

Check Out the New Stuff on
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Outword

magazine

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Win a Gay/Lesbian Honeymoon in Cancun



With marriage equality making unprecedented progress in the U.S., Oasis SENS in Cancun, along with Gayborhood and EquallyWed.com, are giving away an all-expenses paid Dream Honeymoon vacation — or just for the hell of it gaycation! All you have to do to win the all-inclusive couples getaway that includes a 7-night, 8-day trip in a Sian Ka'An room (VIP with private plunge pool), round-trip airfare for two, three day Smart car rental, all fees and insurance, is submit a 200-300 word narrative on why marriage equality is important to you. Get all the details at bit.ly/10SeuWc.

Special Online-Only Extra! Briefly Put



Approximately 76,000 Legally Married Same-Sex Couples Live In States That Recognize Their Marriages

Of the nation's approximately 114,000 legally married same-sex couples, the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute estimates that 76,000 couples live in states that recognize their marriages. While the remaining 38,000 couples may have married in a jurisdiction that extends marriage to same-sex couples, they no longer reside in a state that recognizes their union.

"The rulings in *United States v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* have significant implications for the approximate 650,000 same-sex couples in the United States, 22 percent of whom are raising children," said Williams Distinguished Scholar, Gary Gates. "The ruling in *Perry* will open marriage to a same-sex spouse for California's estimated 1.1 million LGBT adults and nearly 200,000 individuals who are already part of a same-sex couple."

Prior to the rulings, 18 percent of the entire U.S. population and 22 percent of same-sex couples lived in the 12 states, and the District of Columbia, where same-sex couples can legally marry. By adding California, 30 percent of the entire U.S. population and 37 percent of same-sex couples will now live in states that extend marriage to same-sex couples.

60 Reportedly Arrested In Russian Gay Pride March

All the participants in a St. Petersburg gay pride parade, held June 29, have been arrested and are being detained in police vans, according to Nikolai Alekseev, one of Russia's most prominent LGBT activists.

Some participants were badly beaten by anti-gay protestors.

The participants were detained for breaching Russia's 'gay propaganda' bill that passed Russia's upper house in parliament recently.

Oregon United for Marriage Begins Signature Gathering

Oregon United for Marriage has announced that the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection Initiative has a final ballot title, and the campaign to collect 116,284 valid signatures will officially begin on July 20 across the state.

"The Supreme Court decisions underscore the work that needs to be done here in Oregon," says chief petitioner Jeana Frazzini. "Oregon still tells same-sex couples it's illegal to marry the person they love. Only when we win the freedom to marry in Oregon — through a vote of the people — will gay and lesbian couples have access to all the protections that marriage provides."

For more information and to see how you can help, visit ORunited.org.

Statement by the President on Federal Employee Benefits

Today (June 28) my Administration announced that, for the first time in history, we will be making important federal employee benefits, including healthcare and retirement benefits, available to eligible married gay and lesbian couples and their families.

This is a critical first step toward implementing this week's landmark Supreme Court decision declaring that all married couples — gay and straight — should be treated equally under federal law. Thousands of gays and lesbians serve our country every day in the federal government. They, and their spouses and children, deserve the same respect and protection as every other family.

Under the leadership of Attorney General Holder, we will continue to move as quickly as possible to fully implement the Court's decision.

Protect Your Gear from Summer's Heat

Wow, the end of June and the first of July was a scorcher, and with all of the tech gadgets we all have now – from big screen TVs to portable electronic devices all over the house, summer's hot temperatures can cause some problems.

Think about how many electronic devices you have in your home, they all not only produce their own heat, but need a cooler environment to operate at peak performance. There are ways to keep your home cool and your gadgets protected and running smoothly though, and save money on summer energy bills at the same time.

The easiest way to keep your home cool is not to let it heat up in the first place. SMUD says that good insulation, caulking and weather stripping help keep the heat outside in the summer. So do shade trees, overhangs, awnings and window shades. Limiting the use of household appliances that emit heat also helps.

Here are some of SMUD's recommendations to help keep your hi-tech home running smoothly:

- Keep windows closed during the heat of the day, and draw blinds and

draperies during the day to keep the heat out.

- Set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer. There is about a 5 to 10 percent savings on the operating cost of an air conditioner for every two degrees of cooling you're willing to give up.

- Change the filter regularly. An air conditioning unit with dirty filters can use 5 to 10 percent more energy than necessary.

- Use small fans, box fans or ceiling fans instead of the central air conditioning unit when planning to stay in one room for an extended period. Individual fans cost about 90 percent less to operate than a central AC unit.

- Adjust ceiling fans to turn counter-clockwise in the summer, usually this means that the switch on the fan should be in the "down" position.

- Turn off unnecessary lights.

- Give appliances a break during hot afternoons and evenings. Many appliances create heat and moisture making the air conditioner work harder. Limit use of ranges and stoves, dishwashers, dryers, washing machines, and other heat-producing equipment during midday and early evening. Use them in the early morning or late evening when temperatures are cooler.

- Prepare cool meals such as salads and sandwiches. If you must cook a hot meal, wait until later in the evening when it's cooler.

- If there is a refrigerator or freezer in the garage that is not full, consider getting rid of it. These appliances tend to be older and therefore less energy efficient causing them to run continuously in very hot environments.

- Set timers on pool and spa pumps to run before 1:00 p.m. or after 9:00 p.m.

- SMUD's Shade Tree program offers free shade trees for customers whose homes have an eastern, western or southern exposure that heats up during the summer.

For additional ways SMUD can help

you save energy and money, logon to smud.org for information about energy-saving programs and financing.



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Colton Ford Reveals The Way I Am in New Album

In his new album, Colton Ford, the silver daddy muscle-god, reveals his own story of coming to terms with the many layers that make him who he is.

"Anyone who is different and does not represent what society has labeled normal, has to work through the need to fit in and learn to embrace their uniqueness", he says.

His newest work, *The Way I Am* is a blend of dance, electronica, house, pop, funk, R&B, and a little jazz, a blend that in many ways describes the man himself.

"Getting to know oneself is a process, and I believe it's what we are all here in this life to figure out," says Ford. "I'm an unconditional lover. I lean towards optimism. The record conveys my truth with songs about self love, falling in love, staying in love, the loss of love, and yeah, hoping to get some."

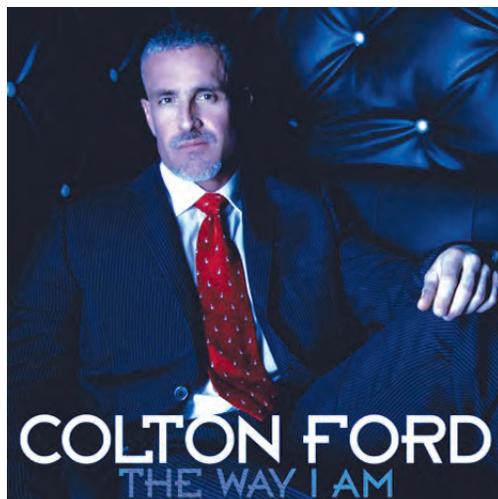
Originally from Mission Viejo, California, Ford has been a recording artist for over 25 years. He has released two full-length albums (2008's "Tug of War" and 2009's "Under the Covers") and has charted with several hit tracks, including the Billboard Top 10 single, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered".

With *The Way I Am*, Ford hits the dance floor with a contemporary celebration of rhythmic beats. "The talented artists I worked with on this record all have their fingers on the pulse of what's happening in music today," he says. "They helped me to create an album that takes listeners on a musical journey through a variety of genres. It has a much broader, more mainstream appeal than any album I have recorded in the past."

His collaboration with Ron Schrader on "All My Love" and "Alone" holds special meaning for him. The two have known each

other since kindergarten. "He's my longest friendship," says Ford. "It was an incredible opportunity to work with him."

The album features collaborations with Chris Willis (David Guetta), NERVO (Kesha,



Britney Spears), WAWA (Kylie Minogue) and RedTop (Beyoncé, Taio Cruz) and includes "Let Me Live Again", a single that climbed to #2 on Billboard's Club Play chart earlier this year.

Ford has no qualms in reclaiming his hunky status. "Sex sells," he proclaims. "Turn on the TV, open a magazine or log onto the Internet. It's everywhere. Being an artist and trying to resonate in the mainstream requires everything, including packaging."

"After all," he says with a laugh, "Being provocative is part of my nature. It is just another layer of the way I am."

For more information on Colton Ford, visit www.peacebisquit.com.

Bernadette Peters Sings in SF

by Chris Narloch

Bernadette Peters, one of Broadway's most talented leading ladies, and a longtime ally to the gay community, will perform live in the Bay Area later this month.

Still curvaceous and curly-haired at 65, Peters, who has a long association with composer Stephen Sondheim, appeared most recently in two of his musicals, *A Little Night Music* and *Follies*.

She has also starred on Broadway in such classics as *Gypsy*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into The Woods* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

This three-time Tony award-winning star of stage, film and television - including a recent recurring role on *Smash* - will sing from her extensive songbook, which routinely includes show tunes, standards and a funny song or two.

Bernadette Peters appears for one night

only, on Tuesday, July 23, at the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. Go to www.sfsymphony.org.



Bernadette Peters

Sugar & The Pajama Game

by Chris Narloch

Summer is the time for musical theater, whether in the round or under the stars. Check out these three sexy shows playing on Sacramento stages this July.

SUGAR
based on the screenplay
"SOME LIKE IT HOT"
by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond

It's the classic movie **SOME LIKE IT HOT**, live on stage, with a brassy score to accent the hilarious antics!

Two male musicians, disguised as women in an all-female band, experience a series of comical mishaps while fleeing from the mob.

Music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Bob Merrill, the composers of *Funny Girl*.

JULY 23 - 28

Sugar

Rarely performed, this Music Circus show is based on the screenplay for one of my favorite Hollywood comedies, *Some Like It Hot*, starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe.

Two male musicians, disguised as women in an all-female band, experience a series of comical mishaps while fleeing from the mob.

Sugar's brassy score is by the composers of *Funny Girl*, Jule Styne and Bob Merrill.

Get some "Sugar" this July 23-28 at the Wells Fargo Pavilion. Go to www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com.

The Pajama Game

Never has a union fight been so

charmingly and musically delivered on stage or screen as it is in the classic Broadway show, *The Pajama Game*.

Sexual tension threatens to erupt between the new boss and the leader of the union grievance committee at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory.

You'll be humming the score, which includes "Hey There," "Hernando's Hideaway," "Steam Heat" and "There Once Was a Man," all the way home.

The *Pajama Game*, a coproduction of American River College Theatre and the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, performs under the stars at the Veteran's Memorial Amphitheatre in Old Fair Oaks, through July 21.

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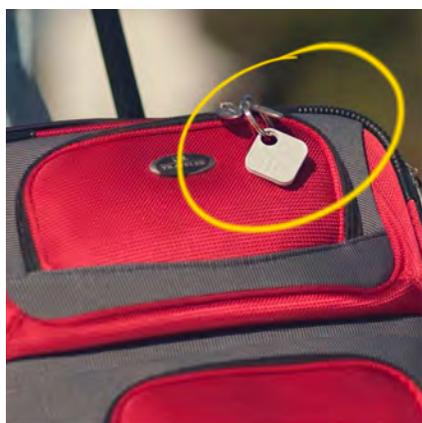
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4. Chevrolet Cruze
5. Honda Accord
6. Honda Civic
7. Dodge Ram
8. Ford Escape
9. Nissan Altima
10. Honda CR-V

The Lost and Found Could Soon Go the Way of the Post Office

The Tile is one of those super cool techno devices that is made possible by the smart phone. As they say, it's small and sleek and can go everywhere you do. "Just attach, stick or drop your Tile into any item you might lose: laptops, wallets, keys, guitars, bikes—you name it."



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They should be available soon, but until then, you can find out more info at www.thetileapp.com.

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A Leap In The Right Direction

by Corey Egel

Growing up in a Jewish home, I've heard and recited the shehecheyanu hundreds of times. The prayer is recited to mark a special occasion, or the first time for performing a significant act. This time, it was different: this day was different.

With a resounding "amen" followed by waves of thunderous applause, nearly three-thousand people gathered in front of the West Steps of the State Capitol to celebrate a historic day for our country and the LGBT community: June 26, 2013.

A monumental triumph for the question of justice, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a central part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and ruled that Proposition 8's backers lacked standing to defend the 2008 law because California's governor and attorney general have declined to defend the ban. Which means the enforcement of the decision of the lower court that Prop 8 is unconstitutional.

"I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act, and righting the wrong of Prop 8," said Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom. "It's right for people to celebrate, but let's take a sobering pause for the 37 states where the battle for same-sex marriage continues and what lies ahead."

Waving rainbow and American flags - no longer separate, but equal - it was reminiscent of a similar scene four years ago. Instead of mourning a crushing blow to equality, this rally was a celebration of unity where the nation moves one-step closer toward respect for all Americans.

The aching, haunting chants of 2009, "What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? Now!" were finally answered with the glorious response: "What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? TODAY!"

"We never pushed too hard, we never moved too soon, and we didn't ask for too much," declared Sacramento Councilman Steve Hansen. "This is a great representation of the evolution of our country, our lives, and our people."

While 13 states and Washington, D.C. now allow same-sex marriage, it's been a long, slow journey to get there, with a lot of anxiety and heartache along the way. Happily coexisting same-sex couples can

now become happily married couples with the equal protections of heterosexual couples.

Marriage is something that cannot be replaced, and now that same-sex couples in California can get married today and tomorrow, society will still remain intact.

Senator Tom Ammiano put it best when he said, "Are we resilient? Are we spiritual? Are we sexual? Finally, the people's voice is heard."

This will always be a day that's celebrated not only as a victory of equal rights, but of the heart as well. While prejudice is a choice, sexual orientation is not - the struggle never ends, but as we've seen, love is celebrated because love conquers all.

Corey Egel is a skilled and experienced writer who lives in the beautiful, serene city of Sacramento.



Rallies at the State Capitol are always more fun when they are celebrations, as was the case on June 26, when Sacramento came together to celebrate the long awaited day when marriage equality returned to California.



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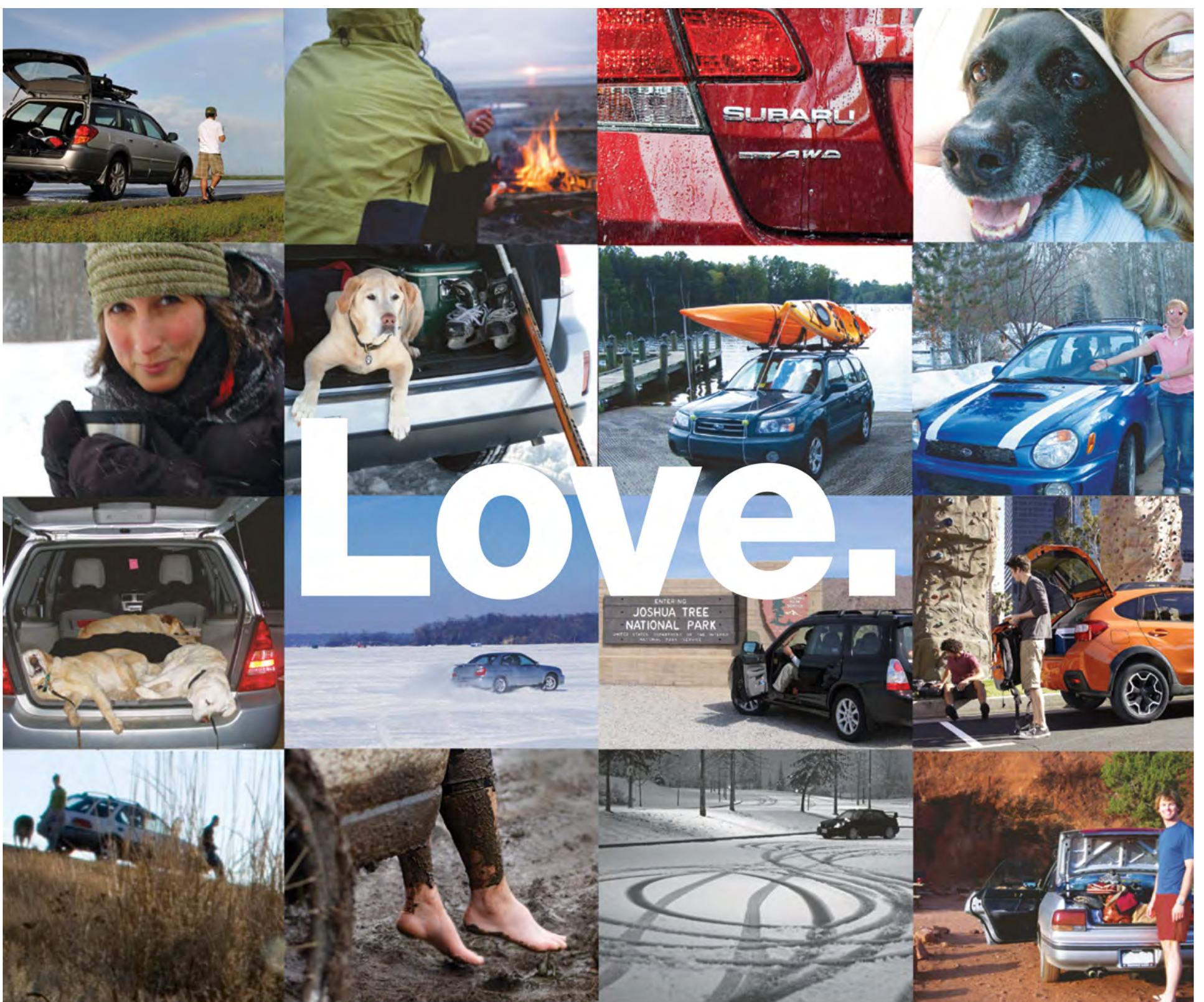
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Pride with a Roar!



As Celebrity Grand Marshal Brandi Glanville lined up for the start of the 2013 Pride Parade in this beautiful Maserati GranTurismo Convertible on loan from the Niello Company's Maserati of Sacramento, this photographer couldn't help but ask the driver to "rev'er up" and show me what it had under the hood. That she did, and the Maserati GranTurismo Convertible roared to life. Brandi, accompanied by fellow *Housewives* star Yolanda H. Foster sat on the back of this amazing, \$140,000 four seat cabriolet sports car that is handcrafted in Italy. With its Ferrari built 433 horsepower engine, if the driver had really let her go, our Grand Marshal would have made it through the parade route in record time! However, if the GranTurismo went by too quickly for you to get a good look, you can putter on down to Maserati of Sacramento and take a look at one up close and personal. With all that class, style and power, the Maserati even had the Budweiser Clydesdales saying "Now that's horsepower!" Photo by Charles Peer.

Cool Off this Summer Under the Trees in McKinley Park



One thing that kept Sacramento from becoming truly unbearable during this latest heat wave was our beautiful canopy of trees. It takes more than sunshine and water to keep all those trees healthy, though, it takes a little "Mulch Madness" This summer, the Sacramento Tree Foundation invites you to get to know McKinley Park in a whole new way by learning about and caring for the trees. Volunteers are being asked to spend a couple of hours helping to mulch the trees, learn more at www.sactree.com/events.

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Cool Off with an Ice Cream Social

So far this summer has been a real scorcher, but fortunately it's time for the PFLAG Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, and with visions of sundaes and Root Beer Floats, not to mention the company of good friends, things are already cooling down.

The annual event, hosted by the Sacramento Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, will once again be serving delicious Clover Stonetta Farms Ice Cream, in some of your favorite flavors, and they will also have all the goodies for you to make your own sundaes, or you can go all traditional and enjoy your treat out of a cone.

For Root Beer Float fans, it doesn't get any better than a float with locally brewed River City Root Beer. Of course, since this is an all you can eat Ice Cream Social, you can get both!

Our friends at Taylor's Market are once again opening up Taylor's Kitchen, which is just about the perfect location for a social. New this year, there will also be wine, beer and champagne available for an additional charge.

The Fourth Annual Social is a benefit for the Sacramento PFLAG Scholarship fund, and will be held from 4 - 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 14, in the dining room of Taylor's Kitchen, next door to Taylor's Market, located at 2900 Freepoint Blvd.

For more information, visit www.pflagsacramento.org

Respect for Marriage Act Reintroduced in Congress

Representative Jerrold Nadler of New York and Senator Dianne Feinstein of California have reintroduced the Respect for Marriage Act, the bill that would repeal the entirety of the federal so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and assure all married couples equal treatment for all federal programs and purposes.

The move swiftly followed the powerful ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, striking down a central part of DOMA and calling into question marriage discrimination on June 26.

The bill was introduced in both houses with identical language intended to fully repeal DOMA, which imposed a gay exception on the ordinary ways in which the federal government respects couples lawfully

married in states.

"With the decisive Supreme Court ruling applying constitutional command of equal protection to overturn a central part of the so-called 'Defense of Marriage Act,' Congress should move immediately to end federal marriage discrimination once and for all," said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, in a released statement.

Constitutional Amendment Banning Gay Marriage Introduced in House

Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.) has introduced legislation to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage.

The bill is just two sentences long: Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.

The bill already has 28 Republican cosponsors, none of whom are from California, and Washington insiders are saying that it has no chance of passing.



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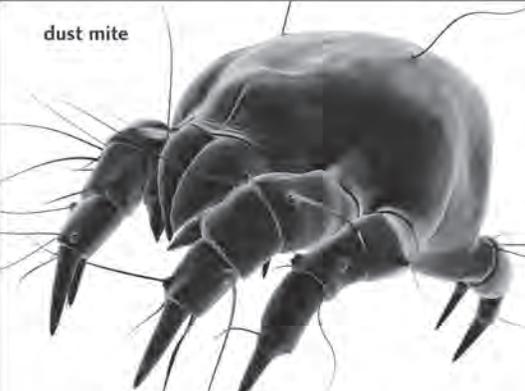
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BREAKING NEWS: THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

June 26th, 2013 will forever stand as an historic day for the gay rights movement, as the Supreme Court made two landmark decisions in favor of equality for homosexual couples.

What did these decisions actually say?

The first ruling is commonly known as DOMA. In that case the issue is simply that one partner wanted to leave the other her estate at death. Typically, assets passing from the estate of one spouse to the surviving spouse pass free of estate tax – this is known as the marital deduction, which is one of the fundamental concepts of estate planning. However, DOMA precluded application of the federal marital deduction to the passing of assets between same-sex spouses. This resulted in a very large estate tax.

The court decision held that Section 3 of DOMA, which defined marriage as only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, is unconstitutional. Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion case stated clearly that: "DOMA's principal effect is to identify a subset of state-sanctioned marriages and make them unequal."

The second ruling came in what is commonly called the California Proposition 8 case, a voter referendum in California that banned same-sex marriages in the state. The Supreme Court refused to reach the merits of the case, deciding that the petitioners who brought the appeal did not have standing to defend Prop 8. The effective result of this decision is to enforce the decision of the lower court, which held Prop 8 to be unconstitutional. As soon as the stay is lifted, county clerks in California will have the ability to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

For those same-sex couples who are currently legally married in the State of California, your marriage is fully recognized by the federal government.

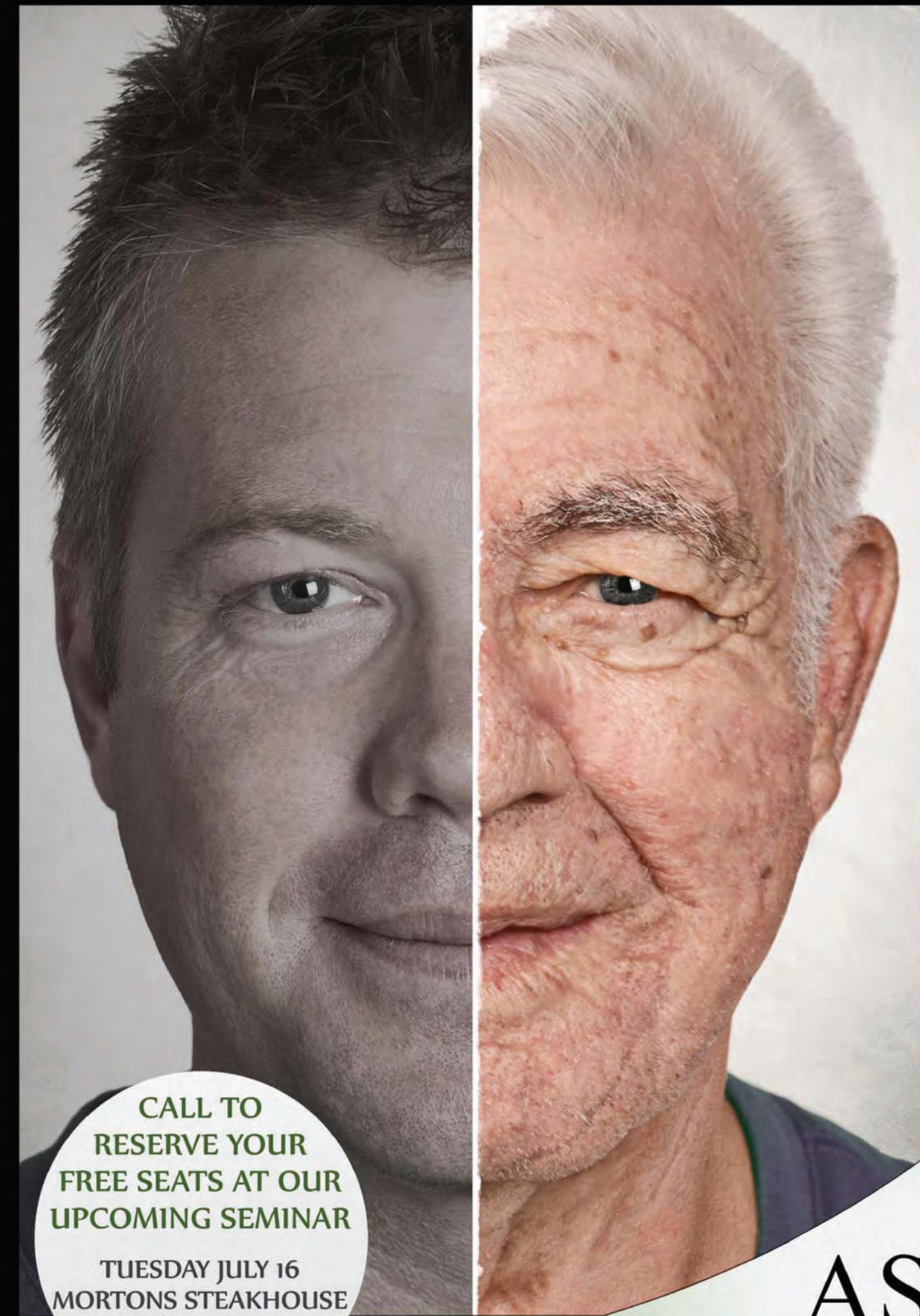
So what does this all mean?

In all, the Supreme Court's ruling on DOMA will have many implications for same-sex couples with regard to federal estate taxes, gift taxes, Social Security benefits, IRA beneficiary rollover rules and over a thousand other federal benefits. Given the uncertainty and misinformation that remain at large in the wake of these landmark rulings, preparation and thorough self-education are more critical than ever for all LGBT families and individuals. Whether you currently have a recognized marriage, you plan to get one when California starts issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, you intend to maintain your registered domestic partnership, or you are undertaking a partnership with no legal status, there are a variety of legal and financial implications that MUST be examined and considered and estate planning that could be extremely beneficial as you and your partner plan for your future together. For instance, it is crucial that a same sex couple who plan to marry have considered how to handle their separate vs. community property. It may be necessary to prepare a pre-marital agreement or a transmutation agreement depending on whether the couple would like to comingle funds or keep property separate during the marriage. How will you deal with difficult or troublesome family members?

The many considerations that same-sex couples must take into account in California include:

- Elderly same-sex couples have an increased asset threshold for Medi-Cal eligibility.
- Court processes exist that will likely allow same-sex couples to transfer wealth and income for asset protection purposes.
- Same-sex married couples may also now be entitled to spousal veterans benefits, either retroactively or prospectively. These may include but are not limited to:
 - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for the surviving spouse of a veteran.
 - VA pension programs, including base pension, pension for housebound spouse, Aid and Attendance pension, agent orange and service connected disability.
 - Veterans who are currently receiving pension or disability compensation benefits can also likely now receive an additional modest monthly amount if they are married and claim their spouse as a dependent and many more.
- Same sex couples may now utilize standard marital-deduction planning – both for federal and California estate-tax purposes – to defer and minimize those estate taxes. Federal concepts of portability of exemption amounts between spouses should also apply to same-sex couples. In other words, all of the estate-planning techniques that have been available only to married heterosexual couples are now available to same-sex married couples as well.
- Same-sex married couples can also now take advantage of the social security spousal and survivor benefits.
- For couples who choose to remain in registered domestic partnerships or to maintain no legal status at all, these estate planning issues remain as critical and difficult to navigate as they ever were.

What you do from this point on will have an impact for years or decades yet to come. More than ever, you must be informed. Please note the ad on the page to the right and on the back cover. Sign up for this free workshop today. It will be informative and you will meet some nice people and have a wonderful meal. Don't miss this. ***It will change your life.***



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In the wake of the historic Supreme Court rulings on DOMA and Prop 8, homosexual couples in California are entering uncharted territory. Alongside wonderful new opportunities, same sex couples will also face an ever-changing variety of new financial and legal challenges.

If you want to learn the facts about the real impact these federal decisions will have on California LGBT families, be sure to reserve your FREE seats at our upcoming dinner workshop.

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Wedding Services



Plan the Perfect Wedding!

Don't Miss Out - Wedding bells are ringing and that's great for all of us! The next couple of pages are Outword's Wedding Services section where you will find places and services that can help make your special day, a perfect one!

Look for it in each issue of Outword, every 2nd & 4th Thursday. (To be a part of this section, just give us a call 916-329-9280)

*Don't miss the Outword LGBT Wedding Expo!
Tuesday August 13th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the
Red Lion Hotel*

Admission and parking are free, and there are still spaces available for vendors and sponsors! We are looking for Caterers, Cake decorators, Florists, DJ's, Fashion Designers and more to be a part of what promises to be an amazing (and informative) event!

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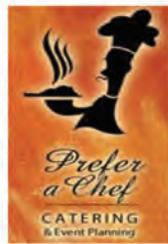
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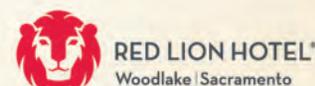
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Sacramento's "First Couple" Ties the Knot

by Ken Pierce and Nicola Simmersbach

Ido – two simple words. For Diana Luiz and Nicola Simmersbach, those two words meant the world as they were finally allowed to speak them at their wedding ceremony on Friday, June 28, 2013, a civil right for which they had worked for almost five years.

Just an hour earlier they had both been going about their lives. Nicola was home early from a day of training, and Diana was washing bed sheets and checking her Facebook when something caught her eye: Ken Pierce, a friend and media lead for Equality Action NOW had posted something. Something that looked cryptic and important. The post itself seemed to radiate energy.

Diana called Nicola who was in the other room fuming over a computer glitch, "Honey, what does this mean?" Diana asked, confused by the legalese.

After a brief silence, Nicola said, "Let's go, I think they have lifted the stay. Who knows how long we have this time".

They had been through this before when on August 27, 2010, after it was announced that Prop 8 had been ruled unconstitutional. That year they had sat in the county marriage office and had their hopes dashed as a stay was put onto their marriage as they stood in line to get married. A stay that would remain in place for three long years.

The pair eventually settled for a Domestic Partnership in 2009 just to secure some protections for each other but the rights accorded them by the DP were incomplete and hollow.

"Getting your DP is about as romantic as getting your driver's license renewed," said Nicola. "We don't celebrate that day and it usually blows by unnoticed."

Marriage affords the couple over 1,138 federal rights, among the sweeter ones the right to refer to each other as "wife."

Moments after understanding the post about Prop 8, the couple headed to the Sacramento County Clerk Recorder's office downtown and were first in line to be issued the first same-sex marriage license in Sacramento County since the U.S. Supreme Court made their decision not to hear the Prop 8 case.

The lifting of the stay was a huge shock as everyone was expecting a 25 day wait for the 9th Circuit to lift the stay. But there it was at 3:22:01 p.m., an email from the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit under the case name of *Kristin Perry, et al v. Edmund G Brown, Jr, et al*, stating, "The stay in the above matter is dissolved effective immediately."

News of the stay being lifted went viral instantaneously across the social media world and it wasn't long before the news media picked it up and several television, radio, and print media, including one from the Bay Area, rushed to the clerk's office.



After attending and speaking at nearly every rally, press conference and protest in Sacramento since the enactment of Prop 8, Sacramento's unofficial first couple for marriage equality became Sacramento's first couple to marry following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, exchanging their vows only minutes after the 9th Circuit Court's stay was lifted on June 28. Photo by Kati Garner.

In the meantime, with hands shaking from sheer excitement, Nicola and Diana started to fill out their paperwork at the county marriage office. Then they realized that the wedding rings, bought years ago in anticipation of this day, were back at home. Pandemonium ensued and Diana rushed home to retrieve the rings.

More same-sex couples had arrived as well,

some to get married, others just to join in the celebration. Soon, the office was filled with friends and family of Nicola and Diana from all over the region. People said they just dropped what they were doing and ran to the marriage office. In the case of Julie Tindall, MEUSA lead in

FIRST
continues on page 22

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The Normal Heart Is More than the Story of AIDS

by Charles Peer

The early 1980s were a scary time for most gay men, a new and deadly epidemic was sweeping the gay community, especially in large cities like New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and most of us living in those meccas thought simply "I'm next."

That's why Larry Kramer's largely autobiographical new play, *The Normal Heart* was so important to us. It didn't promise a cure, but it did give us a chance at a dialogue, one that we could channel our anger and our desperation, and ultimately, our hope, through.

Closet Door Theatre is now bringing *The Normal Heart* back to the stage, and giving us all another chance, and for younger audiences, their first chance, to learn about the early days of AIDS.

Kramer's play tells the story of Jewish-American writer and gay activist, Ned Weeks, as he struggles to pull together an organization focused on raising awareness about the fact that an unidentified disease was killing gay men.

Fueled by love, anger, hope and pride, Weeks and a circle of friends struggle to understand the disease. Dismissed by politicians, frustrated by doctors, and fighting with each other, their differences could tear them apart - or change the world.

"I truly believe it is an important piece of work that accurately chronicles the gay experience with HIV/AIDS in the early stages



Shawn O'Neal as Ned Weeks and Chris Bogard as Felix Turner at a rehearsal of Closet Door Theatre's *The Normal Heart*.

of the disease," said Michael Hedges, who is co-directing the production with Andrew Gibout. "Even though it is a period piece, I firmly believe in its relevance today."

The Normal Heart will be performed Friday and Saturday evenings at the Ooley Theatre, 2007 28th St., beginning with a pay-what-you-can sneak peek on Thursday, July 11 and continuing through August 2. There will also be a benefit performance for Sunburst Projects on Sunday, July 21.

For more information and tickets, call 916-222-4932 or visit www.closetdoortheatre.org.

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Six Months with SueBea and We're Going Strong

words and photograph by Ron Tackitt

Those of you who know me know that I have owned a fair number of vehicles throughout my life, but few have been as practical as my 2013 Subaru Forester. That may sound like a backhanded compliment, but the longer I live with "SueBea" the more I am coming to realize that along with the practicality, at such a very small price, comes a great deal of ownership satisfaction and pride.

My last car was something I bought because I really liked the way the car looked. It was a four door, so it was relatively practical, it was beautiful and it seemed like it was well made. Its beauty soon gave way to discontent with the design and the dealer, but thankfully, Elk Grove Subaru was able to get me out of that car and into my Forester. (They have pretty awesome deals going on right now on Outbacks!)

I had looked at a Forester two years before and really loved its no-nonsense design and execution, but didn't buy one back then because I didn't want a station wagon -- looking back now, it would have been a much, much better purchase and I would have lived these past two years enjoying its virtues.

Being able to sneak in, under the wire, and buy a home in this crazy Sacramento market was also a deciding factor in the purchase of SueBea. As much as I rebelled against a wagon, there is no denying that they are eminently practical and are perfect for all those Home Depot or Green Acre runs.

One of the things I particularly like about the design of the Forester, is the tall greenhouse. Pretty much everything is big and tall -- the doors, the windows themselves and, especially, the opening in the back for cargo. This may not sound like much, but some of the sexier mini SUVs on the market severely sacrifice cargo volume for a rakish profile. I can fit an IKEA Ektorp chair in the back of SueBea without fuss;



SueBea's first cargo haul. The Ikea table, and all four chairs fit inside with ease.

just try that in a Kia Sportage.

My Forester is no sports car, but I very rarely wish for more power, and love the fact that I actually get very close to the published MPG -- something that could not be said for my last vehicle. Cruising on the freeway, or dashing around town is easy and happens without a lot of audible fuss from the engine compartment and I consistently get an average 22 MPG. Not bad.

Some of the materials used could be just a bit better. There is a lot of hard plastic used in the interior, but Subaru has managed to use them in a way that doesn't make the car feel cheap or cut rate. I imagine that having full-time all wheel drive underneath also helps give the car a more weighed-down, solid feel while on the road, and as I said before, doesn't seem to hurt the gas mileage.

Speaking of the all wheel drive, I have to say I haven't really had a chance to put it to good use. I felt more comfortable knowing it's there during rainstorms, but I certainly haven't used it off road. Maybe this summer?

So, my first six months with my Forester have really opened my eyes to some of what the Subaru ads are talking about when they say people just Love their cars. Sex appeal has never been part of the equation with this vehicle, but day-to-day usefulness, amazing attention to fine details and a solid, practical execution all lead to what has quickly become a lovely relationship.

This is one of the first cars I have been able to say that I'm looking forward to a long-term relationship, instead of a quick-burn with a beauty.

Big Fun at the State Fair with 17 Nights of Free Concerts

The Toyota Concert Series at the California State Fair kicks off this July 12 with an appearance by Night Ranger and concludes more than two weeks later with the Fair's final free show, by Randy Houser, on July 28.

One of the biggest names on the roster this year is country-pop queen, LeAnn Rimes, who will bring her big voice and hit songs to the Golden1 Stage on Tuesday, July 23.

In recent years, Rimes has seen her place on the country charts eclipsed by three other hot blondes, namely Miranda Lambert, Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood. Then, too, there was that little matter of her affair with a co-star and the resulting tabloid gossip.

In other words, the singer has plenty of personal fodder for a slew

of country songs, and she has channeled some of that bad press into her fine new CD, the aptly titled *Spitfire*.

Rimes will no doubt sing several songs from her current disc, but you can bet that she will also perform fan favorites such as "I Need You," "Can't Fight The Moonlight" and "How Do I Live."

Other artists slated for this year's California State Fair include En Vogue, The Four Tops, and Kool & the Gang. All concerts start at 8 p.m. and are free with fair admission.

The 2013 California State Fair runs from Friday, July 12 through Sunday, July 28, at Cal Expo. For more information, visit www.BigFun.org.



LeAnn Rimes.

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Sacramento County, the “run” was a literal jog of nine blocks in the Sacramento heat.

Then, with rings safe and sound in the hands of their “Best Ma’am,” Kelly Byam, and with a wedding certificate whose ink was still drying, the wedding party of family and friends trailed by members of the press moved to the small civil chapel just down the hall from the clerk’s office.

Officiating at the first federally recognized same-sex wedding in Sacramento County was Ellen Pontac, wife of Shelly Bailes, one of the first same-sex couples to be married in California and the very first married in Yuba County, back during the small window of time that same-sex couples were married before Prop 8 was enacted.

The crowd was hushed and all you could hear was the clicking of shutters from the cameras of friends, family and media, all wanting to witness this historic moment for which many had worked for years.

Ellen, longtime friend of the beaming couple began to read the words, “We are gathered here ...” Then came the sniffles from certain members in the audience.

In the end it was those two little words, “I do,” that changed Nicola and Diana’s lives, as well as the hearts and lives of everyone who witnessed their wedding ceremony. Especially meaningful to the couple was that their long awaited wedding day is also the 44th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. As Nicola reminded us, “this is not the end, but one more step on the road to full federal equality for ALL.” The couple remains committed to working for the rights of people in other states and in other communities. Though

Nicola had tried to get Diana to go to Seattle and marry sooner, Diana stood firm: “We will marry in OUR state and in OUR city,” she said, “we will spend our money HERE.”

In the coming days, weeks and months, same-sex couples will apply for and receive marriage licenses. Some will have their ceremony immediately in the clerk’s chapel while others will have theirs in welcoming churches or outdoor ceremonies that highlight the spectacular nature of our beautiful golden state..

In the long-run, things will settle down and those who thought their straight marriages and families would fall apart will realize that they will go on just as they always have without the slightest change.

Hopefully, gay or straight, we will all live happily ever after!

Sixty Percent of Young Guys Don't Know They are HIV+

In light of news that 60 percent of young guys don’t know they are HIV+, Capital City Aids Fund (CCAF) has completed a new short video targeted to youth that encourages condom use and testing, and shares some powerful facts about HIV.

You can watch the video at sproutvideo.com/playlists/7896d7b3f6.

Also, stay tuned – we will be sharing information about a very special scholarship-related event with four-time Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis as it gets closer.

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Pacific Rim Stomps into the Esquire IMAX – Plus by Chris Narloch

Fans of Japanese cinema can celebrate its influence this month with the return of The Sacramento Japanese Film Festival at the Crest.

Additionally, *Pacific Rim*, a new movie inspired by classic Japanese monster movies of yore, opens in theaters nationwide, including Sacramento's Esquire IMAX.

Esquire IMAX
I hope I am totally wrong, but based solely on the trailers, the brand new blockbuster movie *Pacific Rim* looks like a cross between *Godzilla* and *Transformers*. It also looks like two hours of noise.

Since the movie was helmed by one of my favorite living directors, Guillermo del Toro, it will either be a pleasant surprise or a huge disappointment.

Go big or go home seems to be the philosophy behind the film, which is set in the near future where soldiers pilot enormous robots into battle against giant monsters that have risen from a portal beneath the ocean.

The picture features an interesting international cast that includes Rinko Kikuchi, Charlie Hunnam and Idris Elba.

Make up your own mind when *Pacific Rim* opens at 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX. Visit www.imax.com/sacramento.

The Crest

There hasn't been a whole lot of activity on the big screen at the Crest Theatre lately, but that will change this summer as River City's historic movie palace hosts two of Sacramento's finest film festivals, the Sacramento Japanese Film Fest and the Trash Film Orgy.

The world's most amazing midnight movie show returns for its 13th incredible season, when TFO (Trash Film Orgy) kicks off on July 13 with the famous zombie walk through midtown, followed by a screening of *Shaun of the Dead*.

Trashy movies continue every Saturday at midnight – including *The Road Warrior* and *Escape From New York* – until TFO wraps up on August 17 with a double feature of *Blood Feast* and *Two Thousand Maniacs*. Visit www.TrashFilmOrgy.com.

The Crest will also host the 9th Annual Japanese Film Festival, which runs July 12-14 and includes seven feature films, all of them shown in Japanese with English subtitles.

This year's eclectic lineup includes anime, a silent film, samurai action, documentary, comedy and drama.

Visit www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net.

Because Charity is Best When it Is Done in the Nude ...



The senior men's rowing team at Warwick University have gotten their kit off for calendars and films, and to help raise funds for the Ben Cohen Foundation, which combats bullying and homophobia in sport. You can help the lads out by buying their calendar, titled *Brokeback Boathouse*, at warwickrowing.org

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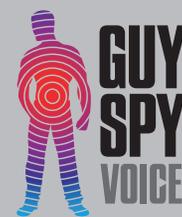
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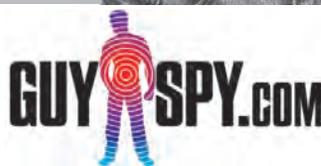
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