

**Check Out Marriage Rally Pics on
"Page A"!**

Volume 26 • Issue 12 • No. 483 • June 27, 2013 • outwordmagazine.com

Outword magazine

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Sac Pride 2013 with...**

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Marriage Equality Returns to California & DOMA Gutted

In a historic victory for marriage equality, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* that restores marriage equality to California. It was the first case involving the right of gay and lesbian Americans to marry ever to be fully briefed and argued before the Supreme Court.

The American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) was the sole sponsor of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the landmark federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8.

In its decision, the Court dismissed the *Perry* case for lack of jurisdiction because the Proponents of Proposition 8 do not possess legal standing to appeal the lower court rulings that invalidated Proposition 8.

matter who you love, no matter who you're parents love."

"Today is not just about us, it is about kids in the South, it is about kids in Texas, it is about kids everywhere. And we really need to take this fight all the way and win equality for everyone in this entire country," said Plaintiff Sandy Stier.

"This is a historic victory for California, for equality, and, most of all, for loving gay and



**SUPREME COURT VICTORY
MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN CALIFORNIA**
Paul Katami, Jeff Arillo, Kriss Perry and Sandy Stiers were the plaintiffs in the case *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the landmark federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8. Photo courtesy AFER.

The decision makes permanent the landmark United States District Court ruling that found Proposition 8 unconstitutional.

As a result of today's decision, gay and lesbian couples will be able to marry in California once the District Court's judgment takes effect. In August 2010, the District Court held:

"Because California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis, the court concludes that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional."

"Today is a great day for American children and families," said Plaintiff Kris Perry. "Sandy and I want to say how happy we are, not only to be able to return to California and finally get married, but to be able to say to children in California that no matter where you live, no matter who your parents are, no matter what family you are in: you are equal, you are as good as your friends' parents and as your friends. We believed from the very beginning that the importance of this case was to send a message to the children of this country that you are just as good as everybody else no

lesbian couples and their families. Because of this decision, today we are more American," said Adam Umhoefer, executive director of AFER.

"As historic as today's Supreme Court decision is, 37 states still treat gay and lesbian Americans and their children as unequal, second-class citizens. That means that countless children still do not have the security and protection that marriage would provide their parents. The Court needs to recognize that the Constitution guarantees these families and loving, committed couples full equality under the law. Our work is not complete until marriage equality is a reality for all Americans," added Umhoefer.

"The Perry case changed the conversation. It altered the game," said Plaintiff Jeff Zarrillo. "It created a groundswell of momentum and passion that brought us here to the Supreme Court today. Today, the Court said that I am more equal, that we are more equal, our love is just like our parents and grandparents and that any children we may have in the future will be more secure. I look forward to growing old with the man I

GUTTED
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continued from page A1

love. Today is a great day to be an American."

"Today, we are closer to marriage equality for all," said Plaintiff Paul Katami. "We are lucky, but we know that this fight continues across the country. We cannot forget our LGBT brothers and sisters that are in states that still discriminate against them, and we will not allow it. We will continue the fight until all of us our equal. We stand on the shoulders of so many people that came before us. People that risked their lives to stand up and be who they are. They gave us the legs to stand upon today. They gave us the momentum to run with and the voice to speak loudly and say proudly: we are gay,

enjoy the fundamental freedom to marry. This is a proud day for all Americans."

"After years of unjust and unlawful discrimination, gay and lesbian Californians will no longer be treated as second-class citizens, unworthy of the fundamental right to marry the person they love," said Plaintiffs' lead co-counsel David Boies of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP. "As we have said from the very beginning of this case, the denial of that fundamental right seriously harms gay and lesbian Americans and the children they are raising. It serves no legitimate state interest. Our Constitution guarantees liberty and equality for all, and today that promise was fulfilled for tens of



we are American, and we will not be treated like second-class citizens."

Enacted in November 2008, Proposition 8 eliminated the fundamental freedom of gay and lesbian Californians to marry. With the Court's decision, California joins 12 other states and the District of Columbia in recognizing the fundamental right of gay and lesbian couples to marry. As the nation's most populous state, with more than 37 million residents, California substantially increases the number of Americans – approximately 94 million people, or 30 percent of the United States population – who live in a state with marriage equality.

"This is a momentous victory for America's constitutional commitment to equal rights for all. Today's decision by the Supreme Court permits the plaintiffs we represent – and tens of thousands of gay and lesbian Californians – to exercise the freedom to marry the person they love," said Plaintiffs' lead co-counsel Theodore B. Olson of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. "With Proposition 8 finally gone, our nation moves one giant step closer toward the day when every American – in every state – will be able to equally

thousands of gay and lesbian Californians and their families."

The Supreme Court also issued a decision in *United States v. Windsor*, concluding that Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional because it violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection of the laws. In an opinion by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, the Court held that DOMA "demeans" gay and lesbian couples and "humiliates tens of thousands of children now being raised by [those] couples."

Enacted by Congress in 1996, Section 3 of DOMA nullified the marriages of gay and lesbian couples for all purposes of federal law. With the end of the Section 3 of DOMA, the federal government will no longer be permitted to exclude legally married gay and lesbian couples from the federal rights, benefits, and burdens that govern all other married couples.

The *Windsor* case was brought on behalf of Edith ("Edie") Windsor by the American Civil Liberties Union, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.





It's Time for a Wedding Waltz & Celebration

Just when you thought Sacramento couldn't get any prouder – or happier – along comes two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that had Sacramentans rallying and dancing in the streets.

The Court's decisions, striking down the key provisions of the Defense of Marriage Act and upholding the 9th Circuit Courts decision overturning Prop 8, are still being analyzed, but the great news is that President Obama has stated that his administration will move quickly to restore full marriage equality to lesbian and gay married couples, and similarly, Governor Jerry Brown has called for the resumption of issuing marriage licenses to lesbian and gay couples in California as quickly as possible.

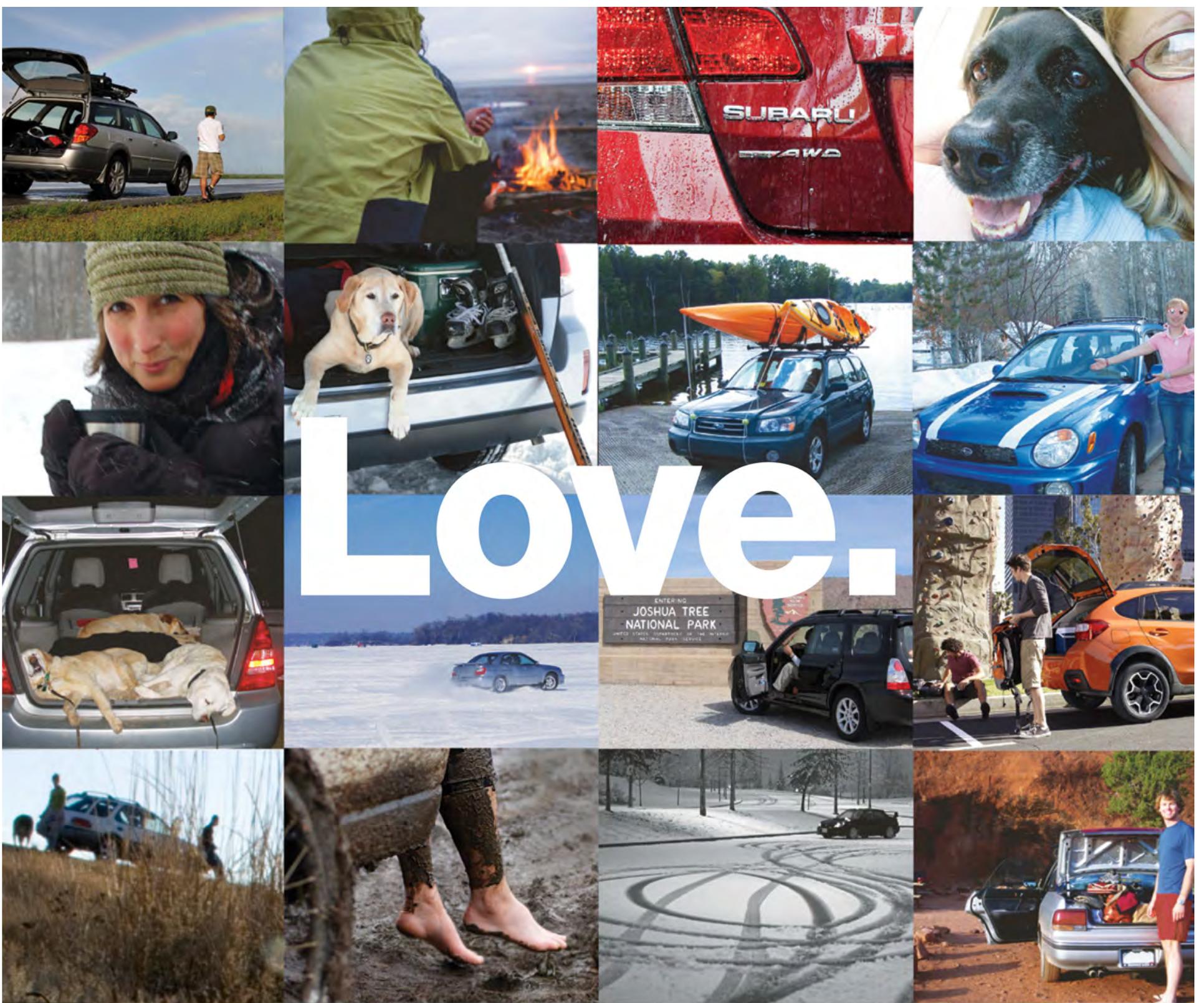
For that to happen, the District Court needs to remove their stay on their Prop 8 decision, which could happen almost immediately, or take longer if they wait for a formal notice from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Either way though, wedding bells should start ringing soon! Until then, we wanted to share with you some photos from the press conference held at the LGBT Center and rally and celebrations held at the State Capitol and in Midtown on Marriage Equality Day, June 26, 2013.









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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Priorities Clinic Is a Diamond In the Rough with Big Results

by Richard Alcalá

After all his years of working with U.C.Davis Hospital and C.A.R.E.S., Dr. Neil Flynn has found a new need for his compassion, understanding and medical knowledge – helping addicted patients with their struggle with opiates.

Dr. Flynn is doing that through Priorities Clinic, a small but very useful clinic, and has already helped hundreds of patients get their lives back to what each has said to be “normal again.”

Dr. Flynn was seeing opiate addicted patients for years on Saturdays for free at the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic, also started by Dr. Flynn along with Harm Reduction Services and its director, Peter Simpson. With all-volunteer help from doctors and medical students from U.C. Davis Hospital, that clinic still operates every Saturday throughout the year and is free to people without insurance. Addicts do have a priority, but all will be seen.

His newest venture, Priorities Clinic, has a very well qualified staff including Dr. Michael Du Pratt and Dr. Charles Stewart. They also work closely with Safer Alternatives thru Networking and Education (S.A.N.E.) and its director Rachel Anderson, another nonprofit which has been around for 20 years.

These small organizations work together to help our community in its battle with

prescription drug Suboxone, a sublingual film that delivers the drug Buprenorphine to treat people who are addicted to opiates such as heroin, Vicodin, Oxycontin, Norco and similar drugs.



Dr. Neil Flynn with Cathy Schwamberger who presented him with the State Farm Good Neighbor Award at the Sacramento EQCA Awards in March.

addiction, clean needle exchange and medical care for the underserved.

Priorities Clinic, located in Oak Park at 3647 40th St. on the corner of 12th Ave., is centered on Dr. Flynn's vision of using the

Priorities Clinic is very much like Dr. Flynn himself – small in stature but huge in character.

For more information call 916-397-2434 or 916-452-1068.

UC Davis HS Patients Asked to Share Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Information

UC Davis Health System will become the first academic health system in the country to incorporate sexual orientation and gender identity as standard demographic elements within the electronic health records (EHR) for its patients.

UC Davis physicians and patient advocates say the new measure is an important step toward improving health care for LGBT individuals who often have avoided medical clinics out of fear of being humiliated or rejected.

According to a statement released by UC Davis on June 13, the health system is emailing a questionnaire that invites patients to share their sexual orientation (attraction

to one's own gender or a different gender) and gender identity (the gender an individual identifies with) with their providers. The questionnaire is being sent to about 76,000 patients who use UC Davis' secure, online communications system to access their medical information, schedule appointments and interact with their physicians.

“Patients and physicians, even in the clinical setting, are not very good at talking

about sex,” said Edward Callahan, professor of family and community medicine and one of the key coordinators for the new initiative. “Unfortunately, the problem is more than just one of embarrassment. LGBT individuals face significant health challenges that can be better addressed when a doctor's office is seen as a truly welcoming and understanding environment. We're inviting patients to voluntarily share their gender identity and sexual orientation information to help us create an atmosphere in which we're able to provide the most

UC DAVIS

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Briefly Put

Bill Supporting Transgender Students Goes to Senate

The California Senate Education Committee has passed AB 1266 (Ammiano D-SF), the School Success and Opportunity Act, that provides crucial support for transgender students, and will ensure that California public schools understand their responsibility for the success and well-being of all students, including transgender students, and will allow transgender students to fully participate in all school activities, programs and facilities.

"All I want to do is go to school and have the same opportunity to succeed as everyone else," said Ashton Lee, a 16-year-old transgender boy from Manteca who came to Sacramento with his mother to testify at the hearing. "I just want to be treated the same as all the other boys, but my school forces me to take P.E. in a class of all girls and live as someone I'm not."

Marriage Rates Unaffected by Same-sex Marriage

The growing number of same-sex marriage laws in the United States has had no effect on the marriage rate among heterosexual couples, according to new findings by researchers at Portland State University's School of Community Health.

The findings contradict statements by opponents of same-sex marriage arguing that allowing same-sex couples to marry undermines marriage in general and will discourage heterosexual couples from making that commitment.

"This research shows that increasing legal recognition of same-sex marriage has no effect on rates of opposite-sex marriage in states that passed same-sex marriage laws," said Alexis Dinno, assistant professor of Community Health and the lead researcher for the project. "Concerns about potential harm to the rate of opposite-sex marriage resulting from same-sex marriage laws are not borne out by this research."

Bill Banning Gay Conversion Therapy Advances in NJ

After an impassioned plea from New Jersey teen, Jacob Rudolph, the New Jersey Assembly Committee on Women and Children passed a bill that would ban the use of controversial gay "conversion" therapy on minors, a practice that attempts to "cure" the sexual orientation of LGBT children:

"I am who I am, and I want all children to feel that they, too have the right to be who they are," said Rudolph. "The children of today are the future of tomorrow, and they need your help now."

Governor Christie has said that he is opposed to conversion therapy, but has yet to say whether or not he'll support the pending legislation.

Defense Bill to Protect Intimate Relationships Advances

The Senate Armed Services Committee has adopted the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision that would repeal the prohibition on some expressions of private, consensual intimacy by military personnel - regardless of whether they are an opposite-sex or same-sex couple - defined in Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice as "unnatural carnal copulation."

"With the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' continuing to label the intimate relationships of all gay and lesbian service members, including married couples, as a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice is both stigmatizing and

BRIEFLY
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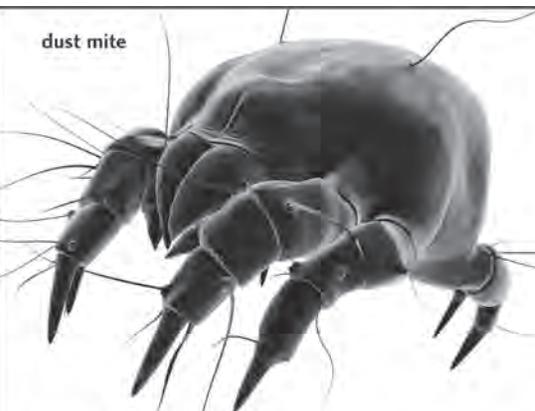
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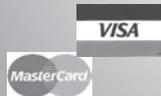


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Sierra Stamped Rides Back into Sacramento

The Sierra Stampede Rodeo & Festival returned to Sacramento the weekend of June 7 - 9, bringing plenty of thrills and not a few spills. Hosted by the Sacramento Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association, the rodeo was a fundraiser for the San Joaquin Pride center.



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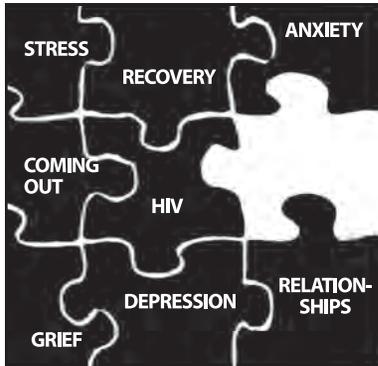
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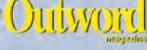


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Sacramento Celebrates Its Pride

Sacramento celebrated Pride with a parade and festival on Saturday, June 15, drawing an estimated crowd of over 10,000 to the Capitol Mall for a day of non-stop entertainment, hanging out with friends and



visiting community booths. A fundraiser for the Sacramento LGBT Center, Sacramento Pride would not be possible without the hard work of the hundreds of volunteers who donated their time, muscle and smiling faces to make it all go off without a hitch! Photos by Charles Peer and Larry Lauszus.



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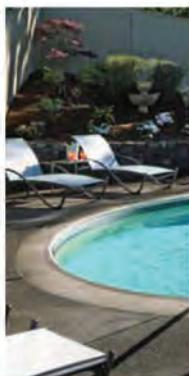
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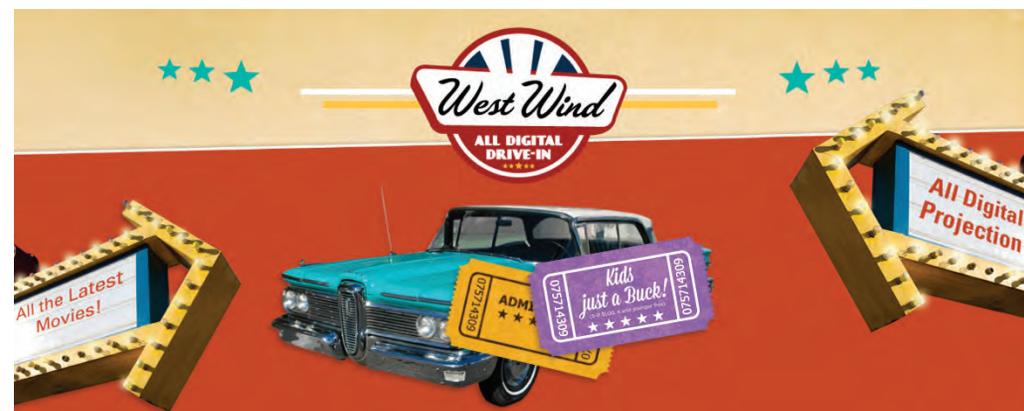
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Have A Drive-in Summer at The Sacramento 6

by Chris Narloch

When I was a kid, the arrival of summer in Sacramento meant three things: rafting the American River, attending the Music Circus, and going to the drive-in.



Back then, River City had at least four or five drive-ins, including an X-rated drive-in for a time. Nowadays, many cities no longer have even one drive-in, thanks to the explosion of indoor multiplex theaters followed by the boom in home entertainment.

So Sac Town is fortunate, indeed, to still have a thriving drive-in, which is probably my favorite thing about living in Rancho Cordova. The West Wind Sacramento 6 Drive-in is located at 9616 Oates Drive, next to Highway 50, via the Bradshaw exit.

If the drive-in brings memories of stale popcorn, scratchy sound and a dim picture, think again. This is not your mom's and dad's

drive-in.

The West Wind recently converted all six of its screens to digital projection and digital sound, and general admission is only \$7.25. Kids 5-11 are only \$1, and kids 4 and under are free.

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Visit www.westwinddi.com for a list of brand new first run films. See you at the drive-in.

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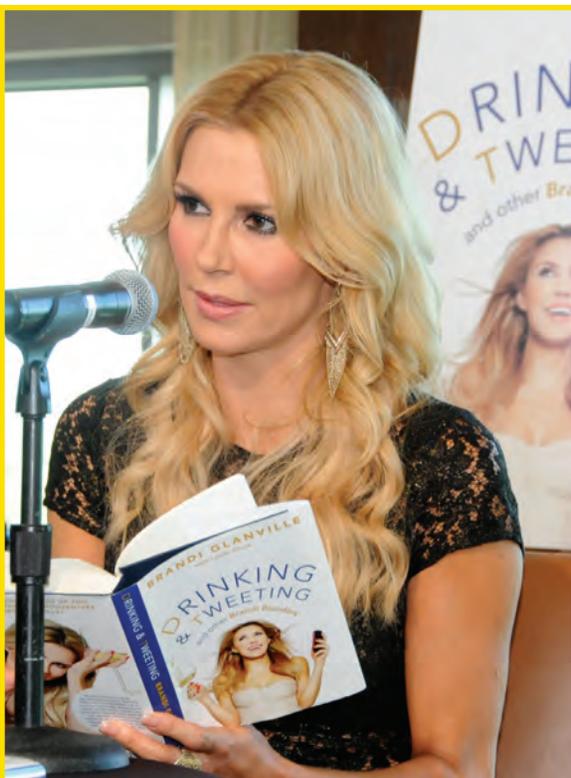


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Out & About

Drinking & Tweeting with Sacramento's Brandi Glanville

Sacramento Pride Parade Celebrity Grand Marshal Brandi Glanville was greeted by some of her biggest fans at a reception and book signing to benefit the Sacramento LGBT Center at the Hyatt on June 14. The Sacramento native read from her book, *Drinking & Tweeting*, and shared some of the stories of her escapades in Sacramento before becoming one of the stars on Bravo's *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. Glanville was joined at the reception by fellow *RHBH* star Yolanda H. Foster.



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Cyndi Lauper Rocks The Crest on Her 30th Anniversary Tour

reviewed by Colt McGraw

Cyndi Lauper, the fearless equal rights heroine and musical genius, is stronger than ever as she tours the country, reflecting on 30 glorious years since her debut album *She's So Unusual* set the world of rock on fire.

Lauper made her way to Sacramento's Crest Theatre on June 18, as part of her 30-city tour that began in San Diego, and fans of all types brought 30 years of memories along with them, traveling from near and far to join the celebration, including Jorge Zaiden of San Francisco, a lifelong fan. "I've seen Cyndi a couple dozen times," he admits.

Lauper set records with *She's So Unusual*, her multifaceted and lustrous masterpiece, and the entire project practically became a greatest hits collection with monstrous hits that included "Time After Time," "All Through the Night," "She Bop" and the ultimate anthem "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

Lauper has grown beyond imagination while never losing her youthful fire, and through the years she has been awarded and recognized in countless ways. She is a Grammy, Emmy and now Tony Award winner with her Broadway smash hit *Kinky Boots*.

She also became a proud leader in the gay rights movement and ignited the fight for equality among millions, and in 2008 she co-founded the True Colors Fund with a

mission to inspire and engage everyone, especially straight people, to become active participants in the advancement of equality, raise awareness and bring an end to LGBT youth homelessness.

The alternative rock band Hunter Valentine opened the packed house at the Crest. The Canadian girl group performed tracks from their newest project, *Collide & Conquer*. As good as they were though, it was Lauper the crowd came to see, and lead vocalist Kiyomi McCloskey taunted them, "There's another chick named Cyndi Lauper that's coming out soon."

After a short intermission and stage renovation, Lauper's band took the stage. The crowd hovered over their seats with their eyes and ears tweaked just right, not to miss a moment of her entrance, then erupting as she opened with "Money Changes Everything."

Lauper quickly abandoned the stage and joined the crowd without missing a note and fans were treated to a close encounter as she took strides across seat armrests, transforming The Crest from a seated venue to a high energy block party united through a universal affection for an American

treasure that illuminates spirits like a Fourth of July fireworks finale.

Lauper performed every song from *She's So Unusual* and returned for a moving encore, expressing her gratitude, "Thanks for being here through everything."

"Shine" and "True Colors" completed the nostalgic yet entirely relevant show and fans exited the theater onto K Street with a twinkle in their eyes and warmth in their hearts.

Lauper's tour will end September 14 in Australia, after crossing the U.S. Though I'm not sure what she will do next, I know that it'll be great!

For all the latest news, visit cydilauper.com. You may also catch the latest on Hunter Valentine at huntermvalentine.com.

Colt McGraw is a freelance writer in Sacramento, and frequent contributor to *Outword*. He can be reached at mrcoltmcgraw@yahoo.com.



Photo by Colt McGraw.

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Local Actor Jerry Lee Talks About His New Play by Chris Narloch

One of Sacramento's most talented theater performers, Jerry Lee, is set to open his next show in July. After doing memorable work in and around town for many years, Lee has also created his own production company recently.

Outword spoke with the busy actor and got his thoughts on his new show, other dream roles he'd like to play, and the difficulty of trying to find regular stage work in Sacramento.

Jerry, tell me about the new production company, Saclmpulse. Is this a way to get your own projects off the ground?

It's kind of like my little lemonade stand. Spiked lemonade stand. Saclmpulse is my playground and we are creating theatre that is witty, entertaining and that touches the heart.

Tell *Outword* readers about the new show.

The Plexiglas Menagerie, by Ryan Landry, is inspired by *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams.

The play is set in the Wingfield FEMA trailer in Katrina New Orleans. We watch Amanda Wingfield, a once lively debutante, try to completely control the lives of her two deeply troubled children. I'm playing Amanda. It's *The Glass Menagerie* meets *Grey Gardens* meets *Absolutely Fabulous* in a trailer park. You don't need to know the source material to enjoy the play, it completely stands on its own.

You've starred in everything from *Hair to Frankenstein* to *A Christmas Carol*. Do you have any favorite past roles/shows?

Playing Miss Bible Belt (a Bible thumping dairy queen) in *Pageant!* at The Studio

Theatre was a ton of fun. It was popular and funny. I was really young and working with Greg Alexander and Jackie Schultz, who took an interest in me and tried to make me a better storyteller and a better professional.

Hunter in (*title of show*) with New Helvetia Theatre because it's a musical and a language play, which I found very exciting, and I was working with my best friends.

John Ross as Tom Wingfield, Jerry Lee as Amanda Wingfield and Logan Heller as Laura Wingfield. Photo by Barry Wisdom.

I also directed and performed in a concert version of *In Trousers*, with Graham-A-Rama. I'm proud of

extremely that production. And I just created a role at Sacramento Theatre in a world premiere adaptation of *A Little Princess*. That musical spoke to the plight of people (particularly children) dealing with homelessness. It opened my eyes to the immediate problems that our homeless community faces here in Sacramento: hunger, thirst, depression and in some cases, feelings of helplessness.

That led me to become a volunteer at Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, a private

charity that relies on private donations to support its work of feeding the hungry (among the other varied services they offer). Saclmpulse will be donating a portion of each online transaction to Sacramento Loaves & Fishes when you buy your tickets online for *The Plexiglas Menagerie*.

I heard through the grapevine you were thinking about relocating to NYC. Please say it isn't so.

Yes, someday. I work in Sacramento a lot and I'm very grateful but there simply isn't enough work for me here. I'm starting to venture into Bay Area theatre. This September, I will be playing the title role in *Shrek The Musical*, at Diablo Theatre Company in Walnut Creek. But yes, a move to NYC will happen eventually.

What roles/shows do you covet that you have yet to be in?

There are so many. My dream roles are the Baker in *Into the Woods* – my favorite – and Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, which I was lucky enough to sing in concert with The Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. Garry in *Noises Off*. I just submitted to a company for that role, keep your fingers crossed for me. George in *Sunday in the Park with George*, and The Mother Superior in *The Divine Sister*. I love that play, and I greatly admire the work of Charles Busch.

Aside from my gushing review, did you get a lot of positive feedback after your hilarious spoof of a drunken Bob Goulet

in *Forbidden Broadway* at the old Cosmo Cabaret?

Thank you for that. Yes, I still get people who recognize me from that one, "Hey! You were in that play. The funny one. You were Bob Goulet. That was really funny." I live for those awkward conversations.

How did you celebrate when you got your Equity card?

By trying to get more work. I probably had a Long Island at The Merc as well.

Do you have any weird superstitions or routines before going out on stage?

I have weird little rituals that happen before I go onstage but they change with every production. One thing I try to do (depending on the size of the cast) is go up to everyone in the cast and crew before a show, give them a hug and say, "Have a good show!" It's my way of quickly integrating with everyone before we go out and tell a story together.

What's the craziest thing that has ever happened to Jerry Lee on stage, like falling through a trapdoor by mistake or maybe having your pants fall off?

I break very easily and I have a few friends who know this and will try as hard as they can to get me to crack onstage. But I'm a freaking professional and I ignore them.

The Plexiglas Menagerie plays July 5 through 27, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at William J Geery Theater, 2130 L St. For tickets visit: www.saclmpulse.com.



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Out & About

Crocker Pride Art Mix

Over 600 people attended the Crocker Art Museum's Art Mix on Thursday June 13, kicking Sacramento's Pride into high gear. In addition to a wonderful docent led tour of the Museum's current exhibit *Jess, Robert Duncan, and Their Circle* (exhibit runs through Sept. 1), the entertainment for the evening included a rousing ABBA inspired performance by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, some very sensual same-sex dancing and a Sacramento's Got Talent contest featuring performers from local theatres.





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knowledgeable and informed care possible.”
A 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report noted that the meager amount of research data about LGBT health consistently points to severe health disparities for LGBT communities. Alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, suicidal risk and chronic diseases that are often ignored appear to be problems that affect a disproportionate share of these minority populations.

That is a key reason why the IOM report suggested that it was important to proactively encourage LGBT people to participate in their own health care. The institute also emphasized the critical need for more health studies and data collection to better understand and prevent the health conditions that affect LGBT populations.

IOM researchers pointed to efforts decades ago that engaged women and racial and ethnic minorities in health studies, which then enabled health-care experts to identify differences in how some diseases occur in and affect specific populations.

“We know that the routine collection of information on race and ethnicity has greatly expanded our understanding of the conditions that arise among certain groups and how they are affected differently,” said

Callahan. “That same approach is crucial for sexual minority populations, too. Stigma, prejudice and fear have long kept LGBT patients away from exam rooms, and from speaking more comfortably about their health. This is about breaking down barriers and reducing health disparities.”

UC Davis Health System’s LGBT questionnaire is voluntary. It simply invites patients to declare their sexual orientation and gender identity as part of each individual’s highly confidential health record. Patients also will have the option of providing such information in person, during a clinic appointment, and choosing whether to have it recorded in the EHR. Each patient will also have the choice not to answer the questions at all.

“From a health provider’s perspective, knowing someone’s sexual orientation or gender-identity can be critical to avoiding assumptions and providing quality care,” said Suzanne Eidson-Ton, associate professor of family and community medicine and one of the leaders in the new initiative. “It allows me to ask better questions and better address health-care needs.”

For more information, visit www.healthsystem.ucdavis.edu.

Briefly

continued from page 6

discriminatory,” said Ian Thompson, American Civil Liberties Union legislative representative.

The National Defense Authorization Act now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Third GOP Senator Supports Freedom to Marry

Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska has announced her support for the freedom to marry, becoming the third Republican senator to speak out in favor of marriage. A majority of U.S. senators publicly support the freedom to marry, including Republicans Mark Kirk of Illinois and Rob Portman of Ohio.

“Senator Murkowski joins the majority of U.S. senators taking a stand for equal treatment under the law on one of the most important bonds in our society: marriage,” said Marc Solomon, national campaign director of Freedom to Marry.

Study Shows Discrimination in Rental Housing Market

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has released a large-scale study which found that same-sex couples experience less favorable treatment than heterosexual couples in the online rental housing market.

The study found that heterosexual couples were more likely to receive a favorable response regarding a prospective rental over gay male couples 15.9 percent of the time and over lesbian couples 15.6 percent of the time.

“This study’s results are disturbing and confirm something we’ve all suspected but didn’t have the firm data to prove – lesbian and gay couples are discriminated against when they look for places to live,” said Ian Thompson, American Civil Liberties Union legislative representative.

Exodus Shuts Down; Leader Apologizes For ‘Pain And Hurt’

Exodus International, a Christian ministry that since 1976 has claimed that it was able to convert, or lead people out of homosexuality, has announced that it will shut down, and its president, Alan Chambers, apologized extensively to gays for causing “pain and hurt.”

Chambers said on the ministry’s website that he had “conveniently omitted my ongoing same-sex attractions” but that he now accepts them “as parts of my life that will like always be there. ... You have never been my enemy. I am very sorry that I have been yours.”



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