

outw^{ord}

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Letters

Thanks for Your Help

Dear Outword,

Big thanks to you and your crew for our Drag Queen Bingo night on March 6.

Capital City Volleyball Club (CCVC) appreciates the proceeds from the event which will help to support the LGBT Volleyball Program in Sacramento (www.sacvball.com).

Our guys and gals (and those in drag), had a great time and enjoyed the evening.

On behalf of CCVC, thank you very much
Outword!

Ray, CCVC

Center to Host Take Pride in Your Health Fair

Dear Outword Readers,

Join us for the 3rd Annual Take Pride in Your Health Fair, to be held Sunday, April 6 at noon at the Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L St.

Speakers this year include: Bobby Christian, ASIST trainer; Patrick Ma; and LGBTQA Youth Speaker at MHANCA.

There will also be free HIV testing provided by Breaking Barriers.

This year's participating organizations include: American Red Cross Capital Region Chapter; Friends for Survival, Inc.; Golden Rule Services; Gender Health Center; NAMI Sacramento; Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Girl Scout Rainbow Troop; Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball; Turning Point; Women's Health Specialists; and Yoga Seed

For more information please visit SacCenter.org.

Annual Q-Prom Coming Soon

For the sixth year the Sacramento LGBT Community Center will create a safe and accepting atmosphere for LGBTQ and allied youth to enjoy an authentic prom experience at Q-Prom: A Night in Paris.

If you are ages 13-21, put on your best duds, prepare yourself for a fun night of music, dancing and Parisian splendor.

This year's event will be held at the beautiful Beatnik Studios, 723 S St., on April

18, from 7 p.m. to midnight,

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available at the Center, 1927 L St., or online at qprom2014.brownpapertickets.com/.

If you would like to help make this event possible as a sponsor and give our youth the welcoming experience so many of us didn't have, please email qprom@saccenter.org or call 916-442-0185.

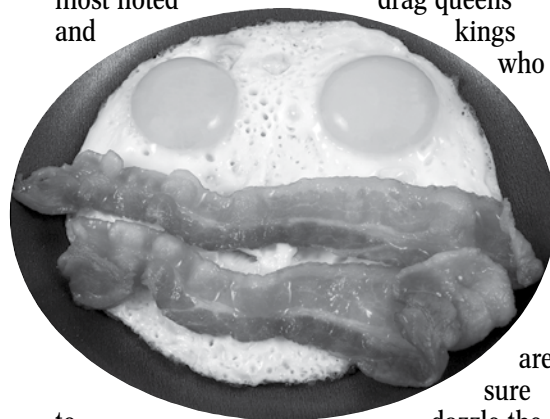
Mama's Making Bacon Drag Show & Brunch

Hungry for eggs, bacon, biscuits and spectacular dresses?

Look no further! Back by popular demand Mama's Makin' Bacon combines fantastically clad entertainment and a scrumptious brunch buffet.

This year's event, being held at Lucca Restaurant on Sunday, April 13, will feature Taryn Thru-U and some of Sacramento's most noted

drag queens and kings who



are sure to dazzle the audience with their charm and wit.

This event is a must for anyone looking to sit back, sip a mimosa or Bloody Mary, and enjoy a great show!

Doors Open at 10 a.m. and the show ends at 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 online at dragbrunch2014.brownpapertickets.com/, or at the Center noon to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday. Tickets will be available at the door for \$45 if there are any left.

Lucca Restaurant is located at 1615 J St. in midtown.

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Gay Press Spending in 2013 Sets Record at \$381.4 Million

An annual Gay Press Report produced by Rivendell Media reveals that spending in America’s “Gay Press” for 2013 is at a record high of \$381.4 million, up 18.2 percent from 2012 and showing that LGBT community media is as strong as ever.

Spending and circulation in LGBT print media is up for 2013, bucking the trends in the mainstream press. Actual spending is up

circulation up by double digits,” says Todd Evans, President and CEO of Rivendell Media. The LGBT print media once thought

representation firm for most LGBT publications in the U.S., reports that spending for 2014 should continue its growth based on impressive first-quarter sales for print advertising.

“Print media remains an important part of the toolkit for any company trying to reach the diverse LGBT community,” said Tracy

Baim, publisher of *Windy City Times* in Chicago. “This report shows that regional LGBT print media are especially key to national advertising campaigns. The LGBT community is among the most loyal of consumers, and they pay attention to brands that are creative and inclusive in their

fully communicate their diversity goals and to see a return on investment.”

“America’s gay newspapers and publications so often are the heart of the LGBT community,” said Bob Witeck, President of Witeck Communications. “It is very encouraging to see the growth trends and resiliency of the community’s legacy press.” Since 1993, Bob Witeck has advised major corporations and marketers on strategies to connect with LGBT audiences and households.

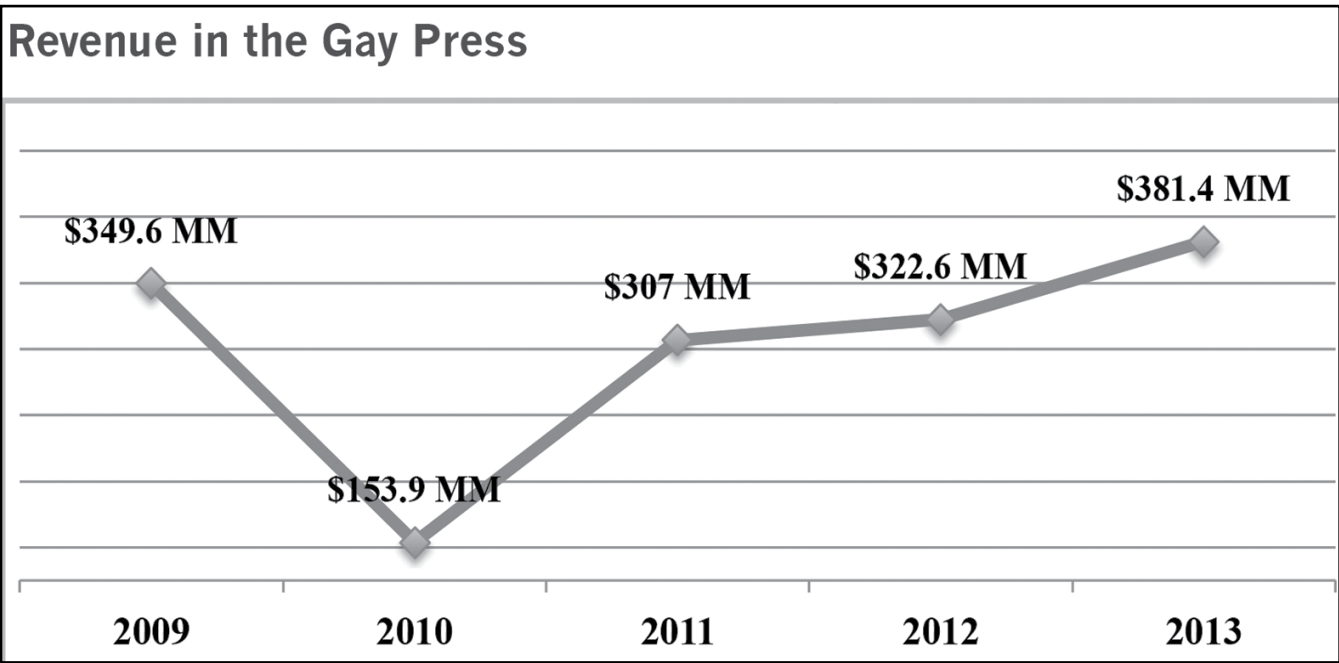
The Gay Press Report has been produced annually since 1994 and provides a unique historical perspective on the gay and lesbian press and consumer market. To view the 2013 report in its entirety, please visit rivendellmedia.com/documents/2013gaypressreport/.

Among the other findings in the 2013 Gay Press Report:

- Nine out of every ten dollars spent in the gay press is spent locally. The gay press is comprised primarily of trusted community-owned businesses that reflect the specific need, interests and tastes of their readership.

- In 2013, America’s gay and lesbian publications consisted of 125 individual titles, roughly the same size as 2012 with an addition of only three titles.

The combined circulation of all LGBT publications is now estimated at 2,700,000, up 15.1 percent from 2012.



just over 18 percent from 2012 to \$381.4 million making a new all-time high. Circulation and readership of LGBT media is also up a healthy 15.1 percent.

“What a nice surprise to see both sales and

to be recession proof, was significantly affected by the recession and advertising showed wide swings from its previous high in 2009 of \$349.6 million.

Rivendell Media, the leading media

marketing efforts. It’s no longer good enough to say you have achieved a 100 percent ranking on LGBT issues. Brands need to dedicate marketing dollars to this niche, to

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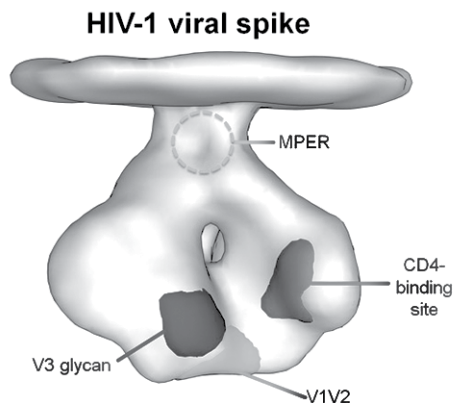
In an advance for HIV vaccine research, a scientific team has discovered how the immune system makes a powerful antibody that blocks HIV infection of cells by targeting a site on the virus called V1V2.

Many researchers believe that if a vaccine could elicit potent antibodies to a specific conserved site in the V1V2 region, one of a handful of sites that remains constant on the fast-mutating virus, then the vaccine could protect people from HIV infection.

Analyses of the results of a clinical trial of the only experimental HIV vaccine to date to have modest success in people suggest that antibodies to sites within V1V2 were protective. The new findings point the way toward a potentially more effective vaccine that would generate V1V2-directed HIV neutralizing antibodies.

The study was led by scientists from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Columbia University, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Johannesburg.

They began by identifying an HIV-infected volunteer in the CAPRISA cohort



Representation of an image taken with an electron microscope of one of the numerous spikes that jut out of the surface of HIV, showing the V1V2 region, where CAP256-VRC26 and other broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies bind. The other circled areas mark the three other sites where most known broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies bind. The flat area at the top represents the surface membrane of the virus. Image courtesy of NIAID

who naturally developed V1V2-directed HIV neutralizing antibodies, named CAP256-

VRC26, after several months of infection.

Using techniques similar to those employed in an earlier study of HIV-antibody co-evolution, the researchers analyzed blood samples donated by the volunteer between 15 weeks and four years after becoming infected.

This enabled the scientists to determine the genetic make-up of the original form of the antibody, to identify and define the structures of a number of the intermediate forms taken as the antibody mutated toward its fullest breadth and potency, and to describe the interplay between virus and antibody that fostered the maturation of CAP256-VRC26 to its final, most powerful HIV-fighting form.

Notably, the study revealed that after relatively few mutations, even the early intermediates of CAP256-VRC26 can neutralize a significant proportion of known HIV strains.

This improves the chances that a V1V2-directed HIV vaccine developed based on the new findings would be effective, according to the scientists, who have begun work on a set of vaccine components designed to elicit V1V2 neutralizing antibodies and guide their maturation.

EQCA Sponsors Seven Bills to Improve LGBT Equality

Equality California has announced its sponsorship of seven bills for the 2014 legislative session that, if enacted, would improve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Californians from cradle to grave.

"These bills touch on every aspect of life, from birth through school, doctor's visits, marriage, even respect after death – all the major milestones of life," said John O'Connor, EQCA executive director. "With this package of bills, we're moving from a focus on marriage equality to full equality."

Equality California's bills would:

Modernize birth certificates: AB 1951, authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, would modernize California birth certificates by allowing parents to choose to self-designate as "father," "mother" or "parent," eliminating inaccurate designations and confusion for same-sex parents.

Protect students: SB 840, authored by

Senator Ricardo Lara, moves forward on recommendations from 2013's statewide audit on school safety and nondiscrimination laws, to hold schools accountable for documenting responses to bullying and referring students to appropriate services.

End youth group discrimination: SB 323, the Youth Equality Act, authored by Lara, is a two-year bill introduced in 2013. The bill clarifies that nonprofit youth organizations will only be rewarded with special tax exemptions if they comply with California's existing nondiscrimination laws.

Clean up marriage language: SB 1306, authored by Senator Mark Leno, brings California statutory law into line with last

June's Supreme Court decision restoring the freedom to marry in California. References to "husband" and "wife" would be replaced with gender-neutral language such as "spouse" to recognize all married couples throughout California code.

Ensure health care providers know LGBT health: AB 496, authored by Assemblymember Rich Gordon, is a two-year bill introduced in 2013. It would increase awareness of LGBT health issues among health care providers, leading to better care and better outcomes.

End the "panic" defense: AB 2501, authored by Assemblymember Susan Bonilla, would eliminate the so-called "gay panic" and "trans panic" defenses, outrageous tactics used by defendants who claim their violent acts were triggered by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ensure accurate death certificates: AB 1577, the Respect After Death Act, authored by Assemblymember Toni Atkins, would make sure death certificates for transgender Californians accurately reflect their authentic, lived identity.

As these bills touch on major life milestones, passing these bills would be a milestone for EQCA. Over the past 16 years, EQCA has worked hard to move California from a state with extremely limited protections for LGBT people to the state with the most advanced protections in the country.

With a total of 96 bills passed prior to the 2014 session, passing these seven would bring that total to 103, making EQCA the first LGBT advocacy organization to pass more than 100 bills.

For more information, visit EQCA.org.

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Briefly Put

\$1 Million Marriage Campaign Launched in Southern States

Freedom to Marry has launched a \$1 million multi-state campaign to build majority support for marriage in the South, called Southerners for the Freedom to Marry. It will include significant field and media work over the next year in partnership with supportive organizations across the region.

“Our investment in the South comes at a pivotal time in the marriage movement,” said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry.

Despite growing support in the South, Southern states continue to discriminate against the more than 200,000 couples and their families who make the region their home. According to 2010 Census Bureau data, same-sex couples raising children are more common in the South than in any other region of the country. A recent poll of registered Southern voters showed that support for the freedom to marry in the region is now evenly split.

MLS Announces Measures to Protect Gay Players

At the inaugural Out in Law summit, a LGBT initiative for senior leaders in the legal profession, Major League Soccer (MLS) to introduced new measures to protect gay players from discrimination and harassment.

The decision by Major League Soccer (MLS) to strengthen policies against discrimination based on sexual orientation, called the “Don’t Cross the Line” initiative, will ensure greater protection for current and future gay players from harassment and discrimination.

Indiana Ban on Same-Sex Marriage Challenged

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of 15 individuals, including a widow and two children, who have experienced harm and discrimination because of Indiana’s ban on marriage between same-sex couples and its ban on recognition of legal marriages between same-sex couples performed in other jurisdictions.

One of the plaintiffs, Midori Fujii, is a widow whose legal wife, Kris Brittain, died in 2011 after a two-year struggle with ovarian cancer. Because her California marriage is not recognized in Indiana, Fujii was also required to pay more than \$300,000 in state inheritance tax on all of the property that her wife left to her, including their shared home. If Fujii had been in an opposite-sex marriage she would have paid no inheritance tax on the property.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

TN Federal Judge Rules in Favor of Three Same-Sex Marriages

A federal judge in Tennessee has ruled, in a preliminary injunction, that state officials must respect the marriages of three same-sex couples whose lawsuit challenged the state’s marriage ban. The couples had married in other states and then moved to Tennessee.

“At this point, all signs indicate that, in the eyes of the United States Constitution, the plaintiffs’ marriages will be placed on an equal footing with those of heterosexual couples and that proscriptions against same-sex marriage will soon become a footnote in the annals of American history,” Judge Aleta Arthur Trauger wrote in the order.

In a written memorandum, the judge said that her order is only preliminary and would only apply to the three couples as the suit works its way through the court system.

Health Care Access Rules Clarified for Same-Sex Couples

The Department of Health and Human Services has clarified that, starting next year, if an insurance company offers coverage to opposite-sex spouses, it cannot choose to deny that coverage to same-sex spouses.

In other words, insurance companies will not be permitted to discriminate against married same-sex couples when offering coverage, further enhancing access to health care for all Americans, including those with same-sex spouses.

Lawsuit Seeks Rights for FL Same-Sex Couples

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of eight same-sex couples and SAVE, an LGBT rights organization based in south Florida, challenging the state’s refusal to recognize the couples’ marriages, which were performed in other states and recognized by the federal government.

“Each of these couples has their own story of how the state’s discriminatory refusal to recognize their marriages has impacted their lives,” stated Daniel Tilley, LGBT rights attorney for the ACLU of Florida. “These eight couples have all the rights and responsibilities of marriage in the states where they exchanged vows, and the federal government recognizes their marriages as well. It’s time for Florida to stop the harmful practice of treating committed couples as if they are strangers.”

Former Surgeon General Faults Military’s Transgender Ban

A commission co-chaired by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders has released a report concluding that the Pentagon’s ban on transgender military service is not based on sound medical reasoning.

The Transgender Military Service Commission examined all medical and psychological aspects of transgender military service, and found inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the Pentagon’s rationale for the exclusionary policy, and that “there is no compelling medical reason for the ban.”

“The ban on transgender service has long been a policy in search of a rationale,” said Dr. Joycelyn Elders, who served as U.S. Surgeon General from 1993 until 1994. “We looked hard for any type of sound rationale and found none. There is no compelling medical rationale for banning transgender military service, and medical regulations requiring the discharge of all transgender personnel are inconsistent with how the military regulates medical and psychological conditions.” For more information, see www.palmcenter.org.



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An Interview with Kristen Ellis-Henderson of Antigone Rising

by Colt McGraw

Changes in the music industry have been challenging for solo artists and bands. The age of technology has opened many doors in the way that music is recorded, but it is also making it increasingly difficult for them to sell their music.

However, from landing on the cover of *TIME* magazine to touring with the Rolling Stones, the all woman, alt-country rockers Antigone Rising have been preparing for those changes in the music industry – and learning how to take advantage of them.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Kristen Ellis-Henderson, a founding member of Antigone Rising, and she explains how the changes have effected the group and what their plans for going forward are, as well as giving a glimpse into her past, present and hopes for the future.

Kristen says the band is constantly sharing new content and ideas, a lot of which comes from her personal life. She is now balancing her career with role of being a mother.

Giving an indication on how she would like to raise her own family, Kristen reflects on her childhood in Glen Cove, New York, "I had a really close-knit family, we grew up with a lot of cousins and relatives around. I always remember feeling safe and loved."

Her family was also important in developing her love for music. "I was a tomboy and musician and my mom always

Antigone Rising



"In the upcoming years we are going to be redefining the way that we introduce our music to the fans," Kristen says. "I think the music industry has dictated that you're going to have to figure it out going forward. If you're hanging on to the radio and record paradigm, you're gonna sink."

Radio and record stores, as a rule, are not cutting it anymore. So the band is going to build an event around each song in their new album, *Whiskey & Wine, Volume 1*, by explaining the back stories and making videos for each song.

"We can't afford for people to download just one or two songs from our entire album," says Kristen.

Antigone Rising is not alone during this shift, she explains how it's effected all artists.

"People like Katy Perry are given the opportunity to perform all of these amazing songs and the only thing people download are the hits," Ktrisen says.

Further complicating a bands ability to sell their songs is streaming video and audio. "With all the promotion that goes into streaming, it only generates a small number of downloads because people people want free music. Even the major labels are having to rethink the way they're doing things."

To keep Antigone Risings sound fresh,

supported that. My mother is a classically trained pianist. My sister Kathy and I formed bands with kids in the neighborhood."

I asked Kristen to share some of her career highlights to date. "We toured with the Rolling Stones. Not very many bands have had that opportunity and that was in 2007. In 2012 we were asked by the U.S. government to travel to the Middle East and act as Cultural Ambassadors.

We performed all over the Middle East and it was an absolute life-highlight. Landing the cover of *TIME* magazine was such a privilege, and was such a historical time for the LGBT movement"

As we wrapped up our conversation I asked Kristen who her top three musical influences were. She replied quickly with The Beatles, Shawn Colvin and The Allman Brothers.

Antigone Rising's *Whiskey & Wine, Volume 1* has just been released, and you can catch a video from it, *That was the Whiskey*, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VA11MDYhd24&feature=youtu.be.

Also learn more about all of the women of Antigone Rising on their website antigonerising.com and by following them on your favorite social media outlets.

Fundraiser Held for Maggy Krell's Race for District Attorney



Dr. Darrick Lawson and Dale Howard opened their home on March 12 for a reception and fundraiser for Maggy Krell, the Democratic candidate for Sacramento County District Attorney. Speaking at the event, Krell pledged to take the DA's office in a new direction, outlining her vision of providing better sentencing, more treatment and less incarceration, which she believes will ultimately save the taxpayers thousands of dollars in unnecessary jail time. She has a long history of being a champion of the gay community having participated in the very first Sacramento AIDS Rides, one of the founding members of the Stonewall Democrats, and participating in multiple pride events and other events for the gay community. She has been endorsed by Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Senator Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. The event raised over \$10,000 for her campaign. www.KrellforDA.com.

2014 Gaybie Award Nominees Announced

Ellen probably won't be around taking selfies, but The Gaybies, now in their fifth year, let you order your own pizza and give you a vote as they recognize the very best in gay-themed film.



Jonathan Groff in a scene from *C.O.G.*, an autobiographical comedy and the first-ever screen adaptation of the work of acclaimed writer David Sedaris.

This year's nominated films mix major studio releases (*Dallas Buyers Club*, *Behind the Candelabra*) with lesser-known independent works that made their mark on the gay film festival circuit (*In the Family*, *Out in the Dark*, *Truth*.) Actors and filmmakers nominated include Michael Douglas, Matt Damon, Jonathan Groff, Sean Paul Lockhart, Daniel Radcliffe, Rob Lowe, Denis O'Hare, Corey Stoll, Steven Soderbergh and Jared Leto. The categories, divided by genre, include Best Gay Drama, Best Gay Thriller, Sexiest Gay Movie, Best Lead Actor in a Gay Movie, Best Director and many more. TLAGay.com, one of the largest online and direct mail DVD and VOD entertainment retailers in the country, is the driving force behind the Gaybies, and nominations were determined by the TLAGay.com staff.

Winners will be selected by polling on their website, TLAGay.com/Gaybies. During the month of March, customers, fans and industry insiders can vote for their favorites in the various categories. Winners will be announced on or around April 15. The full list of nominees can be found at TLAGay.com/Gaybies. "We're really happy that we can continue the Gaybies again in 2014. We received over 7,000 votes during the 2013 Gaybies and we're hoping to break a new record this year," said Robert O'Neill, TLAGay.com's Content Marketing Manager. "Everyone likes the opportunity to voice their opinion and these annual awards give our customers and creative community a chance to communicate how they like to be entertained."

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New Poll Confirms U.S. Is Ready for Freedom to Marry

A new *Washington Post/ABC News* poll shows a record-high 59 percent of Americans support marriage for same-sex couples, with only 34 percent opposed. The deep support reaches into every region of the country, including the South, Midwest, and West, and extends across party lines: 40 percent of Republicans back the freedom for all couples to marry.

"Bipartisan momentum is overwhelmingly on our side," said Marc Solomon, national campaign director of Freedom to Marry. "A supermajority of Americans believe in freedom and fairness, and support is growing at an unprecedented speed. Overwhelmingly, Americans – no matter where they live, how old they are, or what party they belong to – believe in treating their gay and lesbian family members and friends with dignity and respect by supporting their freedom to marry. It's the right thing to do on both moral and constitutional grounds."

Notably, a *New York Times* poll last month also found a "rapid shift" in GOP support skyrocketing to 40 percent, up from 33 percent last spring and only 24 percent in September 2012.

The Post poll was conducted after a series of recent high-profile marriage wins with landmark marriage rulings by federal judges in Kentucky, Texas, Virginia, Utah and Oklahoma. Attorneys General in Kentucky, Virginia, Nevada and Oregon have said they will not defend their states' bans on marriage for same-sex couples.

"Over the past few weeks, the climate has been very favorable for the freedom to marry," added Solomon. "People are seeing where this is heading and want to be on the winning – and right – side of history."

Here's what the Post poll found:

- For the first time, 50 percent or more of Americans in every region of the country support the freedom to marry. In the South, support is at 50 percent to 42 percent opposed; in the Midwest, support is at 66 percent to 28 percent opposed; in the West, support is at 59 percent to 32 percent opposed; and in the Northeast, support is at 68 percent to 26 percent opposed.

- For the first time, every age grouping shows a plurality of support. Among Americans age 65 and over, support is at 47 percent to 43 percent opposed; among voters age 40-64, support is at 54 percent to 38 percent opposed; among voters age 18-39, support is at 72 percent to 22 percent opposed.

- Among Republicans, support is at 40 percent, with 23 percent strongly supportive.

- Among self-described moderates, support is at 64 percent to 27 percent opposed.

- 50 percent of Americans believe that the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection gives gays the right to marry, while 41 percent say it does not.

- Among all voters, Americans who are supportive feel more intensely about their position than those opposed – 39 percent are strongly supportive versus 24 percent who are strongly opposed.

The poll was conducted between Feb. 27 and Mar. 2, 2014.

I Am Harvey Milk Nominated for Independent Music Award



The SFGMC's original cast recording of *I Am Harvey Milk* has been nominated for "Best Soundtrack/Cast Recording" at the 13th Independent Music Awards. The part choral work, part theater piece, weaves the story of Harvey Milk's life with music and words by Tony and Grammy Award nominee Andrew Lipka, who sang the role of Harvey Milk. Visit www.sfgmc.org.



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Entertainment

Megan Hilty Sure To Be a Smash at Feinstein's in SF

After two seasons, the New York City-set musical soap opera *Smash* gave up the ghost, leaving theater queens without their weekly TV fix of belting and backstabbing.

The show's plotlines and dialogue were often unrealistic, but *Smash* showcased a great deal of talent both behind and in front of the camera, and the musical production numbers were entertaining in a slick, post-*Glee* kind of way.

Of all the top-tier talent on *Smash*, nobody was more smashing than the curvaceous blonde Megan Hilty, a real Broadway broad playing a wannabe Broadway baby.

Hilty, who is best known for having played Ivy Lynn on *Smash*, has been seen on the small screen in the recent sitcom *Sean Saves the World* and on Broadway in *Wicked* and *9 to 5*.

The acclaimed singing actress also received rave reviews for starring in the New York City Center Encores! production of *Gentleman Prefer Blondes*.

Megan Hilty will play Feinstein's at the Nikko, which is located within San

Megan Hilty



Francisco's Nikko Hotel, April 12-13 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available by calling 866-663-1063 or visiting www.ticketweb.com.

Expressionist Sam Francis Lights Up The Crocker

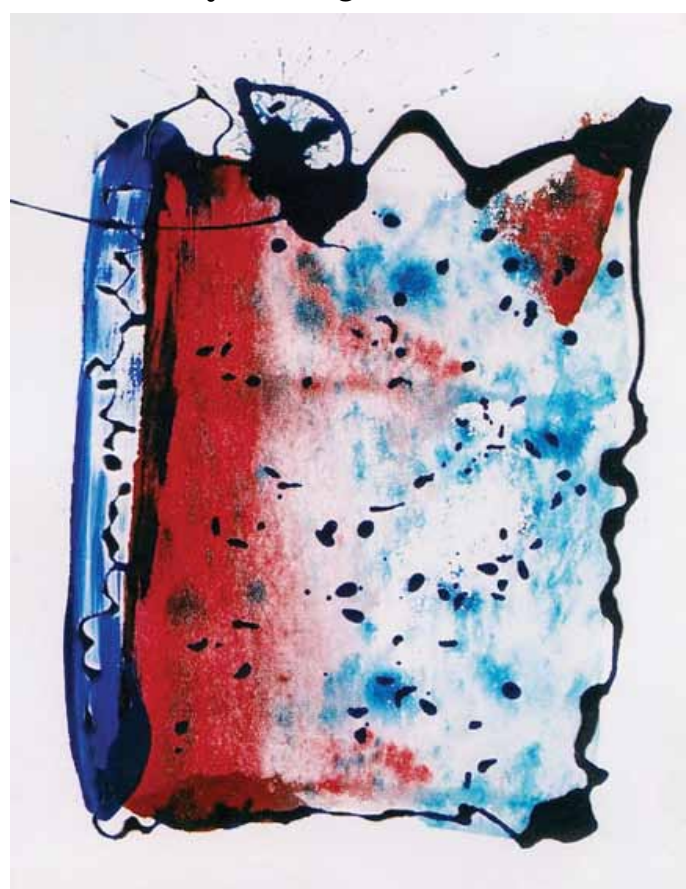
You have until Sunday, April 20 to check out *Sam Francis: Five Decades of Abstract Expressionism from California Collections*, currently showing at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

This exhibition celebrates internationally acclaimed California native Sam Francis, one of the state's most historically significant artists.

Featuring a colorful range of the artist's paintings and unique works on paper, this survey highlights different periods of the artist's oeuvre as represented in extraordinary public and private California collections.

The survey starts from early works that Francis made in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1940s leading up to the artist's influential and expansive body of work created between the 1950s and the 1990s.

For more information, please visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.



Sam Francis, Untitled, 1987, Acrylic on canvas.

Entertainment by Chris Narloch

Feel the Spirit with *Sister Act* Plus Bob Fosse & *4000 Miles*

It seems as if Blue Man Group has only just left town, and it's already time for another Broadway Sacramento show. This is good news for theater fans, since the next scheduled event is the Broadway musical blockbuster *Sister Act*.

Elsewhere, STC presents a tribute to Bob Fosse in early April, and Sacramento's Cap Stage mounts a wonderful new work by Amy Herzog.

Sister Act

Direct from Broadway, the divine new musical comedy *Sister Act* will fill the spirits of Sacramento theater fans this April when the smash hit sings

look – a convent.

A big success for star Whoopi Goldberg, the movie spawned a movie sequel, and now a Broadway musical that was coproduced by Goldberg.

You can hear the heavenly choir when *Sister Act* plays April 8-13 in Sacramento, and you can get a taste of the music at SisterActBroadway.com. Visit

camp out for longer than expected.

Still reeling from a personal tragedy, Leo learns life lessons from his aging granny, but they may not be the ones he, or the audience, anticipated.

4000 Miles plays through April 13 at Sacramento's Capital Stage. Visit www.capstage.org. **Give 'Em The Old Razzle**



Victoria Clark and Patina Miller in a scene from *Sister Act*.

and dances into the Community Center Theater.

Featuring original music by the award-winning composer of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, Alan Menken, and with additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane (of *Xanadu The Musical* fame), *Sister Act* is, of course, based on the 1992 film of the same name.

Sister Act follows one Deloris Van Cartier, a wannabe singer whose life takes a wild turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to

www.BroadwaySacramento.com. **4000 Miles**

If musicals aren't your bag, check out this lovely little dramedy by playwright Amy Herzog currently playing at Capital Stage.

Winner of the 2012 Obie Award for Best New Play, *4000 Miles* is an intimate, funny-sad story about growing up and finding your way home.

The 4000 miles in question describe the distance that twenty-one year old Leo has biked to get to his 91 year-old grandmother's Greenwich Village apartment, where he

Dazzle

This tribute to the musicals of Bob Fosse will grace the stage at Sacramento Theatre Company (STC) for one weekend in early April as part of their 2013-2014 Broadway Cabaret Series.

Featuring classic numbers from some of Fosse's finest shows on the intimate Cabaret Stage, *Give 'Em The Old Razzle Dazzle* will include songs from such works as *Damn Yankees*, *Sweet Charity*, *Pippin*, and *Chicago*.

Give 'Em The Old Razzle Dazzle plays April 3-5 at STC. For tickets, go to www.sactheatre.org or call 916-443-6722.

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Check in to *The Grand Budapest Hotel* Plus *Noah* Sets Sail at the Esquire IMAX

by Chris Narloch

They say variety is the spice of life, and that adage rings true in theaters right now, where movie lovers can choose between a big-budget version of the Noah's Ark story and a foul-mouthed comedy directed by and starring Jason Bateman.

I also look at the latest film from one of my favorite current American directors. **The Grand Budapest Hotel** Get thee to the Tower and see this lovely, star-studded comedy from Wes Anderson just as soon as you can. I shouldn't be surprised that the director of such charmers as *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Moonrise Kingdom* has assembled another dream cast for his latest movie.

Wes Anderson loves actors, and in *The Grand Budapest Hotel* he once again puts many of our finest living character actors through their paces playing wonderfully offbeat roles in a delightful story. That story recounts the adventures of Gustave H (Ralph Fiennes), a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars, and Zero Moustafa (Tony Revolori), the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. Also along for the glorious ride are Adrien Brody, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Saoirse Ronan, Jason Schwartzman, Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson and Owen Wilson. I hate to sound like an elitist, but in a movie era defined by crass comedies like *Bad*

Scorsese dud, Jason Bateman's directorial debut wears its four-letter words as a badge of honor. Scorsese at least had a true story to tell, whereas *Bad Words* feels completely fictional

should have. He's a funny guy, and he gets some fine performances out of an excellent supporting cast that includes Allison Janney, Kathryn Hahn and Philip Baker Hall. Best of all is Rohan Chand, a sly but very natural young actor of Indian descent who plays the main competition and would-be friend to Bateman's character. Unfortunately, *Bad Words* has a thin premise that isn't developed enough to sustain a full-length film, and the movie sells itself short with a mawkish psychological reveal towards the end that in no way excuses Bateman's rotten behavior towards innocent children.

Noah A blockbuster of biblical proportions, literally, *Noah* seems like the ultimate big-screen movie. That's why I plan to see it at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX, where Russell Crowe and company will ride out the great flood in a really big ark. Although biblical movies are almost always bad, this one could be an exception given the talent involved. In addition to Russell Crowe, who was born to play Noah, the new movie stars Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson and Anthony Hopkins as Methuselah. The film also has a genuinely talented director in Darren Aronofsky, who has made some very good movies, including *Black Swan*, *Pi* and *Requiem for a Dream*. Decide for yourself when *Noah* opens at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX on Thursday, March 27. Visit www.imax.com/sacramento.



Grandpa and *The Hangover*, I am truly grateful that a director as classy, and intelligent and talented as Wes Anderson is still making movies. **Bad Words** This raunchy, R-rated comedy gives *The Wolf of Wall Street* a run for its money in the profanity department. Like that Martin

from start to finish. Bateman stars as a mysterious contestant who enters a national spelling bee on a technicality and proceeds to make life hell for both the organizers and his much younger fellow contestants. I didn't have a problem with the film's crude language so much as its crude screenwriting. Bateman did not write the script, but maybe he

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Lambda Literary Award Finalists Include New Graphic Novel Category

The 26th Annual Lambda Literary Awards – or the “Lammys,” as they are affectionately known – mark another record-breaking year and usher in the debut of the new category of Graphic Novel.



A panel from Alex Woolfson's graphic novel *Artifice*, with illustrations by Winona Nelson. The novel is one of the first of four graphic novels nominated and is the Sci-fi story of Deacon, a prototype android soldier and a 19-year-old human outcast. You can read *Artifice* online at webcomics.yaoi911.com.

Finalists for the Lammys were announced March 6 by the Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF) in Los Angeles after reviewing a record 746 submissions (up from 687 last year) from 352 publishers (up from 332 last year).

Submissions came from major mainstream publishers and from academic presses, from both long-established and new LGBT publishers, as well as from emerging publish-on-demand technologies.

“Today is a day to celebrate the richness of our literature and to give hearty congratulations to our outstanding shortlisted authors and their publishers,” said LLF Executive Director, Tony Valenzuela. “The deep commitment to advance our community’s literature by our highly qualified volunteer judges who read and deliberate on the submitted books - and often anguish over the selection of finalists - make the Lammys possible.”

Now in their twenty-sixth year, the Lambda Literary Awards celebrate achievement in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) writing for books

published in 2013.

More than 90 literary professionals, including booksellers, book reviewers, librarians, authors, and previous Lammy winners and finalists volunteered countless hours of reading, critical thinking, and invigorating discussion to select the finalists in 24 categories.

“This is our fifth straight year of record-breaking Lambda Literary Award submissions,” said LLF Board President, S. Chris Shirley. “We’re especially excited to add an LGBT Graphic Novel category to accommodate their explosive growth over the past few years and to recognize the extraordinary talent behind them.”

Winners will be announced during a ceremony on Monday evening, June 2, 2014, at The Great Hall at Cooper Union in New York City. Details on the annual after-party location are forthcoming. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit: <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/>

To see a list of all the nominees, visit www.OutwordMagazine.com.

Here TV Debuts Its First Original Sitcom *From Here on OUT*



Here TV (www.heretv.com), the U.S.'s only gay television network, has announced the television premiere of *From Here on OUT*, its first-ever original sitcom. Written and created by Terry Ray, who also stars, the first two episodes make their television broadcast premiere on Friday, March 28. Can't wait, get a glimpse at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmHRnttzsRo&feature=youtu.be. outwordmagazine.com

Sexy Sara Evans to Sing at Country Uncorked

by Chris Narloch

Wine tasting, chocolate and great country music. Sign me up for that. Country Uncorked 2014 is shaping up to be the event of the spring for music fans who consider themselves a little bit country and a little bit rock ‘n’ roll.

The Old Sugar Mill in Clarksburg is the charming location for this must-see concert, featuring a headlining set by country queen Sara Evans and two new country hotties, Austin Webb and Jason Michael Carroll, as her opening acts.

Evans, a stunning brunette with a beautiful voice who appeared on *Dancing with the Stars* a few seasons back, is currently burning up the country charts with the single “Slow Me Down,” the first hit off her new CD of the same name.

Past Evans hits include “Born to Fly,” “Suds in the Bucket,” “A Real Fine Place to Start,” and the especially memorable heartbreaker off her last CD, “A Little Bit Stronger.”

General admission is only \$25 for all three



Sara Evans

performers, and your ticket to this concert under the stars includes the opportunity to purchase delicious food, olive oils, cheeses, gourmet treats, jewelry and much more.

Country Uncorked 2014 is scheduled for Monday, March 31. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for wine tasting and cheese and chocolate samplings at many of the Old Sugar Mill wineries. Parking is free, and the music starts at 6:30 p.m.. This is a 21 and over only event.

For tickets, please visit www.OldSugarMill.com.

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Kids in Lesbian Families Score Higher on Self-Esteem

Adolescents with continuously-coupled lesbian mothers had higher self-esteem and fewer conduct problems (such as rule-breaking, vandalism or getting into fights) than adolescents with continuously-coupled heterosexual parents, according to a new study from the Williams Institute.



Across other indicators of psychological adjustment, substance usage, and relationships with their parents, the study found that adolescents from intact two-mother lesbian families were comparable to those from intact mother-father families.

“By controlling for variables that might otherwise impact child outcomes, this study provides further evidence that raising children in families headed by same-sex couples is not a significant predictor of adolescent-parent relationships or of a child’s psychological adjustment,” said Principal Investigator Henny Bos, PhD., a former visiting international scholar at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law and professor at the University of Amsterdam.

The study compared 51 adolescents who have been participating in the Dutch Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (DLLFS) with a matched group of adolescents in heterosexual-parent families who were drawn from a large school-based survey in the Netherlands.

The two groups of adolescents were matched on age, gender, educational level, country of birth, and parental birth country. By including only families with continuously-coupled parents, the study

controlled for factors that might adversely affect outcomes, such as parental divorce.

“Ours is the first study to compare adolescents in intact two-mother planned lesbian families with a matched group of adolescents from intact heterosexual-parent families,” said Nanette Gartrell, Williams Institute Visiting Distinguished Scholar. “This is important in exploring adolescent-parent relationships, as well as adolescent psychological adjustment and substance use, since parental divorce and re-partnering can affect all of the above.”

The study, “Lesbian and Heterosexual Two-Parent Families: Adolescent-Parent Relationship Quality and Adolescent Well-being,” was conducted by Loes van Gelderen, PhD (University of Amsterdam), Henny M.W. Bos, PhD (University of Amsterdam; Williams Institute Visiting International Scholar, 2012), and Nanette Gartrell, MD (Williams Institute Visiting Distinguished Scholar, University of Amsterdam; www.nllfs.org), and appears online in the current issue of the Journal of Child and Family Studies.

For more information, visit www.nllfs.org/images/uploads/pdf/adolescent-parent-relationship-quality.pdf.

Fred Phelps Dead at 84

Early in the morning of March 20, Fred Waldron Phelps, Sr., founder of Westboro Baptist Church, died in hospice care in Topeka. He was 84.

“Fred Phelps, Sr. passed away this morning, and we lift up his humanity especially as we know that his family is grieving his loss,” said GetEQUAL in a released statement. “Mr. Phelps caused very real pain and trauma for thousands of Americans, especially for those in the LGBTQ community but also for the families of fallen service members.

“It is our hope that those hurt by his words and actions will find healing. It is our hope that his family will one day find space in their hearts to recognize the humanity of LGBTQ individuals. And it is our hope that people across the United States commit or re-commit themselves to working toward equality and justice for all as a lasting legacy of Mr. Phelps’ life.

“There will always be those who are so in

pain themselves that they feel compelled to inflict pain on others. We re-commit ourselves today to loving those who hate us. We re-commit ourselves today to seeing the humanity in those who cannot or will not see it in us. And we re-commit ourselves today to working toward an America that is free of that pain – an America in which LGBTQ folks can live and love openly.

“On this day, we stand with our LGBTQ sisters and brothers across the country to say, with certainty, that we see that day over the horizon and that we will work until our hands bleed to bring about that day with a deep and abiding urgency.”

GetEQUAL is a national social justice organization working toward the full equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Americans.



The Myth About Transgender-Inclusive Bathrooms

Blogentry by Carlos Maza, Media Matters for America

For as long as the transgender community has fought for protection from discrimination in public spaces, conservatives have peddled the myth that sexual predators will exploit non-discrimination laws to sneak into women’s restrooms.

Experts have repeatedly debunked the myth, but that hasn’t stopped conservative media outlets from promoting fake news stories to fear monger about trans-inclusive bathrooms.

That fear has been an extremely effective tool for scaring people into voting against even basic protections for transgender people, which is why conservatives routinely use the phrase “bathroom bill” to describe laws prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations.

When conservative media outlets attack non-discrimination laws for transgender people, they almost exclusively focus on bathroom and locker room facilities.

That fear is baseless, however, completely unsupported by years of evidence from states that already have non-discrimination laws on the books.

In a new Media Matters report, experts from 12 states - including law enforcement officials, state human rights workers, and sexual assault victims advocates, debunk the myth that non-discrimination laws have any relation to incidents of sexual assault or harassment in public restrooms.

Last year, for example, the Christian Broadcasting Network reported an incident in which a male student, claiming to be transgender, was allegedly harassing female students in the school’s restrooms. The story was picked up by news outlets like the *Daily Mail* and *Examiner* and eventually made its way onto Fox Nation.

The story was a complete fabrication, manufactured by the Pacific Justice Institute (PJI), a hate group working to repeal a

BATHROOMS
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California law protecting transgender students. Cristan Williams, a reporter at *The Transadvocate*, reached out to the school's superintendent, who reported no incidents of harassment at the high school.

Daily Mail took down its report on the incident, and *Examiner* published a retraction apologizing for its failure to fact-check the story. Fox Nation didn't note the correction, however, and Fox's Sean Hannity continued to peddle PJI's discredited horror stories about trans-inclusive restrooms.

The claim that sexual predators will exploit non-discrimination laws to sneak into women's restrooms is a lie, plain and simple. It's a lie that does tremendous damage to efforts to protect transgender people from violence and harassment, which often occur in public restrooms.

It's a lie that persists because conservative media outlets would rather tout made-up stories about sexual harassment than fact-check the anti-LGBT groups who invent those stories from whole cloth.

Carlos Maza has been a researcher at Equality Matters since February of 2011. He graduated from Wake Forest University in 2010 with a degree in political science. He can be reached at MediaMatters.org.

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The Pride Awards Reception & Award Presentation

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Soul Kings and Soul Queens Reviewed on CD

Toni Braxton, Beyonce, & Aloe Blacc Are Back

by Chris Narloch

All things being cyclical in the recording industry, I knew that if I waited, patiently superb soul music and soul singing would come back in style.

This seems to be happening now, and the proof is in these five fine examples of how to make an R&B record.

Toni Braxton and Babyface *Love, Marriage & Divorce*

I hadn't realized how much Toni Braxton and Babyface have been missed until I received a review copy of their terrific new CD. The pair has reteamed for a concept disc about love, sex and relationships that actually works.

Braxton's voice is as lovely as ever, and her sultry vocals are a perfect match for Babyface's emotional, sexy style. She sings two songs by herself ("I Wish" and "I'd Rather Be Broke") and he has one solo ("I Hope That You're Okay"), but the other tracks are all duets.

The CD is worth buying for the magnificent "Where Did We Go Wrong?" alone. The good news is that most of the other tracks (especially "Rollercoaster" and "Hurt You") are almost as good as that stunner, making this one of the finest old-school R&B records of the year.

Beyonce – *Beyonce*

B's self-titled CD dropped out of the sky without any advance notice or pre-publicity, leading me to suspect that it was a dud the record company was trying to dump. I should have known better.

The crafty, cutting edge diva and her record label were only trying to stay one step ahead of bootleggers and file sharers who have been getting a hold of music before official release dates.

If you were put off, like I was, by Beyonce's previous mediocre CD (4), this excellent effort finds her back on track in a big way. The singer may have settled comfortably into marriage and motherhood in her personal life, but musically she is as sexy as ever.

More adventurous (and better) than any of her previous solo records, Beyonce's fifth

studio CD makes it clear that the R&B diva has been listening to artists like Miguel and Frank Ocean, whose neo-soul and 21st Century funk inform much of *Beyonce*.

Ocean even turns up on the disc to collaborate with B on "Superpower," and his trippy influences are also felt on many of the CD's best tracks, including "Haunted," "Pretty Hurts," and "Jealous."

Beyonce's other collaborators on the CD are equally

great Bill Withers on much of *Lift Your Spirit*, his latest disc.

Blacc includes a wonderful, acoustic version of "Wake Me Up" that puts the emphasis on his vocal, and his new single, "The Man," is just as good. The entire CD is very strong, in fact, with standout potential hits in "Here Today" and "Red Velvet Seat."

Jennifer Holliday – *The Song Is You*

If you've never seen Jennifer Holliday sing her original version of the big ballad from *Dreamgirls* ("And I'm Telling You, I'm Not Going"), go to YouTube and watch her perform it on the Tony Awards telecast from 1982.

Holliday tears into that song like a tornado, and since she has one of the biggest, most soulful voices in the history of popular music, she gets away with it. *The Song Is You* is the CD her fans have been waiting patiently for.

Her first solo release in 15 years, and her first pop effort in 23 years, the CD is essential listening for fans of classic soul. Recorded with live strings and horns, this is probably the finest recording Holliday has made since the cast recording of *Dreamgirls*.

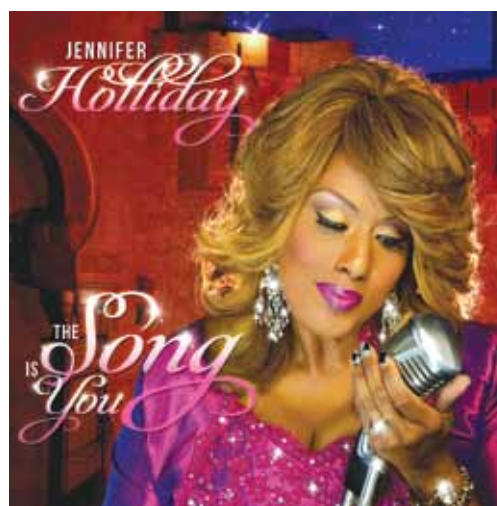
Only a great singer like Holliday could take on iconic songs such as "At Last," "The Look of Love," and "Nobody Does It Better" and actually pull them off. Her song choices are

impeccable, and the newer material is just as good, including another great masochistic ballad, co-written by Holliday ("The One You Used To Be"), that took me back to her *Dreamgirls* heyday.

Earth, Wind & Fire – *Now, Then & Forever*

Although they continue to tour on a regular basis, we haven't heard much new music from this '70s soul supergroup lately. *Now, Then & Forever* puts an end to a long dry spell, and this 2013 release is a gift to their loyal fans.

Their first effort in eight years finds EW&F mining the same, smooth jazz and soul vein they perfected several decades ago. Top tracks include the jazz interlude "Splashes," the very funky "Night Of My Life," and the spiritual ballad "Guiding Lights."



distinguished. Jay Z turns up on the lusty "Drunk In Love" and Drake joins the singer for a lovely ballad entitled "Mine."

Aloe Blacc – *Lift Your Spirit*

This talented soul singer exploded on the music scene in 2013 providing the vocal on Avicii's global smash "Wake Me Up," an anthemic dance track that succeeded mostly because of his passionate singing.

Blacc is back in 2014 with a CD all his own to prove that he is not a one-hit wonder. He has finally found the recipe for success after kicking around the recording industry for a number of years.

Thanks to Bruno Mars and his retro R&B, old-school soul music is popular on the radio again, and Blacc fits firmly into that arena. His rich, powerful pipes remind me of the

Pool Parties Sparkle with Rose Pomegranate Martini

Summer is just around the corner, and pool parties and trips to the beach can't be far behind. Lazing in the sun can be a lot of work, though, and to help keep up your strength we thought we would share a tasty tart and fruity cocktail recipe created by Elsie Larson of the popular lifestyle blog ABeautifulMess.com.

Her Rose Pomegranate Martini is made by infusing vodka with White Rose Tea from Numi Organic Tea. Numi's White Rose Tea blends the smoothness of delicate, organic white tea with whole organic rose buds. This flowery cocktail is perfect for summer as the warmer weather approaches or to whip up in honor of Mother's Day!

Below, is the full recipe for Elsie's Rose Pomegranate Martini - including rose petal confetti:

Rose Pomegranate Martini ingredients (serves one)

- Vodka
- Numi Organic White Rose Tea
- Sweet Vermouth
- Pomegranate juice
- Fresh mint leaves
- Cherry bitters
- Aromatic bitters
- Rose petals
- Honey

To infuse the vodka with Numi Organic White Rose Tea:

Pour 1 cup vodka into a container and add one tea bag. Seal the container (mason jars work great for this!) and let it sit for a few hours or overnight in a cool dark spot. When it's done your vodka should be amber colored (like sweet tea).

To make the rose petal confetti:

Chop colored rose petals into tiny bits, like confetti. Use a clean paint brush to brush honey onto one side of the rim of your glass. Be sure to keep the honey only on the outside of the glass, not the inside.

Press the honeyed rim onto the rose petal bits until it is completely covered with confetti!

NOTE: If you want your rose petals to be edible, be sure to buy organic roses.

To make the cocktail:

In a shaker, combine 1.5 ounces pomegranate juice, 1.5 ounces vodka infused with white rose tea, half an ounce of sweet vermouth, 1 dash of each bitter and 3-5 broken mint leaves. Shake with ice and pour into your pre-garnished cocktail glass.

Elsie writes, "Sometimes floral drinks can get a little overwhelming and taste a little more on the potpourri side, but this tea was perfect for getting all the flavor I like without going too far."

You can see her entire blog post on the process (and gorgeous photography!) at www.abeautifulmess.com/2014/02/rose-pomegranate-martini.html.



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My goal is to raise \$2,500.00!

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If you want to see how I am doing, bookmark my fundraising page and come back often!

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* Source: Health and Access to Care and Coverage for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals in the U.S. The Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief, January 2014