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Dr. Neil Flynn 'Transitions' to Next Pioneering Venture

page 12



Out and About: Sacramento Pride Pics

page 14

Libraries Stand Firm In
Support Of GLBT Books

page 5

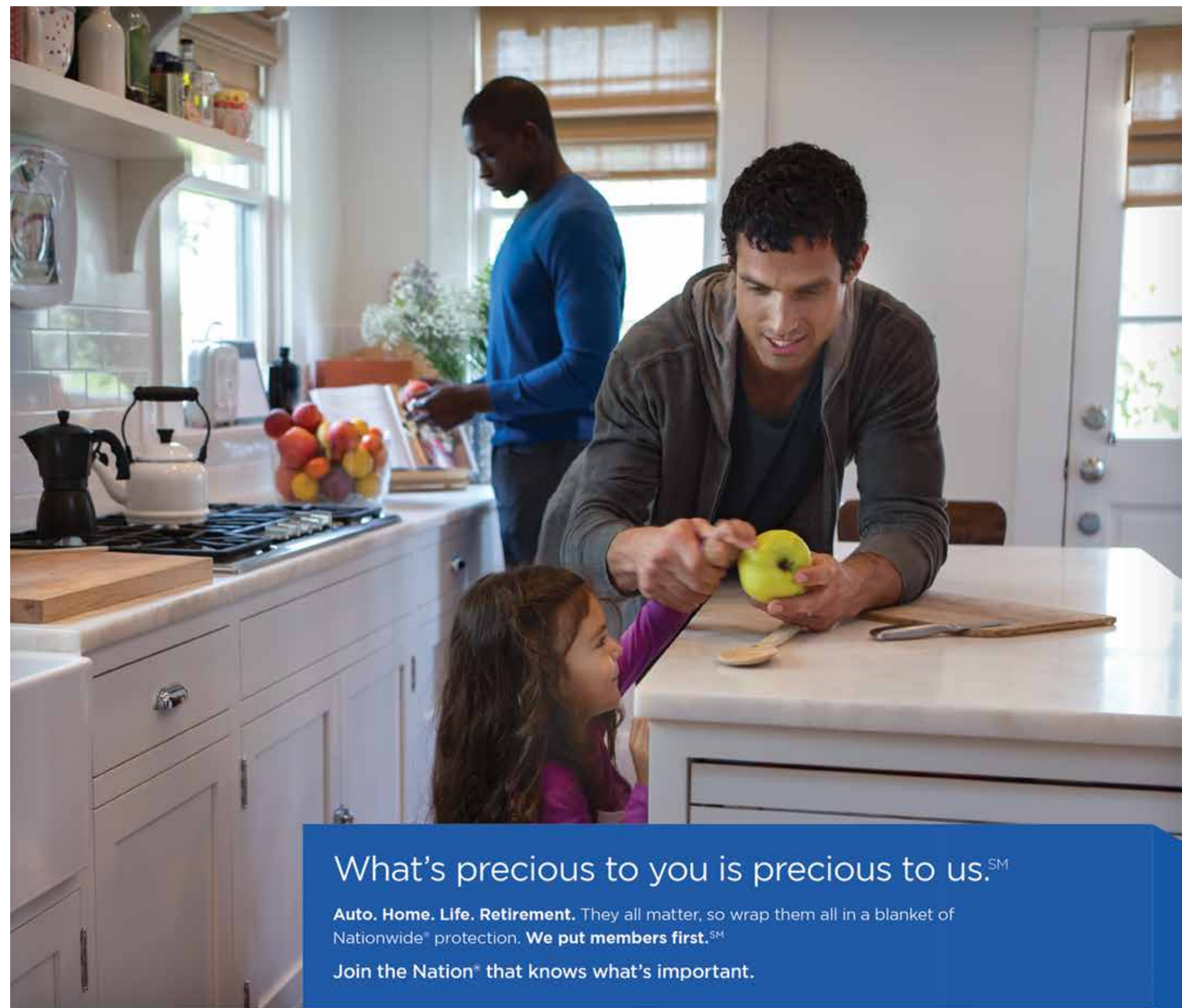
President Obama's Pride
Month Proclamation

page 6



Out and About:
Davis Pride Pics

page 24



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ON THE COVER
Dr. Neil Flynn standing in front of the vault door at Cares Community Health, a vestige from when CARES moved into the former bank building.

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DOE Guidance Affirms Rights of Transgender Students

The U.S. Department of Education on May 13th released a historic letter to the nation's school districts that affirms that discriminating against transgender students is illegal under Title IX.

This detailed letter explains that schools and colleges have to ensure that transgender students are treated according to their gender identity in every aspect of school life.

The letter, and accompanying Emerging Practices guide, covers name and pronoun use, confidentiality, harassment, participate in sports, application of dress codes, among other topics.

The letter clearly states that all students have the right to full and equal access to restrooms and other facilities that match their gender.

Schools that don't follow these policies – including schools that exclude transgender students from restrooms consistent with their gender – are violating federal law, putting their federal funding at risk.

Title IX overrides state laws like North Carolina's HB 2, which require schools to force transgender students into bathrooms that don't match their gender.

"We've seen over and over that transgender students who are included and respected can thrive at school," said National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling. "But this year, some legislators and anti-trans extremists have been encouraging schools to deny transgender students basic educational opportunities, by fanning baseless fears and cooking up confusion about what federal law requires. That's why transgender young

people, their families and their schools have so desperately needed this guidance from the federal government."

Policies that treat transgender students equally, including when it comes to restroom access, have been successfully tried and tested for years in thousands of schools around the country. But even though many schools have been doing the right thing without any threats to anyone's privacy or safety, too many transgender students continue to go to schools where they face discrimination, harassment and even violence.

"For so many students, the Department of Education's letter is literally life-saving," Keisling said. "It tells transgender students that they're not fighting against daily ignorance and exclusion alone: the federal government is prepared to fight right beside them to ensure that all schools are following the law. It tells them that they deserve to be treated with the same respect as everyone else—and that's something that's protected by law. The discrimination that transgender students face isn't going to vanish overnight, but this policy has real potential to push schools to improve their policies and change students' lives."

For more background information about transgender students' experiences and successful transgender-inclusive policies, visit www.transequality.org.

Journey Into Sacramento's Homo-Incredible History

The Lavender Library and Five Rivers Collective are presenting Pride Month Queer History Fridays, a series of talks featuring Sacramentans who not only were there when history was being made, but were a part of it.

All of the talks will be from 7 to 9 pm at the Library, 1414 21st Street, and are free. and light refreshments will be available.

Leading the talks off will be Michael R. Gorman, a Lambda Award Winning author, activist, historian, and storyteller on Friday, June 10. Gorman will speak on "From Silence to Marriage: Stories Told and Untold in 50 Years of Sacramento Media."

Up next is Jerry Sloan on Friday, June 17. Sloan is the Lambda Community Center Founder, and is an activist and researcher/monitor of right wing extremism. He will be addressing "From the Closeted Fifties to the New Millennium:

An Eye Witness Account"

Wrapping up the series of speakers will be Marghe Covino on Friday, June 24. A Community organizer for the lesbian, black and Italian communities, Covino is also a journalist, restaurateur and civil rights

activist. She will be addressing "Unsung Heroes: Women and Communities of Color in Sacramento's LGBT Rights Movement."

Following the Speakers series, on Friday, July 15, The Library will host A Q&A Queer Elders History Panel Discussion.

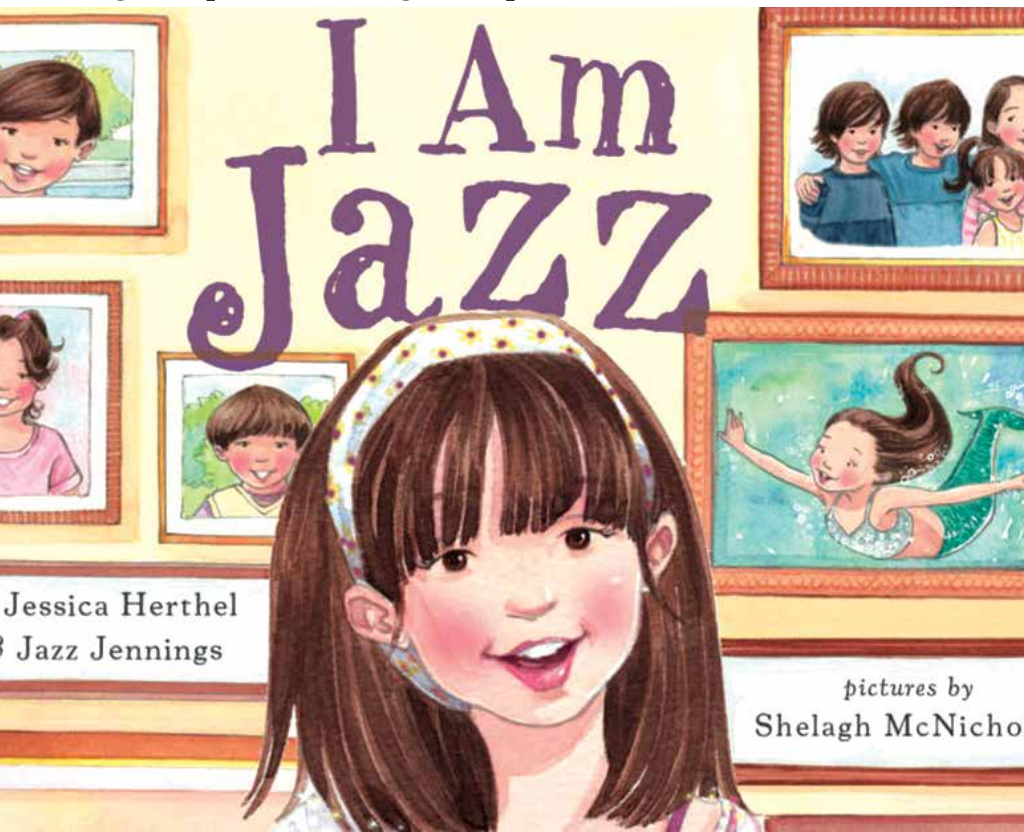
For more information, call 916-492-0558 or visit www.lavenderlibrary.com.



Marghe Covino

Libraries Stand Firm In Support Of GLBT Books

In a year when GLBT communities are facing divisive religious freedom and bathroom privacy legislation, libraries across the nation are working against that discriminatory legislation by fostering acceptance through the power of books.



The American Library Association (ALA), and hundreds of libraries are celebrating June 2016 as GLBT Book Month, a nationwide celebration of the authors and books that reflect the GLBT experience.

The celebration is consistent with ALA's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and mutual respect for all human beings, as well as recognizing the significant contributions of GLBT authors, with the Stonewall Book Awards, the first and longest-enduring award for GLBT literature, as well as its Office for Intellectual Freedom's response to the threat of censorship.

"We are pleased to continue our celebration of GLBT Book Month, said ALA President Sari Feldman. "Libraries play a vital role in connecting people with information and resources, and librarians serve a critical need by making the works of authors and publishers of GLBT books available to the public. It is important that these voices be heard, and libraries not only provide a safe space for consumers of GLBT fiction and non-fiction, but a safe place on the shelves for authors serving a critical need in our society."

In 2015, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom recorded 275 challenges to books, with the list including books with GLBT content.

They included I Am Jazz, by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, a picture book based on the life of a transgender girl that faced a number of challenges, among them a proposed reading of the book in Wisconsin that led to threats of a federal lawsuit.

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, by Alison

Bechdel, which received the 2007 Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Stonewall Book Award, was challenged as recommended reading for incoming freshmen at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, because some students objected to the novel's depictions of lesbian sexuality, arguing that the book is borderline pornographic and they shouldn't have been asked to read it.

It was also challenged at the College of Charleston, prompting state lawmakers to threaten defunding the summer reading program. Both the college and the University of Utah stood by the book, which relates the story of a lesbian coming to terms with her own sexuality and discovering that her distant father is gay.

Challenges involving GLBT books have even been accompanied by anti-gay slurs, such as when Wasilla, Alaska's public library transferred its entire young adult non-fiction to the adult stacks in response to a complaint about James Dawson's sex education book, This Book Is Gay. A number of Wasilla residents attacked the book at a city council meeting, accompanying their attacks with such remarks as they didn't want "gay books" or books about gay people in the library at all. During debates on the issue, the library director was called a pedophile.

In addition to providing materials, libraries are also a safe space for GLBT students. A study published in the Journal of Research on Libraries & Young Adults examined how school librarians created bully-free zones and collected GLBT and anti-bullying materials, collaborating with guidance counselors and teachers and suggesting particular books for students.



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President Obama Issues Pride Month Proclamation

by The President Of The United States Of America: A Proclamation

Since our founding, America has advanced on an unending path toward becoming a more perfect Union. This journey, led by forward-thinking individuals who have set their sights on reaching for a brighter tomorrow, has never been easy or smooth.

The fight for dignity and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people is reflected in the tireless dedication of advocates and allies who strive to forge a more inclusive society. They have spurred sweeping progress by changing hearts and minds and by demanding equal treatment – under our laws, from our courts, and in our politics.

This month, we recognize all they have done to bring us to this point, and we recommit to bending the arc of our Nation toward justice.

Last year's landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing marriage equality in all 50 States was a historic victory for LGBT Americans, ensuring dignity for same-sex couples and greater equality across State lines. For every partnership that was not previously recognized under the law and for every American who was denied their basic civil rights, this monumental ruling instilled newfound hope, affirming the belief that we are all more free when we are treated as equals.

LGBT individuals deserve to know their country stands beside them. That is why my Administration is striving to better understand the needs of LGBT adults and to provide affordable, welcoming, and supportive housing to aging LGBT Americans.

It is also why we oppose subjecting minors to the harmful practice of conversion therapy, and why we are continuing to promote equality and foster safe and supportive learning environments for all students.

We remain committed to addressing health disparities in the LGBT community – gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color are at a particularly high risk for HIV, and we have worked to strengthen our National HIV/AIDS Strategy to reduce new infections, increase access to care, and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV.

Despite the extraordinary progress of the past few years, LGBT Americans still face discrimination simply for being who they are. I signed an Executive Order in 2014 that prohibits discrimination against Federal employees and contractors on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. I urge the Congress to enact legislation that builds upon the progress we have made, because no one should live in fear of losing their job simply because of who they are or who they love.

And our commitment to combatting discrimination against the LGBT community does not stop at our borders: Advancing the fair treatment of all people has long been a cornerstone of American diplomacy, and we



POTUS on the phone. Picture courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov

have made defending and promoting the human rights of LGBT individuals a priority in our engagement across the globe.

In line with America's commitment to the notion that all people should be treated fairly and with respect, champions of this cause at home and abroad are upholding the simple truth that LGBT rights are human rights.

There remains much work to do to extend the promise of our country to every American, but because of the acts of courage of the millions who came out and spoke out to demand justice and of those who quietly toiled and pushed for progress, our Nation has made great strides in recognizing what these brave individuals long knew to be true in their hearts – that love is love and that no person should be judged by anything but the content of their character.

During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, as Americans wave their flags of pride high and march boldly forward in parades and demonstrations, let us celebrate how far we have come and reaffirm our steadfast belief in the equal dignity of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

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Friday, June 10, 2016

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(Lambda Award Winning Author, Activist, Historian, Storyteller)

From Silence to Marriage: Stories Told and Untold in 50 Years of Sacramento Media



Friday, June 17, 2016

Jerry Sloan

(Lambda Community Center Founder, Activist, Researcher/Monitor of Right Wing Extremism)

From the Closeted Fifties to the New Millennium: An Eye Witness Account



Friday, June 24, 2016

Marghe Covino

(Lesbian/Black/Italian Community Organizer, Journalist, Restaurateur, Civil Rights Activist)

Unsung Heroes: Women and Communities of Color in Sacramento's LGBT Rights Movement

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GILEAD SCANDAL:

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In a cover story in the Los Angeles Times on May 29, 2016* it is documented that Gilead, the maker of HIV drugs that most positive patients as well as those on PrEP take, intentionally held a much less toxic version of their drug off the market in order to extend their patents and make tens of billions of dollars. Gilead stopped research on a less toxic version of its core drug tenofovir (marketed under different names in combination with other drugs) in 2004. Earlier this year AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) sued Gilead to invalidate their patents based on them withholding the updated version of the drug. Gilead's response was they "have no duty to develop, test, seek approval of, or launch the new product on any particular timetable."

Widespread reports of kidney damage and bone loss due to tenofovir have been known since 2003 and federal authorities several times warned Gilead about downplaying the risks. Nevertheless, Gilead with the assistance of the CDC is promoting the older more toxic version of tenofovir to young HIV negative men for PrEP. They never bothered to seek approval of the safer drug because they wanted to wait until the very last moment to get approval of the new less toxic version so that their patents would be extended for another twenty years.

Gilead has spent hundreds of millions of dollars seeking approval for PrEP, paying doctors to endorse it, funding governments and community groups to promote and advertise it. Yet Gilead says that they stopped the research on the less toxic drug because they needed to shift their research to other medications. However, they had \$11 billion in 2011 to buy Pharmasset, which had the rights to a drug that cured Hepatitis C. They turned around and brought Sovaldi and Harvoni to market and are charging \$84,000 and \$94,000 respectively for them. These ridiculous prices are causing rationing which prevents most Hep C patients from receiving these drugs.

AHF has fought for lower drug prices for decades. When we started treating in Africa in 2002 we paid \$5000 per patient per year for the HIV cocktail, today we pay \$100. We lobbied. We sued. We protested. That's what passionate advocates do. It is high time that the CDC and AIDS organizations cut the cord to big drug companies and return to the roots of AIDS activism which does not include feasting at the table of Pharma greed.

*<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-gilead-20160529-snap-story.html>

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LGBT Civil Rights To Be Pressed at 2016 DNC

Against the backdrop of a major, national audience, Equality Forum, the nation's oldest LGBT civil rights summit, has announced plans for this year's summit to be held July 25th through July 28th during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

Equality Forum 2016 will bring together elected officials, newsmakers and LGBT experts for groundbreaking panel discussions on the state and future of the LGBT movement, as well as two historic marker dedications and award ceremonies.

"The stakes couldn't be higher this election season for LGBT equality and the Equality Forum gives us a front-row seat into the road ahead," said Ed Rendell, Chair, 2016 Democratic National Convention. "For four days in Philadelphia during the Democratic National Convention, the Equality Forum's convening of the best and brightest minds on the future of the LGBT movement is not to be missed." Rendell is also the former Governor of Pennsylvania and previous Chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Equality Forum 2016 will bring together the top-minds, leading experts and newsmakers to discuss what the road ahead will look like for LGBT equality in the shadows of perhaps the most consequential presidential election in a lifetime."

From July 25th through July 28th, 2016, Equality Forum 2016 will feature four stellar

panels focusing on areas significant to continued progress for the LGBT movement, including: National Legal Panel; National Politics Panel; Elected Officials Panel; and Future of the Movement Panel

These panels are designed to examine the LGBT movement through the lens of the 2016 presidential election, and will bring together history makers, legal scholars and political leaders for thought-provoking conversations.

Equality Forum 2016 will also include the dedication of two movement important historic markers.

The Barbara Gittings Historic Marker recognizes the mother of the LGBT civil rights movement and where she resided in the 1960s with her partner Kay Lahusen.

The Philadelphia Conference Historic Marker, located at the Friends Meetinghouse designates where 300 activists from around the country met to organize the 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

For more information on the Equality Forum, visit www.equalityforum.com.

Youth Suicide Prevention Bill Clears California Assembly

The California Assembly has approved a bill that would require the adoption of comprehensive suicide prevention plans by local California school districts with students attending grades 7-12.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2246 was authored by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) and sponsored by Equality California and The Trevor Project.

"AB 2246 will protect every student in California, especially our vulnerable LGBTQ youth who attempt suicide at significantly higher rates," said Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. "With parents and schools partnering together, we can prevent the tragic loss of many young lives."

Current California Education Code encourages schools to adopt suicide prevention policies, but does not require them. Under AB 2246, new policies must address, at a minimum, guidelines for suicide prevention, intervention, and follow-up.

To assist local educational agencies in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the Department of Education would be required to develop and maintain a model policy to serve as a guide for school districts, possibly based on one already developed by The Trevor Project.

"LGB teens attempt suicide at rates up to three times higher than their straight peers

and more than a quarter of trans youth have reported making a suicide attempt," said Rick Zbur, Executive Director of Equality California. "California's teachers are dedicated to creating safe, supportive learning environments. This bill will help give them the tools and training they need to protect LGBTQ and all at-risk children."

More than 17 percent of youth turning to The Trevor Project's lifesaving resources are from California. According to the CDC, 17 percent of students in grades 9-12 report having seriously considered suicide, and eight percent report having attempted suicide one or more times in the past 12 months.

"Young people often don't know where to turn when they are dealing with depression and suicidal thoughts," said Abbe Land, executive director and CEO of The Trevor Project. "With AB 2246, students will be able to walk into a classroom knowing that they can talk to a teacher or school employee and that person can direct them to lifesaving resources like The Trevor Project."


AB 2246 now moves to the California Senate for approval.

Out & About

We All Screamed for Ice Cream


PFLAG Sacramento held their 7th annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 29th at Taylor's Kitchen, serving up delicious Clover Stornetta Farms Ice Cream, River City Root Beer, and plenty of ice cream mustaches. The Ice Cream Social is a fundraiser for PFLAG's scholarship fund and was sponsored by SMUD, Stephanie Slagel with State Farm Insurance and *Outword*.





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Dr. Neil Flynn ‘Transitions’ to Next Pioneering Venture

by Bonnie Osborn

Driving by the sprawling, nondescript building on a corner lot offers few clues to what goes on inside. Eleven years ago Dr. Neil Flynn bought the property from the family of a local doctor who, over 40 years, delivered generations of Oak Park babies.

The building is a fixer-upper that has been undergoing painstaking renovation under the direction of clinic manager and the doctor's right-hand man, Richard Alcala, ever since. From the outside the only hint of its purpose is the hand-scripted name “Transitions” painted across the cinderblock wall.

Flynn is probably best known in the Sacramento LGBT and healthcare communities as a founder and first medical director of the non-profit HIV/AIDS clinic, CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Services), but that's only one of many hats he has worn, just one ground-breaking accomplishment in a pioneering life of service to others.

Having recently celebrated one retirement, from his full-time faculty position at UC Davis School of Medicine, he's preparing for a second, from Cares Community Health (the successor to CARES), this summer. Alcala is already making plans to wrap Flynn's Cares Community Health retirement party into the Fourth of July block party the clinic holds annually for neighborhood families.

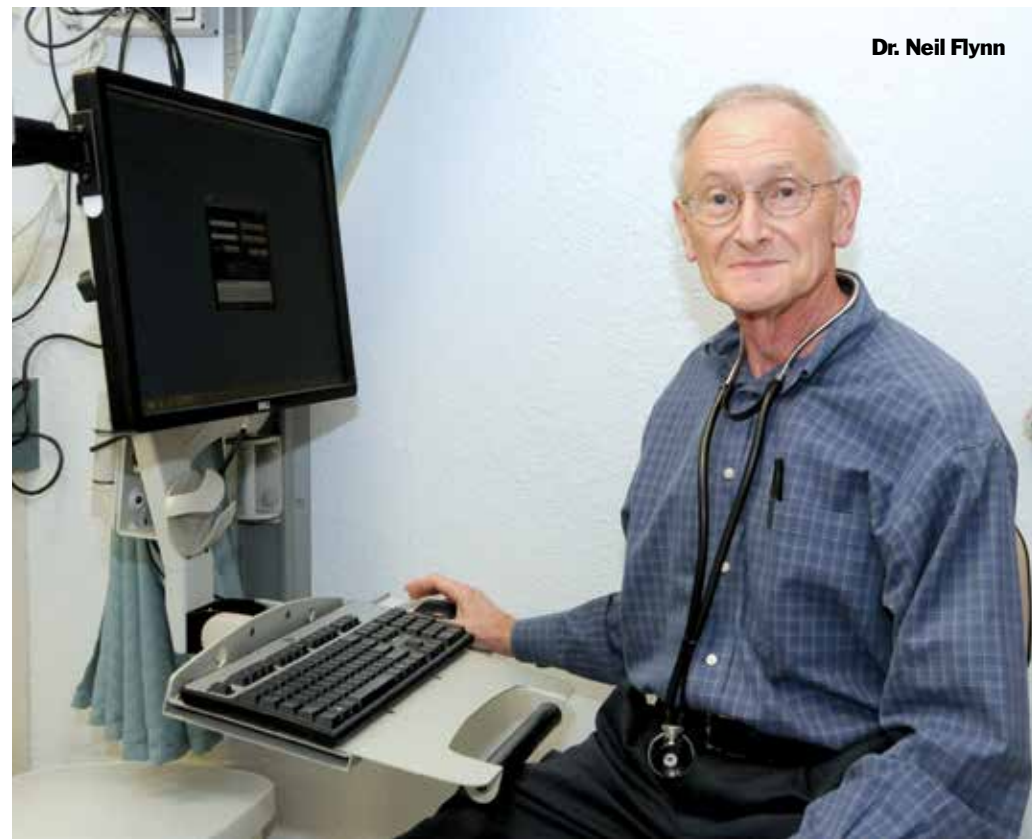
But don't make the mistake of thinking Flynn is bowing out: At 68 he's merely refocusing his relentless energy on his latest

project, Transitions, a clinic specializing in treatment of opioid addiction with what in the United States is still a somewhat rare and controversial medication, buprenorphine.

Opioid addiction is a rapidly growing problem in the United States, and one that is to a large extent attributable to the ministrations of the healthcare industry itself. “We doctors are the originators of the problem,” Flynn says. “Because we have prescribed enough of the stuff that people have become dependent. We did it to try to treat their pain, but nevertheless the result is dependence. So what do you do with all these millions of people depending on opioids?”

Flynn has worked with HIV/AIDS patients since the beginning of the HIV epidemic. In 1983 he helped open the UC Davis HIV clinic. In 1989, as the number of HIV cases skyrocketed, and with the support of area hospitals, he helped establish CARES to take some of the pressure off the UC Davis clinic.

“Within a year or two, we were reducing hospitalizations by half, and the patients were happier,” Flynn recalls. “Everybody won. CARES is almost unique in the United States in size, non-profit status and support by



Dr. Neil Flynn

hospitals. It's a unique model and has survived the test of time, where others have gone under.” In 2014, CARES expanded into primary care, becoming Cares Community Health, a non-profit, federally qualified health center.

Ultimately it was his work with HIV/AIDS patients that led Flynn to his work in addiction treatment.

In 1990 he began treating drug addicts living with HIV. “I became very comfortable with drug users,” he says. “We were all taught in medical school that drug users are difficult to treat, they're nasty, all kinds of pejorative things. I didn't find that. I found them to be ordinary people.

“I don't believe becoming dependent on opioids is a crime,” he says. “We in medicine and public health think that it's a brain disorder, something that they can't change, no more than you and I can change whether we are straight or gay.”

Working with HIV-positive addicts, Flynn says, “also gave me context and made me realize as a gay man that when we gays and lesbians got our freedom, there was still this group of junkies, drug users, beaten down like we were. They deserved to be treated fairly.

“I consider what we do to drug users a crime against humanity, the same as Reagan's approach to HIV was a crime.”

Over the years Flynn became familiar with the work psychiatrist Dr. Jack Carty was doing in treating opioid addicts with buprenorphine, a drug that, while commonly used in Europe, was still considered experimental in the U.S.

“There are no cravings, no withdrawal, the patients feel good; they can go back to work and become productive again. Deaths from overdose go down.

“It's sort of like when we first got HIV drugs: people stopped dying. To physicians, it feels like we suddenly got something that allows folks to go on living, but not in a state of despair.”

In addition to prescribing buprenorphine,

Transitions physicians counsel each patient for 20 minutes each month using a non-confrontational interviewing method designed to help patients make productive choices.

Ryan, 32, began treatment at Transitions six years ago following a bad experience with methadone treatment. He became addicted to pain killers after lifting a keg at work, which left him with a bulging disk. His doctor sent him home with a prescription for 60 10-miligram Norco pills, which contain acetaminophen and the opioid hydrocodone.

When, at a subsequent visit, he confessed to his doctor that he had become addicted, the doctor's response was to cut him off, cold turkey. That's when he wound up at a methadone clinic.

Today, after six years in the Transitions program, Ryan is married with two children and is self-employed as a handyman, a “normal” life he attributes to Flynn and buprenorphine. “I don't know where I would be if I hadn't come here,” he says. “I don't think I would have a wife; I don't think I would have kids.”

Another of Transitions' success stories, Kim, then a stay-at-home mom of four, ages 5 to 14, got hooked on opioids after a car accident that left her with neck pain. The ER sent her home with a prescription for 75 Norco. “You don't need 75 Norcos. You take them, you start to feel better when you're on them,” she says. “The doctor gives you another prescription for 120 ... instead of x-rays, they push pills.

“Withdrawal feels like you're on your death bed; that's why so many people use,” she says.

“When I came here I started to get a sense of myself,” she recalls. “I went back to school; I started working. The kids noticed.

“You feel like you're coming to family friend who wants to make sure you are happier next time you come around,” she says. “This is a relief, an accomplishment, instead of being embarrassed.”

Despite Transitions' record of success, Flynn

An advertisement for Outword Magazine. On the left, there is a collage of several magazine covers from various issues, including one with a man in a black shirt, one with a woman in a red dress, and one with a man in a red cape. The background of the ad is a light blue sky with a city skyline at the bottom. The text in the center reads: "Happy 21st Year Anniversary to Outword! Show the community you support the local LGBT news magazine, and all that they do, by buying a Happy Anniversary ad." Below this, it says: "Deadline: August 15th for the August 25th issue." At the bottom, the Outword logo is displayed, followed by "media • marketing • events", the phone number "916-329-9280", the email "sales@outwordmagazine.com", and the website "www.outwordmagazine.com".

and Alcala regularly battle a healthcare system that remains ill-informed and often suspicious of or judgmental about buprenorphine treatment. Some pharmacies refuse to fill buprenorphine prescriptions. Alcala spends hours on the phone educating pharmacists and arguing with insurers.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported 47,000 deaths from opioid overdoses in 2014. Federal law currently restricts doctors using buprenorphine treatment to treating just 30 patients in the first year, and only 100 patients per physician in the second and subsequent years – a cap the Obama administration is working to raise, Flynn says. Today, with expanded staffing, the Transitions clinic patient load totals 360.

In addition to its work with addicts, Transitions provides training in treating opioid addiction to UC Davis and Sutter residents, three of whom have come back to work for the organization. With his July retirement, Flynn will be embarking on a five-year plan to expand and stabilize clinic operations to continue without him.

The plan includes reverting to a non-profit model, as it was before its original non-profit partner failed to work out. Originally free, Transitions recently initiated a \$125 per month fee that covers physician costs, a bargain compared to other addiction clinics that charge \$300 per month and up. Alcala is usually able to get the cost of the buprenorphine covered through insurance.

“It’s taken six years to get here; another five should take us to a larger non-profit, with large numbers of drug-dependent people getting low-cost, high-quality care here for dependency or addiction,” Flynn says.

“A second goal, and we are rapidly realizing it, is to train family practitioners to go out and do this. That way they could support the treatment on insurance; it would be just another office visit.

“The best of all possible outcomes would be that buprenorphine treatment becomes a public health thing, so for people who don’t have insurance or can’t find the drug, the county would provide it. It would save money,” Flynn says. “About one-third of homeless people are dependent on opioids. The other part have mental health problems. We neglect both.

“We find without treatment 80 to 90 percent of opioid-dependent people may never get off opioids. They would become depressed, crave the drugs, and the craving will always be on their minds. This drug takes that away – no cravings, no getting high, just normal.

“Most of our people who have gone back to work, who are taking care of their families, are as normal as anybody else,” Flynn says. “The only difference is they have to take medication every day.

“I think the opioid scare and interest in opioids is going to do for drug users what HIV did for gay men. Just as we needed treatment for HIV, we need treatment for opioid use.”

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz.



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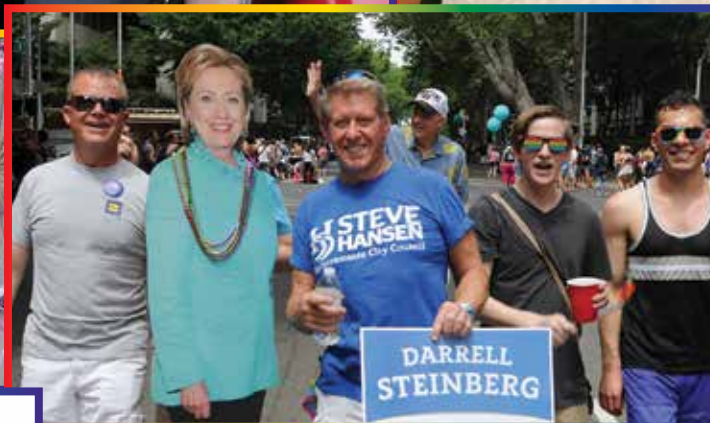
— OR —

If you have not yet bought tickets to the concert, you can purchase your tickets at www.ticketmaster.com (fees apply) in a package with the Outword private pre-party.

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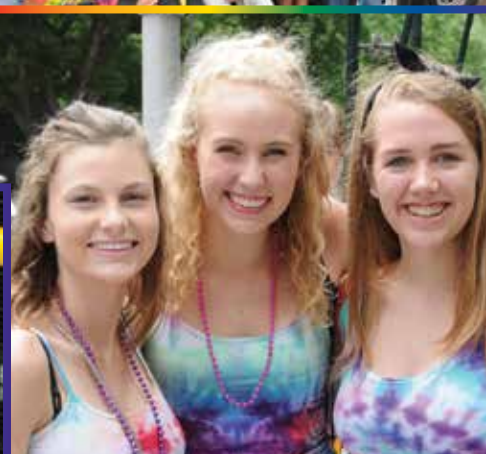
Out & Sacramento

This year's Pride Festival and Parade were a commemoration of Stonewall and of the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Sacramento Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Center, originally the Lambda Center, you can't help but feel the skies held down the temperature, but not your spirits. Including this year's Grand Marshals, Jerry Slovic and the awesome lineup of entertainment on the Main Stage, including Drag Queen and the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, Taryn Thru-U. Thanks to everyone who made it happen, and staff, the Pride Committee, all the volunteers, and you, to show you



About Pride 2016

Amazing, held June 4 on the Capitol Mall. A
years of the Sacramento LGBT Community
me out in the thousands to celebrate. Cloudy
enthusiasm as you cheered on the paraders,
Joan and Stuart Milk. The festival featured an
Main Stage including Wilson Phillips, Bob the
Moros, all held together by the amazing emcee
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SOME FEAR NONE
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JIM GAFFIGAN
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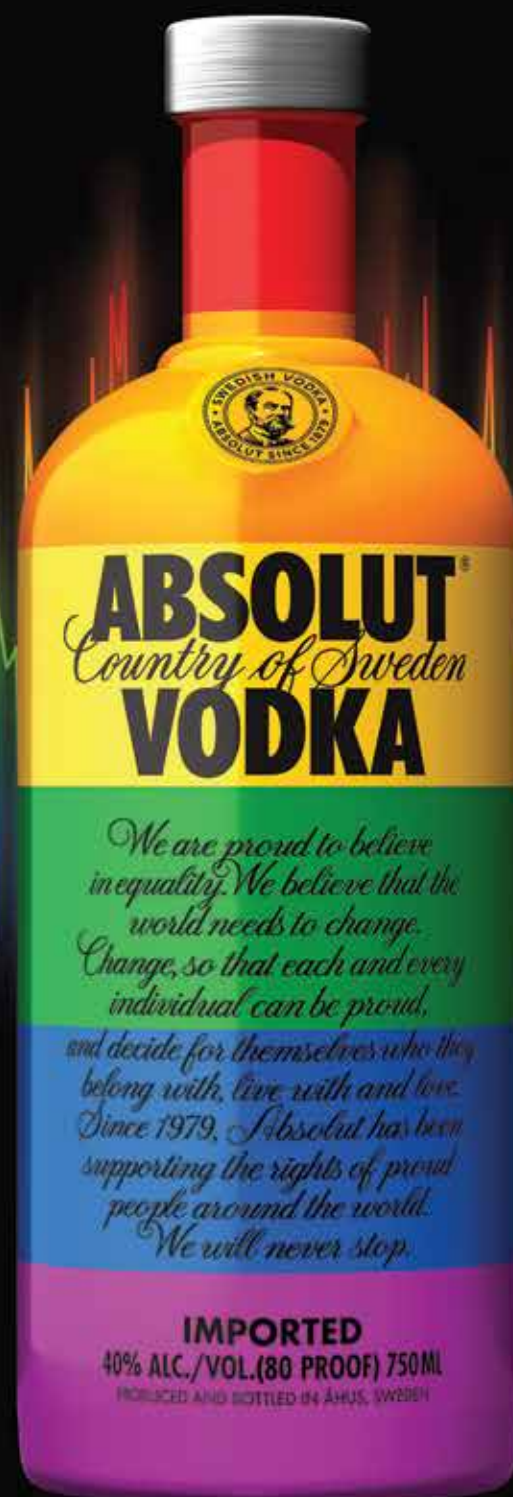


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Sexy Soul Singer Maxwell Is Coming to Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Long before there was current R & B heartthrob The Weeknd, there was (and still is) the sublime soul singer, songwriter, and sex symbol Maxwell, a ladies' man that can also melt men's hearts.



Maxwell

Along with fellow musicians D'Angelo and Erykah Badu, Maxwell has been credited with helping to shape the "neo soul" movement that rose to prominence during the late 1990s.

Among Maxwell's most memorable songs are the hits "Pretty Wings," "Dancewitme," "Whenever, Wherever, Whatever," and the sexy new song "Lake By the Ocean," his first solo single in six years.

Maxwell last released *BLACKsummers'night* in the summer of 2009. It was promised as the first part in a trilogy of albums that never materialized, until now.

According to an interview with

Essence, Maxwell has said that the second CD, *blackSUMMERS'night*, will come out this summer. Arriving seven years after the first part, the new album will also mark the 20-year anniversary of his classic debut album, *Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite*.

The singer will make a very rare local appearance when he brings his current tour to Sacramento's Community Theatre, on Monday, June 20.

There were only a handful of tickets left for Maxwell's Sacramento show as we went to press. Visit www.vividseats.com for this and many other summer shows.

Don't Miss *Summertime* at the Sac French Film Festival

by Chris Narloch

Even if you don't speak French or you've never seen a French film in your life, you'll want to check out *La Belle Saison* (*Summertime*), a highly acclaimed French-Belgian movie that has been described as "the lesbian *Brokeback Mountain*."

Thanks to the organizers of the 15th Sacramento French Film Festival, area Francophiles and film fans will be able to buy tickets to see that prestigious picture this month, complete with English subtitles, on the big screen at the Crest movie palace on K Street.

Summertime is co-written and directed by Catherine Corsini and stars Cécile de France, Izia Higelin and Noémie Lvovsky.[4

Executive and artistic director Cecile Mouette Downs told me *Summertime* is one of her favorite films at this year's Festival. "Cecile De France is phenomenal, and Noemie Lvovsky as the mom is so real," said Downs.

Muriel Del Don of Cineuropa described that film as a "real emotional odyssey in which passion seems to conquer all, even the most tenacious of prejudices".

In a review for *Variety*, Peter Debruge called *Summertime* a "luminous, golden-hued period piece" and a "beautifully realized tearjerker."

The SFFF will also show the 1976 film *Je T'aime... Moi Non Plus*, starring Jane Birkin and Joe Dallesandro, the hunky Andy Warhol protégé who became an



La Belle Saison (*Summertime*)

icon to gay men in the '70s via films such as *Flesh*, *Trash* and *Heat*.

Festival favorites Catherine Deneuve and Alain Delon will be represented this year with *Standing Tall* and *Two Men in Town*, respectively, and the SFFF will also feature a number of late night movies and classic films from the past.

The 15th SFFF will be held over two weekends: June 17-19 & 24-26. Most of the Festival will be held at its home, The Crest Theatre, but the schedule will also include three screenings this year at the Esquire IMAX Theatre, also on K Street.

In other news, the SFFF is having a very special Opening Celebration to commemorate its 15th anniversary in style. That

reception will be held after the Opening Night feature in the gorgeous Silver Room, located a block away from the Crest Theatre at the corner of 9th and K Streets.

Downs also revealed that the Festival is showing several films that deal with multiculturalism and immigration this year, including *French Blood* (which explores far right activists in France) and *Made in France* (a thriller about a journalist infiltrating a jihadist cell in Paris that was written and shot before the recent terrorist attacks in that city). "That is what's on French directors' minds these days," said Downs.

For a complete schedule of this year's movies, visit www.sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org.
outwardmagazine.com



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LGBT Drama *LUV Don't Live Here* Coming To DVD



LUV Don't Live Here tells the story of Reggie Hamilton, also affectionately known as Reggie Luv, a gay black man whose life takes a 180-degree turn when he becomes severely ill. Not willing to part with the way life was before, Reggie finds himself not only fighting for his health, but unearthing harsh truths about himself and the relationships he holds dear. Available on VOD July 5, and you can watch a trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpvT3bNo64I

Tony Award-Winning SF Mime Troupe Gets Schooled



Education. It's like the weather: everyone has an opinion but nobody does anything about it. That's how Lavinia Jones feels about her son Thomas' new school, Eleanor Roosevelt High. Decades of funding cuts have resulted in old textbooks, crumbling classrooms, and underpaid teachers, and when did the hall monitors start wearing brown shirts and arm bands? The hilarious comedy plays July 2 - Sept 5 in the Bay Area, but comes to Davis and Sacramento on Aug. 27-28. Visit www.sfmt.org

Vampires: *Lucas Rising* Is a Cult Film Series in the Making



The second film in the hit *Vampires* series finds Lucas' true love Toby snatched from his arms and dragged into hell's realm, with the help of a powerful witch and her coven, Lucas fights for his immortal lover. Visit www.Ariztical.com and watch the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1zlwyEdmo

Puerto Vallarta Is a Great Summertime Getaway

by Ed Walsh. Photos by Ed Walsh

Mexico's gayest destination is changing but is showing no signs of slowing down. Puerto Vallarta boasts four competing gay cruises, more than two dozen gay bars and nightclubs, a half dozen gay hotels and a gay beach.

Over the past year, a few gay businesses have opened and some have closed but on the balance there is more gay stuff in PV than ever before. You can be in the resort city on Mexico's west coast in as little as six hours from Sacramento International, with a number of airlines offering connecting flights.

Once a sleepy fishing village, Puerto Vallarta blossomed in the late 60s to become one of Mexico's most popular vacation destinations, getting a big boost from the 1964 film Night of the Iguana. The movie was filmed in Puerto Vallarta and brought paparazzi there hungry for photos of Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor who carried on an illicit affair during the filming.

The tourist city has also come a long way in its level of gay acceptance and has evolved since the early 90s to barely tolerating gays to welcoming the pink dollar with a variety of activities tailored to the LGBT market.

By the way, the dollar, pink or otherwise, goes far in Mexico now. You will get about 18 pesos per dollar, that is close to the peso's all time low of 19 in February. The very favorable exchange rate means everything is on sale in Mexico, from taxi rides to gourmet meals in the city's finest restaurants.

If you can travel there during the summer, you will have a more Mexican experience because more Mexican and far fewer American and Canadian tourists visit PV then, The hotel rates are also cheaper than in the high-season winter months And although summer is the rainy season in PV, it generally rains in the evening, sometimes with dramatic thunderstorms in the early evening.

Where to stay

The luxurious LGBT resort, Casa Cupula, is one of the finest boutique hotels in Mexico. It includes the wonderful Taste Restaurant, a well-appointed gym, a pool and two hot tubs. The rooms are perfectly furnished to appeal to the finickiest traveler. The property is mostly visited by gay men, but is lesbian mixed and straight friendly. Breakfast at Taste is included.

Pinata PV is the newest gay hotel in Puerto Vallarta. The modern chic hotel with retro and old world touches is on a quiet street in the heart of Zona Romantica, the gayest part of the city. The boutique property is clothing optional and for men only. The hotel is known for hosting parties and special events. Pinata PV has all the upscale furnishings of a W Hotel but with the friendly camaraderie you won't find at a big box hotel.

Hotel Mercurio is a great budget choice but gives you much more than you will find in a typical budget hotel. The rooms are very comfortable and clean, but basic. The hotel's outwordmagazine.com

breakfast is first-rate, delicious and filling with a good selection of hot and cold dishes and made-to-order. Its late afternoon early evening happy hour brings the party to the hotel every day. Go-go-boys entertain during the taco happy hour on Wednesday and Sundays for "Beer, Boys and Burgers." Mercurio is targeted toward gay men but lesbians are very welcome.

If you are considering the above three hotels, book through the recently established site, www.staygaypv.com/ for added perks and discounts.

Nightlife

All of Puerto Vallarta's gay bars except the stripper bar, Anthropology, are in the Zona Romantica neighborhood. (Anthropology is just over the Cuale River, which is the dividing line between downtown and Zona Romantica.) Like most of Latin America, the lounge-type bars are busy in the evenings, while the bigger discos are busiest after 1 a.m. There are no lesbian bars in the city but women are welcome in most venues, especially the dance bars.

The nightlife scene is very changeable in Puerto Vallarta, but fortunately the city offers a couple of guides that you can check out online before you go or you can pick up a free copy once you get in town.

The longtime established gay guide, Gay Guide Vallarta (www.gayguidevallarta.com/), includes a free GPS map app that can guide you to a nightspot you want to check out.

Gay PV Magazine (gaypv.mx/) includes a guide, party pictures and articles. A must-do for first timers is the Puerto Vallarta gay bar tour (gayvallartabarhopping.com/), run by the publisher of Gay PV Magazine.

The hottest new bar is Mr. Flamingo, a tiki-themed bar at the corner of Lazaro Cardenas and Ignacio Luis Vallarta, the city's gay epicenter. The small triangular shaped open air bar perfectly fits into the corner and is almost always packed with the crowd dancing to mostly American pop music. The upscale gay sauna, Spartacus, is kitty-corner from Mr. Flamingo.

Paco's Ranch is just a couple of steps from Mr. Flamingo and is busiest after 1 a.m. The club plays Mexican and American music and generally has a couple of drag shows nightly with the performers speaking mostly in Spanish. Mr. Flamingo has probably taken some of Paco's customers away but Paco's can fit a lot more people. CC Slaughters is across the street from Mr. Flamingo and is a modern building that can accommodate more people for dancing than Pacos. CC's also has a separate lounge bar if you prefer a quieter space.

If you want to meet a very down to earth crowd, check out Frida's, a five minute walk from Mr. Flamingo on Insurgentes and

Venustiano Carranza. It is owned by Canadian ex-pat Tom Finley who makes everyone feel welcome. Frida's restaurant serves up delicious comfort food specials every day and is a great place to eat on the cheap and always have company.

The city's two stripper bars are Anthropology and Wet Dreams. Anthropology is a little darker making customers perhaps a little more likely to get down and dirty with the dancers. But be advised, that the strippers are very



Go go boys at Hotel Mercurio

aggressive at trying to recruit you for a private show. Wet Dreams is known for a shower next to the bar where the performers dance under the shower.

Blue Chairs (Calle Malecon #4) is most popular for its sunset shows on its multi-level open-air roof. Some nights feature drag shows, other nights strippers, and there is even a gay bingo night.

Gay events

Latin Fever is a circuit party held every Thanksgiving weekend hosted in various

venues throughout the city:

Mardi Gras: Was started by the gay community as an alternative to a gay pride parade and is held on the traditional Mardi Gras day, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Gay Pride: Puerto Vallarta celebrates gay pride parade and festival over the Memorial Day weekend.

Daylife

The gay Blue Chairs beach is in front of the Blue Chairs Hotel. The beach includes the section of the beach with both the green and blue chairs.

Puerto Vallarta has four gay cruises. Most go by the iconic Los Arcos, giant hollowed-out rock formations where you can snorkel and view colorful tropical fish. Diana's Tours (www.dianastours.com/) is the oldest of the gay cruises and has a very loyal clientel. It is mostly gay men but is lesbian and straight friendly.

The Wet and Wild cruise (www.pvsunsetpartycruise.com/) is marketed to gay men and is very sexually charged with go-go "lotion boys" on-board. The On Bay cruise (onbaytour.com/) has been running for about a year and like Wet and Wild, has go-go boys on-board. The Salty Dog tour (saltydogvoyages.mx/) just began this spring. It is run by a lesbian and a gay man and promises ultra luxury with renowned chef Paul Salazar.

For more information, the city has an LGBT section on its Web site: visitpuertovallarta.com/puerto-vallarta-is-diverse-and-friendly.

Ed Walsh is a freelance journalist based in Northern California. He writes regularly for the Bay Area Reporter and has contributed to more than a dozen other U.S. and foreign LGBT publications. He can be contacted at edwalsh94105@yahoo.com.

The Naked Magicians Make Their Clothes Disappear

by Chris Narloch

From the creator of the biggest magic show on the planet comes the world's sexiest pair of magicians, now touring the world in *The Naked Magic Show*.

With nothing up their sleeves, and by the end of the performance, no pants on either, Christopher Wayne and Mike Tyler are legitimate, professional magicians who decided to set themselves apart by incorporating onstage nudity into their act.

The Naked Magic Show features magic, mirth and more than a touch of mayhem as these two hot and hilarious magicians say abracadabra and take magic to a whole new level.

Left without sleeves or pockets, their saucy magic is baffling and entertaining, bringing a whole new meaning to "now you see it"

This boisterous, R-rated magic show strips away the top hats and capes, promising full frontal illusions.

You can see these two buff Aussie studs show off their magic wands when *The Naked Magic Show* stops in to San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts Theatre for

one night only, on Wednesday, June 22.

Call 415-392-4400 or visit www.thenakedmagicshow.com.



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This program is funded by the Division of Behavioral Health Services through the voter-approved Prop. 63, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Bro-Coms & Art Films

by Chris Narloch

If, like me, you are suffering from CSF (cinematic superhero fatigue), take heart and proceed directly to the Tower Theatre, where four fascinating films were currently playing as I wrote this article.

Two of those artsy titles are reviewed below, along with a pair of surprisingly funny multiplex bro-coms, one with Andy Samberg and the other starring Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe.

The Nice Guys

The insanely hot Ryan Gosling and a slightly chunky Russell Crowe star in this pretty terrific bro-com buddy flick, which is set in the 1970s and follows a pair of Los Angeles private detectives whose ethics are only slightly more elevated than the criminals they are either pursuing or avoiding, depending on the case.

The main plot involves a missing young woman with ties to the porn industry, a setting that provides plenty of laughs when the teenaged daughter of Gosling's character keeps turning up at the most inappropriate places to help her dad.

Angourie Rice, the terrific young Australian actress cast as that girl, almost steals the movie from Gosling and Crowe, who have uncanny chemistry as a couple of tough guys who just might be nice guys underneath it all.

Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping

I was prepared to hate this bro-com satire of the music industry, and then (surprise!)

the movie actually isn't half bad. I still think *Popstar* is an extended SNL skit masquerading as a movie, but it is consistently funny.

SNL alum Andy Samberg (*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*) stars in the movie as Conner4Real, a white-boy rapper whose sophomore CD flops, leaving his fans, hangers-on, and rivals all wondering what to do when he's no longer the "dopest" star of all.

The comedy co-stars Sarah Silverman, Tim Meadows and Maya Rudolph, and many of the biggest names in comedy and music show up in cameo performances.

Those cameos are (arguably) the funniest parts of the movie, including a choice one in which Mariah Carey pontificates on how down to earth she is.

A scene in which Conner4Real takes a dump in the Anne Frank House seems like a direct hit at Justin Bieber, who infamously wrote in the guestbook when he visited the museum that he hoped Frank "would have been a believer."

Written by Samberg and two of his comedy buddies, *Popstar* has fun depicting the vanity and superficiality rampant in the music industry and includes a hilarious,



Russell Crowe and Ryan Gosling star in *The Nice Guys*

R-rated scene in which our hapless hero indulges a fan's "full-frontal" request for an autograph.

Maggie's Plan

This charming screwball comedy stars Sacramento native Greta Gerwig, an excellent Ethan Hawke, and a very funny Julianne Moore as a pretentious professor who is also the first wife of Hawke's character.

His second wife (Gerwig) hatches a plot to get the former couple back together after her marriage to him runs into rough waters, a plan that doesn't go as smoothly as she had hoped.

The cast, which also includes Bill Hader and Maya Rudolph, couldn't be better, and writer/director Rebecca Miller demonstrates both on the page and behind the camera that she is a talent to watch.

Maggie's Plan opens June 10 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

The Lobster

The most original and ambitious film

currently in theaters is probably this beautiful bummer starring Colin Farrell as David, a man who has just been dumped by his wife.

To make matters worse, David lives in a society where single people have 45 days to find true love, or else they are turned into the animal of their choice and released into the wild.

The Lobster is even odder than it sounds, but Greek co-writer and director Yorgos Lanthimos coaxes a soulful performance from Farrell, who gained weight for the role.

Rachel Weisz is also very moving as David's object of affection, a woman who is part of a resistance group known as the Loners that rejects romance.

The Lobster is pretty cerebral without tipping over in to pretentiousness, thanks to a dark comic spirit that finds the absurdity in modern life and modern love.

Now playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

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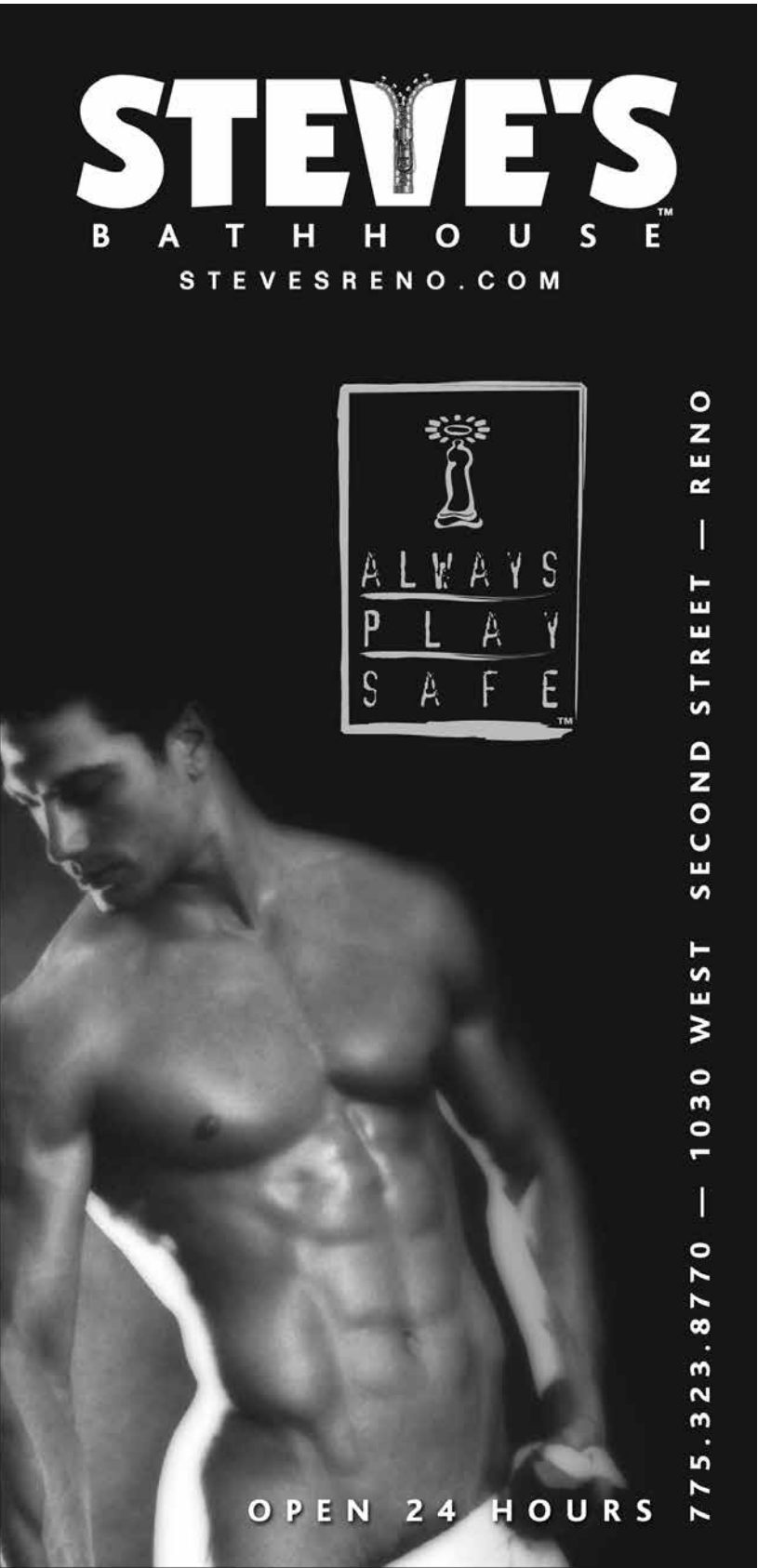
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Ben Vereen Is Steppin' Out in One-Man Show in SF

Tony and Drama Desk Award winner Ben Vereen, will bring his critically-acclaimed one-man show, *Steppin' Out*, to Feinstein's at the Nikko for two performances only – Friday, June 17 (8 p.m.) and Saturday, June 18 (7 p.m.). Highlighting Mr. Vereen's unique blend of artistry, *Steppin' Out* combines a tribute to Broadway, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr. in an evening of unforgettable song and stories. Visit www.feinsteinsatthenikko.com. Photo by Isak Tiner.



Collages and Intimate Experiences in New Exhibit

Two openly gay artists will be featured in a new exhibition at the The Jon Stevenson Gallery in Midtown. The exhibit will feature works on paper by David King and photographs by Jamil Hellu.



Los Angeles, 2007, photograph by Jamil Hellu.

David King's work explores his profound interest in the underlying or fundamental interconnectedness of things. His collages and drawings are visually beautiful, intellectually stimulating, and sometimes humorous.

His collages are constructed in the traditional, cut-and-paste method and have an obsessive attention to detail, using source material as diverse as jewelry catalogues and mid-century advertisements.

David's work has been shown in Europe and across the U.S., including venues such as Artist's Space in New York, The Soap Factory in Minneapolis, The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and The Lab in San Francisco. He lives in

Nevada City and is represented by Hang Art in San Francisco. More information and images of his collages can be found at www.davidkingcollage.com.

Jamil Hellu has been photographing his husband Darrin for the past 10 years. He started to photograph Darrin as an expression of love, aware that relationships such as theirs continue to struggle for acceptance and social justice in many parts of the world.

With this series of photographs, Jamil shifts away from the homoeroticism typically permeating representations of gay men, and focuses instead on ordinary moments and intimate experiences, as he and Darrin share

their lives together.

Originally from Brazil, Jamil is a visual artist based in San Francisco. Hellu earned his MFA in art practice from Stanford University in 2010 and was granted a BFA degree in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2003.

He was awarded the 2015-2016 Kala Art Institute Fellowship in Berkeley. He was selected for the Artist-in-Residence Program at Recology San Francisco in 2014. Hellu received the Graduate Fellowship Award at Headlands Center for the Arts for 2010-2011. He was also granted a six-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2008.

Additional information is at www.jamilhellu.net.

The Jon Stevenson Gallery is located at 2020 I Street in Sacramento's Midtown district. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., or by appointment. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/JonStevensonGallery.

There will be a reception for the artists on Saturday, July 9 from 6 - 9 p.m.

The exhibition is curated by Joseph Rodota, a collector, writer and consultant based in Sacramento. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Crocker Art Museum.

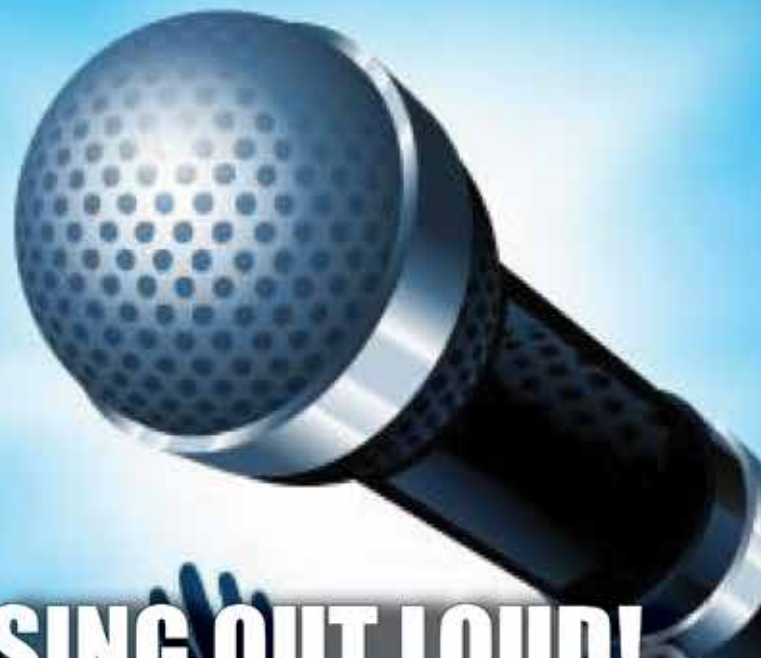
Chicago Celebrates Pride in Neverland with *The Lost Boys*



If your travel plans are taking you to the Windy City, you might want to visit Neverland, the Chicago-based dance producer renown for its elaborate themes and productions, celebrating its fourth anniversary this year with its biggest Chicago Pride event ever, *Lost Boys*, a surreal night of character-driven fantasy featuring a massive set. Visit www.neverlandpride.com.

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