

# outword



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# World AIDS Day Commemoration

On Thursday, December 1, 2016, Sacramento's LGBT community, joined by members of the HIV/AIDS affected and aware communities, will come together to commemorate the 28th annual World AIDS Day at the Clunie Community Center, at 601 Alhambra Blvd.



As in years past, the event will begin with a candlelight vigil march, leaving entryway of the Clunie Center at 5:30 p.m., circling McKinley Park and returning back to the center, to remember those lives we have lost to HIV/AIDS over the past three plus decades.

Immediately afterwards, there will be a gathering inside the Clunie Center to enjoy a spread of food, drinks and some local entertainment. Additionally, Rob Stewart, from KVIE's *Rob on the Road*, will introduce local Speakers, who will share stories about the stigma they have faced during their time

with HIV/AIDS.

"We will also shine a spotlight on some community activists that have created change for People Living with HIV/AIDS in our community," said Chris Packey, Chairman of World AIDS Day Sacramento.

Some of those activists, including Joyce Mitchell of the CCAF and volunteers will be spending about four hours putting together safe sex kits that will be distributed at the event.

On Friday, December 2nd, World AIDS Day Sacramento is partnering with SIGLFF to present a free documentary at the Guild Theater, at 2828 35th Street. This documentary follows the lives of multiple long term HIV/AIDS survivors in the Bay Area. Seating is limited and is offered on a first come, first serve basis.

"We invite you to join us in solidarity to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS related stigma and continue the education in our communities," said Packey.

For more information on both of these events, please visit [www.SacWorldAIDSDay.org](http://www.SacWorldAIDSDay.org), Facebook: [SacWorldAIDSDay](https://www.facebook.com/SacWorldAIDSDay) or Email [Chris.Packey@SacCenter.org](mailto:Chris.Packey@SacCenter.org).

## LCR Statement on Presidential Election Results

Tonight (November 08, 2016), America chose change over the status quo, the future over the past, and conservative solutions over empty liberal promises – America chose Donald J. Trump. Log Cabin Republicans extends our hearty congratulations to the President-Elect of the United States!

While we've had occasional differences with Mr. Trump throughout his unique campaign for our nation's highest office, Log Cabin Republicans never hesitated to offer praise when it was due.

Mr. Trump's unprecedented and repeated overtures to "the LGBTQ community" were invariably lauded by our organization, and we look forward to seeing those words turn to action in a Trump administration.

We likewise stand firm in our unwavering commitment to working with our country's president-elect to ensure the historic advances in LGBT freedom we have fought for and secured will continue.

As the country's original and largest organization of LGBT Republicans and straight allies, we stand united behind our next president, optimistic for the future, and committed to "Make America Great Again"!

"For the past three weeks, I've been in regular communication with the Trump Transition Team, the group tasked with organizing personnel and policy for our president-elect," said Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory T. Angelo in a separate



**Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory T. Angelo**

statement. "Collectively, LGBT advocacy organizations on the Left have staff in the hundreds. Budgets in the millions. And yet, they don't have a single point of contact in the incoming Trump administration. Log Cabin Republicans does. That's why the work of Log Cabin Republicans is so important. In fact, it's more important than it's ever been."

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# Newly Elected LGBT Officials Critical to Moving Forward

As our movement prepares for a presidential administration opposed to LGBT equality, LGBT elected officials will play an essential role in preventing anti-LGBT legislation and demanding equality.

This election season several LGBT candidates achieved historic wins, and 86 of 135 Victory Fund endorsed LGBT candidates won their elections.

"I am heartbroken that racist, xenophobic, sexist and transphobic demagoguery won the presidential election," said Victory Fund President & CEO Aisha C. Moodie-Mills. "The devastating results hit the LGBT community particularly hard because we are unique in spanning all the demographic groups targeted by the president-elect throughout his campaign. We are Latino, Black, women, Muslims, undocumented and we have disabilities. We are all stronger together, and Victory Fund will continue to work to ensure that our collective voices are represented in the halls of power."

Amidst election night's darkness, however, there were rays of light. Kate Brown became Oregon's and the nation's first elected openly LGBT governor, a stunning accomplishment and a win for the history books. Carlos Guillermo Smith became the first openly LGBT Latino elected to the Florida state legislature, representing Orlando and many LGBT people of color who danced at Pulse nightclub that horrific night.

Georgia expanded LGBT representation in its state legislature, electing Sam Park to join three other openly LGBT voices. And voters reelected all six openly LGBT members of Congress despite a tough night for House Democrats – affirmation that LGBT leadership is effective and respected.

"Now more than ever, LGBT elected officials are critical to defending our community and pushing forward equality for LGBT people, and Victory Fund will be at their side," said Moodie-Mills. "We will work to support incumbents and build the next generation of diverse LGBT candidates so we can cement our gains and further equality for all people. But let's not kid ourselves. We made huge strides these past eight years, and we took steps back. Now our community



**Oregon Governor Kate Brown is the nation's first openly LGBT elected governor.**

and allies need to rally and demand all elected lawmakers – not just LGBT elected officials – unequivocally stand on the side of equality for all people."

For updates on Victory Fund endorsed candidate results, visit [victoryfund.org/2016](http://victoryfund.org/2016).

## ERASE TOBACCO FROM LGBT HISTORY.

In the 1990s, RJ Reynolds launched "Project SCUM," a marketing campaign aimed at selling cigarettes to LGBT and homeless San Franciscans. (The acronym "SCUM" stood for "subculture urban marketing.")



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# LGBT Purchasing Power Nears \$1 Trillion

The combined buying power of U.S. lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults rose about 3.7 percent to \$917 billion last year, rivaling the disposable income of other American minority groups, according to an annual analysis.

The forecast, based on an estimate that as many as 7 percent of adults identify as LGBT, reflects the growing acceptance by society as more people are willing to self-identify, said Bob Witeck, who for the past decade has been conducting the annual study through his Washington-based communications firm.

"The footprint that gay people have today in the economy is much, much more present, much more visible," Witeck said in an interview. "Also, companies are responding not just to LGBT purchasing power, they are responding to others who are aligned and sympathetic."

Gay political and economic power is coming into sharper focus as advocates battle for full equal rights at the federal level. At the same time, hundreds of laws were introduced in state legislatures this year that are seen as eroding rights for LGBT people. In support of their gay employees, Dow Chemical Co., Salesforce.com, Walt Disney Co. and other companies publicly pressured states to abandon discriminatory laws.

In comparison, purchasing power for African-Americans was estimated at \$1.2 trillion last year, with Hispanic buying clout at \$1.3 trillion and Asian disposable income at \$825 billion, according to the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth. The same methodology is used to estimate

LGBT buying power, Witeck said. Total U.S. disposable income last year was \$13.5 trillion, according to the Center.

The LGBT estimates are for adults only, while estimates for African-



American's and Hispanics include children without income, which

reduces the average disposable income available for

those bigger demographic groups. Gay Americans are included among those minority groups as well, Witeck said.

The trend is likely to continue. With legal gay marriage now a year old in the U.S., the purchasing power of LGBT people is starting to look more and more like the purchasing patterns of other groups, Witeck said.

"It reminds companies how visible the population is today," he said. "In a year's time, marriage has changed things forever, and that genie is not going back in the bottle again. Families are now quite evident. They are coming forward to buy things for their households. They're shopping for cars. They're buying for the kids they are having."

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# PFLAG Leader To Step Down After 12 Years of Service

Jean Hodges, Chair of the PFLAG National Board of Directors, has announced that Executive Director Jody Huckaby will depart the helm of the organization in December after serving in this role since January 2005.

“Jody Huckaby has offered game-changing leadership to position PFLAG as our nation’s unique and unified voice of families, allies, and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ). He leaves a monumental legacy that makes the entire PFLAG family very proud,” said Hodges.

Hodges announced that Elizabeth Kohm, currently Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed interim Executive Director. Kohm joined PFLAG in 2011 with an executive background in partnerships, social advocacy and field operations. The Board of Directors expressed high confidence that Kohm will provide strong leadership during the transition.

Hodges cited significant milestones under Huckaby’s leadership: “Some may forget the challenges we faced in 2004, when every statewide anti-LGBT ballot measure was carried as some fanned the climate of bigotry and ignorance. Jody started then and there to help PFLAG find and amplify our unique family and ally voice to create LGBTQ-inclusive communities of support, education and advocacy. We did this through our own 400 vital chapters, along with the

training and resources carried out in corporate workplaces each year through PFLAG’s Straight for Equality™ diversity and inclusion program.”

Huckaby expressed his own heartfelt feelings toward PFLAG in announcing this decision:

“This is a very different organization today than it was when my journey began. PFLAG’s vision and mission are more critical than ever before. While my plans for departure were developing months ago, the 2016 election results are a sober reminder that PFLAG is uniquely positioned to be the leading organization that can create safe spaces for healing, education, unity and hope. PFLAG can build upon its 43-year history to leverage new opportunities for growth and expansion. Twelve years of working closely with and helping to build today’s PFLAG Board of Directors assures me that PFLAG’s future is in good hands.

“The 2016 election is a clear indicator that PFLAG’s work is far from over. Now, more than ever, this is the time for people to make an investment in PFLAG to strengthen its indispensable role.”

## First Lady Recognizes True Colors As Top Youth Creative Development Program



**True Colors: Out Youth Theater, a program of The Theater Offensive and the country’s largest and longest-running ILGBTQ youth theater program, received the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House on Nov. 15. True Colors, which was established in 1994, is the first LGBTQ organization in history to receive this award. Pictured are Evelyn Francis, Director of Programs at The Theater Offensive, and 18-year old Traeshayona “Trae” Weekes representing True Colors: and Michelle Obama. Photo by Steven E. Purcell.**

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# A Call to Act Against Trump and Tyranny

by Bonnie Osborn

At this writing, I've spent the past week, as have so many, overwhelmed with sorrow, fear and anger at what has befallen our country and our world. I have cried with friends and loved ones, posted endless articles on Facebook, tossed sleepless in bed for hours.

Gradually, as the debris from this god-awful bomb blast of an election begins to settle around us, I've seen people – good people, who have the wisdom and grace to comprehend the terrible danger that confronts us all – begin to come together in ways we have never united before.

I have worked much of my life to support equality for LGBT people. Sure, I've supported the concept of working in unity with and support of other marginalized people. However, these terrible past few days I've felt an empathy and a solidarity with other communities to a degree I have not before, and I know I am not the only one who feels this way.

Now we know that our candidate won the popular vote by nearly a million, and we also know that only about half of eligible U.S. citizens used their voices and voted. Do the math, and only one-quarter of the United States voted for this travesty.

Many of us now fear for our lives and for the lives of those we love, and I believe from this fear will spring courage, and we will be unified as never before.

It's not too late, yet, but it is almost. We are at the brink. Time is our enemy, and apathy and lethargy and the soothing seduction of temporizing pundits. Our response must be swift and strong and sure.

If in two years, at the midterms elections, we can arouse the people, the million more who stood with us, and all those whose voices were not heard for cynicism or weariness or despair, we can establish a beach-head, we can return a check and balance to our imperiled democratic system. Then, I believe, there is hope.

We have to move fast and in unity. We Californians are blessed to live in a

politically progressive state, with leaders who have vowed to protect us, but it was a very different state not so long ago. And when the federal money spigot shuts off – and it will – the temptation and pressure will grow quickly to compromise ideals and capitulate to those in power.

We have great leaders. Here in Sacramento and in California, we are blessed to have dedicated, passionate leaders calling on us to stand together and promising to defend the diversity and freedom we cherish. And we have Bernie and Elizabeth, Barrack and Michelle, and yes, we have Bill and Hillary, and they aren't going to just sit down and shut up. There's also our children, who, more than any of us, will live with the consequences of how this all ends, and they are marching in the streets of Indianapolis and St. Louis and Fort Lauderdale.

Many in the LGBT community believe joining with other diverse communities in a united front is essential in responding to the threat of a Trump presidency. As a first step, we are reaching out to other affected individuals and groups, to learn from them what their fears, are, how they plan to respond, and how all of us can support one another.

If you, or others you know, would like to join this dialog or support this effort, please use the following link, and please share this invitation and call to action with other individuals and organizations of all diverse communities. [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SacStrongerTogether](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SacStrongerTogether)

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Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or [Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz](mailto:Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz)

# Sac's LGBT Chamber Vows to Protect LGBT Equality

Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce President Richard Hernandez has released the following statement on behalf of the Chamber Board of Directors in regard to the 2016 Presidential election:

"The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce fully supports the U.S. electoral process and holds the will of U.S. voters in the highest regard. The stated anti-LGBT positions of President-elect Donald Trump during the campaign and the demonstrated anti-LGBT policies of Vice President-elect Mike Pence during his legislative career and governorship are cause for concern to our Chamber and the LGBT business owners and professionals we represent.

"Recent advances in LGBT equality, including the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide, laws prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and contracting opportunities, and laws aimed at deterring anti-LGBT hate crimes and harassment have not only benefited LGBT families and business owners, but have strengthened our state and nation within the global marketplace. Equality is good for business.

"As business owners and community leaders, we are committed to ensuring these advances are not revoked and to seeking opportunities to work with all individuals and organizations, regardless of political affiliation, who are committed to economic prosperity, the betterment of our community and the values of diversity, inclusion and equality for all."

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*Kevin and Kurt have been friends for over 30 years and together as a couple for seven years. They plan to be married on June 17th, 2017 at the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento with thier family and friends in attendance.*

*After a brief but fairy tale courtship, Angelina and Renee would like to announce their upcoming nuptials in 2017. They are currently in the process of planning their special day and cannot wait to share it with family and friends.*

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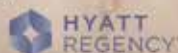
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# Out & About



## Drag Queens on Ice Was a Blast

*Outword* hosted our annual Gay Ice Skate Night – Drag Queens on Ice on Thursday, Nov. 17. at the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink. Hundreds of skaters came out to enjoy the skate night that was a fundraiser for the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, SIGLFF and Sacramento Pride, raising \$1,825. Jammin' Jo kept everyone skating to the hits, and a special shout-out to drag queens Domemoore, Taryn Thru-U, Chantal and Kristen Star who were amazingly graceful on the ice. Thanks to sponsors *Outword*, the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, Downtown Commons and Nationwide. A special thanks to Joan Cusick ([joancusick.com](http://joancusick.com)) for some great photos. You can see more photos and download them for free at [outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com](http://outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com)





# Briefly Put

## New Guide on LGBTQ Health Advocacy Priorities Published

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund and the National Coalition for LGBT Health have published a new guide on health issues important to LGBTQ people. The “10 Key LGBTQ Health Advocacy Priorities Guide” is intended to educate voters on LGBTQ health priorities the two organizations will continue to focus on during the next administration.

“This new guide is like no other as it outlines critical healthcare issues through an intersectional approach. It takes into consideration the realities that make up the everyday lives of LGBTQ people, such as racial injustice, economic injustice, gender inequality, and immigration status,” said Candace Bond-Theriault, Policy Counsel for Reproductive Rights, Health and Justice at the National LGBTQ Task Force

The guide is available online at [www.healthhiv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TF\\_FactSheet121.pdf](http://www.healthhiv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TF_FactSheet121.pdf)

## Court Finds Minnesota Transgender Surgery Ban Unconstitutional

A Minnesota district court ruled on Nov. 14, 2016 that transgender people on the state’s Medical Assistance program in Minnesota deserve access to medically necessary services related to gender transition.

Since 2005, surgical treatments for gender dysphoria have been excluded from coverage even though equivalent treatments were covered under the federal Medicare program and private insurance plans. In December 2015, the American Civil Liberties Union along with the ACLU of Minnesota filed a lawsuit on behalf of OutFront Minnesota and Evan Thomas, a transgender man, challenging Minnesota’s ban on coverage.

“I’m so happy we’ve won. The judge’s ruling is a forceful statement that transgender people deserve equal treatment under the law. Right now, when we’re suddenly facing a path that’s so much rougher than it looked a few days ago, this victory looks even more important, and I’m proud to have been part of this case,” said Thomas. “I thank the ACLU for taking it on and winning such a good ruling – it’s been a privilege to work with these wonderful, dedicated people.”

## Department of Veterans Affairs Withdraws Plan to Allow Gender Confirmation Surgery for Transgender Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is withdrawing its proposal to provide medically necessary gender confirmation surgery for transgender veterans.

The VA had previously proposed a rule change to lift its outdated ban on gender confirmation surgery, however as reported by Military.com, the rule change was “kicked back by the Office of Management and Budget because the VA did not include a plan for how they would fund the change, a senior department official said.”

“All of our nation’s veterans, regardless of their gender identity, deserve access to the medical care they earned serving our nation,” said AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack in response to the news. “As we face a new incoming administration, we implore fair-minded Americans to stand united in holding our new administration officials accountable by insisting this be fixed. The medical care of all our nation’s heroes, including transgender veterans, must be a priority.”

## Washington State Supreme Court Hears Case of Gay Couple Discriminated Against by Florist

The Washington State Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Nov. 15 in the case in which a florist refused to sell flowers to a gay couple for their wedding.

A lower court ruled in 2015 that Arlene’s Flowers violated the state’s anti-discrimination and consumer protection laws by refusing service to the couple.

“We were very disappointed to be denied service by Arlene’s Flowers after doing business with them for so many years. Planning our wedding should have been a joyful time in our lives, but instead we were hurt and saddened by being rejected for who we are,” said Freed and Ingersoll, who have been a couple since 2004.

## Over 340,000 Signatures Delivered to Congress Rejecting Discrimination in Defense Bill

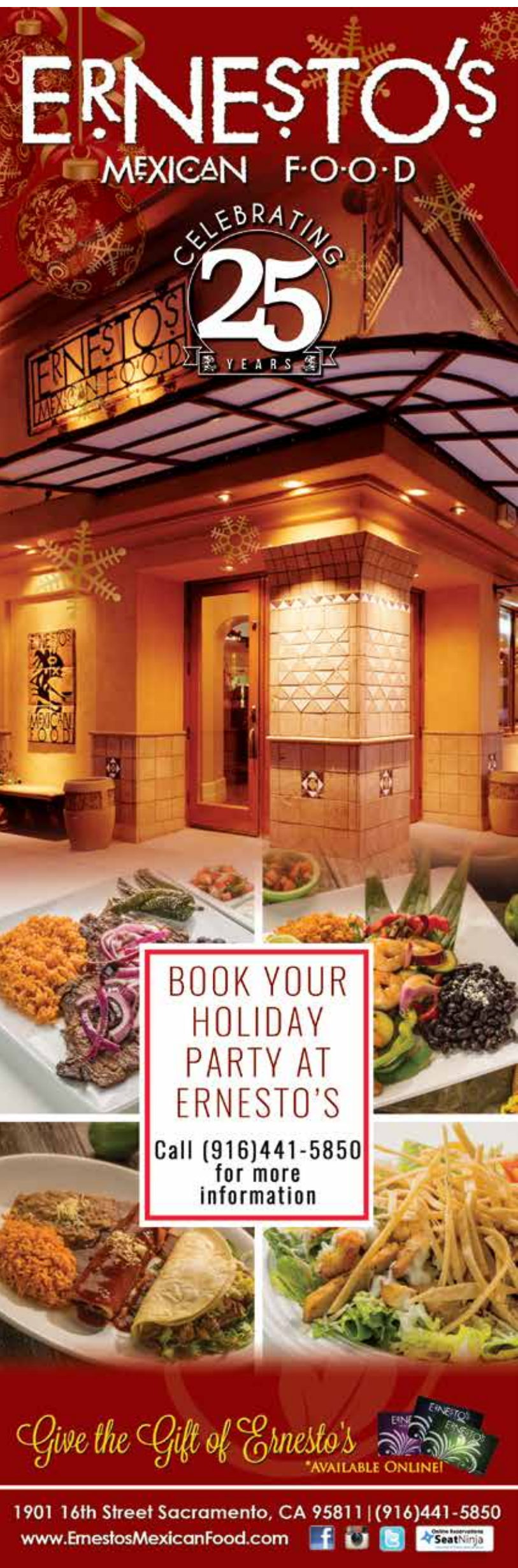
More than a dozen national organizations delivered over 342,000 petition signatures to Congress in opposition to an amendment in the annual defense bill that would fund discrimination. The petitions were delivered to the Washington offices of Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Reps. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) and Adam Smith (D-Wash.).

Known as the Russell Amendment, the measure in the National Defense Authorization Act would allow taxpayer-funded discrimination towards women, single mothers, LGBT people, and religious minorities in religiously-affiliated organizations including hospitals and universities.

The Russell Amendment was adopted in the dead of night – over bipartisan opposition – without a hearing and with almost no debate. The House Rules Committee then prevented the full chamber from being able to vote on a bipartisan amendment to remove the discriminatory provision from the defense bill.







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## Ring In 2017 with **Beach Blanket Babylon**

Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon*, San Francisco's hilarious pop-culture musical revue, rings in the new year with two special performances, that despite the recent election news will have you laughing your way into the new year!



Kim Kardashian gets in the NYE Spirit at Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Photo Rick Markovich.

The special New Year's Eve performances on Saturday, December 31, at 7 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., feature a pastiche of the best and worst of 2016 – *Beach Blanket Babylon* style. Guests at each show will receive champagne and truffles. The second show – ending at the stroke of midnight – will feature post-show dancing until 1:30 a.m.

Hailed as “a constant cascade of showstoppers” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Beach Blanket Babylon* follows Snow White as she takes a fast-paced journey around the world in search of her “Prince Charming.”

Along the way she encounters a star-studded, ever-changing line-up of hilarious pop-culture characters, including Donald and Melania Trump, Lady Gaga, Adele, Hillary & Bill Clinton, Anthony Weiner, Kim Kardashian, President Barack & Michelle Obama, Hamilton, Bernie Sanders, Sia, Taylor Swift, Vladimir Putin, Chris Christie, Barbra Streisand, Miley Cyrus, *Orange is the New Black*, Empire's Cookie, Oprah and the San Francisco Giants.

Tickets for *Beach Blanket Babylon*'s special New Year's Eve performances range in price from \$65 – \$210 and are available now. Tickets can be purchased online at [beachblanketbabylon.com](http://beachblanketbabylon.com), by phone at 415-421-4222, or in person at the Beach Blanket Babylon Box Office, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (formerly Green Street, San Francisco).

## Don't Miss **Hairspray Live!** on NBC

by Chris Narloch

Mark your calendars for the evening of Dec. 7, when *Hairspray Live!*, NBC's fourth all-star, big-budget musical, will premiere on the small screen.



The cast of *Hairspray Live!*

With a cast that includes Harvey Fierstein reprising his Broadway role as Edna Turnblad, alongside Martin Short as Edna's husband Wilbur, Ariana Grande as Penny Pingleton, Jennifer Hudson as Motormouth Maybell, Kristin Chenoweth as Velma Von Tussle, Derek Hough as Corny Collins, and newcomer Maddie Baillio as Tracy, how can you miss?

The musical event will feature a duet between powerhouse singers Hudson and Grande that should be something to hear, as well as the show's original race-positive message involving the integration of a Baltimore teen dance show, circa 1962.

That message should still resonate in an era when Black Lives Matter, although (thankfully) *Hairspray* preaches with music and laughs rather than speeches.

Each of NBC's Broadway-musical-on-the-small-screen productions has been better than the last, and I fully expect *Hairspray Live!* to be an absolute blast.



# Go on a Musical Holiday Journey with the SGMC

Get your tickets, pack your bags, and fasten your seatbelts as the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus takes you on a whirlwind tour with their newest concert, *Holiday In... A Destination Celebration*.



Holiday celebrations around the world are truly diverse. For each of us, our different cultures, religions, communities, friends and chosen family members influence the events that define our holiday traditions and build our special memories. This concert allows you to share your musical traditions and learn those of other cultures.

So embark with members of the SGMC chorus, the Boy Howdy small ensemble and special guest performers as they celebrate diversity in song and travel. They will take you from Sacramento to Hawaii, Mexico, Africa, India, Canada, Australia, and a plethora of European countries in a their new holiday spectacular – as only SGMC can create – filled with musical excellence, entertaining staging and a good dose of special “choralography.”

*Holiday In...* continues SGMC's tradition of presenting fun and entertaining songs through a rousing rendition of “Recycle the Fruitcake,” the humorous “Forgotten Carols from Other

Lands” and the inspirational “Spirit of the Season” from *Polar Express*.

The program also includes modern classics like “Mele Kelikimaka” and “Feliz Navidad” as well as powerful arrangements of more traditional carols such as “We Three Kings” and “Little Drummer Boy.”

*Holiday In... A Destination Celebration* will be performed December 2nd and 3rd at 8 p.m.; December 4th at 3 p.m.; and the final show will be on December 6th at 8 p.m.

All performances will be at the First United Methodist Church, located at 2100 J St., in Midtown. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$40 for VIP seating and reception, and are available at The Gifted Gardener, 1730 J St. Or book your journey online at [sacgaymenschorus.org](http://sacgaymenschorus.org).

“Your itinerary is set and you are sure to enjoy the in-flight entertainment as SGMC prepares for departure to a fantastic holiday season,” said Chorus Director Steven Johnson.

## The Hamilton Mixtape Drops on Dec. 2

by Chris Narloch

I have only heard snippets, but you can expect the second CD related to the smash Broadway blockbuster *Hamilton* to soar to the top of the charts once the full album of *The Hamilton Mixtape* is made available on Dec. 2.

That sold-out show's original cast recording was still among the Billboard top ten albums as I wrote this, and *The Hamilton Mixtape* is certain to join it there soon, thanks to a lineup that features creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Queen Latifah, Wiz Khalifa, Chance the Rapper, Ja Rule, Common and other famous rap artists.

The list of pop artists involved in the mixtape's two dozen or so tracks is equally impressive and includes The Roots, Alicia Keys, Kelly Clarkson, Aloe Blacc, Usher, Regina Spektor, Ashanti, Sia, Miguel, John Legend, Ingrid Michaelson, Nate Ruess, Andra Day and Jill Scott.

Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter of “The Roots” told *Entertainment Weekly* that the mixtape would be “sort of a love letter from both sides. One from Lin to the artists and



M.C.s who inspired the songs that were part of the Broadway production and then on the other [side], from the artists who were inspired by *Hamilton*, and who were massively affected in a great way by the experience of the play.”

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# Cirque du Soleil's Rob Laqui Helps Bring *Toruk* to Life

by Chris Narloch

**T**oruk – *The First Flight*, the first Cirque du Soleil show to play Sacramento's brand new Golden 1 Arena, opens here in late November and is part of a global tour inspired by James Cameron's record-breaking movie *Avatar*.

Utilizing a fusion of cutting edge visuals, puppetry and immersive stagecraft buoyed by a soaring score, Cirque du Soleil applies its signature style to Cameron's imaginary world of Pandora, which becomes a stunning live setting on stage.

I recently spoke by phone with Rob Laqui,

get ready for the sequels that James Cameron is making. It's very family-friendly and for all ages and audiences.

**Sounds cool. I want to be a puppeteer when I grow up!**

(laughs) You should. The puppeteers are very busy in this show. When we're not



A behind the scenes look at *Toruk* puppeteer Rob Laqui operating a wolf-like puppet.

one of the puppeteers who handles several of the fantastic characters in the show, and he gave me the inside scoop on *Toruk*, a mythical tale set thousands of years before the events depicted in the first *Avatar* film.

**Hi, Rob. Your bio says you are an actor, singer, dancer, aerialist, choreographer, director, producer, and a puppeteer. Did I miss anything? That's a lot of hats!**

I know (laughs). I like to think of myself as a Renaissance man, but I'm concentrating on being a puppeteer in *Toruk*. That's my official title on this show. I got in to puppetry as part of my dance career. I was with a company called Momix for many years, and then I worked with the life-size horse characters in *War Horse* which really propelled my career in puppetry.

**This is your first Cirque du Soleil show, correct?**

Yes. I had been in their database for ten years but had never actually been on stage with them until they needed so much puppetry for this show. I auditioned, and I got the job. It's definitely a dream come true.

***Toruk* has more of a narrative than most of the previous Cirque shows, right?**

That's right. It's perfect for people who like more of a plot-driven production. It has a narrator and follows several characters on a quest to save the planet. So there is suspense because we don't know if they are going to save the planet or not.

**Sounds like it's tailor-made for fans of the movie.**

Absolutely. There are no humans, and it's set many years before the events in the movie so it's a great way for *Avatar* fans to sort of fill out the world from the film and

racing all over manipulating the creatures on stage, we're moving sets around and creating the onstage world. There are a lot of elements to this show that have never been done onstage before, and the projection system is totally state of the art.

**I imagine there is music in the show too?**

We have a live singer and a live percussionist in addition to track music.

**I understand you got to work with Fatboy Slim and the director Alex Timbers on the David Byrne musical *Here Lies Love*, about Imelda Marcos, at the Public in New York City.**

That's right. I was a swing in that show, and it was a great experience as a Filipino-American, getting to be part of something that was such a huge part of my cultural history. It's coming to your area next year. They're going to be at A.C.T. in San Francisco.

**So what is life like for a single gay man traveling the world with Cirque du Soleil?**

This is the first major tour that I've done where I haven't had a partner in my personal life actually. It's definitely a challenge sometimes. I'm very fortunate to get to do what I love for a career, but the flipside is that you do sacrifice what would be considered a "normal" social life, for the most part. But we have an amazing group of people on *Toruk*, and they really do become like your family on the road.

*Toruk – The First Flight* plays Nov. 30 thru Dec. 4 at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. For more information, visit [www.cirquedusoleil.com/toruk](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/toruk).

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## Holiday Shopping For CDs

by Chris Narloch

**W**hether you're shopping for yourself or others, November and December are always big months for major music releases. Check out these essential new CDs by four wonderful women..

**Bette Midler**

***The Divine Miss M Deluxe***

One of the finest pop albums of the 1970s has been re-mastered and expanded for this superb deluxe edition double CD. *The Divine Miss M* was first released in 1972, and it was Bette Midler's debut disc.

More than four decades later, it is still Midler's finest release. The first disc contains the original album featuring "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Do You Want To Dance," "Leader of the Pack," "Chapel of Love," "Am I Blue," "Delta Dawn," "Friends," and the singer's devastating version of "Superstar."

A fun second disc includes demos, single versions and alternate recordings.

**Lady Gaga**

***Joanne***

This is Lady G's follow-up to *Cheek to Cheek*, her fine jazz collaboration with Tony Bennett, and if it isn't as good as that disc or *Fame Monster*, it's at least a step in the right direction after the disastrous *Artpop*.

The eleven tracks on *Joanne* wisely put the focus back on Lady Gaga's voice and her lyrics, without the sort of overblown production that sank *Artpop*.

BETTE MIDLER: THE DIVINE MISS M DELUXE



The singer's duet with Florence Welch, entitled "Hey Girl," is a winner, as are the countrified "Sinner's Prayer" and the two up-tempo tracks that kick off the CD ("Diamond Heart" and "A-Yo").

**Miss Sharon Jones!**

***Motion Picture Soundtrack***

This is the companion to a highly acclaimed documentary from director Barbara Kopple that follows the multi-talented rhythm and blues singer Sharon Jones as she tries to hold her band together while battling pancreatic cancer.

The soundtrack features 16 sensational songs from throughout Jones' career, including "Humble Me," "I Learned The Hard Way" and the triumphant "I'm Still Here" by The Dap-Kings.

**Emeli Sande**

***Long Live The Angels***

This just-released disc is the second effort from the Scottish singer who scored a big radio hit with "Next to Me" in 2012. A consummate soul singer, Sande is also a skilled songwriter, and the 16 tracks on this CD include the dynamite first single "Hurts," plus the beautiful "Breathing Underwater," "Lonely" and "Tenderly."



## The Warwick Rowers Are Back with a Sexy 2017 Calendar



The multiple award-winning and globally acclaimed Warwick Rowers have launched their 2017 naked calendar, along with the release of a viral video and a whole range of new products on their website at [warwickrowers.org](http://warwickrowers.org). All profits go to charity and this year, with the help of Visit Britain, the hunky athletes have been able to get their kit off in a range of stunning, historic locations. Watch the video at [player.vimeo.com/video/191295138](http://player.vimeo.com/video/191295138)



NYC AIDS Memorial To Be Dedicated on World AIDS Day



On World AIDS Day 2016 (December 1), advocates and members of the HIV/AIDS communities will come together to remember those lost to AIDS, to honor the lives of those living with HIV, and to hold the vision for an end to the AIDS epidemic in New York at a dedication ceremony also committed to end AIDS in NYC by 2020. Visit [nycaidsmemorial.org](http://nycaidsmemorial.org)

1962 LP of Love Songs By Men, For Men, To Be Reissued

A Big Band singer, a Hollywood photographer, and an LGBT music and history archivist are at the heart of the story behind *Love Is A Drag*, the 1962 LP of love songs by men, for men, which remained a mystery for over 50 years.

The once shocking LP that bore no vocalist's name for over 50 years, reveals its secrets in the 2016 Modern Harmonic reissue. It starts with JD Doyle, a historian and archivist of LGBT music and history that came upon the record, which resonated with him almost immediately.

The album took classic standards like "The Man I Love" and "Mad About That Boy," songs that were intended to be from a woman to a man, and changed it from a man to a man. Doyle had the record in his collection for decades and would play the songs on his radio show, Queer Music Heritage.

The album fascinated Doyle, and he knew these songs were truly before their time. It was because of this, he couldn't help but be mystified as to why there was not an artist or producer named on the album. A single line of subtext wrote, "For Adult Listeners Only, Sultry Stylings by a Most Unusual Vocalist."

Most likely, the record would have remained a mystery, until Murray Garrett reached out to Doyle ready to come forward with the truth about the album.

Garrett was a Hollywood photographer through the late 1940s to the 1970s, and photographed stars such as Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra. Through his photography career, he created a partnership with Gene Howard, a Big Band singer, and the two together worked closely with Jack Ames, the founder of Edison International Records.

When Ames asked Garrett and Howard if they had any ideas for a record that Edison International Records could release, Garrett remembered a performance he saw once in

Greenwich Village of a man singing love songs addressed to another man in a serious way. That night was unforgettable as the performers of the day were extremely campy and dramatic.

Despite being straight and married to a woman, Howard agreed to sing on the record with a host of Los Angeles session musicians, and Ames released the record under a "fake" label called Lace Records to avoid Edison International being



pigeonholed as a gay record label. The record sold well in Hollywood, and Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and Bob Hope were among some of its biggest advocates.

Now, with the mystery solved, and the masters purchased by Sundazed, *Love is a Drag* will be reissued by Modern Harmonic, available on gold vinyl, as well as a CD format, with original liner notes, and new notes from JD Doyle just in time for Record Store Day, November 26th.

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Presents

# HOLIDAY IN...

A Destination Celebration

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We asked readers to send us what their top item on their Christmas / Holiday wishlist would be, and these are some of the responses we received. We chose a First (\$50 cash), Second (Blue Sky Day Spa Gift Card) and Third (\$25 Ernesto's Mexican Food Gift Card) place winner for originality, wittiness and all around good cheer. Congratulations to our winners, and thanks to everyone that sent in a wish list item. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

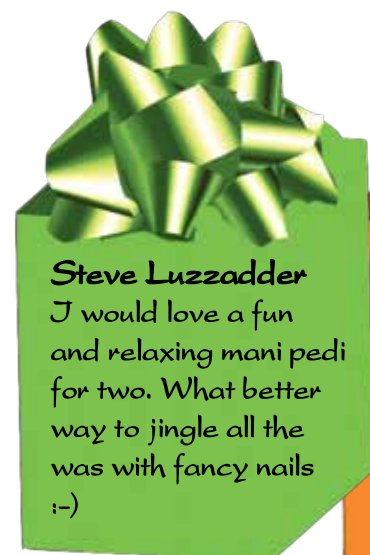
### Jeffrey Pantoja

What I really want for Christmas is a nice getaway from reality with my boyfriend. Life can be too hectic, especially during the holidays! This getaway would allow us to focus on the beauty of life and our relationship. It would just give us a chance to hit snooze and take it easy from the busy, nonstop motion of adulthood.



### Alfonso Sanchez

All I want for Christmas are round trip tickets to Spain for my husband and I to celebrate our 11 yrs together. We got engaged in Madrid. Thank you.

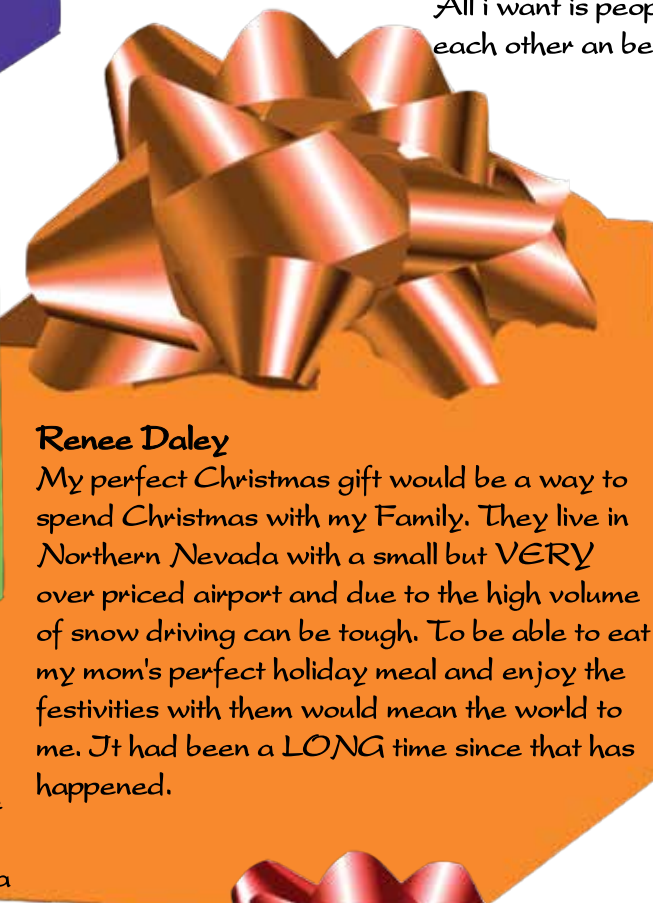


### Steve Luzzadder

I would love a fun and relaxing mani pedi for two. What better way to jingle all the was with fancy nails :-)

### Roger Jván Vélez-Corea

An airplane ticket to be with my whole family in Nicaragua because Trump won the elections. Thank u



### Renee Daley

My perfect Christmas gift would be a way to spend Christmas with my Family. They live in Northern Nevada with a small but VERY over priced airport and due to the high volume of snow driving can be tough. To be able to eat my mom's perfect holiday meal and enjoy the festivities with them would mean the world to me. It had been a LONG time since that has happened.

### Jon Benorden

I want Santa to bring me the new Surface Pro Studio so I can become a graphic designer god!

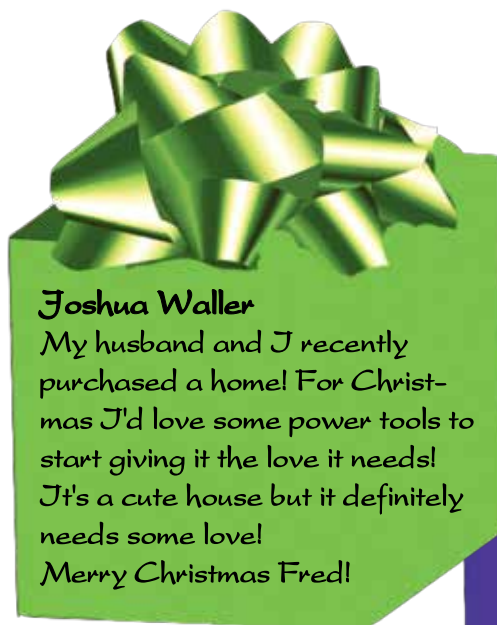


### Ronnie Miranda

Airline ticket to Hawaii

### Donna Verdugo Chapman

To have dinner with my Mother in Heaven , once more.



### Joshua Waller

My husband and I recently purchased a home! For Christmas I'd love some power tools to start giving it the love it needs! It's a cute house but it definitely needs some love! Merry Christmas Fred!

2nd place

### Senova LaMothe

All i want is people to respect each other an be kind to everyone.



1st place

### RAP

A girlfriend for our new hen, Omelet. We shall name her Mimosa.

### Stephanie Slagel

Two tickets to the next Dave Matthews Band show  
- Please and thank you.

3rd place

### Hart Sacramento

Enough pet food to feed every animal at local shelter for a year.



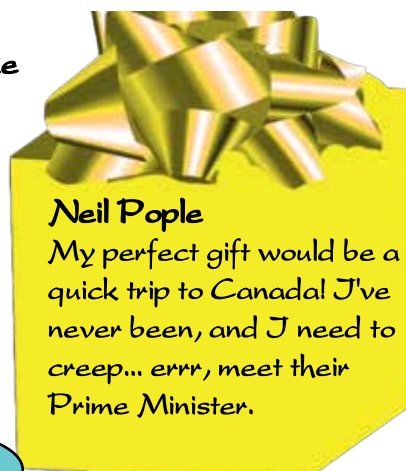
### Matt Burlingame

For me it would be a high powered gaming and graphics computer with three widescreen monitors, gaming keyboard and mouse, wireless headset and loaded with a year's access to the full adobe design suite and a super comfy chair to sit in while using it. And maybe Colby Keller naked.



### Kaye Crawford

My perfect gift would be to have a handywo/man. who wasn't too busy to help an elderly, but proud, woman. My handywo/man would help finish repairing the pipes under the bathroom sink that lie on the floor because the pipe wasn't long enough to connect and I don't know what to do next. My handywo/man would help install the exhaust fan over the kitchen stove that has been sitting in the box since we moved into the house six months ago, because I'm not strong enough to hold it up while trying to connect it to the wall. My handywo/man would fix the broken light fixture in the kitchen ceiling. My handywo/man would know how to sand, primer and paint plywood in the unfinished garage turned into bedroom after I was told 10 different ways to do it by 10 different Home Depot employees on 10 different trips to their store. My handywo/man would replace the frames around the windows & doors of the unfinished room so you couldn't see through to the outside and be able to install a threshold thingie. There's so much more my handywo/man could do. S/he would be my perfect gift.  
xo

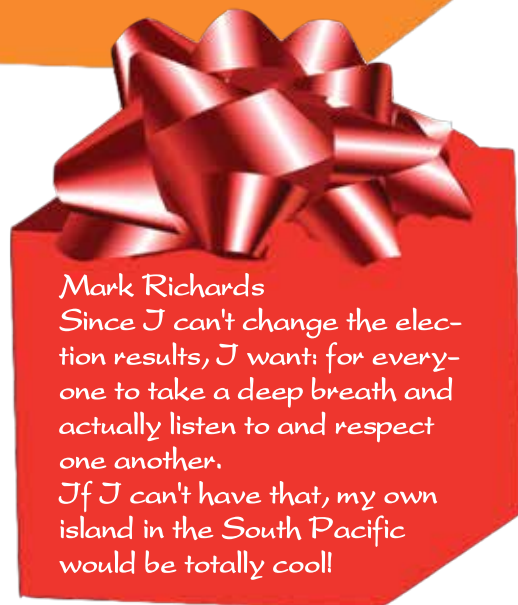


### Neil Pople

My perfect gift would be a quick trip to Canada! I've never been, and I need to creep... errrr, meet their Prime Minister.



Melanie Luken  
I really need a BMW.



### Mark Richards

Since I can't change the election results, I want: for everyone to take a deep breath and actually listen to and respect one another.

If I can't have that, my own island in the South Pacific would be totally cool!



# Anime, Gremlins & Interracial Marriage at the Movies

by Chris Narloch

In our next issue, we'll have reviews of some of the major movies playing in theaters this holiday season. In the meantime, read on for details about several special events on the big screen, coming soon to Sacramento cinemas.

## Crest Theatre

This midtown movie palace is committed to showing the greatest in Japanese Animation at the Crest Anime Festival, which will take over that theater the last weekend of November.

The Crest is proud to present five unique and individual films that are sure to delight the hardcore Anime fan as well as novices.

Two films by master animator Hayao Miyazaki (*Castle in the Sky* and *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*) will anchor the weekend. Other anime titles playing are *Steamboy*, *Metropolis*, and *Paprika*.

The Crest Anime Festival plays Saturday, Nov. 26 and Sunday, Nov. 27. For more information, visit [www.crestsacramento.com](http://www.crestsacramento.com).

## Colonial Theater

Reel to Reel Films is proud to present a double-feature of *Gremlins* and *Gremlins 2* at this historic Oak Park theater. Enjoy two great films and some fun activities to help Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.

Before the movies, you can enter the Ugly Sweater Contest, view a *Gremlins*-inspired art show, and participate in a canned food drive to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank.

A portion of the proceeds for this Dec. 3

and Mildred Loving (Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga), who married and then spent the next nine years fighting for the right to live as a family in their Virginia hometown.

Their civil rights case, *Loving v. Virginia*,



Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga costar in *Loving*.

event will benefit the Sac Food Bank. Visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) and search for *Gremlins* Sacramento.

## Tower Theatre

From acclaimed writer/director Jeff Nichols, *Loving* is an Oscar-caliber drama that celebrates the real-life courage and commitment of interracial couple Richard

went all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1967 reaffirmed the very foundation of the right to marry – and has gone down in history as an inspiration to couples everywhere.

Don't miss this intensely moving film, which features superb performances and is now playing at the Tower.

## Vienna Boy's Choir Brings Christmas in Vienna to Mondavi



Kick start your holidays with the beloved Vienna Boys' Choir in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs and, of course, holiday favorites. One night only, Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center. [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org).

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Debut Novel Explores a Hidden Lesbian World

In her debut novel, *As Told By Us*, author Gabriella Meghan writes a captivating story of romance and murder, set in a world not often explored in today's literature. It's a real world Meghan first discovered at 18-years old.



As Told By Us promotional photo by Valentin Casarsa

"Like Layla, the protagonist of my novel, I was bullied through high school and was determined to reinvent myself," she explains. "When I left home for college, I immersed myself into the local lesbian community and soon found myself completely turned on my head."

According to Meghan, the community she entered was harsh, chaotic and malicious: rampant with sex, addiction and mental illness. "I would learn my lessons the hard way," she continues, recalling a passionate affair with one woman, in particular, who struggled with alcohol, pills, an undiagnosed bipolar disorder and anger issues.

"I loved her so much and was determined to take on her demons. That was my first mistake. I didn't realize I had my own demons to tame. We all do."

Gabriella Meghan is a graduate of Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. At 16 years old, she was diagnosed with seasonal

depression. As she got older, it turned into clinical depression and anxiety. These disorders would lead her down paths of self-destruction for years; however, she credits them with being the creative breeding ground for her writing.

"Every person fights a daily war within themselves. It's how we choose to fight the war that matters," she says.

She has fought her disorders through writing and since 2010, has been regularly posting material on her poetry blog, "Life As We Know It".

"My hope is that readers, especially those trapped in a toxic relationship, will take *As Told By Us* to heart and realize that life is about going through hell and back. It's up to us to look at every mountain life throws our way as a challenge we can and will conquer."

*As Told By Us* is available at [gabriellameghan.bigcartel.com](http://gabriellameghan.bigcartel.com)

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