



outword

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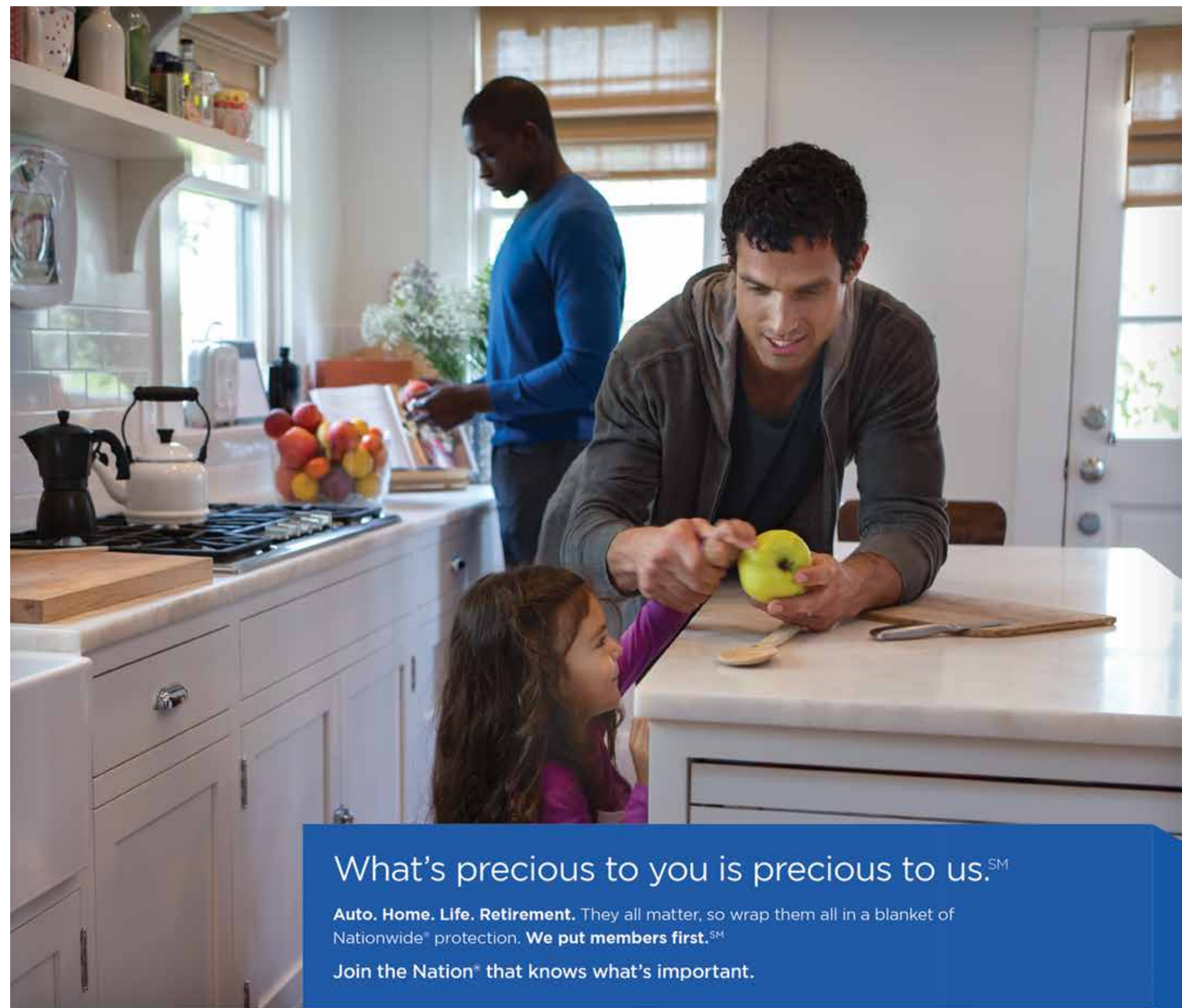
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Vigil in Lavender Heights
for the victims of Orlando shooting, taken
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Photo by Charles Peer

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I Am Up to Here with "Pray for Orlando!"

commentary by Jerry Sloan

We can say all we want to about the cause of what happened in Orlando, but the bottom line cause of violence against ALL LGBT people is religion – especially the perverted teachings of the three Abrahamic religions.

The "holy writings" of the Abrahamic religions are not good reference reading for learning about human sexuality. These religions tell us from the day we are born that we are sinners. There is something wrong with us. We need to be reborn, remade, forgiven by a vengeful/loving(?) god.

I grew up as a Fundamentalist Christian who graduated from a Fundamentalist Baptist Bible College, but I kept studying and eventually learned that the three Abrahamic religions are based on stories we consider myths.

These were stories that were told in cultures surrounding the Hebrews and they incorporated them into their religion.

The gods of these myths had a priest or priestess who told their worshipers what to sacrifice or what money to pay to gain their god's favor. Which is not much different from today's Prosperity Gospel preaching. Give God \$1,000 and he will return it to you 10-fold. "Send us money, we need a new mansion in Florida to match the one we have in California." "God wants us to have a 60 million dollar jet plane."

Today we do not consider Horus a god, just an Egyptian myth. Today we do not consider Jupiter and Zeus gods, just Roman and Greek myths. Today we do not consider Thor (no matter how hunky he is in the

movies) a god, just a Viking myth. Yet, all were gods in their time.

Why should Jehovah be any different? When will he become a myth? Why should Jesus Ben Joseph, called the Christ or Messiah, be any different?

Despite the record of the gospels, which were written many years after Jesus supposedly lived, not by the men for whom they are named, Jesus Ben Joseph is not mentioned by any contemporary historian.

Other Messiahs were mentioned but not Jesus Ben Joseph. Other gods were born of virgins, lived, died by crucifixion and rose again from the dead.

Since even liberal, progressive, gay friendly Christians pick and choose what verses of their holy book they wish to observe, I would admonish them, as did the Apostle Paul to be as the Berans to see if these things be so (Acts 17:11).

I challenge every reader to study to see if what I say has any validity.

Otherwise write me off as a cranky old man. (Editor's note: Jerry Sloan will be 78 on August 18.)

Jerry Sloan is a founder of the Lambda Community Center (now the Sacramento LGBT Community Center) and is a past president of Sacramento's Atheists and Other Freethinkers.

Candlelight Vigil for Orlando



A Candlelight Vigil for Orlando was held at the Native American Health Center, 2020 J St, on Thursday, June 16, where hundreds of Sacramentans came to share their grief and remember the 49 people killed by placing their names on a Dream Catcher. Photo by Chris Allen.

No Answer: A Community Rally for Orlando at Sierra College



Sierra College commemorated those lost in Orlando with 49 ringing, unanswered phones and a candlelight vigil on Tuesday, June 14th. Among other speakers, Professor Johnnie Terry said “In the face of discrimination, we dance. In the shadow of legislation that denies us of our rights, we dance. In the threat of eradication from existence, we climb shirtless onto parade floats and we dance in the face of their signs, their hateful signs cloaked in facile righteousness and piety. Friends, this week, we mourn. This week, we cry. This week, we circle the wagons and tend to our wounds. But, next week — we dance. It’s what our people do.” Photo by Colt McGraw.

49 Reasons for More Action and Less Talk

commentary by Cory Egel

Forty-nine. The number itself doesn’t mean much: one set of 49, seven sets of 7. A random group of multiplication tables – a qualifier is necessary. Forty-nine people. Okay, so – 49 people.

What’s the context? Forty-nine people shot and killed in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S history, and the worst act of terrorism in our nation since 9/11. One single event. Two grotesque milestones. On the same day.

Silence. The mind goes blank for a moment. Incomprehensible, just too difficult to believe. Unfathomable. It doesn’t make sense. Quickly, at a dizzying pace, the mind whirs into a frenzy. Who? What? Where? When? Why? And most importantly, how? How could this happen! How could this happen, again?!

Speculation. The media goes into overdrive. Twenty-four hour news sources are inescapable. Intrusive – Pervasive – Consuming. Continuous information feeding the infatuation of needing to know to the point it becomes pornographic.

This isn’t entertainment. This is life. This is tragedy. This is real!

The loved ones of those who were murdered or injured shed tears while wailing and begging for the madness to end. Mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, brothers, sisters.

Supporters of the gunman spew vitriol while glorifying their ignorance. Trying to break away is difficult. This shouldn’t hurt so much, I should be used to this.

Déjà vu. Politicians puffing out their chests offering rehearsed sentiment, familiar outwordmagazine.com

catchphrases, and election-style support while offering handshakes and hugs.

Rallies and vigils are hurriedly organized for collective mourning in an attempt to create a sense of belonging in a world where many still do not believe we belong. Religious leaders offering up expressions of hope. Can I get an Amen? But it isn’t enough. It never is. What happens next?

Pulse. Do you feel it? It is still beating. It may be faint, it may be weak, but there is a pulse. Eventually, it will get stronger – we will get stronger. Perhaps, that is why we must keep going. The pulse beats within each of us.

It is up to us to decide what’s next because 49 people – it is not finite. No, 49 people are the family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors who knew these individuals that were murdered simply because they embodied what the gunman despised in his twisted mind – 49 people are the communities reeling from this act of hatred and violence – 49 people are those standing together (loving together!) demanding less talk, less politicking, and for once – just once, more action.

It is time to make the few in power listen to the 49 whose voices are no longer with us, but can still be heard.

Forty-nine It is more than just a number. It is you. It is me.



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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>


Sacramento Stands with Orlando

All of us here at *Outword* are saddened, and yes, outraged, at the terrorist and hateful act that took the lives of 49 of our cherished brothers and sisters. Our hearts go out to their lovers, families, friends, the Orlando LGBT Community, our Nation's LGBT community and to our allies, who are weeping with us.

Following the attack, on Sunday, June 12 Sacramentans came together as a community at a rally held at 20th & K, determined to change the world and to remember and honor those that were killed and injured. A special thank-you needs to go out to Mangos, who shared their stage with the rally, and to Sacramento mayor-elect Darrel Steinberg and Councilmember Steve Hanson, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, State Senator Dr. Richard Pan, Sacramento LGBT Center Board President Carlos Marquez, Stonewall Democrats President Jann Dorothy and leaders of the Sacramento Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths who shared their thoughts on the need for us too come together in this time of sorrow.

You can see more photos from the rally and download them for free at outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com/#:albumId=13942





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109 EQCA-Endorsed Candidates Win Primary Election Victories

Equality California has announced that 109 of its 116 endorsed candidates won enough votes in their individual races in the California primary election to advance to the November 8 general election or to win their race outright.

“This election year is of enormous importance to the LGBT community,” said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. “With the future of the U.S. Supreme Court in play, an open U.S. Senate seat and the strength of the California LGBT Legislative Caucus at stake, this is not an election year for LGBT people to choose not to vote. We congratulate all of our endorsed candidates on their primary races and will be working to secure the victories of our primary winners in November.”

Equality California was the first major LGBT civil rights organization to endorse Hillary Clinton for U.S. president. Clinton won the California presidential primary with 56 percent of the vote.

In addition, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, Equality California’s endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate, will now face Congresswoman Loretta Sánchez in the November election.

All four openly LGBT incumbents endorsed in legislative races by Equality California – LGBT Legislative Caucus Chair Assesmblymember Susan Eggman, Senator Ricardo Lara, Senator Cathleen Galgiani and Assemblymember Evan Low – will advance

to the November election.

Five additional strong LGBT candidates – former Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (running for Senate District 39), San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener (running for SD 11), San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria (running for Assembly District 78), Sabrina Cervantes (running for AD 60) and Greg Rodriguez (running for AD 42) – will also advance to November.

In San Diego County, three Equality California-endorsed, openly LGBT candidates won local contests. Equality California-endorsed candidate Dave Roberts will face Encinitas Mayor Kristin Gaspar for his seat on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and endorsed candidate Georgette Gómez will face Ricardo Flores to represent San Diego City Council District 9.

Endorsed candidate Chris Ward earned more than 50 percent of the vote and was elected to replace Todd Gloria as councilmember for District 3, avoiding a November runoff election.

Visit www.eqca.org/our-endorsements/ for a full list of primary results for Equality California-endorsed candidates.

2016 Pride Awards Winners Announced

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center has announced the winners of the 2016 Pride Awards, recognizing the individuals and organizations that have contributed to making Sacramento.

The 3rd Annual Awards will be presented at a ceremony on Wednesday, June 29 on the Capitol Mall. In addition to the awards presentation there will be a live auction by David Sobon Auctions & Events and a roaming feast catered by Empress and Mother restaurants. The ceremony will be emceed by ABC 10’s Mark S. Allen.

“The Pride Awards this year also recognize our 30th anniversary, so we are especially eager to celebrate along with community leaders, past and present,” said Donald Bentz, the Center’s Executive Director. “We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2016 Pride Awards!”

This year’s honorees have demonstrated their pride through their organizational work and in the way they live their every day lives. They continue to combat these disparities to ensure a better tomorrow for our entire community. The 2016 Pride Awards will go to:

Partner of the Year: The CARES Foundation;
Champion of the Year: Senator Ricardo Lara;
Founders Award: Former Assemblymember Dennis Mangers;

Community Impact Award: Asian Pacific Islander Queer; Sacramento Coalition (APIQSC);

Youth Award: Zauna Nuru-Bates;
Advocate Award: Terry Schanz;
Ally Award: Pamela Whiteley; and
Lambda Award: Rob Stewart

The Pride awards will begin with a VIP reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the awards ceremony will run from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

“The 2016 Pride Awards will take place on the iconic Capitol Mall, the same place where Sacramento Pride has its festival,” said Bentz. “This is a first for this type of event on Capitol Mall and we couldn’t be more excited to be able to host the Pride Awards there!”

Tickets are \$100 and \$150 for VIP and are available at the Center, 1921 L St, and online at www.eventbrite.com/e/pride-awards-tickets-25492995235.

Stick to the Script and Unleash the Gay Superheroes



Iceman, Mystique and Catwoman, amongst others, appear as LGBT in comics then become de-sexualised or turn heterosexual once the movie hits the big screen It’s time to change that. Watch this trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-EAVmV7YE.

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Take Your Next Gay Getaway to Napa and Sonoma

by Diana Kienle

Do you ever want to get away and have somebody else do the work? Do you want to let the planning and scheduling be handled by an expert who knows the area and understands your needs?

Visiting the wine country is a wonderful experience. Being among the wineries and the lush green hills of vines is relaxing by itself. Add the personal guidance and expertise of a local who cares about your interests – and you have the perfect combination for a great experience. I know just the person.

Let me introduce you to Charles Kimball of Gay Napa/Sonoma Getaways. His mission is to be a resource and set up the experience that best suits you. I have known him for five years and posed the following questions to him, so you could get to know him as well.

What was the impetus to begin to offer these services to the LGBTQ community?

I've been in the hospitality business since I was 16. I understand the challenges that LGBTQ travelers can experience. When visiting some friends in Brazil, I literally had a vision of the Napa business that I would like to create. I have a passion for food, wine and LGBTQ travel and spent days working out a business outline. My friends offered their encouragement and guidance, which gave me the impetus to create Gay Napa Getaways upon my return to Napa.

What has guided your choice of wineries and experiences to offer visitors to the valley?

I work with a great Napa restaurant called Press St. Helena selling food and wine. We serve many winery owners, makers, and aficionados. In becoming friends with these folks, I've learned so much about different aspects of the Wine Country in both Napa and Sonoma. I offer custom-designed experiences that range from renting a villa to staying at an eco-friendly motel. I enjoy the old fashioned way of speaking on the phone to better understand what my guests are wanting in an experience. I'll create a weekend that centers on what wines they want to learn about. It's all about what my



Charles Kimball of Gay Napa/Sonoma Getaways. clients dream wine country time is for them.

You offer wine concierge services. What exactly is that and what is the cost of the service?

I support LGBTQ small businesses like mine and offer these to my guests. My favorite drivers, wineries and accommodations are all LGBTQ welcoming. My fees vary according to what folks would like to experience. They can go high end or keep it all to a low budget. I am also a huge fan of Sonoma, balloon trips, hiking, camping – the list is endless. I put together an experience and then I am here to assist during their time here.

For your next visit to Napa or Sonoma, Charles is ready to make it special for you! He can be reached at 707-266-8235 or www.gaynapagetaways.com.

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

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The Legend of Tarzan, Finding Dory & The Conjuring 2

by Chris Narloch

In troubled times like these, when you can be blown away at your company Christmas party or at church during bible study or while dancing the night away with friends, I look to art for comfort and solace because that's what makes sense to me in a sometimes senseless world.

Read on for details of three current (or upcoming) movies that should provide temporary escape from the trying times we find ourselves living in.

Finding Dory

I don't get a chance to watch the *Ellen* talk show as often as I would like, but when I do have time to catch it I am always impressed with DeGeneres' positivity and lack of mean-spiritedness.

The comedienne's two fun family films (*Finding Nemo* and now *Finding Dory*) exude that same sweet spirit and gentle sense of humor, and contain colorful, animated eye candy to boot.

If you saw *Finding Nemo*, you'll recall that Dory (DeGeneres) is a wide-eyed, blue tang fish who suffers from memory loss every 10 seconds or so.

The one thing Dory can remember is that she somehow became separated from her parents as a child.

With help from her friends Nemo (Hayden Rolence) and Marlin (Albert Brooks), Dory embarks on an epic adventure to find her

folks.

DeGeneres, Brooks, and Ed O'Neill (as Hank, a shape-shifting, scene-stealing octopus) were born to do voice work, and the eye-popping 3D animation is Pixar at its finest.

The Conjuring 2

Scary movies don't work without good actors who buy into the absurd situations around them, and compel the audience to buy in also. Horror movie acting doesn't get much better than the chemistry between Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson in *The Conjuring* films.

As real-life ghost busters Lorraine and Ed Warren, a married couple of paranormal investigators who helped put the Amityville case and other famous 'hauntings' on the map, Farmiga and Wilson give these movies class.

In 1977, the pair comes out of a self-imposed sabbatical and travels to Enfield, a borough in north London. There, they meet Peggy Hodgson, an overwhelmed single mother of four who tells the couple that

something evil is in her home.

Ed and Lorraine believe her story when the youngest daughter starts to show signs of demonic possession. As the Warrens try to help the besieged girl, they become the next target of the malicious spirits.

The Legend of Tarzan

You can't ask for better cheap thrills than the sight of a shirtless, pumped-up Alexander Skarsgard running through the jungle in the trailer for this new action flick.

I wasn't able to see *The Legend of Tarzan* before our deadline, but I am anxiously looking forward to another version of Edgar Rice Burroughs' timeless tale of adventure and jungle love.

Skarsgard, the hunky former star of HBO's *True Blood*, should make a great Tarzan. The film also stars Oscar nominees Samuel L. Jackson and Djimon Hounsou, Oscar winners Jim Broadbent and Christoph Waltz and Margot Robbie.

It has been years since the man once known as Tarzan (Skarsgård) left the jungles of Africa behind for a gentrified life as John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, with his beloved wife, Jane (Robbie) at his side.

Now, he has been invited back to the Congo to serve as a trade emissary of Parliament, unaware that he is a pawn in a deadly convergence of greed and revenge, masterminded by the Belgian, Leon Rom (Waltz). But those behind the murderous plot have no idea what they are about to unleash in Tarzan.

David Yates (the final four *Harry Potter* films) directed *The Legend of Tarzan* from a

screenplay by Adam Cozad and Craig Brewer, based on the *Tarzan* stories created by Burroughs.

The Legend of Tarzan was shot at Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden, as well as on location around the UK. The movie is slated for release worldwide beginning July 1, in 2D and 3D. Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre will have advance screenings of the film on Thursday evening, June 30. For more information, visit www.imax.com/sacramento.



Alexander Skarsgard in Tarzan

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Sacramento Japanese Film Fest Takes Over the Crest

by Chris Narloch

The 12th Annual Sacramento Japanese Film Festival will return to the Crest Theatre for three days in mid-July, showcasing seven essential cinematic stories of that country's past and present.

The Sacramento Japanese Film Festival is one of only four film festivals in the continental United States devoted exclusively to Japanese films.

The extremely eclectic 2016 program will include an Oscar-nominated, animated feature film (*When Marnie Was There*), a black-and-white classic from 1949 by the master of Japanese cinema, director Akira

Kurosawa (*Stray Dog*), and an award-winning short documentary about Japanese WWII war brides (*Fall Down Seven Times, Get Up Eight*).

Other titles featured July 15-17 are *Sweet Bean*, *Pale Moon*, *Snow on the Blades* and *A Boy Called H*.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net.

Broadway Bares Takes It all Off in San Francisco

by Chris Narloch

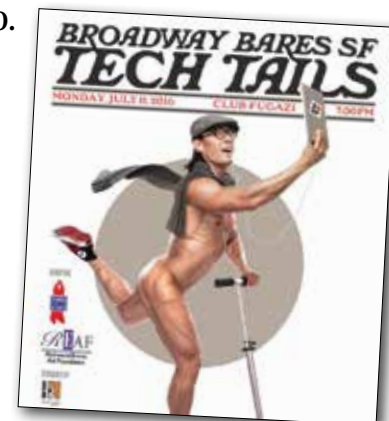
The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation is proud to present the Bay Area's newest and sexiest AIDS fundraising benefit show, *Broadway Bares SF: Tech Tails*, on Monday, July 11th, at Club Fugazi, home to *Beach Blanket Babylon* in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco.

Broadway Bares, a program of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS conceived and produced by Jerry Mitchell, has been an enormously popular annual AIDS fundraising event in NYC for many years.

Now, The Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation (REAF), which provides aid for HIV services, hunger programs and support for homeless and disenfranchised youth, is creating a West Coast version of this annual charity event, in San Francisco.

REAF's first annual *Broadway Bares SF* will include such special guests as Broadway and TV star Jai Rodriguez, *American Idol* contestant/recording artist (and former male stripper) David Hernandez, reality television performer and drag artiste Cassandra Cass, *Queer as Folk* actor Randy Harrison, and cast members from the Broadway touring cast of *Cabaret*.

Due to the nature of this event, there will be no seating on the main floor to allow



maximum interaction between dancers and audience members. Since the event is a sexy strip-a-thon for charity, generous tipping is wholeheartedly encouraged.

You don't have to fly to the Big Apple to see *Broadway Bares* this year. Watch hot men and women take it off for a good cause at *Broadway Bares SF Tech Tails* by calling the Club Fugazi box office at 415-421-4222 or 415-421-6788.

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Freddy Niblack: Checkered Dreams

by Nick Poust, *UNITE Magazine Indianapolis*

Freddy Niblack is the first openly gay driver in the Indy Car Series, but that's not all that defines him. As is the case for so many athletes, homosexual or not, he is also a person looking to accomplish a dream.

A dream he's had since his childhood days spent carving a race track through neighbors' yards on his go-kart as the sound of the nearby Indianapolis 500 engulfed the air surrounding his family's Speedway, IN home.

"I literally grew up two blocks from the track, and I was born in May, which happens to be the month that all the festivities for the 500 go on," Niblack says. "My mom said I would scream and cry until she'd sit me on the porch and let me hear the Indy cars. They were like a lullaby. As long as there were racecars and motors, I was good."

Niblack, 44, is still longing to be part of the roar that hummed as his childhood's theme. He came out as a teenager and has traveled down a bumpy road filled with discrimination in his professional career. While he was racing in the mini Indy series in 1992 he was subject of hatred remarks that led to his departure. "Someone put a poster on my race trailer that said 'Aids cures fags,'" he says, "and so that team owner didn't want me anymore."

Niblack then went to Europe, hoping for a better opportunity, but more of the same transpired. "People over there were even less accepting," he says. "It didn't matter if you had a podium finish, a first-place finish or a top-five, you were still the gay driver."

"With some teams gay men are viewed as the weak link, which is funny because some of my times and finishes were a lot better than my counterparts, or my teammates," he adds. "Instead of being happy for me it became a source of a pang."

That's not the case anymore, however.

Niblack is back home after signing on to race for Indianapolis-based Top Kart USA, which didn't even know he was gay when he was signed. He will be competing in the Freedom 100 on May 27 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and for the first time, his presence in the driver's seat isn't because of his sexual orientation or the sponsors and revenue that would coincide. It's about his talent.

"Here, it was all about what I brought to the table," Niblack says. "There wasn't this Indy car mentality. And what I mean by that is a lot of Indy car people, they forget to be human, and they forget what this sport is about. It's to have fun. It becomes a money situation, and yes, here, it takes money to do what we do, but it's also really fun. We can laugh and have a good time and be ourselves. For the first time in a long time I feel welcome. The gay thing isn't really brought up unless I bring it up."

That's not to say his sexual orientation and its impact on the racing community doesn't matter to Niblack. It means plenty. In his 22 years on the track, no one from the LGBT community has ever come to see him in his element. That changed on March 22, when Indianapolis's JJ Gufreda, the president of GEI, Inc. – the first transgender-owned company certified as LGBTBE by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce – attended a testing at Lucas Oil Raceway.

"I was on the track, going about 160, 170 [miles per hour], and when I saw JJ, when I was in my racecar on the track I waved to her," Niblack says. "To see JJ walk up was

such a milestone, such a sense of pride, such a sense of finally. JJ wasn't there to flip her hair or challenge the bathroom rules; she was solely there to support me. And in my entire career I cannot think of a more defining moment than seeing JJ walk up."

Niblack wants this to be the start of a pattern, to make the LGBT community feel as welcome at the racetrack as Top Kart USA and Gufreda have made him feel.

"To see someone come in who is different, who is out of the ordinary – and guess what, they are today's ordinary," he says. "They are today's human beings. The gay community, take your place. Be supportive. Be proud of your own people. Not everybody dresses up like Tina Turner and lip-syncs for their life. Not all gay men are strippers or escorts or wear eyeliner. Embrace diversity. Embrace our differences."

Niblack says he simply races better when he's happy, and after he saw Gufreda he increased his lap speed by 1.5 seconds. "I had this feeling of self worth, this feeling of strength in numbers, and this feeling of love," he says. "That's huge for me. An honor, and I'm very grateful. I can't imagine if I had 100 people from the community there, what I would do."

Including the Freedom 100, Niblack is scheduled to race 13 times this summer – and while the Indianapolis 500 isn't one of them he plans on inhabiting one of those cars his childhood self lived to hear one day soon.

The 500 may be the ultimate goal for Niblack and Top Kart USA, but this year is about honing their craft as a team. Top Kart USA is predominately self-funded, and just this past March was the first time his number-22 car spent time on the ground, let alone a track.

"We're not focused on Indy Car this year," he says. "We're focused on the cars that we have, and making them well. We're not begrudging about what we have and angry about what we don't have. We're happy about what we have and focused on what we

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have. We want a winning car. We want a winning team.”

Niblack brings his individual sponsors to Top Kart USA, but unlike other stops on his road that’s not the reason behind his presence. “We don’t need that sponsor money to create something,” says Blake Deister, the team’s co-owner. “It’s already created.”

“From the front of the house to the back of the house it is every single person that works on that team to get that driver into that car to win races or be competitive,” adds Niblack. “The owners of a lot of the larger teams, without those drivers and those drivers’ sponsors they wouldn’t be where they are. It’s not just about one person’s brand here. It’s about the team as a whole. Yes, I do drive for this team, and, yes, I did bring sponsors, but these people own the shop, the

semis, the cars, the mechanics, the tools.”

With all of the pieces but the driver upon his arrival, the immediate acceptance of Deister and the Top Kart USA team was a weight off Niblack’s shoulders. Here, he can just race, without distaste for his sexuality in the undercurrent, waiting to rear its discriminatory head.

“It is such a small part of my life, but it is who I am,” he says, regarding his homosexuality. “It’s just not a factor here. Now, at other places, it was ‘we don’t want you going here, we don’t want you going there, we don’t want you dealing with this publication, we don’t want you dealing with this gay event.’ Well, I am a gay man. My community, I want their support and their love, and I’m not going to be something that I’m not,

and that’s the most important thing.”

That community would have much reason to cheer. Not just because of what he represents, but because of his talent, and that of his team.

“I have the same big visions and the same big dreams, but I’m intelligent enough to know that you have to start here before you can get here,” Niblack says. “With this team, we have the facility to grow. We have the technology, the equipment, the manpower. These guys will be here until midnight if that’s what it takes.”

And so will Niblack, with his childhood’s lullaby forever in his head, striving to accomplish just one his many goals, hoping to influence a community along the way.



Freddy Niblack. Photo by Freddy Niblack.

Over 200,000 Celebrated Gay Pride in the Tel Aviv



The largest-ever Tel Aviv Pride Parade took place June 3rd, with the participation of over 200,000 people from Israel and abroad, making it the largest in the Middle East. The parade was followed by a huge beach party at Charles Clore Park till sunset. Photo by Guy Yechiely.

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Out & About

If You Could Be a Great Artist, What Would Be Your Media?

Asked at the Crocker Art Museum's Pride Mix



Aaron Jill

Music, especially dance music.



Jacqueline Gage

My talent would be singing, I would love to be a famous singer.



Oodles O'Quimm

I would be a puppet master, but marionettes creep me out, so I would definitely do hand puppets or shadow puppets.



Bryan Baecker

Performance art. If I could sing anything like Justin Timberlake and dance, that's what it would be for sure.



Peter Halldorf

If I could be a master of the arts I would be a brew master, brewing the best beer in the world.



Randi Johns

Clothing and fashion design. I love the expressiveness that comes with shaping and constructing fabric to put a colorful outfit together.

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Broadway's *She Loves Me* to live-stream online

For the first time ever, theater fans will be able to watch a live stream online of a major Broadway musical direct from its theater in New York City.



She Love Me

The highly acclaimed hit show *She Loves Me*, starring Laura Benanti, Zachary Levi and Jane Krakowski, will be broadcast live on Thursday, June 30, at 8 p.m. ET.

The live stream of *She Loves Me* is being presented by online theater streaming service BroadwayHD.

To watch the show, viewers can reserve a

live stream pass online for \$9.99, or watch for free as part of an annual subscription to BroadwayHD's on-demand library, which currently boasts more than 150 titles.

Since full-price tickets to the highly acclaimed revival can exceed \$200 apiece, this low-priced live stream is a convenient and inexpensive way to enjoy a current Broadway show without traveling to New York City.

The Roundabout Theatre Company's limited engagement of *She Loves Me*, which was nominated for eight Tony Awards recently and deservedly won that award for its brilliant scenic design, concludes July 10, at Studio 54.

The musical comedy, directed by Scott Ellis, follows quarreling 1930s perfume-counter clerks who are unaware that they are each other's anonymous romantic pen pals.

She Loves Me is an adaptation of the play *Parfumerie* by Hungarian playwright Miklós László, which was also the source of several Hollywood movies, including the 1998 Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan film *You've Got Mail*.

For more information, visit www.broadwayhd.com.

Tony-winner Leslie Odom, Jr. to Perform in Walnut Creek

by Chris Narloch

Leslie Odom, Jr. must feel like the king of Queens, having recently won the Tony Award as Best Actor in a Musical for his highly-praised performance as Aaron Burr in the sold-out Broadway smash, *Hamilton*.

Odom, Jr., a native of Queens, New York, even beat out Lin-Manuel Miranda, his friend and *Hamilton* costar, who was one of the other men nominated this year in that very competitive Tony category.

In addition to creating the part of Aaron Burr, Odom, Jr. is best known for his work on television in such shows as *Smash*, *CSI: Miami*, *Person of Interest*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *The Good Wife*.

The 34-year-old performer graduated from Carnegie Mellon University and subsequently made his Broadway debut as Paul in *Rent* at the age of 17.

Hot off his Tony win for *Hamilton*, the handsome triple threat talent (actor/singer/dancer) will make a rare Northern California appearance in support of his recently released, self-titled CD, *Leslie Odom, Jr.*

You can be "in the room where it happens" when Feinstein's presents the Broadway star to the San Francisco Bay Area for his solo concert debut, at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, at 8

p.m. on Saturday, July 23.

For tickets to see Leslie Odom, Jr., visit www.lesherartscenter.com.



Leslie Odom, Jr.

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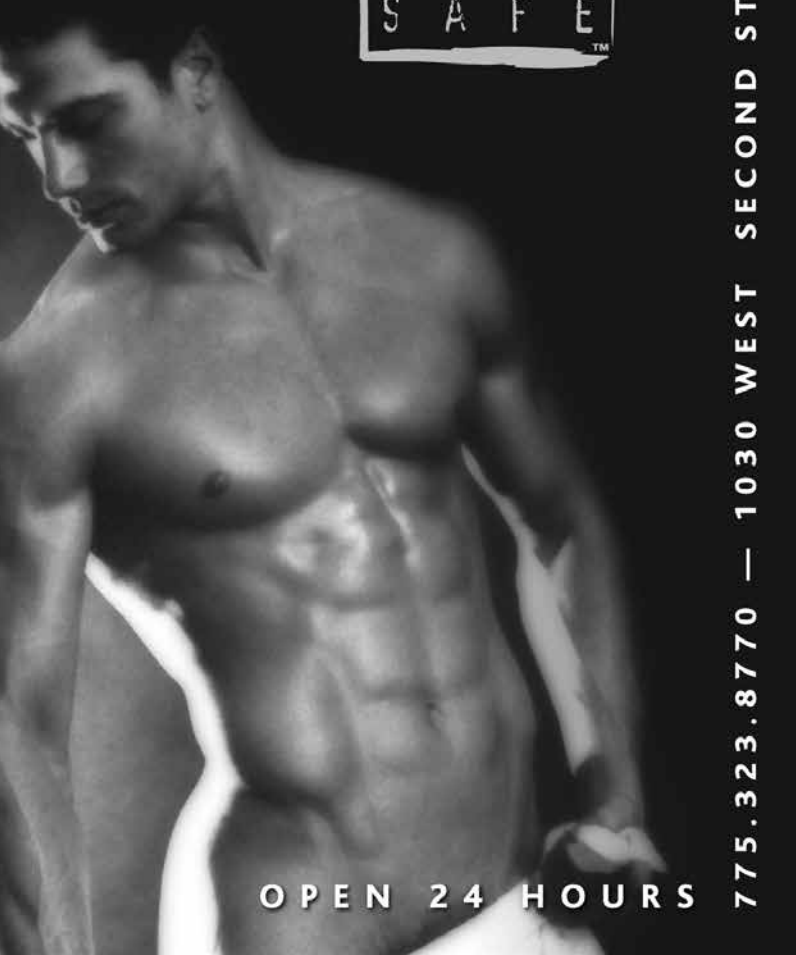
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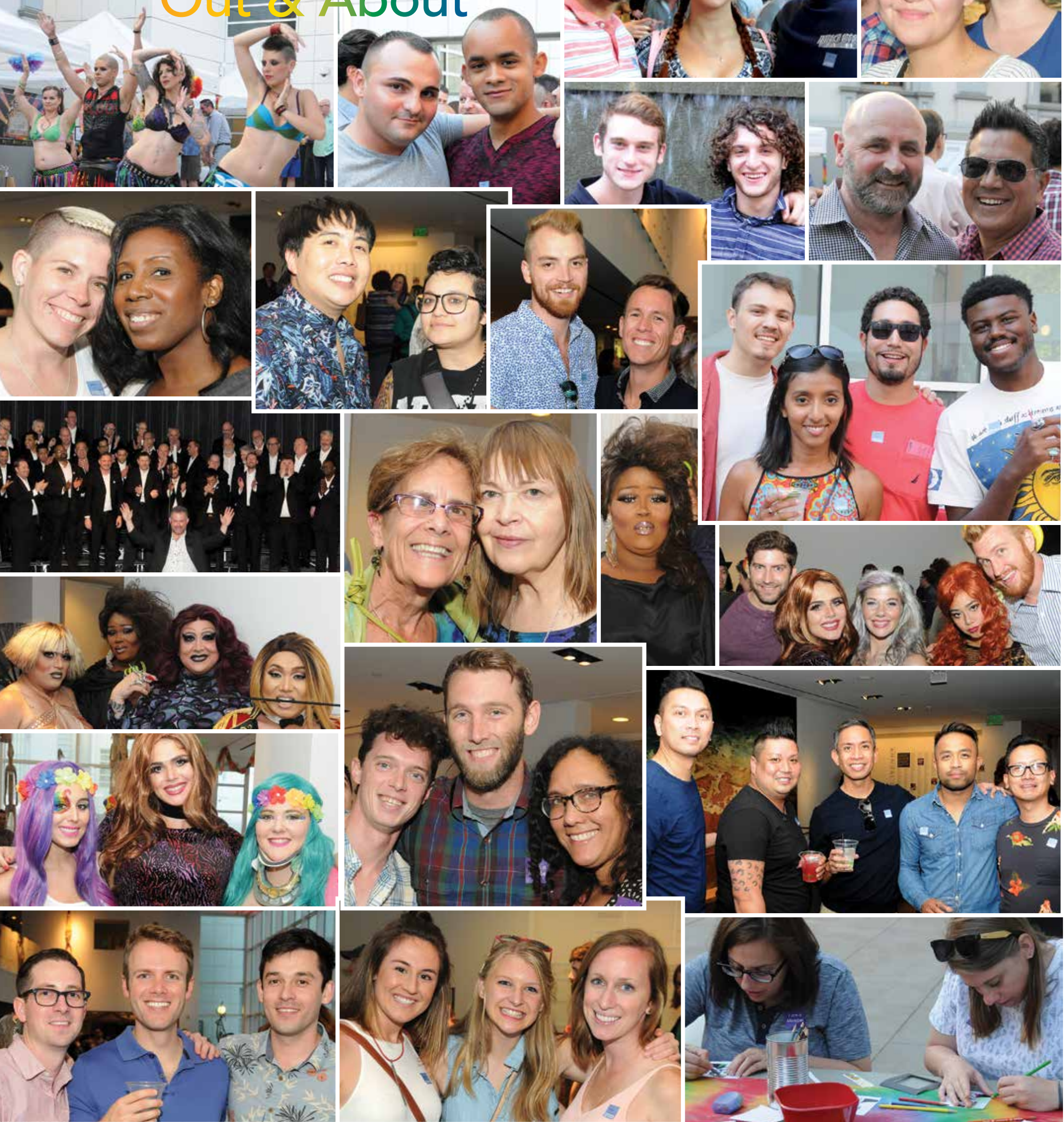
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Crocker Museum ArtMix Celebrates Pride
The Crocker Art Museum's monthly ArtMix was a little more colorful than usual on Thursday, June 9 at their annual ArtMix Pride. The evening featured short film screenings by SIGLFF, a sizzling ArtMix Drag review, Unmata's Bally Dancers, performances by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus and the Green Valley Theater Cabaret Troupe, and the chance to make your own Pride souvenir inspired by Warhol Polaroids. Learn more about what is going on at the Crocker at CrockerArtMuseum.org, and don't miss a special showing of John Water's dark comedy *Polyester* on July 7. You can see more photos, and download them for free at outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com/13901

Out & About





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