No. 527 • April 23, 2015 • outwordmagazine.com

Time for Sunseekers to Head to Maui

page 16

# Bond Inspires SGMC's 30 Year Journey

page 10

# Belinda Carlisle to Headline Sac Pride

page 12

Dan Savage Set to Speak at Mondavi

page 18

Drag Queen Bingo On-Target page 22



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> GRAPHIC DESIGN Ron Tackitt

EDITOR Charles Peer editor@outwordmagazine.com

> ARTS EDITOR Chris Narloch

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Diana Kienle Frances Marlatt Colt McGraw Chris Narloch Bonnie Osborn Charles Peer

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# Sacramento LGBT Community Center Expands Board

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center has announced the addition of five new members to its board of directors. The appointments are for two-year terms.

"We are privileged to have the diversity of experience and perspective these five additions bring to our board and the leadership they will provide as we continue the Center's growth and ability to serve the LGBT community," said David Heitstuman, the Center's board president.

Additions to the Center's 15-member board include:

Tre Borden, a Yale graduate and art advocate and curator who recently headed the Bright Underbelly mural placed under the W/X Freeway and curated the Warehouse Artist Lofts on R Street installation that opened in January.

These bogus and dangerous conversion

therapy services have no basis in science and

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Carlos Marquez, the Political Director for the California Charter Schools Association and former executive with American Civil Liberties Union, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and San Diego LGBT Community Center.

Melissa McMurrey, who works for California Prison Industries Authority and has served in multiple leadership roles within the LGBTQ community, including being the first Division Leader of Gay Porterville; Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Lifeguard Facilitator for The Trevor Project; 2nd Vice President and General Member of Lion's International, Visalia Pride Lions Chapter; and Chapter Leader for Marriage Equality USA Tulare-Kings County.

Poshi Mikalson, the Director of the California LGBTQ Reducing Disparities Project and the LGBTQ Program Director for NorCal MHA. Mikalson was the lead author and editor of the groundbreaking report First, Do No Harm: Reducing Disparities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Questioning Populations in California.

Full biographies are available at www. saccenter.org/boardofdirectors.

# President Obama Calls for Banning Conversion Therapy commentary by Sam Wolfe, Southern Poverty Law Center

President Obama's public support for a nationwide ban against the harmful practice of conversion therapy is an important step toward achieving equality for all LGBT youth and protecting them from the psychological abuse of being told they can and should change their sexual orientation.



American medical, psychiatric, psychological and professional counseling organizations.

Not only does conversion therapy cause devastating harm to young people, as the American Psychological Association has noted, it promotes a climate of bigotry and discrimination against the LGBT community.

Park

Therapists who claim to be able to change sexual orientation also are defrauding their customers as they prey on the vulnerability of youth and their families. We're currently suing a New Jersey provider, called JONAH, under that state's consumer fraud statute. Its services can cost more than \$10,000 each year.

In February, New Jersey Superior Court Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. ruled that misrepresenting homosexuality as a disorder while marketing conversion therapy services is a violation of state law. This ruling marked the first time a U.S. court has found that it's fraudulent as a matter of law for conversion therapists to tell clients they have a mental disorder that can be cured.

In a separate order, Bariso wrote that "the theory that homosexuality is a disorder is not novel, but – like the notion that the earth is flat and the sun revolves around it – instead is outdated and refuted."

There's also nothing novel about banning practices based on the harm they cause. It's time for our political leaders to catch up with the science and to ban this harmful, fraudulent practice.

Sam Wolf is a staff attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center. He can be reached at www.splcenter.org



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# **Resolution To End Conversion Therapy Re-introduced**

Congresswoman Jackie Speier has re-introduced the Stop Harming Our Kids (SHOK) Resolution, the first proposed federal action to put an end to so-called "conversion therapy."

The Stop Harming Our Kids Resolution calls on states to protect minors from efforts that promote or promise to change the gender identity or sexual orientation of individuals. Welcoming the resolution, said:

"We must put a stop to the dangerous practice of 'reparative therapy' and Congresswoman Speier's Stop Harming Our Kids resolution is an important step in that direction," said National Center for Transgender Equality Executive (NCTE) Director Mara Keisling. "Discredited by every major mental health organization in the U.S., these unsafe programs take advantage of vulnerable transgender and LGB kids and their parents. Today's resolution draws attention to these baseless programs and encourages states to take steps to protect minors from these efforts."

# Paperworks Holds Up Trans Soldiers Assignment to Duty

Shane Ortega is a Sergeant in the U.S. Army at Wheeler Airfield in Oahu and is a femaleto-male transgender who transitioned on active duty over four years ago. While posted in Fort Wainwright, Alaska in 2011, he began to live in accordance with his male gender identity.

After a voluntary Psychological Evaluation a few weeks ago, his results returned negative for gender dysphoria and the U.S. Army deemed him fit to perform his normal duties without facing separation orders. However, he is in administrative limbo because his gender marker in the Military Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is still listed as female. Sgt. Ortega's Command has requested clear guidance from the DOD as to whether this means Shane can stay in the military or not.

"My commitment to serving this country runs deep. I have been a team and squad leader, a crew chief, and a machine gun section chief. I have been on over 400 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and fought side-by-side in foxholes and remote operating bases." said Sgt. Ortega. "As I fight for my country in foreign lands, all I want it is to be able to serve openly while keeping the job that I love. I will continue to fight this fight for the 700,000 transgender veterans that have gone before me who were forced to choose between serving their country and being true to who they are."

# FL House Passes Bill Allowing Adoption Discrimination

The Florida House of Representatives has passed a bill that authorizes state-contracted child placement agencies to deny children in state custody foster or adoption placements if the placement would violate the agency's "religious or moral convictions," even if those placements are in the best interests of the child. The bill, HB 7111, passed on a 75 to 38 vote

"The bill is clearly motivated by an animus towards the LGBT community, but the effects will be much broader," said ACLU of Florida Public Policy Director Michelle Richardson. "LGBT people, single or divorced people, interfaith couples, people of different faiths than the agencies, and others can be turned away from providing homes to children even if they are relatives of a child or if the parent would be the best-qualified by any child welfare standard.

# New Study Shows Support for the Freedom to Marry Accelerates When State Bans End

UCLA's Williams Institute has released a new report documenting that in states with the freedom to marry, support grows much more rapidly than in states that continue to exclude same-sex couples from marriage.

"The report confirms that marriage wins are a self-fulfilling engine of support: once the freedom to marry comes to a state, people see families helped and no one hurt, and support surges," said Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry. "The numbers solidly debunk opponents' desperate efforts to conjure up the spectre of an impending 'backlash' and underscore the unfairness of depriving people in the remaining 13 states of the informed choice that the end to discrimination provides."

In addition, the Williams Institute analysis again affirms the tremendous growth in support nationwide. Between 2012 and 2014, support grew at a remarkable clip of 6.2 percent per year. By 2016, the study projects that more than half of the 50 states will show super-majority support of 60 percent or higher.

# Sir Ian McKellen Announced as Trevor Hero Award Winner

Celebrating 16 years, The Trevor Project will honor Sir Ian McKellen with the Trevor Hero Award at "TrevorLIVE New York" on June 15. McKellen will be honored for his ongoing support of the LGBTQ community. Maine's Ryan Fecteau, the youngest openly gay state legislator, will be named the Youth Innovator Honoree for his on-going advocacy and commitment to equality, and Johnson & Johnson will be honored with the 20/20 Visionary Award.

A legend of the stage and screen, Sir Ian McKellen has been honored with over 50 international acting awards and is co-founder of Stonewall UK, which lobbies for legal and social equality for gay people. He is treasured worldwide as Magneto in the X-Men films and Gandolf in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies.



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# Equality California Announces 2015 Legislative Package

quality California has announced the first eight items in its 2015 legislative package which, if passed into law, would improve and advance equality for LGBT Californians and their families

# their families.

Equality California will announce additional legislation in the coming weeks.

"Collectively, these bills not only close some of the remaining gaps in California civil rights laws but also help advance EQCA's new objectives which are to address the health and well-being of LGBT Californians," said Rick Zbur, EQCA executive director.

The following bills are aimed at reducing disparities the LGBT community faces:

Reduce disparities in health and well-being for LGBT people through data collection.

AB 959, authored by Assemblymember David

Chiu, would require

government agencies to collect data on sexual orientation and gender identity whenever additional demographic data is collected.

# Collect data about LGBT Californians through Covered California and Medi-Cal.

In tandem with AB 959, EQCA is leading a coalition advocating that the paper and online applications for Covered California and Medi-Cal, which together will insure one-third of all Californians, includes voluntary questions about sexual orientation and gender identity.

# Help teachers combat bullying and support LGBT youth.

As proposed to be amended, AB 827, authored by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, would create a teacher training program that would aid teachers in identifying and assisting LGBT students who may need particular support in the coming out process or dealing with bias-based bullying.

Require out-of-state companies who contract with the state of California to

# faces: relationships.

AB 329, authored by Assemblymember Shirley Weber, would update and strengthen existing law to ensure that students receive sex education that is accurate, comprehensive, medically accurate, age-

appropriate and inclusive. End discrimination against

provide insurance benefits to

SB 703, authored by Senator Mark Leno,

prohibits state agencies from doing business

with companies that fail to offer transgender

Update existing law to ensure that sex

employees the same healthcare coverage

and benefits they offer all other workers.

education is inclusive of LGBT

transgender employees.

## transgender jurors.

AB 87, authored by Assemblymember Mark Stone, would prohibit discrimination against transgender jurors in the jury selection process in California courts. The bill also makes clear that jury selection discrimination based on ethnicity, age, genetic information, or disability is prohibited as well.

#### Protect all parents equally.

AB 960, authored by Assemblymember David Chiu, would modernize California's assisted reproduction laws to protect families using assisted reproduction.

#### Ensure that private organizations that discriminate do not benefit from a state employee charitable giving program.

AB 1050, authored by Assemblymember Evan Low, would require that all charities eligible for donations through a state employee giving program are screened to ensure that they do not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

For more information visit www.eqca.org.



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# **Davis Feminist Film Festival Celebrates Art and Activism**

The 10th annual Davis Feminist Film Festival is bringing a new selection of cutting-edge short films to the Veteran's Memorial Center Theatre in Davis, that showcases narrative, documentary and experimental works.

This film festival links art to social issues and exposes audiences to perspectives often missing from mainstream media. The films featured this year are variously funny, sad, charming, quirky, disturbing, entertaining,

May 1st, will feature a block of short films, followed by a feature length documentary. A full listing of each night's film line-up is available on the festival website at femfilmfest.ucdavis.edu. Tickets are are



A scene from the Friday night feature film In The Turn, a documentary about a queer roller derby collective, follows Crystal, a 10-year-old transgender girl growing up in rural Canada.

and thought-provoking.

Filmmakers represent many countries around the world, including Cuba, Iran, South Africa, France, Spain, Iraq and Lebanon. The program is curated by students in a class at UC Davis who gain hands-on experience with festival organizing. Both nights of the festival, April 30th &

available in advance at the Women's Resources and Research Center (WRRC) on the UC Davis Campus, or at the door the night of the festival. Tickets are by suggested donation - Students \$5 to \$10, and General \$10 to \$15. A reception with food and beverages for sale will start at 6:30 p.m., films begin at 7 p.m.



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SGMC

# Brotherhood Bond Inspires SGMC's 30 Year Journey

by Bonnie Osborn

s they count down the days until their one-night-only 30th anniversary concert spectacular, Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus members are thinking about where they began and

# how far they've come.

On May 8, the chorus will present *Milestones: Our Journey Continues* before its largest audience, in the largest venue, of its 30-year history, Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium – a far cry from the group's first concert in spring 1985, performed at tiny St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 15th and J.

"I'm proud of the artistic quality that has evolved under Musical Director Steven Johnson



"Larry & the Lavenders" in the SGMC concert BeBob & Bobby Sox, June 1998, with Joey Santora Brown, Russ Marsh and Larry Woodward.

and heartened to find how many men who love to sing have found a home with the chorus," said Dennis Mangers, a founding member of the chorus, although he no longer sings with the group. "I am also gratified to find that the environment for the LGBT community has changed to the point where gay men and their straight allies in music are comfortable now calling themselves a 'gay' chorus. Such was not the case 30 years ago, when we were at risk in our employment and subject to other forms of discrimination."

Indeed, the chorus name was a topic of debate off and on for years. In the end the group was named Sacramento Men's Chorus.

"Even though by our statement, our programs, our supporters, everybody knew it was a gay group, our name allowed us the opportunity to work with the larger musical and arts community," Kwong says, noting that the chorus has performed with the Sacramento Choral Society, the Sacramento Philharmonic, Sacramento Ballet and Sacramento Opera as well as at senior centers and LGBT community events over the years.

In 2005 the chorus was renamed the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus. "There were straight members of the chorus then, and there are now," Kwong says.

"I don't think we thought about politics going into it," says Frank Lasso-Lawler, founding member and three-time president of the chorus. "It really was a shelter, a place for people to socialize, have fun and sing."

Twenty-five to 30 men attended the first rehearsals in fall 1984, in an old building in Oak Park then owned by Metropolitan Community Church. There were springs beneath the floor of the second-floor ballroom floor, Kwong remembers, and you sank when you walked across it.

The group did a lot of cabaret shows in the early days, Lasso-Lawler says, performing at Garbo's, audience members threw flowers and candy onto the stage. After rehearsals the group would often gather at Alhambra Fuel and Transport, where they gathered around the piano, Lasso-Lawler recalls. "They gave us free drinks as long as we were singing," he says.

Following the first concerts at St. Paul's, chorus members would treat the audience to cookies and champagne. "We didn't sing as well back then but we sure had a lot of fun," Lasso-Lawler says.

But the chorus's early years were also the beginning years of the AIDS crisis. More than 50 chorus members have been lost to HIV/AIDS, including two founding members instrumental in starting the chorus, Steve Mabs and Rick Whitnah. "I think to most members, the chorus is our family," Kwong says. "When we lose a chorus member we all feel it."

The chorus has ranged in size over the years from just 18 singers to its current 70-voicesstrong. Steven Johnson, who became musical director in 2012, further professionalized the group and pushed it to sell out performances in larger venues, such as Sacramento's Crest Theater.

The May 8 Milestones show pulls out all the stops, featuring guest performances by operatic soprano Carrie Hennessey, the Sacramento Children's Chorus and Aerial Evolution. Arteen Kharrat of AMP'D Entertainment, which counts the Golden Globe Awards and the Oscars among his clients, designed lighting for the production. Rob Stewart of KVIE's "Rob on the Road" will emcee.



Members of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus celebrating after a 4 1/2 hour rehearsal for *Milestones: Our Journey Continues.* Photo by Steven Johnson.

The 30-year milestone has prompted many of the chorus members to reflect on how both chorus and society have changed. "Thirty years ago not that many people knew someone who was gay," Kwong says. "Once you know someone, it becomes more personal, you lose the fear.

"Enjoying the sound of a chorus singing is such a common denominator among all people."

Lasso-Lawler has detected a change in audience reaction. "We are appreciated for different reasons now," he says. "Now to see the audiences walking out with excitement and high energy, I get a feeling of electricity."

For the chorus members themselves, the love of singing is important, but it is being part of something larger than themselves that keeps them coming back. "It always comes back to the brotherhood, the support we give each other," Lasso-Lawler says.

Tickets for *Milestones: Our Journey Continues* are \$25 or \$40 for VIP seating and may be purchased at http://www.sacgaymenschorus.org/ buy-tickets.php, at the Gifted Gardener, or from any chorus member.





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#### (12) Outword Magazine

April 23, 2015 - May 14, 2015 • No. 527

# **Singer Belinda Carlisle to Headline Sacramento Pride**

by Bonnie Osborn

elinda Carlisle, perhaps best known as the lead vocalist of The Go-Go's, one of the most successful all-female bands of all time will be the headline act at this year's Sacramento Pride Festival on Saturday, June 6.



After leaving the Go-Go's in 1984, Carlisle's first solo album, 1986's Belinda, included the single "Mad About You," which went gold, followed in 1987 by "Heaven on Earth," which included the number one title track, the number two single "I Get Weak," and the Top Ten ballad "Circle in the Sand." Runaway Horses, released in 1989, spawned hit singles "Leave a Light On" and "Summer Rain."

Carlisle rejoined The Go-Go's in 1994 for a short-lived but widely acclaimed reunion, then returned to her solo career. Her most recent new solo album. Voila, was released in 2007. After touring with a reunited Go-Go's early in the 2010s, Carlisle released a new song called "Sun" as part of the 2013 compilation album Icon.

Further catalog releases appeared in the next year, including double-disc reissues from Edsel in 2014 and a new compilation called The Collection.

"Carlisle's star turn in Sacramento is expected to boost attendance and draw guests from throughout Northern California," said Donald Bentz, executive director of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. "We are thrilled to be able to bring such a talented and renowned performer as Belinda Carlisle to Sacramento – we think 2015 is going to be the biggest and best Sacramento Pride Festival ever!"

Carlisle will headline a full schedule of live entertainment on the festival's Main Stage of the day-long celebration of LGBT pride. This year's festivities will also include the

Sacramento Pride Parade. More than 15,000 visitors from Sacramento and Northern California are expected to attend the festival, which will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 6 at Sacramento's Capitol Mall. Sacramento Pride is a program of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and is the largest source of funding for the Center's programs and services.

The event will feature displays by hundreds of local businesses and non-profit organizations. live entertainment on two stages, Dance Pavilion, Pet Pavilion sponsored by Lasher Subaru Elk Grove, where pets will be available for adoption; a Kids Zone; an Art Zone featuring work of local artists, sponsored by Crocker Art Museum; food trucks and refreshing beverages.

Tickets are \$10, children five and under are free; tickets may be purchased online in May, at www.sacramentopride.org or at the gates.

Sacramento Pride sponsors include Markstein Beverage (Budweiser), Outword Magazine, California Endowment, Lasher Subaru Elk Grove, Wells Fargo, Barefoot Winery, Cares Community Health, Regional Transit, Crocker Art Museum, Safeway, Comcast, Western Health Advantage, HP, and SMUD.

To learn about becoming a Pride sponsor or exhibitor, visit www.sacramentopride.org/ sponsors.shtml or www.sacramentopride.org/ exhibitors.shtml.

# **Cyclist Sets Goal of 1,000** Miles for HIV/AIDS Services by Charles Peer

acramentan Miguel Diaz has set an ambitious – and grueling - goal for himself, cycling 1,000 miles within a year's time to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS services.

Diaz has been in training for this year's rides for months, but his odyssey will kick into high gear on May 15 when he will join the other over 100 riders of the NorCal AIDS Cycle as they head out on a 330 mile, four day ride through the Northern Sacramento Valley.

With little time for rest and recuperation, he will than begin the second leg of his journey, the 545-mile AIDS/LifeCycle from San Francisco to Los Angeles on May 31. Then he is off to Santa Cruz for the 100 mile Surf City Aids ride on September 20 and he will the complete the 1,000 miles on February 15 at the 100 mile Tour of Palms Springs.

Diaz has done the NorCal AIDS Cycle eight times now and the longer AIDS/ Lifecycle once before. To do those rides takes a lot of training. "I have over a thousand miles already this year" he told Outword in a recent conversation. "With all of the training and rides my goal is to have 2015 miles in 2015 for Aids and HIV research and education."

Diaz, who is 46, has been HIV+ for 32 years. To look at him though, he is the picture of good health, in no small part due to the many hours on the bike, but also to the support he has received from family, friends and the Sacramento Community

As if riding those 1,000 miles wasn't daunting enough, he must also commit to raising funds on the rides. "I need to raise \$5,000, but I can't do it on my own" he



Miguel Diaz (center) riding into Cesar Chavez Plaza after completing the 2014 NorCal AIDS Cycle.

said. "This is a passion for me, to be able to ride for those that can't, and I love helping my community that helped me once when I needed it."

Please follow this link to donate to NorCal AIDS Cycle: norcalaidscycle.kintera.org/faf/ donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1114437 &lis=0&kntae1114437=31885781E5AA4007 83B2D091CCC9277B&supid=417999438

Please followthis link below to make a donation to AIDS/LifeCycle: www.tofighthiv. org/site/TR/Events/AIDSLifeCycleCenter?px =2755055&pg=personal&fr\_id=1770 To learn more about the NorCal AIDS

Cycle, visit norcalaidscycle.org.

# Cheer Sacramento Cheers Up Happy Hour

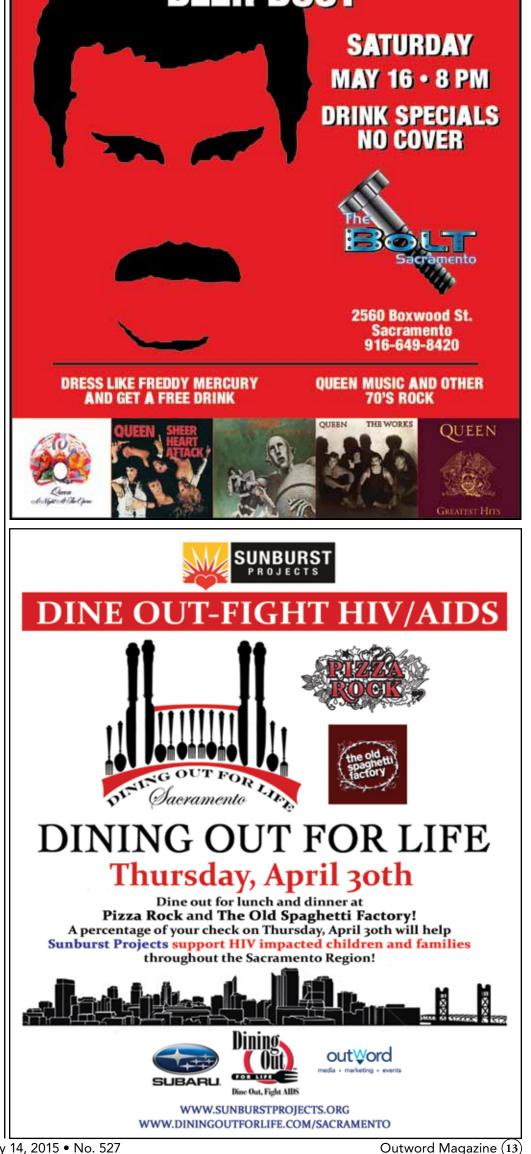
Cheer Sacramento came to Outword's Happy Hour at Badlands on Friday, April 10 and put on quite a show. See more photos of the team, and download them for free, at outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com





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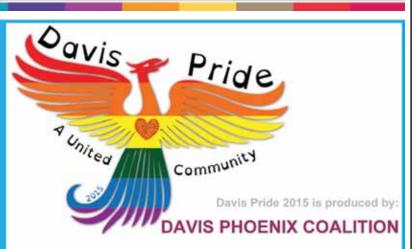
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# **Don't Miss** *Toulouse-Lautrec* & Gambatte!

wo not-to-be-missed shows are winding down this month at local museums. If you haven't already seen Gambatte! Legacy • of an Enduring Spirit at the California Museum and the Toulouse-Lautrec exhibit at the Crocker, what are you waiting for?

#### **Crocker Art Museum**

Between 1880 and 1910, Paris was a breeding ground for artistic and literary movements that came to define a shifting, complex society. Modernity took various forms, including the work of the Naturalists, the Symbolists, the Incohérents and the Nabis, but the art of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864–1901) epitomized the new tendencies.

With his art as a central focus, the exhibit Toulouse-Lautrec and La Vie Moderne: Paris 1880-1910 investigates a generation of artists who sought to shake off the constraints of French Academic standards. A special focus of the show is the

Paris 1880-1910 ends April 26. Go to www. crockerartmuseum.org.

#### The California Museum

Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit is an all new traveling photography exhibit documenting the legacy of Japanese American citizens who were relocated to internment camps under Executive Order 9066, issued on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Through historic images shot by War **Relocation Authority staff photographers** Dorothea Lange, Tom Parker and others juxtaposed with contemporary images of the same individuals taken by The Sacramento Bee photojournalist Paul



#### Toulouse-Lautrec and La Vie Moderne: Paris 1880-1910

intoxicating gathering of artists, writers, performers and musicians in Montmartre, where everyone from Toulouse-Lautrec to Sarah Bernhardt and Paul Verlaine worked amid the swirl of cafés, concerts, circuses, and theatres.

Toulouse-Lautrec and La Vie Moderne:

Kitagaki, Jr., the exhibit reveals the legacy of strength and perseverance that allowed a generation of Californians to triumph over adversity.

Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit exhibits through May 3. Please visit www. californiamuseum.org.

# Keiko Matsui Plays Feinstein's

🗖 an Francisco's Hotel Nikko and Michael Feinstein Uwelcome internationally acclaimed pianist, composer and humanitarian Keiko Matsui to Feinstein's at the Nikko, an intimate 140-seat venue, for three performances only - Thursday, May 7; Friday, May 8; and Saturday, May 9.

Keiko Matsui made her U.S. recording debut in 1987 with the release of A Drop of Water. Under Northern Lights followed in 1989 and in 1997, she launched a tour dedicated to raising awareness of breast cancer and released a four-song CD entitled A Gift of Hope that benefitted the Y-Me Breast Cancer Organization.

Matsui's 2001 CD Deep Blue topped Billboard's Contemporary Jazz charts for three consecutive weeks. (Matsui is the first



Japanese artist to achieve this honor.)

Tickets for Keiko Matsui range in price from \$45-\$60 and are available now by calling 866-663-1063 or visiting www. ticketweb.com.

Also, if you missed Casey Breves' first appearance at Feinstein's, you have a second chance as he will be making a one-night only appearance on June 3. Tickets will sell fast, so get them early at www.ticketweb.com. caseybreves.com.

Sunday, May 3, 2015

# Let's Make It Crystal Clear!

Like the revolution of utilizing the right shape for the right varietal.

Riedel Crystal, also known as The Wine Glass Company, is family-owned and operated. They are recognized worldwide for their design of glasses and decanters to maximize the enjoyment of wine and spirits.

I know there are doubters that the shape, size, and structure of the vessel make a

that many glasses. You will be served well with Riedel Bordeaux crystal glasses that can readily be found. If you have the desire and resources, enjoy and maximize your experience with different glasses for the main varietals.

For fun, do a side-by-side comparison



Georg Reidel discussing the question of what glass to use with what wine at a presentation held at the Miner Family Winery in Napa. Photo by © Cathy Schwamberger.

difference to the aroma and flavors. It will smell and taste like it should – right? This session was definitely set up to challenge those who say it isn't so.

Riedel positioned his discussion with us from the perspective of enhancing our wine experience and giving us a bit of a "problem." The problem: What glass to use with what wine?

Each place was set with a bottle of water, a red Solo cup, an empty plastic cup, and three plastic cups filled with three different wines. Placed in front of that were three Riedel crystal glasses from their Sommelier Series. They're crafted in a particular way to highlight the aromas and tastes of different wines. How much of a difference could they make, you ask? Frankly, quite a bit.

The process began with just water to demonstrate where each glass delivered the liquid and to heighten our awareness of the cold and level of refreshment. We moved through each wine and each glass to compare what could be discerned in the nose and on the palate. It was definitely an experience!

The contention again is that the shape of the vessel is specific for maximum pleasure. Clearly, there was a difference. Each one showed differences in fragrances and tastes – it was a matter of showing and revealing what was there. To quote Riedel, there was "No hocus pocus. Only physics."

While Riedel Crystal makes many glasses for many different wine varieties, it may not be practical on a day-to-day basis to have

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with crystal and plastic cups to demonstrate to yourself the difference a good glass will make. Above all else, you should enjoy! Cheers!

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www. dianaswineblog.com. She can be reached at diana@ dianaswineblog.com.









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Outword Magazine (15)

# Mondavi Center



#### Dan Savage WED, MAY 6 • 8PM

Dan Savage is a writer and activist whose sex advice column, "Savage Love," is syndicated internationally. In 2010, Savage co-created a YouTube video to provide hope for LGBT youth. Today, the It Gets Better Project has inspired more than 50,000 videos, a book, and an MTV documentary.

# \* Just \*

#### Laverne Cox TUE, MAY 19 • 8PM

The first transgender woman of color to have a leading role on a mainstream scripted television show and to receive an Emmy nomination, Cox has taken her empowering message of living authentically all over the country.

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# Maui Sunseeker's LGBT Resort Is the Vacation You Always Dreamed Of by Colt McGrate

ust imagine the sounds of rustling palms, soft waves crashing and exotic birds calling in the distance. Where are you? You're at Maui's Sunseeker LGBT Resort. The epicenter for Hawaii's LGBT traveler.

On the night of April 6th, I found myself trying to freeze time while on the roof top deck at this Hawaiian paradise. It was my pleasure to spend an entire week as their humble guest. From April 1st through the 7th I experienced a sense of community, an array of activities and what I was most desperately seeking, relaxation. Let me tell you a little bit about my trip!

From the moment I heard Flight Captain Hamilton announce, "We have now reached the cruising altitude of 38,000 feet", I knew everything to follow would be a dream. When that plane landed, I was at full speed. I zipped through the airport and drove out of sight in my ocean blue rental!

After an exciting 20 minute hop across the

romantic meals with breath taking views. I attended an exceptional Luau, took scenic drives to remote locations and danced the nights away at local bars with great music, just blocks from Sunseekers. Some of the evenings I would visit with other guests at the hot tub and share laughs on the deck.

Not surprisingly, all the guests that I met were returning guests of Sunseekers. I met people from Seattle, Denver and Las Vegas. Some return a couple times every year. When I asked Jeff why he returned so often he simply said, "I love it here." In fact he had already made his reservation for his next visit. He has chosen his favorite room, the Penthouse. This "room" includes sweeping views of the ocean, a big second floor





thinnest part of the island, I arrived at Sunseekers. The property glowed in the warm sun light while the gardens swayed in unison to the direction of the gentle sea breeze. As I pulled in, I couldn't wait to get settled and begin my vacation.

I met Rosemarry at the reception desk and she greeted me with a great big smile. General Manager Michael quickly and enthusiastically joined us. He prepared me with a great Maui tour book and a map for which he had made special notes on just for me.

Michael then gave me an informative tour of the property. Highlights included a sparkling, private swimming pool and hot tub which was framed with beautiful gardens. There was also an activities station where all guests were welcomed to borrow all desired beach equipment from umbrellas to boogie boards. Finally, my favorite space was the over-sized roof top deck that also serves as the gathering space for memorizing sunsets and guest socials.

Michael then took me to my Junior Suite. It was located on the second floor with its own balcony and views of the pacific. The suite also included a king size cloud to sleep on, a full granite kitchen and tile floors throughout, for sandy feet!

During the days I spent most of my time on the beaches of southern Maui. Michael thoughtfully recommended a couple of beautiful spots to soak up the sun. The sand was fine, the water was blue and the area void of all things man made – just imagine.

Kihei and surrounding towns boasted a variety of restaurants perfect for a quick bite or lazy deck, paired with a private hot tub, two bedrooms and much more!

I got the opportunity to meet with the resort owner Bruce. We enjoyed a chat and a cup of coffee. He shared how he transitioned from Wall Street. to South Kihei Road. "I fell in love with Maui in 1978", he admits. Now he splits his time in his own suite at the resort and the the other half at an offsite home. The goal of Sunseekers as a whole is simply to "give you an experience of Maui, not an experience on Maui," Bruce and Michael both share with me. This made perfect sense to me!

Though both Michael and Bruce stay very busy satisfying their guests, they still find time to be involved in community affairs and groups such as the Maui Aids Foundation and Maui Pride. There are even plans to develop a cafe onsite to create a place for locals and guest to both enjoy.

Now as I reflect on my experience at 38,000 feet going to opposite direction, I am nothing but grateful. Even after visiting the five star resorts of the neighboring town of Wailea, nothing compares to Sunseekers. Though it is enjoyable to dine with those luxury chains and use their spa services, the difference is in the people. Nothing beats the feeling of making a genuine connection with people of your own community.

When I return to Maui, you will find me among old friends and new at Sunseekers. Aloha!

For more information and to make your reservations visit: www.mauisunseeker.com

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

April 23, 2015 - May 14, 2015 • No. 527

# **Rachel** Garlin **Releases New CD**

hether playing in a club, a coffeehouse or on the main-stage of a festival, singer-songwriter Rachel Garlin has a natural stage presence that is intimate and accomplished.

Garlin's latest CD, Wink at July, will be released on April 21, and the 12-song album might be compared to a cherished book of vignettes, with a poetic element – something beautiful and evocative that infuses each song with lyrical as well as narrative power.

The teacher-turned-troubadour grew up in Berkeley, and Garlin recorded her 2015 release in San Francisco with producer IJ Wiesler (Matt Nathanson, Girls) and musicians including Michael Urbano (John Hiatt, Smash Mouth), and Prairie Prince (original member of Journey, The Tubes).

Garlin will share her new music with fans at upcoming live shows in Danville and Petaluma, CA. Visit www.rachelgarlin.com.



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Outword Magazine (17)

# Dan Savage Set to Speak at Mondavi

**H**uman rights activist and popular queer writer Dan Savage will appear at the Mondavi Center in May as part of that venue's Distinguished Speaker Series.



His sex advice column, "Savage Love," is syndicated internationally, and Savage is also the author of *The Kid: What Happened When My Boyfriend and I Decided to Get Pregnant* (PEN West Award for Creative Nonfiction, Lambda Literary Award for Nonfiction).

In 2010, Savage co-created a YouTube video to provide hope and inspire change

for LGBT youth. Today, the It Gets Better Project has inspired more than 50,000 videos, the *It Gets Better* book, and an MTV documentary. The videos have been viewed globally more than 50 million times.

Dan Savage's appearance, on Wednesday, May 6, will include a question and answer session. Visit www.mondaviarts.org.

# **Even Dogs Can Show Their Pride at Doggy Dash**

eash up your pup and join the Sacramento SPCA and 5,000 of their closest canine friends and their humans on the morning of June 6th (pre-Pride) and celebrate in true canine carnival style!



The SPCA's 22nd annual Doggy Dash will kick-off with a 2k/5k walk through beautiful William Land Park, followed by a festive carnival featuring food and drink, canine agility, games, contests and activities for two- and four-legged family members alike.

This fun-filled day is not only sure to be a pre-Pride party to remember, Doggy Dash raises much-needed funds for the animals cared for, and programs offered by, the Sacramento SPCA.

The SPCA will care for more than 11,000 homeless animals this year, and Doggy Dash is a fun way to raise much-needed funds to help the organization care for these animals in need.

Register today, fundraise (if you choose) and help the SPCA to raise even more to help homeless animals in our community. In return, you'll be treated to a carnival fit for a canine, and a day that you and your pup are sure to remember!

Don't miss out on the fun! To register for Doggy Dash and Carnival 2015, visit sspca. org or call (916) 504-2802 today and get this party started!

# Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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# Out Singer Derek Bishop Releases New Album



Blending disco, euro-pop, and new wave stylings, out artist Derek Bishop's sophomore album *Bicycling In Quicksand* features his trademark energy, showcasing bona fide grooves that harken back to the days when the music was funky and the beats were undeniable. Listen in at www.youtube.com/user/DerekBishopMusic/videos

# Laverne Cox to Appear at Mondavi

The UC Davis LGBTQIA Resource Center, the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center and the UC Davis Women's Resources and Research Center are proud to present actress Laverne Cox, who will appear at the Mondavi Center on Tuesday, May 19.



Cox can currently be seen in the Netflix original series *Orange is The New Black*, her GLAAD Media Award-winning documentary about transgender youth: *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*, and a rapidly expanding list of high profile roles on the small screen.

Award-winning actress and advocate Laverne Cox has taken her empowering message of living authentically all over the country.

As the first transgender actress to be featured on the cover of *TIME* magazine, the first transgender woman of color to have a leading role on a mainstream scripted television show, and the first transgender performer to receive an Emmy nomination, Cox has earned the coveted spot as one of Glamour's 2014 Women of the Year as well as The Community Leader Award from the LGBT Center of New York City.

Visit www.mondaviarts.org.

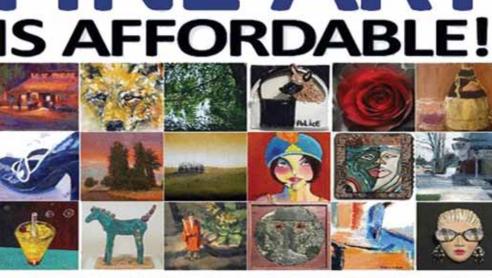
# **2nd Annual PRIDE FootGolf Tournament**



Kick your Pride off at this fun, no pressure event on May 30. Outword's not sure why you need Disco Pants, but then we're not even sure what Glow Footgolf is all about, but it does sound fun. Get the details at www.facebook.com/events/416739251831708/ events/416739251831708/



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# **CGNIE Crowns New Emperor and Empress**

**B** mperor 41 Matt Bunch, Regent Empress 41 Kristara and Regent Empress 41 Do Me Moore took their final walks on Saturday, April 11 at the Woodlake Red Lyon, topping off a year of fundraising and wild and crazy events. Congratulations to Emperor 42 Santos Ashley St. James and Empress 42 Harmony Envy as they embark on their own journey throughout the realm of the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire. You can see more photos, and download them for free at OutwordOutAbout. shutterfly.com,







(20) Outword Magazine

# Why Am I Only Attracted to Older Men?

by Tom Moon, MFT, The Examined Life

n an earlier issue I discussed a letter from a reader who was only attracted to younger men. There is a flip side to that of course, young men who are only attracted to older men, and I. recently received this email from one of them:

in your last column For my whole life, I've only been attracted to guys who are considerably older than me - usually by about twenty years.

I met my first boyfriend when I was 18. When I told my mom I'm gay she took it in stride, but she freaked out when I told her that my boyfriend was 38. She kept saving, "Can't you find somebody closer to your own age?" until I told her that I didn't want to hear it anymore.

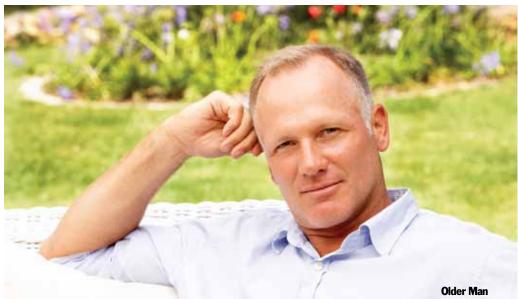
That was when I began to realize that, for some people, ageism is a bigger problem than homophobia.

Now I'm in my early thirties, and my husband is in his early fifties. I thought the gay community would be more accepting of my relationship than my family has been,

"Dear Tom: I'm just the opposite of the guy their sexual preference because they were mentally disturbed, and with that history behind us, you'd think they'd have a little sensitivity about saying things like that to other gay people, but where admiring older men is concerned, they don't get the connection.

> I don't really need any advice or anything about this, I just wanted the chance to rant a little bit. I'm disappointed to a degree in my gay brothers, but when I remember the big picture, it's not a major thing.

> I feel lucky to be able to appreciate what my older partner has to offer. He's been through stages of life that I'm still in and has a perspective that no one my age can have. He has a lot of depth and interests that few guys my age have. I enjoy listening to him share information about music and gay



but, if anything, gay guys are even worse about age.

A lot of them react the way some straight people still act when they see a bi-racial couple. They're polite to your face, but you get the feeling that, as far as they're concerned, there's just something not quite right about it. And then the comments they make behind your back get back to you, and you realize you're not just being paranoid.

People make all kinds of assumptions about my relationship. Some think that he's rich (I wish!) and that I'm being "kept," which, as a career-oriented, self-supporting guy, annoys the hell out of me.

They assume that he's a top and that I'm just his bitch, or his boytoy. A few even seem to think he pays to have sex with me.

Some guys are skeptical of my sincerity when I tell them that I think he's really hot and that I love him. If they don't think I'm after his money, they think I have "father issues." Guys have asked me pointedly if I had a bad relationship with my Dad, or if I lost him at an early age (no and no.) They imply that, if I got over my father complex, I'd like guys my own age more.

For years gays were told that they had

history from times I've only read about. I trust his steadiness and his commitment to me, and I'm grateful that I get to have so much love in my life.

Thanks, Clint."

Although Clint didn't ask for advice, I do want to thank him for his articulate and insightful email. It speaks for itself, and the only suggestion I would have would be not to be too hard on your gay friends for their attitudes.

The ageism he describes is hardly confined to our community: it's rampant throughout American culture. He is fortunate to have the presence of mind to be able to see it for what it is and to have the inner resources that allow him to follow what his heart tells him rather than what our culture tells him.

Maybe it's this inner confidence that has made it possible for him to find so much love in his life.

Tom Moon, MFT, is a writer and a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco for over thirty years. He can be reached at 415-626-1346, examlife@aol.com or tommoon.net or on Facebook at www. facebook.com/TomMoonMFtT.



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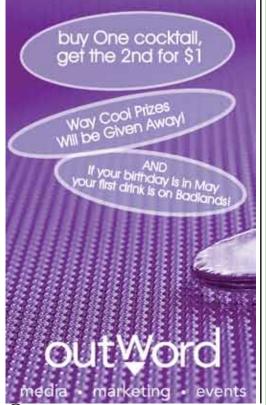
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# Drag Queen Bingo On-Target to Top \$100,000 Raised for Local Charities

n Thursday, May 7, Sacramento's popular Drag Queen Bingo fundraiser is expected to top the \$100,000 mark for funds raised to support local non-profit organizations. Thursday's event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mangos Antro, 1930 K St., Sacramento, benefitting Sacramento Pride.

Since the first number was called on Aug. 12, 2009, which benefited the Sacramento charity WEAVE, Drag Queen Bingo has raised \$98,662 for local charities and non-profits. Each event benefits a different local non-profit organization. In its nearly six-year history, the event has raised money for 45 different charities, including the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, the Sacramento Ballet, Sierra Forever Families adoption agency, HIV/AIDS cycling fundraiser NorCal AIDS Cycle, Alzheimer's Association, CARES, Sacramento Valley Veterans, Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus and United Animals Nation among others. Sacramento's Drag Queen Bingo

fundraising program was started by Outword Magazine's publisher Fred Palmer, and held at Hamburger Patties, which was owned by David Mansch and Rich Borillo. The games are hosted by local drag queens extraordinaire, Rusty Nails, Felicity Diamond and Do Me Moore, as well as frequent guest drag queens.

At only \$15 for eight games of bingo, Drag Queen Bingo offers an entertaining evening as well as an affordable way to help raise funds for local nonprofits and charities. In addition to bingo, many guests order dinner and refreshments from BurgerTown, the restaurant located inside Mangos Antro, that also has a full bar. Drag Queen Bingo is a 21-and-over event.

Drag Queen Bingo games are rife with exuberant and noisy traditions. One tradition is that when the bingo number "O-69" is called, players chant "shots, Shots, SHOTS." BurgerTown accommodates them with a special \$1 shot, specially concocted for the theme of the night. Another tradition is that each game winner runs up and down the restaurant aisles, festooned in a boa and blond wig. The losing players chant "Pelt her, pelt her, all the way down and back!" while bombarding the winner with their crumpled-up, losing Bingo cards.

Photos from past Drag Queen Bingos are available for download at outwordoutabout. shutterfly.com.

For more information about Drag Queen Bingo and upcoming dates, visit www. facebook.com/pages/Drag-Queen-Bingo/314309156662. The most recent Drag Queen Bingo was on April 11, and raised \$1,027 for the NorCal AIDS Cycle.



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# **Uproarious Drag Queens of Comedy Coming to SF**



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#### The Drag Queens Of Comedy returns to the Castro Theatre in SF on May 23 for two shows featuring 10 of the most outrageous and uproarious drag queens in an epic, not-to-bemissed, comedy extravaganza as the "girls" come together for a night of politically incorrect humor. Get tickets at

thedragqueensofcomedy. com and see a trailer at youtube.com

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# Francesca inspires us

A tumble during tee-ball practice led to Francesca's first cancer diagnosis at age 6. X-rays revealed a bone cancer that afflicts only three in every million children. With chemotherapy, a titanium prosthesis and Francesca's own determination, UC Davis specialists saved her life and limb.

When leukemia struck at age 8, she underwent a rare stem cell transplant at UC Davis and more chemotherapy. Only four years later, Francesca and her UC Davis team fought another type of cancer seen primarily in adults.

Today the UC Davis freshman is also a dancer, artist, writer – and an accomplished public speaker about cancer awareness. One of her many life goals? To become a pharmacist, so she can help ease suffering for others.

To learn more about how Francesca inspires the latest in personalized, collaborative care at the region's one National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, visit **cancer.ucdavis.edu** 

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