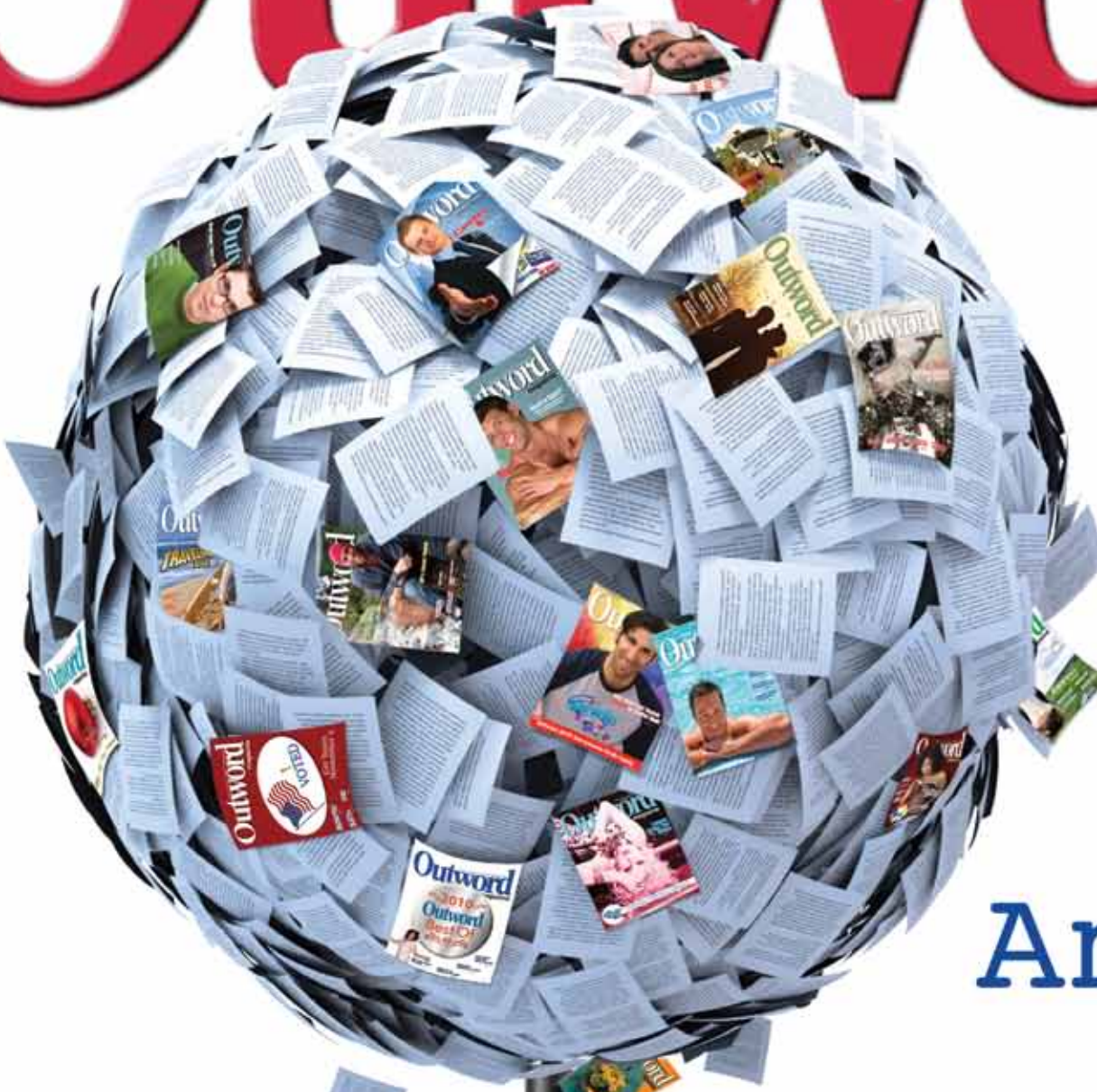


Outword

Volume 23 • Issue 24 • No. 423 • December 23, 2010 • outwordmagazine.com

magazine



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Letters

Thanks for Your Help

Dear Outword,

Thank-you so much for a fabulous toy drive filled with blinking lights! That was fun – and a big success for the families who will now have a joyful holiday thanks to all the toys.

Outword has been a longtime supporter of WEAVE and of our holiday toy shoppe. This year you really outdid yourselves, donating boxes full of quality toys and raising more than \$100 during the toy drive at The Depot.

Children are going to have a brighter holiday thanks to your, and the LGBT community's, generosity. WEAVE is fortunate to be part of such a caring community.

Whether you're helping with our toy drive, volunteering your time, or contributing financially toward our life-changing services, your efforts are making the holidays safer and brighter for women and children.

Beth Hassett
WEAVE Executive Director
www.weaveinc.org

Holiday Wrap-up: Recycle Your Tree

Give your Christmas tree the proper holiday send-off. Rather than toss it in the trash, recycle it. You'll be doing our local landfills a big favor.

Bring your Christmas tree to the SMUD Corporation Yard at 6100 Folsom Boulevard on Jan. 8 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. SMUD staff will mulch it for free.

Please remove all tinsel, lights, tree stands and nails. Flocked trees will be accepted at all locations. There is a limit of five trees per vehicle.

Christmas trees

may also be recycled for free at the following sites and dates:

Elder Creek Recovery and Transfer, 8642 Elder Creek Road (Jackson Highway, south on Florin Perkins Road, left on Elder Creek Road), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 8 Also accepting trees 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, Dec. 27 – Jan. 31

Kiefer Landfill, 12701 Kiefer Boulevard (Jackson Highway, north on Grant Line Road, right on Kiefer Boulevard), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 8 and Jan. 9

North Area Recovery Station, 4450 Roseville Road (I-80, north Watt Avenue, left on Roseville Road), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 8 and Jan. 9.

Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station, 8491 Fruitridge Road (Jackson Highway, south on Florin Perkins Road, left on Fruitridge Road), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 8 and Jan. 9. Also accepting trees Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 27 – Jan. 31

For more about recycling Christmas trees, contact the Sacramento County Consolidated Utilities Billing Services at 916-875-5555 or visit sacgreenteam.com.



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Nat. Lesbian & Gay Journalist Association
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Remembering Willis (Will) Lee Bennett

July 17, 1936 – November 24, 2010

On November 24, 2010, our community lost an important, innovative and involved voice who was fearless in his support and involvement in the LGBT community at a time when most people were still very closeted.

Born in Oakland, Will lived for a while in San Diego working in Rally Racing and automobile time trials, but ultimately, his heart and his work centered around Sacramento.

One of the first Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in California, he founded and ran Foothill Ambulance Co. for many years.

An expert in mechanics and electronics, when Will met his husband, Robert Bequette, a computer programmer, their synergy, energy and money benefitted the GLBT community as they founded and ran Acropolis, the first online GLBT bulletin board in Sacramento. He also produced the cable television show, *Being Gay Today*, which ran for 20 years in Sacramento, providing a voice and a format for GLBT issues which was years ahead of its time.

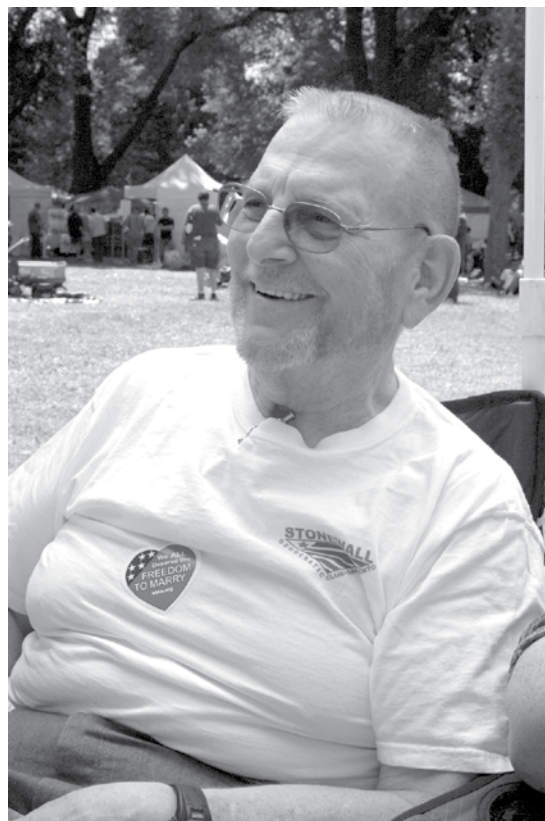
Will served for several years on the Board of Directors for the Lambda Community Fund and was President of the Board for a term.

Until two years ago when ill health curtailed his activities, Will and Robert were familiar figures at every GLBT event as they shot footage at celebrations, demonstrations, commemorations and any and all events that documented the history of

Sacramento's GLBT community.

Will and Robert were among the first to become Domestic Partners when the legislature created the venue. That wasn't enough for Will, though, who was always a fighter for civil rights and social justice for the GLBT community. In September of 2003, Will and Robert, along with Laurie McBride and Donna Yutzy, journeyed to Victoria, British Colombia and both couples were legally married on September 22 of that year.

Will is survived by his husband,



Will Bennett at Sacramento Pride in 2005.

Robert, his mother Marjorie Bennett, his many friends and "family of choice" and his beloved beagle, Cosmo, and the spoiled but lovable, Cat.

Plans for a Celebration of Life will be announced later.

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FAIR Education Act Introduced in CA Senate

Senator Mark Leno has introduced legislation that helps address the nation's bullying crisis by ensuring that historical contributions of LGBT people are accurately and fairly portrayed in instructional materials in California schools.

Senate Bill 48, known as the FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful) Education Act, adds the LGBT community to the existing list of under-represented cultural and ethnic groups already listed in the state's inclusionary education requirements.

"Most textbooks don't include any historical information about the LGBT movement, which has great significance to both California and U.S. history," said Senator Leno (D-San Francisco). "Our collective silence on this issue perpetuates

negative stereotypes of LGBT people and leads to increased bullying of young people. We can't simultaneously tell youth that it's OK to be yourself and live an honest, open life when we aren't even teaching students about historical LGBT figures or the LGBT equal rights movement."

Research indicates that bullying rates are double in schools where students do not learn about the contributions of LGBT Americans. Students in schools with inclusive education also report that all youth

– straight, gay, and those perceived to be gay – are treated more fairly by their teachers and peers.

In addition to including the role and contributions of LGBT Americans in educational materials, SB 48 adds sexual orientation to the state's existing anti-discrimination protections that prohibit bias in school activities, instruction and instructional materials.

The bill is co-sponsored by Equality California and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network and was introduced on Monday, Dec. 13, 2010.

The bill would also prohibit the State Board of Education from adopting instructional materials that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Slugfest on Gay Marriage (and Standing) at 9th Circuit

Commentary by Nan Hunter

The long-awaited oral argument in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* has concluded before the Ninth Circuit, and we all now enter what I expect will become an even longer awaited decision.

Who won? To my hearing (via radio), it's hard to imagine that any judge's inclination on the merits of whether Prop 8 is constitutional was altered by the arguments they heard. The argument may have had a bigger impact on how the court will rule (or defer ruling) on standing than on their view of the merits.

Judges Reinhardt, Hawkins and Smith peppered both sides with sharp questions, and both sides acquitted themselves well.

On the standing point, the plaintiffs' lawyers acknowledged that Judge Walker's injunction would apply to only the two county clerks named as defendants, leaving all other county clerks free to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The judges seemed surprised to hear this and skeptical about the

plaintiffs' further point that Judge Walker's injunction would be enforced by the governor and attorney general going into state court to get a further enforcement order.

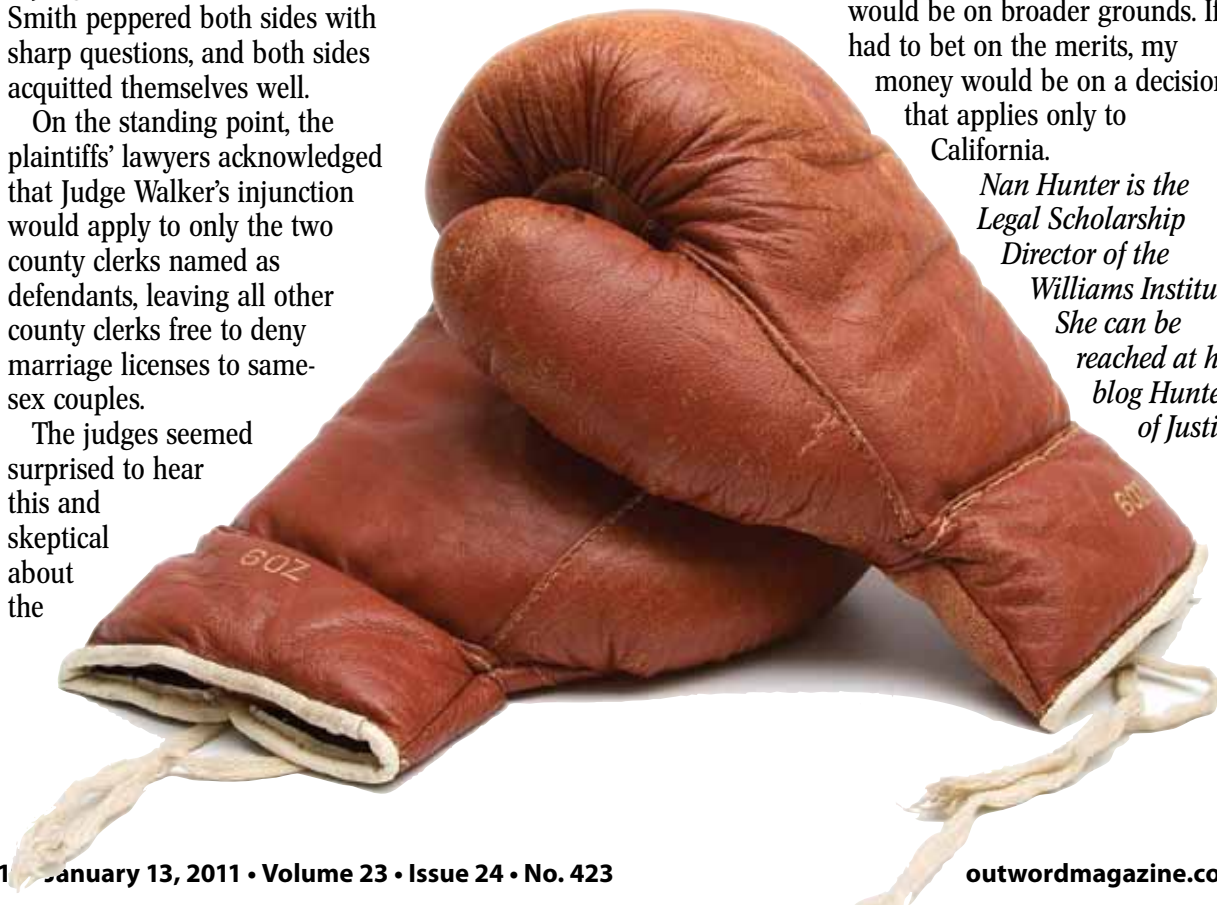
Most significantly on the standing point, Judge Reinhardt strongly suggested that he was inclined to certify a question to the

California Supreme Court to help resolve the standing question.

On the merits, the most important exchanges related to whether the court could determine the constitutionality of only Prop 8, that is, without reaching the question of whether bars to same-sex marriage in other states would be unconstitutional.

Asked that direct question of whether the court could avoid ruling as to other states, Ted Olson said "yes," although he added that the decision he wanted would be on broader grounds. If I had to bet on the merits, my money would be on a decision that applies only to California.

Nan Hunter is the Legal Scholarship Director of the Williams Institute. She can be reached at her blog [Hunter of Justice](http://HunterofJustice.com)



Man Infected With HIV Said to Be Cured with Stem Cell Transplant

by Laudi Jaterka,

Doctors who carried out a stem cell transplant on an HIV-infected man with leukaemia in 2007 say they now believe the man to have been cured of his HIV infection as a result of the treatment, which introduced stem cells which happened to be resistant to HIV infection.

The man received bone marrow from a donor who had natural resistance to HIV infection; this was due to a genetic profile which led to the CCR5 co-receptor being absent from his cells. The most common variety of HIV uses CCR5 as its 'docking station,' attaching to it in order to enter and infect CD4 cells, and people with this mutation are almost completely protected against infection.

The case was first reported at the 2008 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Boston, and Berlin doctors subsequently published a detailed case history in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in February 2009.

The 'Berlin patient' is an HIV-positive man who developed acute myeloid leukemia, received successful treatment and subsequently experienced a relapse in 2007 that required a transplant of stem cells.

Doctors chose stem cells from an

individual who had an unusual genetic profile: a mutation inherited from both parents that resulted in CD4 cells that lacked the CCR5 receptor. This mutation, called CCR5 delta 32 homozygosity, is present in less than one percent of Caucasians in northern and western Europe, and is associated with a reduced risk of becoming infected with HIV.

Antiretroviral therapy was halted on the day of the transplant, and the patient had to receive a second stem cell transplant 13 days after the first one, due to a further relapse of leukemia. The patient continued to receive immunosuppressive treatment to prevent rejection for 38 months, and at 5, 24 and 29 months post-transplant colon biopsies were taken to investigate possible graft-versus-host disease in the intestine.

At each investigation additional samples were taken to check for signs of HIV infection in the

abundant immune cells of the gut wall.

During the 38 month follow-up period the donor CD4 cells repopulated the mucosal immune system of the gut, to such an extent that the frequency of CD4 cells was almost twice as high as in HIV-negative healthy controls, and this phenomenon was also seen in a control group of ten HIV-negative individuals who received stem cell transfers.

The repopulation of CD4 cells was accompanied by the complete disappearance of host CD4 cells, and after two years, the patient had the CD4 count of a healthy adult of the same age.

The patient did not resume antiretroviral therapy after the transplant. Nevertheless, HIV remained undetectable by both viral load testing (RNA) and tests for viral DNA within cells, and HIV antibody levels declined to the point that the patient has no antibody reactivity to HIV core antibodies, and only very low levels of antibodies to the HIV envelope proteins.

Laudi Jaterka is a staff writer for JRL Charts, where this article originally appeared, and can be reached at Laudi@JRLChartsOnline.com

Faith Matters Generosity: Ointment for the Soul

by Rev. Doretha Williams-Flournoy

From the back of the church, afraid, Gina cautiously made her way to the microphone. Tears streaming down her dark brown cheeks, voice trembling, she slowly began telling her story:

"I expected people to give to me. My momma's parents were poor, my parents were poor, and I guessed my life would be the same. Life was always a struggle, trying to make ends meet, feeding the kids, paying the rent, one bad relationship after another. I started turning in on myself. I gave up on life and on me."

"But, today I am grateful. I can't believe how my life has changed, maybe not my whole life, but... you see, one day at the bus stop I met this old woman. She was so weak she could barely get on the bus. I didn't want to help her, but when I looked at her, our eyes met and I couldn't say no. As I helped her on the bus, she grabbed my

arm like I was the only one thing keeping her up. She leaned into me; I put my arm around her. She whispered, 'Thank you, baby' and smiled. I usually sit in the back of the bus, but something made me sit with her instead."

"She held my hand, tight. She told me about her day. She thanked me for taking time to listen. Normally I wouldn't do anything like that, but that day, I couldn't stop myself. I helped her off the bus and walked her home! I said to myself, girl, what are you doing? You got your own problems. You don't have time to take up with this woman. But I couldn't stop myself. She acted like I was supposed to help her, like that was my job. By

the end of the day, I washed her dishes, vacuumed her floor and folded her laundry. Finally, I had to go. Again she looked at me, this time she touched my cheek and said, 'Thank you baby - people like me need people like you,' and smiled."

"That day I changed. I felt different, like love, or hope or something. Maybe she was an angel. I don't know. But what I do know is that I am better. I still need help sometimes, but now I am more interested in helping others. Every time I give, every time I serve, I get better. Today I am grateful."

Regardless of our weary condition, the Spirit of Generosity has the ability to free us from the drudgery of everyday life. Causing

FAITH

continues on page 22

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Help Your Center Make a Difference

Commentary by Bill Otton

Invite each person who reads Outword to help make our community stronger in 2011 by supporting the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center. One way to help is to become a member or donor. Another way is to become an active volunteer.

The Center continues to move down a path that benefits the greater good of the entire Sacramento region. Being a member, donor or volunteer can membership program to stabilize general operations. Many said it could not be done, however, many said, "stay the course" to success. Soon, the Rainbow Chamber

The Center continues to move down a path that benefits the greater good of the entire Sacramento region.

bring great personal satisfaction while helping many individuals you may, or may not know. There is a bright future ahead at the Center. Yes, there have been times when challenges seemed to almost consume the Center operations, however, today it enjoys a new era of success. The current era began to take shape in fall 2009 when individuals came together to launch a Foundation, Terry Sidie and other local business leaders who support LGBT causes made significant gifts and commitments. Also, individuals who believe in our community pulled out their checkbooks and generated over \$30,000 to insure we had a Center in 2011. In the meantime, leadership continued to plan the Center's largest annual event, Sacramento Pride, with strategies that

ultimately created one of the most exciting celebrations in our history. Pride Chair, Josh Jacoby, and his team of volunteers, aided by Fred Palmer, who worked on sponsorships, were key elements in the success that occurred last June. At the administrative level, an ambitious search led to hiring Wendy Rae Hill as the new Center Executive Director. As Wendy settles into her new community leader role, she brings a fresh outlook and exciting ideas to the organization. Her volunteer team will be an important part of what happens in 2011. While staff is critical for day to day operations and funding needs, the Center board continues to grow. The expanded board is ready to look at ways the organization can continue to help the community as challenges and opportunities are addressed. It also serves as a conduit for identifying new funding opportunities. Yes, the LGBTQ community has challenges to address. Many of our

CENTER continues on page 22

U.S. and South Africa Sign HIV/AIDS Agreement

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and South Africa's International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane have signed a Partnership Framework that will guide future efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

The Partnership Framework under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) provides a five-year joint strategic plan of cooperation among the Government of South Africa, the U.S. Government and other stakeholders and was signed on Dec. 14. The Framework supports the goals of South Africa's national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS, while also contributing to PEPFAR's global goals for prevention, care and treatment. The Framework emphasizes sustainability, local expertise, coordination and accountability in the fight against AIDS. The PEPFAR Framework will build on existing U.S. support for South Africa's efforts to provide HIV prevention, treatment and care for millions of people in the country. In 2010 alone, PEPFAR funds have supported treatment for nearly 920,000 adults and children in South Africa, while more than five million South Africans have been tested for HIV and received HIV counseling with U.S. support. President Barack Obama has made the fight against AIDS a cornerstone of his Global Health Initiative. A key principle of the Initiative is support for country ownership, and through the Partnership Framework, the United States will support South Africa in building the capacity to sustain its progress on HIV/AIDS for the long term.

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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in alphabetical order

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Don't Start the New Year With a DUI

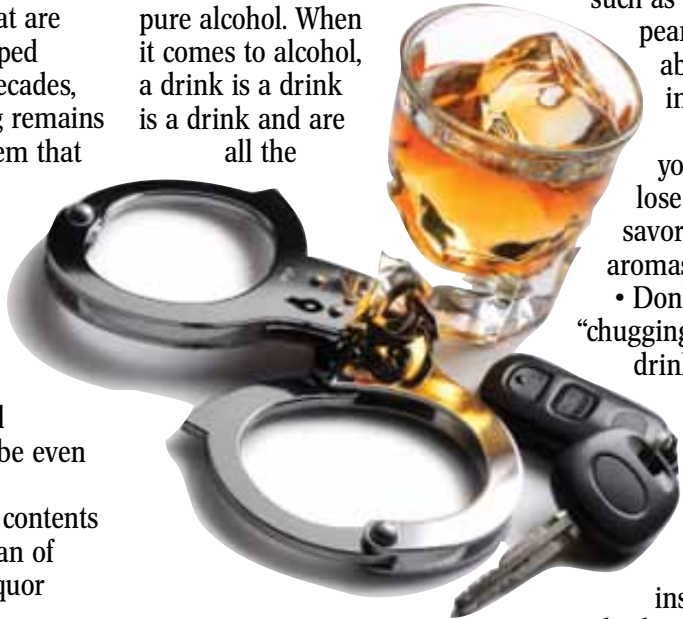
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Every single injury and death caused by drunk driving is totally preventable. Although the proportion of crashes that are alcohol-related has dropped dramatically in recent decades, alcohol-impaired driving remains a serious national problem that tragically effects many victims annually.

Here is some information that could help you avoid a night in jail, costly fines and court fees, increases to your auto insurance, and perhaps save a life, maybe even your own!

- Don't be fooled. The contents of the typical bottle or can of beer, glass of wine, or liquor

drink (mixed drink or straight liquor) each contain virtually identical amounts of pure alcohol. When it comes to alcohol, a drink is a drink and are all the



- same to a breathalyzer.
- Know your limit. Most people find that they can consume one drink per hour without any ill effects. Also, experiment with the Blood Alcohol Educator, which is very informative and useful.
 - Eat food while you drink. Food, especially high protein food such as meat, cheese and peanuts, will help slow the absorption of alcohol into your body.
 - Sip your drink. If you gulp a drink, you lose the pleasure of savoring its flavors and aromas.
 - Don't participate in "chugging" contests or other drinking games.
 - Accept a drink only when you really want one. If someone tries to force a drink on you, ask for a non-alcohol beverage instead. If that doesn't work, "lose" your drink by setting it down somewhere and leaving it.
 - Skip a drink now and then.

DUI
continues on page 22



I Am Equal: The Picture Of Equality Launches in Sacramento

by Andrew Windchanz

International fashion photographer Matt Spencer is coming to Sacramento and he wants to take your picture – for the *I Am Equal* project, a record-breaking photo campaign for human rights and equality in the nation's most diverse city.

At 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 6, The Citizen Hotel will open the doors to a free public photo event, where people from all walks of life will step up for human rights and join the global movement for equality.

"Everyone is welcome to join us," explains project creator Jason Beckett. "Wear a brightly colored, solid shirt and come ready for a photo. It's a quick process and you'll be making history."

The ambitious photo project will start in Sacramento and then visit

29 U.S. cities in 2011 before heading to Europe in 2012. "It's important that everyone have an opportunity to get a photo and dedicate it to the cause that means the most to them," said Spencer. "Each person has a story to tell and a reason for joining the project; we'll do whatever we can to help them tell that story and inspire change in the world." Get more information at: www.iamequalproject.org and connect on Facebook at: facebook.com/iamequal.

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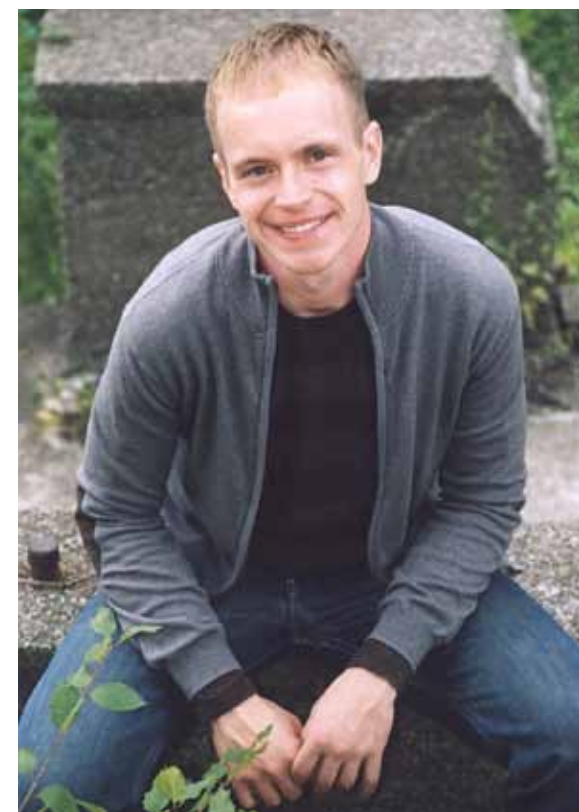
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Lambda Players Premiere a Gay Man's Trip in *Recovery Mode*

Five years ago, Matthew Crehan Higgins was bored – and horny. He logged into gay.com and within minutes made a date for a late night rendezvous with a hot, closeted bisexual man.



Recovery Mode author and performance artist **Matthew Crehan Higgins** says that having someone else write about your life is freeing, but also terrifying.

again after I heard the recording, I felt like the material was there and that it felt good to get it out of my system. ... When the adaptation came up, I felt like I was getting my chance to see *Recovery Mode* come to life, but in a way that wouldn't take so much out of me."

"Not having an actual script to work from, I spent three days transcribing the audio before I could begin the adaptation," said Burlingame. "But in the end, it helped me get to know the piece, and Matt, even

The two have nothing in common but each other – and sometimes not even that. Filling out the cast is Matt's college BFF Marc; Sean a one night stand who made him believe in love again; and country bumpkin Adam, whose talent is best left to the imagination. Based on true-life experiences, *Recovery Mode* is a comedy about getting over Mr. Wrong.

"*Recovery Mode* is largely about a relationship going bad and the aftermath – it's very much about therapy," said Higgins. "To me, therapy at its best is when that other person puts a mirror up that makes one see not just what happened to them but also how they contributed. Answering those questions, this time to a fellow writer, gave me a chance to see that mirror from a different angle."

Recovery Mode runs Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m., Jan. 6 – Feb. 5, at the Lambda Players Theatre, 1127 21st St. Tickets are \$15, and Thursday nights are "pay-what-you-can." Reservations can be made at 916-444-8229 or online at lambdaplayers.com

What should have been a 45-minute hookup (if the guy could last that long) turned into a tumultuous four year relationship, a one man show and now a full-length stage production.

The Lambda Players' Resident Playwright Matthew Burlingame had heard Higgins' one man show on an episode of *Cocktails & Creampuffs*, an internet podcast he co-hosts from Buffalo, NY. Knowing a good thing when he hears it, Burlingame contacted Higgins to discuss turning the solo show into a full production. Two weeks later, rehearsals began on the newly adapted six-person play *Recovery Mode*.

"I first heard it last summer and fell in love with it," says Burlingame. "It had everything; comedy, tragedy, diva moments and breakdowns – and Higgins performing it just made it even better."

When Burlingame contacted him about the adaptation, Higgins was thrilled. "It was very unexpected," he explains. "I did *Recovery Mode* as a spoken word event and made up most of it on the spot, for the purpose of finding out whether I had the material necessary to create a play. After I did it, and then outwardmagazine.com

better."

In *Recovery Mode*, the character of Matt (Michael Hedges), an upwardly-mobile, out gay man, leads zany therapist Susan (Bethany Hidden-Cauley) through his continuous breakups and makeups with his deeply closeted blue-collar, bisexual boyfriend Tom (Steve Thompson.)

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SCCGRA Donates \$4,000 to United Cerebral Palsy/Saddle Pals



The Sacramento Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association presented a check for \$4,000 to United Cerebral Palsy/Saddle Pals on December 3, at their Annual General Membership Meeting. Earlier a check for \$1,000 had been presented to the Lavender Library. The funds were the proceeds from this year's 10th Sierra Stampede Rodeo held June 11-12, 2010. Pictured are Jeff Barr, Ann Kinney, Tami Shaffer, Treasurer Gordon Deckelmeier, George Raya, UCP/Saddle Pals Development Director Stephen Horton, Vice President of Rodeo Operations Wrangler Brian, David Tulleys, Vice President of Administration Mark Scammell, and IGRA Trustee Gary Eddy. The 2011 Sierra Stampede Rodeo will be held June 18-19, 2011. www.CapitalCrossroads.org

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Out & About - Holiday

We Wish You A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

'Tis the Season of Holiday get-togethers and parties, and *Outword* wanted to share these photos of some of the groups and organizations that celebrated, sending holiday cheer and good wishes to all of Sacramento. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and every other seasonal salutation that can be imagined! It's All Good!



Outword and the Depot hosted a Toy Drive for WEAVE, with Amber Stott from WEAVE accepting bucket loads of gifts for needy kids. weaveinc.org



Sacramento's Stonewall Democrats. sacstonewall.org



Sacramento Valley LeatherCorps. svlclub.org



Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus. sacgaymenschorus.org



The Sacramento Primetimers. primetimerssacramento.webs.com. Photo by Ron Williams.



Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. rainbowchamber.com

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See You In

2011

2010: A Queer and Entertaining Year To Remember

by Jimmy Newsom

Oh 2010, what a rollercoaster year you were! Between the ups of *Modern Family* winning an Emmy and the premiere of Logo's shamefully delicious *The A-List: New York*, our stomachs are in knots.

Bebe Zahara Benet: Season 1 winner of *Rupaul's Drag Race*

Ron Perkov: Out musician

We polled some of our favorite bold-faced entertainment names on how they will remember the first year of the new decade. Here's what was on their mind:

Pam Ann: Air stewardess to the stars



What was the gay lo-light of 2010? Gay teen bullying and suicides.

Who was the biggest star of 2010? Nicki Minaj.

What was your personal highlight of 2010? Starring in my own Big Apple show, "Queendom" and being in Sacramento Pride!

Who do you hope disappears into the gay abyss in 2011? Sarah Palin

What do you hope to accomplish in 2011? More community outreaching

What was the gay lo-light of 2010? Prop 8.

Who should win man or woman of the year for 2010? The men and women of the US Military.

What was your personal highlight of 2010? Marrying the man of my dreams.

Who do you hope disappears into the gay abyss in 2011? Sarah Palin

What do you hope to accomplish in 2011? Making more music

What was the gay lo-light of 2010? *The Nate Berkus* show.

Who was the biggest star of 2010? Steven Slater, the JetBlue flight attendant.

What was your personal highlight of 2010? Finally getting my profile approved by the hard asses at Manhunt.

Who do you hope disappears into the gay abyss in 2011? Sarah Palin

What do you hope to accomplish in 2011? Deep throat during double penetration.

LA Philharmonic Goes High-def in Theaters for 2011

In an effort to make world-class orchestral performances accessible to all, the LA Philharmonic is embarking on an innovative program called LA Phil Live.



The passionate and fiery Gustavo Dudamel will lead the LA Philharmonic in three concerts to be aired in theatres across the country, beginning with a tribute to Beethoven in December.

Beginning January 9, 2011 the LA Phil will simulcast live in high-definition three programs led by the dynamic conductor Gustavo Dudamel.

Similar to the recent, successful series of live opera performances broadcast from the Met in New York, the inaugural 2011 in-theatre series will be broadcast from the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles to movie theaters nationwide.

Each broadcast will also include an insider's look at the LA Phil, including never-before-seen footage and exclusive interviews with Dudamel, world-renowned guest soloists and the orchestra's musicians.

LA PHIL
continues on page 22

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FRIDAY DEC. 31

NEW YEARS EVE

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Out & About - Holiday



Terry Sidie and Team at their annual Christmas Party. Faces.net



Capital City Squares LGBT square dancing club. Photo by Larry Lauszus, Photography by Larry. capitalcitysquares.com



OK, this is a hastily put together composite, but when you're wearing Christmas tree skirts as costumes, you're probably not too picky. These folks had a great time at this party hosted by Donnie, David, Mark and Jim (back row) to benefit Breaking Barriers, raising \$2,200 in grocery gift cards to provide holiday meals for the agency's clients. breakingbarriers-sacramento.org.



The Lambda Players. LambdaPlayers.com



Naughty Santa and his Elves came to The Bolt to host a toy drive for Mama's Family. SacBolt.com



Naughty Santa and his Elves also came to Badlands, joining T.J. Bruce and the staff of Badlands for their Holiday Customer Appreciation Party. SacBadlands.com.



C.G.N.I.E., the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire celebrated the holidays by giving back to the community at a free holiday dinner held at FACES on Saturday, Dec 18.



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Outword
magazine

Cirque Dreams Holidaze Set to Open at Community Center

Cirque Dreams Holidaze promises to have audiences of all ages mesmerized with its magical tribute to the season. The holiday spectacular takes over the Community Center Theater the week after the sugar plum fairies of Sac Ballet's *The Nutcracker* clear out.

A new musical created and directed by Neil Goldberg, *Cirque Dreams Holidaze* boasts an international cast of acrobats, aerialists, singers, dancers and musicians. (The show is in the same vein although not affiliated with Cirque du Soleil.) The performers work their magic on stage, in the air and while dangling from a 24 foot tall tree. The show also features over 100 dazzling costumes and an original musical score combined with some holiday favorites. Recommended for theatergoers 4 and over, *Cirque Dreams Holidaze* plays Dec. 29 - Jan. 2 at the Community Center Theater in Sacramento. For more information, visit www.BroadwaySacramento.com.



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Leftover Christmas Turkeys Reviewed

The Tourist & How Do You Know

As critics compile their ten-best lists and sing the praises of the award-worthy movies currently in theaters, it's helpful for purposes of contrast to look at the films that had movie fans shaking their heads this holiday season.

Read on for my reviews of two of the worst offenders.

The Tourist

As I write this, the Golden Globe nominations are just out, and Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie are both nominated for their parts in *The Tourist*, one of the lamest of the big-budget, year-end holiday

wonder if the Hollywood Foreign Press even saw the movie.

I have to admit that I laughed once, at the sight of Johnny Depp in flight from some bad guys, dressed in his jammies and running across a rooftop. (Funny, but in all of my fantasies about Johnny Depp, he is never wearing

director who will likely never find his name up on a marquee – not because he is without talent but because it wouldn't fit.

Von Donnersmarck is the gifted filmmaker who was Oscar-nominated for his excellent 2006 movie, *The Lives of Others*. That dark, dramatic character study is about as far removed from *The Tourist* as you can get, and asking this guy to direct an all-star "blockbuster" is like hiring Tim Burton to do a remake of *The Sound of Music*.

The director makes the most of



Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp are both nominated for their parts in "The Tourist."

films.

The Globes divide some nominees into drama or comedy/musical categories, but *The Tourist* was virtually laugh-free, and if it contained a song and dance number, I missed it. You have to

jammies – or much of anything.)

A throwback to old-school Hollywood star vehicles like Alfred Hitchcock's *To Catch A Thief*, *The Tourist* was directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (I'm not making this up), a German

the sumptuous scenery in Venice (and the sumptuous scenery that is Jolie and Depp), but the script is a hopelessly absurd romantic caper

TURKEYS

continues on page 22

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Entertainment by Chris Narloch

Celebrate New Year's Eve with Better Midler

The Showgirl Must Go On debuts on HBO



"Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On"

HBO subscribers will find themselves in the presence of the Divine on December 31 – the Divine Miss M that is – and I can think of no better way to ring in the New Year.

The cable giant will air *Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On* at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

The 70-minute show, which began its run at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace in February of 2008, features Midler's bawdy humor and her greatest hits performed live.

Among the many memorable songs in the show are "The Rose," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "From a Distance," "Hello in There" and "Wind Beneath My Wings."

If you couldn't make it to Las Vegas to see the spectacular show, which closed in 2010, this is your chance to have a front-row seat for what many people paid several hundred dollars to see. Don't miss it.

Legendary 'Love Goddess' on DVD

The Films of Rita Hayworth debuts

One of the most glamorous movie stars of all time, Rita Hayworth was the ultimate bombshell of the 1940s, back when actresses used to smolder.

Known as "The Love Goddess," she was equally adept at playing sultry temptresses or dancing her way through splashy Technicolor musicals.

On December 21, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment and The Film Foundation present *The Films of Rita Hayworth*, five of Hayworth's finest films on DVD – three of them for the first time.

The collection includes the war-time musical *Tonight and Every Night*, the lavish biblical epic *Salome*, and the dramatic musical *Miss Sadie Thompson* (each making their DVD debuts), as well as Hayworth's most iconic films, *Cover Girl* with Gene Kelly and *Gilda* with Glenn Ford.



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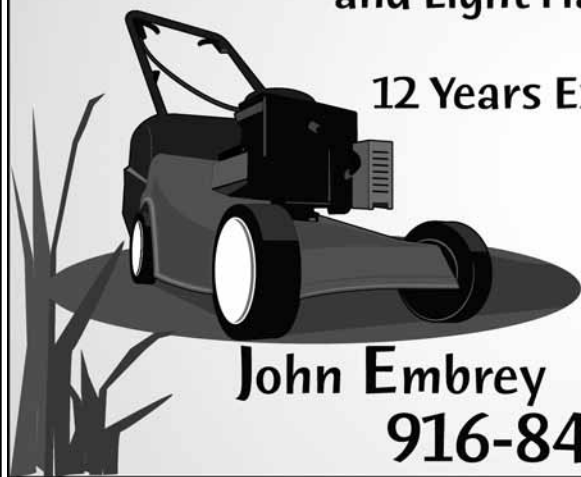
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Theatre

by Chris Narloch

Happy Holidays from the Big Apple Five New NYC Shows Reviewed

If you find yourself in New York City this holiday season, I hope you have time to attend the theater. Read on for my reviews of several fine Broadway shows and one not-so-fine off-Broadway play.

The Pee-wee Herman Show

Yes, it's true. Pee-wee Herman is back, and he's on Broadway. At 58, you might think that Paul Reubens would be too old to play Pee-wee, but you would be wrong. The ever-young actor can still squeeze himself into that skinny suit, and he still looks boyish enough to get away with lines like, "I know you are, but what am I?"

For his Broadway debut, Pee-wee brought back most of the characters (and many of the original actors) from his classic, Emmy Award-winning, late '80s children's television show. The word of the day is definitely "fun" as Pee-wee and company perform what amounts to an extended episode of *Pee-wee's Playhouse* before an adoring Broadway audience.

The playhouse set is brought to life in stunning day-glo detail on

the stage of the brand new Stephen Sondheim Theater, and Pee-wee flies high once again - literally (thanks to some theatrical trickery) and figuratively. *The Pee-wee Herman Show* plays through Jan. 2 only.

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

This brand new musical is a remake of a classic Spanish film from 1988 that was directed by the great Pedro Almodovar. Reviews for the show have been mixed, but I loved every minute of the movie, and I enjoyed the stage version too.

The movie was not a musical, but it was so colorful and over-the-top that it might as well have been. A tale filled with love, lust and gazpacho, *Women on the Verge* is about a young woman who is determined to reclaim her

philandering boyfriend, despite the pesky interference of his wife, who is fresh out of a mental hospital and bent on revenge.

Comic chaos is the order of the day, and the musical is a must-see both for its intricate, ambitious, and expensive set design and for its once in a lifetime cast, which includes the great Patti LuPone, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Justin Guarini, Laura Benanti and the excellent Sherie Rene Scott. At the Belasco Theater through Jan. 23, 2011.

Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

I am sorry to report that this sexy, stunning new musical about American politics will close on January 2, 2011, despite the best efforts of its incredibly talented cast and creative team, and despite a galvanizing lead performance by the unbelievably hot young actor, Benjamin Walker.

Walker looks nothing like even a young Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States, but



Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson



The Pee-wee Herman Show



Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

that is beside the point here. The hunky actor, who somewhat resembles Billie Joe Armstrong from Green Day, is playing an ideal of a 'rock star' president who captivates the country with his cockiness and charisma - sound familiar?

The creators of *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson* use witty, irreverent lyrics and dialogue, and 'emo' rock-based music, to satirize the political process and history of the U.S., and the dynamite young cast sells the show with a sexy swagger. This is hands down the hottest musical about politics ever. At the Bernard Jacobs Theater.

The Break of Noon

Neil LaBute is a talented playwright, but you wouldn't know it from his latest; a pretentious and ultimately pointless play about a man who undergoes a spiritual transformation after he is the only

survivor of a mass murder spree at his workplace.

David Duchovny stars, along with the talented Tracee Chimo, John Earl Jelks and Amanda Peet. Unfortunately, LaBute has nothing interesting or new to say on the subjects of sex, violence, and religion this time out, and although his cast-mates do some terrific supporting work, Duchovny isn't convincing as a formerly-flawed man who has suddenly found God.

The Break of Noon closed on Dec. 22, 2010.

BIG APPLE
continues on page 22

2010 - A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This has been an exciting year! Many thanks are due to our sponsors, donors, members, volunteers and staff who made this list possible!

- Produced the 2nd annual Queer Prom;
- Held a Sponsor Reception for Center and Pride donors, joining the broader business community with our LGBTQ community advocates;
- Completed the search and hiring of Executive Director Wendy Rae Hill;
- Moved Sacramento Pride to Capitol Mall creating the most successful Pride in Sacramento history with attendance of approximately 10,000;
- Refined the Email Newsletter with regular semi-monthly distribution to over 5,000;
- Established the Center Endowment Fund;
- Relaunched the Membership Program raising over \$10,000 in the Fall Fund Drive;
- Participated in NorCal Bike Ride earning \$3,000 by the Strength in Numbers group;
- Co-sponsored Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk;
- Expanded the Board of Directors to six and growing;
- Established the Lavender Angels Nite Guide Program in partnership with the Midtown Business Association and the Sacramento Police Dept.;
- Presented Workshops on LGBTQ Youth, Gay/Straight Alliances, Queer Advocacy and Diversity Training
- Opened the Center as a gallery for 2nd Saturday Art Walk;
- Established regular front desk reception coverage by volunteers;
- Held Holiday Open House produced by approximately 25 volunteers and attended by over 150 guests.

Stay tuned for 2011! Be a part of it, become a member!



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Calendar

Dec.

compiled by Charles Peer

Dinner. 2 p.m. The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 SacBolt.com

Sunday, 26

KWANZAA FAMILY FESTIVAL

A museum-wide festival showcasing the Crocker's new collection of African art with music and dance performances, hands-on art making, and storytelling. Free. Noon - 4 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Info: 916-808-7000 crockerartmuseum.org.

HEART CIRCLE

Men hearing, sharing and speaking from the heart in a supportive, warm and caring environment. Hosted by Calif. Men's Gathering. 4 - 6 p.m. RSVP: 916-768-9151 BearMassage@aol.com

Tuesday, 28

GAME NIGHT AT LLACE

Bring a favorite game, invite your friends, bring a drink and a snack if you like, and get your game on. 7 - 9 p.m. Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-492-0558 LavenderLibrary.org

Thursday, 30

ECLECTIC TRASH BOOK CLUB

Join this LGBT book club for a lively discussion of *Matchless: An*

Illumination of Hans Christian Andersen's classic "The Little Match Girl" by Gregory Maguire Morrison. 7 p.m. Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-492-0558 LavenderLibrary.org

Friday, 31

FACES NYE GALA

Come to party - stay to win Lady GaGa tickets! Plus free buffet and a balloon drop with \$1,000 in cash and prizes. FACES, 2000 K St. Info: Faces.net

BOLT NYE GALA

Ring in 2011 with your friends at The Bolt! Free hors d'oeuvres, party favors, and champagne at midnight, followed by a lock down party when the bar closes at 2 a.m. Win fabulous prizes in the midnight balloon drop! The doors open at 5 p.m. No cover. The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 SacBolt.com

BADLANDS NYE GALA

Party like a rockstar with a fabulous balloon drop, filled with cash & prizes, party favors and more. Badlands, 2003 K St. Info: 916-448-8790

COLOSSUS NYE GALA

DJs Joe Gauthreaux & Lee Decker spin at this kick off of a 3 party weekend in the city. 9 p.m. \$70

(\$50 in advance). Space 550, 550 Barnevald St., SF. Info: www.guspresents.com

BEARACUDA NYE GALA

Thumping beats from DJs Steve Sherwood, dabecy and Medic Deco, plus fancy eats, chunky visuals, midnight champagne, balloon drop and 100s of friendly, furry guys. 8 p.m. \$25 in advance. Deco, 510 Larkin St., SF. Info: Bearracuda.com/NYE

Jan.

Saturday, 1

WALK IT OFF!

Last night might have been a bit much, so start the New Year off right by joining the Sacramento Walking Sticks for a brisk early morning walk. 9 a.m. - noon. Free, non-timed just for the fun - and exercise - of it. Pioneer House, 415 P St.

Wednesday, 5

VALLEY BEARS MEETING

Join the Sacramento Valley Bears for their monthly meeting. Say hi to old friends and make some new ones! 7 p.m. Lambda Players

Theatre, 1127 21st St. SacBears.org

AM. WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT

A reception highlighting the 40 paintings executed by artists from all corners of the U.S., Canada and Singapore. 6 - 10 p.m. Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330-B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, Info: 916-971-3713 www.sacfinearts.org

Monday, 10

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

Join the LGBT Democrats for their monthly meeting, with guest speakers and discussions of current political events. Social, 6 p.m., meeting, 6:30 p.m. Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane. Info: 916-441-1787 SacStonewall.org

Thursday, 13

ART MIX

Art in the Dark explores the darker side of the season with art events throughout the Crocker inspired by the use of light and shadow in the master drawings exhibition "A Pioneering Collection." Free with museum admission. 5 - 9 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Info: 916-808-7000 CrockerArtMuseum.org

Saturday, 25

BOLT CHRISTMAS DAY

It's Christmas, a great day to be with friends, and you're invited to enjoy a complimentary Christmas

DQB for Sac Valley L&G Softball League

Rusty Nails, Hamburger Patties and Outword hosted a night of Drag Queen Bingo on Wednesday, Dec. 8, for the Sacramento Valley G&L Softball League, and raised \$1,187 to get the League off to a great start for their 2011 season. Thanks to the generosity of all you Bingo Players, DQB has now raised \$25,883 for local charities and non-profits. Join us for the next DQB on Jan. 12, 2011.





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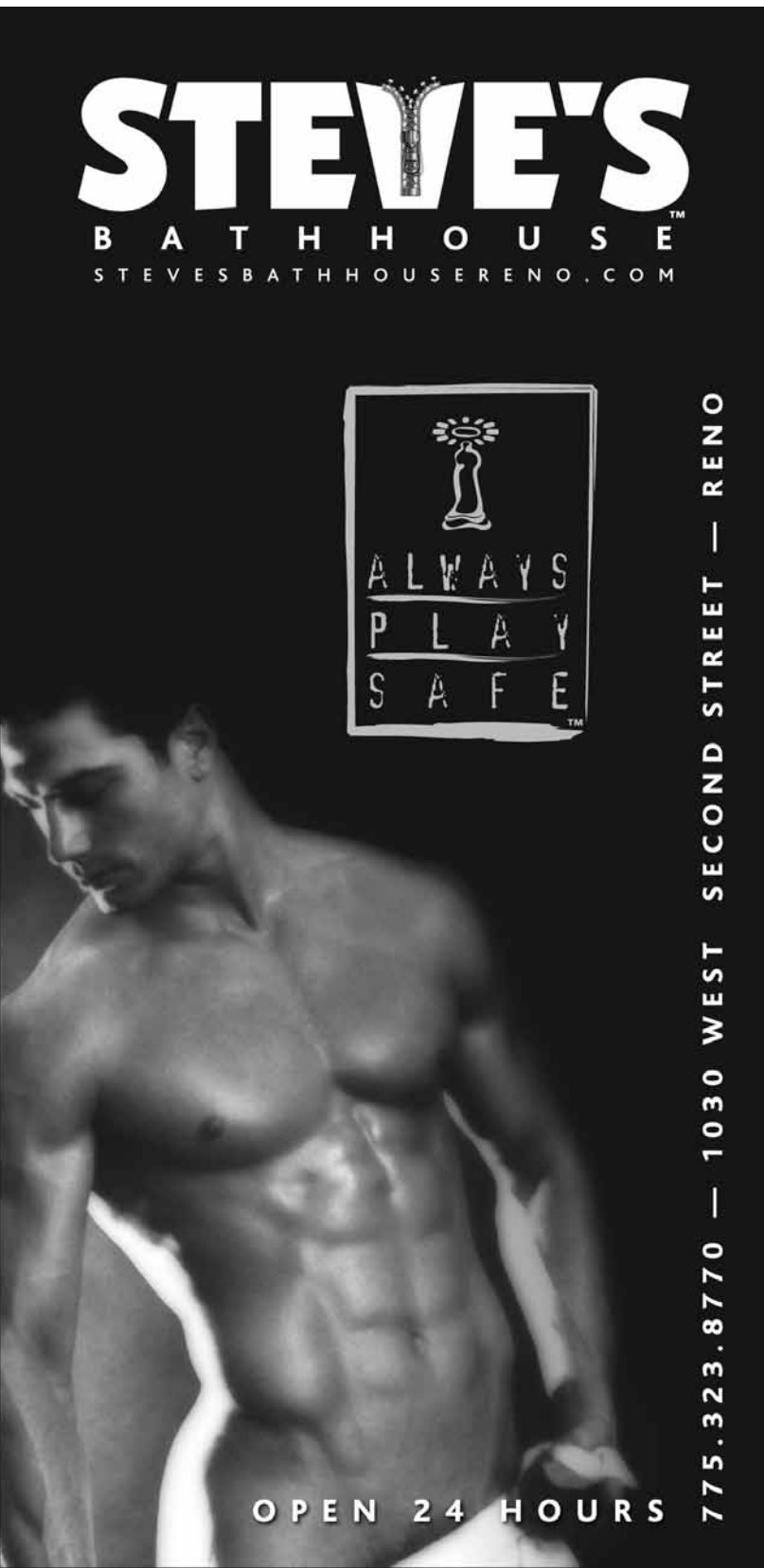
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Faith

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us to step outside our comfort zone, to sacrifice, or to give, the Spirit of Generosity beckons us toward healing, peace and hope.

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Rev. Doretha Williams-Flournoy is the senior pastor of A Church For All, Metropolitan Community Church, an open and affirming spiritual community. www.AChurchForAll.org

Center

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youth need help, at times, on life threatening issues. The return of AIDS as a major threat to members of our community is alarming. Setbacks have occurred related to equal rights. Yet, there is great hope and achievements that are waiting to happen. The Center is one of those “lights” that bring us together to work on solving the issues and opportunities waiting in 2011.

I urge each person who cares about the greater good of our community to join the Center as the current membership drive continues to move closer to achieving its goal. To date, over 50 percent of the goal has been raised.

I know we can go over the top by the end of the year! We did it in 2009 and we can do it again in 2010.

Bill Otton is the past Interim Executive Director of the Center and a frequent volunteer there.

LA Phil

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Don’t miss your opportunity to experience the dramatic sights and sounds of the one-and-only Gustavo Dudamel accompanied by the LA Phil orchestra, this January (Beethoven), March (Tchaikovsky) and June (Brahms).

The LA Phil Live experience will be shared in local movie theaters through multiple HD cameras and in 5.1 surround sound. For more information about the three broadcasts, please visit www.LAPhil.com.

DUI

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Having a non-alcoholic drink between alcoholic ones will help keep your blood alcohol content level down, as does spacing out your alcoholic drinks

- Keep active; don’t just sit around and drink. If you stay active you tend to drink less and to be more aware of any effects alcohol may be having on you.
- Beware of unfamiliar drinks.

Some drinks, such as zombies and other fruit drinks, can be deceiving as the alcohol content is not detectable. Therefore, it is difficult to space them properly.

- Use alcohol carefully in connection with pharmaceuticals. Ask your physician or pharmacist about any precautions or prohibitions and follow any advice received.

Courtesy of www2.potsdam.edu/hansondj/DrinkingAndDriving

Big Apple

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The Ride

Although not strictly theater, this new bus tour of the Broadway area is so much more inventive than any other bus tour I have been on, that it qualifies as a show. The 75-minute, 4.2 mile “Ride” around the heart of Manhattan – mainly the theater district – is a new and hopefully permanent fixture around Times Square, and it is not to be missed.

To start with, the bus is like nothing you’ve ever seen, tricked out as it is with a sound system that rivals the power of a nightclub.

(There are actually three buses currently running, each at a cost of \$1.3 million.)

The vehicles are the tallest allowed by law, and riders face one side of the bus, which is almost totally transparent, allowing people on the street to see inside, where 40 video screens and 3,000 LED lights illuminate the three rows of stadium seats.

The view of crowded New York City streets from inside this amazing bus would alone be worth the price of admission, but the creators of “The Ride” have also

included a unique tour that involves more than 60 technical people, street performers, and actors who create an “experience” for patrons.

I won’t spoil the surprises, except to say that you won’t have any idea what is going to happen next, and wonderfully odd sights and sounds on the sidewalks of the city may or may not be part of the tour.

Information about “The Ride” can be obtained at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1535 Broadway, at 46th Street or at www.experiencetheride.com.

Compete Magazine Names 2010 Athlete of the Year

What do you get when you cross a huge commitment to personal achievement, participation in a sport, and encouraging others in sports, with a commitment to the GLBT community? You get Michael Holtz.

What does Michael get? He wins *Compete Sports Media’s* 2010 Athlete of the Year.

Michael’s accomplishments were closely studied by a celebrity Selection Committee consisting of international rugby star Ben Cohen, Olympian Blake Skjellerup, actor/producer Chad Allen, Sirius radio personality Doria Biddle and Compete’s CEO Eric Carlyle.

“We are thrilled to award Michael this year’s title,” said Carlyle. “He is an amazing athlete, an amazing person and an amazing addition to our elite list of winners.”

Holtz, who live in Los Angeles

and is still in his twenties, impressed Compete’s judges with his athletic prowess as a swimmer (once swimming a relay race across the English Channel), a fund raiser (organizing one event that raised nearly \$150,000), a strong supporter of sports (organizing the first-ever gay night at the LA Clippers), and as a supporter of equal rights as a Major Funds Officer with Equality California.

Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis sums up Michael Holtz in one sentence “He is a very committed, young, energetic man and a wonderful role model for

what is good in the GLBT community in sports and awareness.”

You can read more about Michael, and see more of him, in this month’s Compete Magazine or by visiting competenetwork.com.



Turkeys

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with absolutely no edge or urgency and very little romance.

Depp, who does fine work when he has a wig and funny make-up to hide behind, is not compelling (or remotely believable) as a math teacher from Wisconsin, and the usually reliable Jolie gives a preposterous performance that is all cheekbones, heels and hair.

The actress’s lip gloss is applied as heavily as her fake British accent, and she is so made-up and rail-thin that she literally looks like a mannequin in some scenes.

How Do You Know

Most romantic comedies are

pretty predictable – we can usually guess where the story is going and who is going to end up with whom. What distinguishes a good “rom-com” then is the chemistry of the couple in question, the originality of the obstacles put in their path and how clever and funny the dialogue is that the actors are given.

On every one of the aforementioned tests, *How Do You Know* fails miserably. The script is beyond predictable, the chemistry between the stars barely registers and the dialogue is as dull as the movie’s generic title.

Reese Witherspoon plays a softball player cut by her team who tries to get her life together. Rather than really explore her options for happiness, the script pins her hopes on finding Mr. Right, and let me tell you the pickings are slim.

Witherspoon’s character gets to choose between Owen Wilson’s “adorable airhead” and Paul Rudd’s “yuppie puppy.” Not much choice there.

Oh yeah, Jack Nicholson is along for the (bumpy) ride as Rudd’s hot-head father. It’s no wonder the aging actor is so cranky, getting stuck in this dud.

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