

# outwOrd

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Spring has  
Sprung!

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## Remembering Gary Reese "Keäl" Ausbrooks



**Gary Reese "Keäl" Ausbrooks**

Dec. 8, 1945 – Feb. 9, 2016

A native of Alameda, California, Keäl died in his Carmichael, Sacramento County home of lung and heart failure at age of 70.

Keäl was an Alameda High School graduate, and was the oldest of three children of Hubert and Rosa Lee Ausbrooks, originally both of Tennessee who moved out here in mid 1940's. He is survived by his sister, Anita Chaves, plus several first and second cousins mostly in the Sacramento and Bay Area.

Keäl worked for Capwell's and Emporium dept. stores in the East Bay, plus Philadelphia's Bellevue Stratford Hotel in '60's and Standard Brands in the Bay Area during the '70's. Most of his last three decades, until recently, Keäl worked for Kelly-Moore Paints both in SF and most recently in Citrus Heights.

Keäl will be missed by his friends: Fran, Bill, Charles and Jeannie in Bay Area; Don and Rob in Sacramento; and Percy, Chuck, Curt and David that now live out of state.

His passions were: gambling; bingo; baking superb cheese cakes, shortbread & peanut butter cookies and lemon bars; growing orchids that rarely bloomed to his frustration; a talent for painting in oils & acrylics, mostly modern, cubic paintings on canvass; loved reading science fiction novels; and watching science fiction, action-adventure and horror themed movies and television series.

He often said, looking back on his life, he enjoyed it and had few, if any regrets.

Keäl asked that there be no celebration of his life or funeral services.



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# LGBT-friendly Senior Housing One Step Closer in Midtown

by Dell Richards

A sea of lavender hearts filled City Council chambers as supporters of Mutual Housing California urged councilmembers to fund LGBT-friendly, senior housing at the corner of 16th and F Street.



**Supporters of the Lavender Courtyard attended the Sacramento City Council meeting March 8, and were able to celebrate a unanimous yes vote for the project. Photo courtesy of Mutual Housing California.**

As hoped for, the City Council voted unanimously to approve \$2.78 million in funding that included nearly \$875,000 from Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

"We have a tremendous opportunity to allow our seniors to age in the communities that they have lived in," said Councilmember Steve Hansen, in whose district Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing will be built. "Many go back into the closet because they don't know if they will be welcomed and supported anywhere else. This is a tragedy."

It was not only Hansen's support, but the support of the LGBT – and the whole Sacramento – community that moved the dream forward.

Many leaders of the LGBT community stepped up to the plate, including The Sacramento LGBT Community Center which has committed to provide a monthly support group, resource referrals and other services to residents for free.

"We are in a historic era," said Donald Bentz, the Center's executive director, at an earlier Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment meeting where Commissioners voted to recommend the City Council approve the full funding request.

"Our Stonewall pioneers are in their elder years," said Bentz. "They shouldn't be forced back into the closet to feel safe as they age."

Local non-profit Cares also will be providing in-home, case management to residents, including those who are HIV positive, quarterly health screenings, referrals to medical providers and transportation to medical appointments.

Statistics show that many LGBT seniors do not have close family, but create their own support networks from friends and community members, this makes them more vulnerable if they are forced to leave the area.

Rents have skyrocketed in Sacramento this past year, up 17 percent in midtown and 10 percent overall, which has priced people on fixed and moderate incomes out of the market. Rents are expected to rise at least

eight percent this year.

"Without the proposed 53-apartment community, even more seniors will be displaced by rising rents in the central city," said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing California executive director. "Scores of homes selling for upwards of half-million dollars are being developed in the surrounding neighborhood. Our goal should be maintaining diversity and inclusivity as our city thrives."

The \$16 million development will not only help the gay community, but will help redevelop an area that has many vacant lots. "The investment in this state-of-the-art housing will result in an eye-catching presence at the location," said Iskow. "There is no doubt other investors will follow suit."

Local banks also contributed to the progress. Wells Fargo gave a grant to develop a financing package and do community outreach and will be the mortgage lender. First Citizens Bank gave a below-market-interest, pre-development loan and Bank of America has given two grants earmarked for the project.

Mutual Housing staff recently applied for funding through the state's Cap and Trade Program, noting that sustainable housing near transit, the housing should reduce greenhouse gases.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable rental housing for the diversity of the region's households. A member of NeighborWorks America, Mutual Housing has more than 3,000 residents in Sacramento and Yolo counties.

Through its focus on community, the nonprofit also provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, leadership-building activities and services for residents and neighbors.

For information on Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing or to sign up for future alerts, visit [www.mutualhousing.com/future-communities/lavendercourtyard](http://www.mutualhousing.com/future-communities/lavendercourtyard).

*A gay author and former journalist, Dell Richards now runs Dell Richards Publicity, a local public relations firm.*

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# Briefly Put

## EQCA Joins Amicus Brief Urging SCOTUS to Restore Immigration Programs

Equality California has joined a diverse coalition of 326 immigration, civil rights, labor, and social service groups that filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*. The brief urges the court to lift an injunction that blocks executive actions on immigration that President Obama announced in November 2014.

"California's LGBT community includes an estimated quarter-million undocumented immigrants, so any decision by the Supreme Court will have a profound impact on LGBT lives," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "These programs would help give millions of young adult immigrants – including thousands who are LGBT – and their parents access to healthcare and other public services they already help pay for, and allow them to participate more fully in the economic, civic, and social life of our communities."

One example cited in the brief is Juan Carlos, a 22-year-old gay man who came to the United States when he was 15 years old. As a gay man, his deportation to El Salvador could result in severe persecution or even death given El Salvador's history of anti-gay violence and discrimination.

## Senate Panel Confirms Eric Fanning As Secretary of the Army

The Senate Armed Services Committee has confirmed the first openly gay secretary of one of the U.S. military services – Eric Fanning. President Obama's historic nomination of Fanning to serve as Secretary of the Army now heads to the full Senate for a final vote.

"We are thrilled to see Eric Fanning confirmed by the Senate Armed Services Committee," said American Military Partner Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "History continues to be written and equality marches forward with the nomination of an openly gay man to serve in this significantly important role. Fanning's expertise and knowledge within the defense community more than qualifies him to serve as Secretary of the Army. We urge the Senate to move quickly to confirm his appointment."

Fanning has held several jobs in the Pentagon. He served as the Army secretary's principal adviser on management and operation of the service, with a focus on the budget. He was undersecretary of the Air Force from April 2013 to February 2015, and for half a year was the acting secretary of the Air Force.

## Federal Judge's Marriage Equality Ruling in Puerto Rico Described as "Bizarre"

The National LGBTQ Task Force is describing an anti-marriage equality ruling by a Puerto Rican-based U.S. federal judge as "bizarre and controversial."

United States District Judge Juan Pérez Gímenez ruled on March 9th that, as Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States and not a state, the historic *Obergefell v. Hodges* marriage equality decision by the U.S. Supreme Court does not apply.

"Judge Pérez Gímenez's bizarre and controversial ruling runs at variance with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which has been issuing marriage licenses since the historic *Obergefell v. Hodges* Supreme Court ruling, alongside the other states and territories of the nation," said Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, Trans/Gender Non-Conforming Justice Director. "It also flies in the face of the United States Constitution and the fact that Supreme Court rulings apply to the whole of the United States and territories."

## WH Appoints Raffi Freedman-Gurspan as LGBT Liaison

Former National Center for Transgender Equality colleague Raffi Freedman-Gurspan has been appointed to the position of Outreach & Recruitment Director for Presidential Personnel and Associate Director for Public Engagement at the White House.

In this role, Freedman-Gurspan will serve as the primary point of contact for LGBT organizations interacting with the White House. NCTE commends President Barack Obama for appointing Freedman-Gurspan to be the first out transgender White House LGBT Liaison.

"Raffi is a great choice. President Obama has said he wants his administration to look like America, and he is including trans Americans as part of that vision. Raffi's skills and personality make her exactly the right person for this important job," said NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling.

## Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus Endorses Clinton

The board of the Equality PAC, a political action committee formed by leaders of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, has thrown its support behind Hillary Clinton in her bid to win the White House.

"I'm honored to receive the endorsement of the Equality PAC and the leaders of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, who are fighting every day for full and equal rights for LGBT Americans," Clinton said of the endorsement. "We achieved a tremendous victory in the fight to make our country fairer and freer for all Americans when marriage equality became the law of the land last spring. But we all know our work is far from over. Too many LGBT Americans still face discrimination – in employment, in housing, in education, in health care – because of who they are or who they love. As President, I will continue to fight alongside the LGBT community to pass the Equality Act and end discrimination in all its forms."

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# House Party to Raise Funds for LGBT-Supportive Candidates

RainbowPAC (ID#1343723), the non-partisan political action committee of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, is having a House Party at the home of PAC founder Dr. Darrick Lawson and Dale Howard to raise funds for candidate endorsements for the 2016 election cycle. The party is scheduled on Wednesday, April 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Individual tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased online at [RainbowChamber.com](http://RainbowChamber.com).

## RAINBOWPAC



RainbowPAC endorses candidates by a vote of Rainbow Chamber members attending the endorsement event, which will be scheduled for late April. The PAC's mission is to endorse candidates who are supportive of small business and who work to foster a diverse and inclusive business environment and to support legislation and policies that are in line with those values. Among the races that will be endorsed in 2016 are the Sacramento Mayor and Sacramento County Supervisor races, as well as school board and several statewide and legislative races. In February RainbowPAC presented, in partnership with the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento, Sacramento LGBT Community Center and KVIE Public Television, a Mayor Candidate Forum, in which all four then-declared candidates participated. The PAC has been

instrumental in passing two state laws that expanded contracting opportunities for LGBT-owned businesses and endorsed, among others, Steve Hansen, now Sacramento's first openly LGBT councilmember. RainbowPAC was founded in 2012 by Dr. Darrick Lawson, who saw a need for a PAC that was both non-partisan and business-positive, but would also work for the betterment of LGBT Californians. Funding is essential to ensure candidates are elected who will work on behalf of both small businesses and the LGBT community. You can help! Get your ticket for the RainbowPAC House Party today! For more information, visit [RainbowChamber.com](http://RainbowChamber.com).

### Video Offers Advice For Transitioning Individuals Who Want to Enhance Their Expressions of "Femininity"



Broadly, VICE's female-focused channel, has released a new short documentary following Monica Prata, a feminine image consultant who supports transgender or transitioning individuals who want to enhance their expressions of "femininity." Prata offers fashion advice to makeup tutorials for clients that see nothing wrong with wanting to fit in with a classic feminine look. You can watch it at [https://broadly.vice.com/en\\_us/video/a-day-with-monica-prata](https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/video/a-day-with-monica-prata)

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## A New Hope for Those Addicted to Opiates

Commentary by Neil Flynn, M.D., M.P.H.

Opiate dependence and addiction to opiates killed 28,647 people in the U.S. in 2014 (78 people daily), of whom 4,521 were our fellow Californians. This is approximately the same number as those who are killed in auto accidents.

We go to great lengths to improve the safety of automobiles – why don't we do the same for preventing opiate overdose deaths? The simple answer is that, deep down, many Americans still believe that drug users “get what they deserve” – infectious diseases like hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, abscesses, and fatal overdoses.

Our laws and law enforcement hamper syringe exchange, thereby increasing the odds of getting HIV and hepatitis C, incarcerate drug users without treating their addiction in jail or prison, criminalize their drug use so that they have difficulty finding a job and, in my opinion, probably make the problem worse than it needs to be.

Why not use a medical, psychosocial, and public health approach to the problem? We now have a relatively new tool to treat opiate dependence and addiction – buprenorphine.

It is extremely effective compared to other



Dr. Neil Flynn

doctors are aware of the benefits of buprenorphine and they don't want to get involved with “those drug users.” Yet they are already involved because they are constantly harassed by drug-seeking patients.

We doctors created a part of the problem by prescribing excessive opioids in the belief that we were relieving suffering, which is why we became doctors in the first place. It is now our obligation to provide the means by which opiate-dependent people can return to normal function without the fear of withdrawal, relapse, or lifelong craving.

Working with a patient who is taking buprenorphine is much more rewarding than dealing with a drug-seeking patient.

Incidentally, 80-90 percent of patients receiving opiates for chronic pain experience a very significant improvement in their pain on buprenorphine. For doctors it's a win-win situation.

I urge anyone who reads this who is opiate dependent or addicted, or knows someone who is, to look into buprenorphine treatment ([www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/buprenorphine](http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/buprenorphine)) – you'll be glad you did!

*Dr. Neil Flynn, M.D., M.P.H., is an internist and infectious disease specialist. He joined the faculty of the UC Davis School of Medicine in 1978, serving as Professor of Medicine until partial retirement in 2011. During that time he conducted research into HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, centering on the prevention of HIV among injecting drug users. He continues to work part-time at Cares Community Clinic and at Transitions Buprenorphine Clinic in Oak Park. Dr. Flynn will retire from his HIV work this year and will concentrate his efforts on improving the services offered by Transitions.*

The trouble is, not enough primary care doctors are aware of the benefits of buprenorphine....

treatment options, it returns opiate users to full function rapidly, and it takes away the withdrawal and craving associated with detoxing from opiates.

In a few weeks an opiate dependent or addicted person transitions from being consumed by the constant need to obtain opiates to avoid withdrawal and craving, into a normally functioning person who can hold a job, take care of her or his family, and begin the long road back to normalcy and re-integration into family and society.

Our clinic has treated more than 700 individuals who were dependent on prescription opiates or heroin, and the majority of them are still taking the medication and doing well – they are back to work, re-united with their families, and enjoying life free of withdrawal symptoms and craving. They find their current situation preferable to their lives on opiates. Sure, they face a tough road ahead, but their minds are no longer consumed by the need to obtain opiates.

The trouble is, not enough primary care



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## Who Is the Best Super Hero, Batman or Superman?

With the new *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* movie coming out, we wanted to find out who you thought would win. Asked at Outword's Happy Hour at Badlands.



**Jesse Archer**

Batman, he's got better utilities.



**Starr Daniels**

Batman, he always stays in black and is ready for it.



**Anthony Alderete**

Superman, he is faster and has more power and techniques and skills.



**Sheila LaBonty**

Batman, he is cooler and more interesting than Superman.



**Darrell Scheidegger**

Superman, he is stronger and cuter.



**Tracy Teague**

Superman, because behind every super man there's always an attractive woman.



# Keeping in Step with Darryl Strohl-De Herrera

by Matthew Burlingame

For many children the *Wizard of Oz* conjures images of scary witches, dancing scarecrows and finding what's on the other side of that elusive rainbow. But when the curtain went up on a stage production of the musical in Norfolk VA, it forever changed the life of a wide-eyed four-year-old sitting in the audience.

Four decades later Darryl Strohl-De Herrera considers *The Wizard of Oz* his "root show," though he now boasts an impressive catalogue of theatrical credits as an actor, singer, dancer and choreographer.

Darryl is well known in Sacramento's theatrical circles. For the past five years he has served as the Resident Choreographer and Administrator of the Main Stage Program for Runaway stage Productions (RSP). Three years ago he also took over as Choreographer and Administrator of the Youth Musical Theatre Workshop and began teaching dance to children.

"RSP keeps me busy," Darryl says enthusiastically. "However, I do make time for the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, to provide 'choral-ography' for some song selections in their concerts. That's a project I treasure."

Darryl's love of dance was cultivated when he joined a dance studio at age 16, which led to performing in numerous high school and community theatre musicals. He was then accepted as a company member to the Virginia Ballet Theatre which opened up opportunities to dance with Virginia Opera and the Virginia Musical Theatre.

"I attended Old Dominion University as a Theatre Arts/Dance Major on a scholarship from the Liberace Foundation and was named Outstanding Senior in the Dance Department," he says. "I used to joke that the Foundation required me to take classes in sequined leotards."

When asked who he derives his inspiration as a choreographer from he is quick to name

Bob Fosse, whose influence brought a level of maturity and understanding to his craft.

"I've learned through the years that the story and the characters have to drive the choreography, not just the steps I like," he explains. "I can choreograph a dance to a song I don't particular like as a listener, if I relate it to how that song furthers the plot."

Some of his favorite shows as choreographer include *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, and *Curtains*.

"Those are the '3 Cs' of Kander & Ebb," he jokes. "I also loved Andrew Lipa's *Wild Party*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, and *Urinetown*, with its many opportunities for spoofing past musicals that I love."

Darryl moved to the Sacramento area in 2003 to study stigma and internalized homophobia at UC Davis

"I came out in a time when sodomy was a felony in Virginia, so I know what it's like to be

the little guy fighting for acceptance," he explains when asked how being openly gay influences his theatrical choices. "I like those types of stories."

The actor fell in love with his husband Estaban – who he says is his favorite thing about Sacramento – before the repeal of Prop. 8.

"At the time I was choreographing *Fiddler on the Roof*. For me it became all about the daughters' wanting to marry who they loved, not who Papa thought they should. So I treasure what those women and I were able to create in the "Chava Ballet," where she's shunned by her father but follows her heart anyway."

In his off time, Darryl is a quilter, and notes that he is the only male in the Sacramento Modern Quilt Guild.

"My current project is blocks of equality symbols made from upcycled men's shirts," he says. "I also have projects on the design wall for two different local charities."

Darryl Strohl-De Herrera is currently performing as Elle Wood's father, which he also choreographed, in RSP's current musical production of *Legally Blonde* running through April 3. Check out runawaystage.com for more information.

*Matthew Burlingame is an author (Sorry Charley!), playwright (Paperclip Messiah), prodigious podcaster and freelance writer in Sacramento. He can be reached at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.*



Darryl and Estaban Strohl-De Herrera on their wedding day

## HIV Infection Rates Increase Among Black and Latino MSM

In a new report, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveals that while there are signs of progress in HIV prevention, that progress has been uneven, particularly among African Americans and gay and bisexual men of Black and Latino descent.

The report *Trends in U.S. HIV Diagnosis, 2005-2014*, was released in December 2015 and gives a decade-long perspective and highlights of more recent trends.

The report notes that from 2005-2014, Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) HIV diagnoses increased by 24 percent, African American MSM HIV diagnoses increased by 22 percent while Caucasian MSM HIV diagnosis' declined by 18 percent. The most alarming increases occurred among young African American and Latino MSM ages 13-24, who both saw increases of approximately 87 percent over the decade.

African Americans, more than any other racial or ethnic group, continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV in the U.S. While African Americans represent only 13 percent of the total population, they

account for almost half (44 percent) of all HIV diagnoses in 2014.

Those percentages and rate increases have not gone unnoticed by leaders in the fight against HIV infections, and here in Sacramento Clarmundo Sullivan, Founder and current Executive Director of Golden Rule Services, has made HIV prevention for African Americans and gay and bisexual MSM of Color a priority in Sacramento County since 2000.

"I am really happy to know that Golden Rule Services saw the need to make People of Color a high priority years ago."

Golden Rule Services implemented Sacramento's first HIV prevention project for African American MSM in 2000 and implemented Sacramento County's first needs assessment for African American




Some of the staff and volunteers at Golden Rule Services.

MSM in 2002.

Just one example of Golden Rule Services' outreach efforts is that they hosted a National Black HIV AIDS Awareness Day event on Saturday, February 6. GRS staff members tested 17 individuals for HIV, STI and HCV. Everyone in attendance enjoyed food, snacks, gifts and raffles while being given the latest HIV information.


Golden Rule Services not only continues these 16 years later, but is ever expanding in hopes of reaching farther into the communities that need it most, and stopping the spread of HIV by focusing even more on those most at risk.

For more information, please contact Clarmundo Sullivan at 916-427-4653.



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## EQCA Sponsored Bills Target Anti-LGBT Discrimination

Equality California is sponsoring two bills authored by Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley) that would prohibit the use of state funds to support entities that allow discrimination by creating exemptions based on religious beliefs.



Assemblymember Evan Low  
(D-Silicon Valley)

"I'm proud to be a voice for the LGBT community throughout the state and across the country," Low said. "The Golden State has always been a leader in protecting civil rights and preventing discrimination. Our zero-tolerance policy says there is no room for discrimination of any kind in California, and will certainly not be tolerated beyond our borders," he added.

However, a majority of states nationwide lack such comprehensive protections for LGBT people, and private educational institutions may seek a religiously-based federal waiver under Title IX that permits them to continue to receive public funding

even while discriminating against LGBT people.

According to a recent report by the Human Rights Campaign, the rate of schools nationwide seeking waivers increased dramatically from one school in 2013, to more than 43 schools in 2015. Six are in California.

AB 1887 would ban state-funded travel to any state with a law in effect that sanctions or requires discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Last year, Indiana Governor Mike Pence signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) that allows discrimination against the LGBT community and others based on religious beliefs, prompting several governors and mayors, including New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, to ban state- or city-funded travel to Indiana.

This bill would ban state-funded travel to Indiana and other states that enact similar discriminatory RFRA laws.

AB 1888 would require all institutions receiving CalGrant

dollars to certify to the California Student Aid Commission that they do not discriminate on the basis of, among other things, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These institutions also would be prohibited from seeking a Title IX waiver from the U.S. Department of Education as a condition of receiving state funds.

"These bills send a clear message that the state of California does not tolerate discrimination in any form," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "Now that the LGBT community has won marriage equality and made so many positive strides in other areas, we are seeing a disturbing trend of our opponents using exemptions based on religious freedom to justify discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and other areas. These bills end state subsidies of educational institutions that refuse to treat all students and employees equally, as well as state-funded travel to jurisdictions that discriminate."

The bills will be heard in committee this spring.

## The Official Ribbon Cutting and Unveiling Ceremony of the Bright Underbelly



Hennessy Christophel, Tre Borden, and Sofia Lacin, pictured here on the day of the unveiling, and are the creative geniuses that have brought this idea to life. Photo by Joan Cusick.

Thursday March 17th was the official introduction of "The Bright Underbelly." The undertaking is a public art project consisting of a large mural painted on the underpass on the W/X freeway and 6th Street. The mural sits above the site of California's largest farmer's market.

The 70,000-square-foot painting, creates a magical environment, taking you through the four seasons of the year.

The Bright Underbelly mural features birds, trees and other

elements to brighten the overpass covering the Sacramento Central Farmers' Market.

The artists painted lying on their backs, on lawn chairs and even on top of scissor lifts. They said they

did research into Michelangelo and his techniques, and learned he suffered temporary blindness because of how he painted, so they wanted to make sure to protect their eyes, heads and necks.

Be sure to check out this art installation next time you go to the farmer's market. For more information go to <http://brightunderbelly.com>



# No Stopping Roseanne, Live at Cache Creek

by Colt McGraw

The original domestic goddess Roseanne Barr helped to define a generation with her Emmy Award winning self-titled sitcom that ran from 1988-1997. I had followed Roseanne's career since I was a child; drawn to her candid and homespun humor.

So I was thrilled to learn that she would be appearing live at Cache Creek Casino's Club 88 in Brooks, in the 720 seat showroom style venue on March 5th. I had to be there!

I found myself seated next to Geraldine Barr, Roseanne's only sister, who attended the show along with their only other

weight loss secret. "I eat all my meals in front of a mirror, naked," continuing with, "though the fancier restaurants don't typically like it!"

She has also admitted to creating a "f\*\*k-it list", a list of things that she will not longer do. It includes no longer going to second and third weddings. "Call me in five years and I'll



Colt McGraw with the the original "Domestic Goddess," Roseanne Barr.

sibling, Ben. Roseanne announced the attendance of her gay and lesbian siblings during the show to the excitement of a colorful crowd.

Geraldine lovingly hooted and hollered along with everyone else throughout the entire performance, just like any loving sister would. It was a special experience for me to watch the one name wonder perform as I heard a similar voice erupt with laughter in the seat attached to mine.

Roseanne kept the crowd rolling with topics such as weight, politics, pop culture and especially her family. "I hate other peoples children, they remind me of my own," she unapologetically admitted with laughter.

Roseanne shared that her son Buck is currently attending college in San Francisco. "I hope I live long enough to watch him drop out like my other kids," she half-heartedly joked. She tells the crowd that when her children lay a guilt trip on her about not being around more during their childhood, she replies with "Can you imagine how much more f\*\*d up your life would have been if I would have been home more?"

Roseanne has recently flaunted her slender figure on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. During her performance she revealed her

send you a toaster," she joked.

The largely liberal crowd jeered when Roseanne reflected, "Do you remember the good old days when Sarah Palin used to be the dumbest candidate?" She also included, "People say they like Trump because he says what's on his mind," noting that Trump is "Obsessive repulsive."

Many may not realize that Roseanne was the first recipient of GLAAD's Vanguard Award. As an avid gay advocate she shares that she recently performed during a gay cruise and that a second booking to follow will celebrate "Cock-toberfest."

I would say that there was an equal mix of men and women in the crowd, with a wide age range. Fans delivered beer and shots directly to the stage to show their love to Roseanne. When she lost her patience with a woman talking in the crowd, she screamed, "Shut the f\*\*k up bitch," that was followed by applause from the crowd.

Cache Creek's entertainment calendar is always impressive. Make sure to visit their website soon for all the latest, [www.cachecreek.com](http://www.cachecreek.com).

For the latest on Roseanne visit [roseanneworld.com](http://roseanneworld.com).

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

Saturday, May 21 11 a.m.



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## Sean Hayes Plays God in San Francisco, Plus Frances McDormand in Berkeley

by Chris Narloch

**A**lthough we have many brilliant local actors in Northern California, it's not every day that bona fide stars appear on stage in Sacramento, or even San Francisco.



Sean Hayes in *An Act of God*

This month, you have the opportunity to see both Sean Hayes, who is playing God in *An Act of God* in San Francisco, and Frances McDormand, who tackles Lady Macbeth at Berkeley Rep.

### An Act of God

I missed this show when it played on Broadway last year with star Jim Parsons, but I don't plan to let it get by me again, especially since funnyman Sean Hayes (*Will & Grace*) is taking over the lead in *An Act of God* when it comes to the Bay Area on March 29.

Gay men playing God is either hilarious or blasphemous (or totally irrelevant), depending on your point of view, and Hayes should be very funny in this highly acclaimed play.

The 90-minute comedy features the Almighty and His devoted angels answering some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since Creation.

*An Act of God*, coming to the SHN Golden Gate Theatre straight from Broadway, is based on a popular book "written by God" and transcribed by David Javerbaum.

Javerbaum is a 13-time Emmy Award winner for his work as a head writer and executive producer for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and also curator of the Twitter account @TheTweetOfGod, which has over 2 million followers.

*An Act of God* plays through April 17 in San Francisco. Visit [www.shnsf.com](http://www.shnsf.com).

### Macbeth

Movie star Frances McDormand, who won a well-deserved Best Actress Oscar for *Fargo*,

also performs on stage, most often in New York City. This spring, she brings her considerable acting chops to bear on one of the greatest roles in all of theater (and literature) in Berkeley Rep's current production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Conleth Hill, a terrific Irish actor, plays Macbeth in what is sometimes referred to as "The Scottish Play," and he and McDormand are a formidable pair in this fascinating take on a classic work.

McDormand even doubles as one of the three witches on stage, giving two excellent performances in the same show, which begins with a bang thanks to a sensational scene involving a huge levitating tree that is not to be missed.

Shakespeare "go-to guy" Daniel Sullivan directs the new production with a sure hand, although a couple of the supporting players are not up to the level of McDormand and Hill.

The other quibble I have with the show is the lack of sexual heat between Macbeth and his Lady, which is vital to a completely successful production of *Macbeth*.

That said, this *Macbeth* is well worth seeing even with a few flaws, thanks to the star power of Conleth Hill and, especially, Frances McDormand, whose take on the famous sleepwalking scene is a master class in great acting.

See *Macbeth* at Berkeley Rep through April 10. Visit [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org).

## The Voice to Hold Auditions at Arden Fair

**D**o you have what it takes, Sacramento? Are you the next Adele or Sam Smith? Would you like to turn Adam Levine's head (or at least his chair) around?



The Voice

KCRA 3 is holding a casting call on Friday, April 1, at Arden Fair Mall for NBC's hit show *The Voice*, and this could be the big break you've been waiting for.

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In Round 2, you are competing to win an audition spot at a private *The Voice* casting session, including airfare, hotel and two tickets to see a live *The Voice* show.

For more information, please visit [www.kcra.com](http://www.kcra.com).



**Pee Wee's Big Holiday on Netflix**  
**Plus Batman v Superman in IMAX**

by Chris Narloch

A super-sized, superhero smack-down leads the pack of potentially enjoyable new movies, which also includes a Netflix release of the long-awaited new film starring Pee-wee Herman.

**Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice**

Not since Freddy met Jason in the horror mash-up *Freddy vs. Jason* has there been a cinematic confrontation on the scale of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

Hopefully, the new superhero saga will be superior to that dud horror movie. I was unable to see the new film before our deadline, but it will be in theaters by the time you read this, allowing you to make up your own mind.

Zack Snyder (*300*, *Watchmen*) takes over from Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight*, *The Dark Knight Rises*) on the new Batman movie, in which Batman (Ben Affleck) embarks on a personal vendetta against Superman (Henry Cavill).

In addition to Affleck and Cavill, the film stars Jesse Eisenberg, Amy Adams, Jeremy Irons, Holly Hunter, Diane Lane, Laurence Fishburne, Ezra Miller, Jena Malone, and Michael Shannon.

See *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*

at the Esquire IMAX on K Street in Sacramento. Visit [www.imax.com](http://www.imax.com).

**Pee-wee's Big Holiday**

The other big movie "bromance" is actually on the small screen, and it's between the hilarious Pee-wee Herman and Mr. Sofia Vergara, aka Joe Manganiello.

Judging from the trailer and photos I have seen for the film, Pee-wee and the hunky star of *Magic Mike* appear to have a serious man crush on each other in *Pee-wee's Big Holiday*.

The movie involves a fateful meeting with a mysterious stranger that inspires Pee-wee (Paul Reubens) to take his first-ever holiday.

The man-child's first film, the masterpiece *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, which was Tim Burton's first big-screen feature as a director, was also a road movie.

Pee-wee is overdue for a comeback, so let's hope that lightning strikes again with *Pee-wee's Big Holiday*. See it on Netflix after March 18.



Joe Manganiello and Pee-wee Herman

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# Sac Ballet Goes *Bach to Now and Beyond*

Single tickets are now on sale for the next live performance by Sacramento Ballet, which will take place in their beautiful, brand new digs at the E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts in midtown Sacramento.

Check out their stunning space inside the building that formerly housed Fremont School when the ballet presents *Bach to Now and Beyond*, featuring works by three different choreographers.

George Balanchine's undisputed masterpiece *Concerto Barocco* will be paired with the brilliant *Double Violin Concerto* by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The internationally renowned Chinese choreographer Ma Cong contributes an

iconic work, *Blood Rush*, that weds the sublime to the bold.

And newcomer Ashley Walton joins this triptych of stellar choreographers by collaborating with local Sacramento artist Raphael Delgado to take the program to the next level of the future and beyond.

*Bach to Now and Beyond* will perform through April 2. Purchase tickets online at [www.sacballet.org](http://www.sacballet.org) or call Sac Ballet's box office at (916) 552-5800.



Sacramento Ballet's *Bach to Now and Beyond*

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4th Annual LGBT Wedding Expo

Couples looking to start their lives together attended the 4th Annual LGBT Wedding Expo on Sunday, March 6, at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. The Expo featured a wedding fashion show presented by House of Fashion and over 75 vendors from florists to photographers and was hosted by Outword Media Marketing & Events Inc. and Details Events & Conference Planning.





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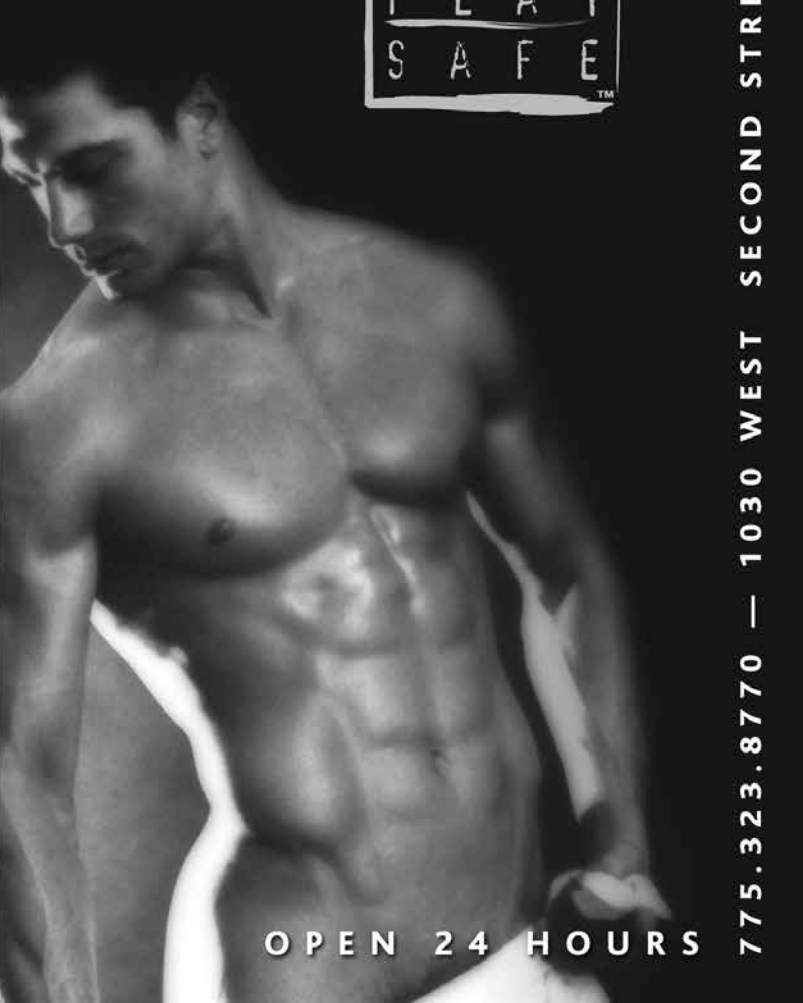



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# A Cornucopia of Concerts in NorCal

by Chris Narloch

Three of the most gifted female singer/songwriters in these United States will perform in or around the Sacramento area this spring. Read on for more details.

## Patty Griffin

The spellbinding singer/songwriter Patty Griffin will be joined by Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell for a musical ménage a trois at the Mondavi Center at the end of March.

Watkins, a founding member of Nickel Creek, has forged a solo career that pushes her bluegrass and folk roots into fascinating directions, while Mitchell has built a loyal following for her songs that draw on mythological references.

This singers-in-the-round performance features all three artists on stage together for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of music.

See Patty Griffin with Sara Watkins & Anais Mitchell on Wednesday, March 30, at 8:00 pm. Visit [www.mondaviarts.org](http://www.mondaviarts.org).



## Joanna Newsom

A talented harpist, keyboardist, vocalist, and lyricist, Joanna Newsom was born in nearby Nevada City. Since she released her debut album in 2004,

Newsom's music has been an ever-growing category unto itself for listeners around the world.

Her CDs are regularly found on "best of the year" lists, and her latest disc, *Divers*, is no exception. Newsom will be joined by opening act Robin Pecknold when she appears at Sacramento's Crest Theatre on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 pm.

Visit [www.crestsacramento.com](http://www.crestsacramento.com).

## Joan Osborne

The Crest will also host a live show by one of my favorite singers, Joan Osborne, who will bring her acoustic trio to the Crest stage for one night only, this April.

Known for her soulful vocals and the hit song "One of Us," the artist has seven Grammy nominations to her name.

Osborne has collaborated with an eclectic array of artists over the years, including Jackie Greene, Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris and Patti Smith.

Whether singing rock, folk, blues or pop music, this artist brings conviction and authenticity to her performances.

Osborne will appear on Monday, April 18, at 7:30 pm. Visit [www.crestsacramento.com](http://www.crestsacramento.com).



# Newsies and [title of show] in Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Two very different musicals are coming soon to local stages. *Newsies* is the next big-budget Broadway touring show to play the Community Center Theater, while *[title of show]* is a smaller scale but very clever show within a show playing at the Grange Performing Arts Center.

## Newsies

If you enjoyed the spectacular sold-out success that was *The Book of Mormon*, you'll want to keep that Broadway glow going with the next blockbuster musical coming to town.

*Newsies*, which won Tony Awards in 2012 for Best Score and Best Choreography, will hit the stage in Sacramento in mid-April. If you haven't seen the show already, its killer choreography is alone worth the price of admission.

This is a dance show at heart, but *Newsies* is also inspired by a moving true story about a little-known newspaper strike in 1899 when newsboys in New York City refused to deliver in protest over low wages.

The rousing stage musical was also based on a 1992 Disney movie musical of the same name that starred a very young Christian Bale.

*Newsies* follows a band of underdogs who become unlikely heroes when they stand up to the most powerful men in New York City.

The show was brought to the stage by an award-winning creative team that includes Harvey Fierstein (book) and Alan Menken (score).

*Newsies* plays April 12-17 at the Community Center Theater. Visit [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com).

[broadwaysacramento.com](http://broadwaysacramento.com).

## [title of show]

The talented folks at Green Valley Theatre present this ingenious one act musical about the creation of a musical, with music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen and book by Hunter Bell.

The show tells the real-life story of the creation of a musical for entry into the New York Musical Theater Festival. Bowen and Bell, along with their two actress friends, created the show in three weeks for entry into the festival.

*[title of show]* tells the story of its own creation, including the subsequent events of how the show played off Broadway and eventually on Broadway.

*[title of show]* plays through April 10 at the Grange on V Street in Sacramento. Visit [www.greenvalleytheatre.com](http://www.greenvalleytheatre.com).



Newsies

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