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### **Congratulations to Elected Officials Who Make a Difference**

All politics are local, and locally we are very fortunate to have these politicans representing us. Guinten Voyce is a newcomer to politics, but the rest have worked long and hard not only for LGBT rights, but for our cities and schools as well. *Outword* congratulates



Darrell Steinberg was sworn in for his first term as Mayor of Sacramento. Photo by Tia Gemmell, Riverview Media Photography www.phototia.com



Steve Hansen was sworn in for his second term on the Sacramento City Council.



Gary Miller was sworn in for his second term on the Roseville City School Board, where he is currently Board President.



Quinten Voyce was sworn in as the Trustee for the 5th Area of the Solano Community College District's Governing Board.



The Sacramento City Unified School District Board elected Jay Hansen to be the President of the Board. Photo courtesy George Raya.



Christopher Cabaldon was sworn in for his 10th term as Mayor of West Sacramento.

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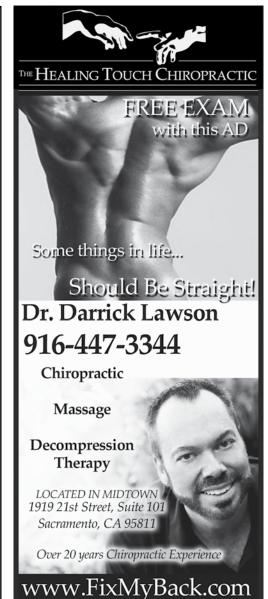
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# Devastating Data in New Transgender Report

new report shows that transgender people continue to suffer violence and mistreatment, economic hardship and physical and mental health problems in higher percentages than non-transgender people.

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) has published a report on the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, The new report is a follow up to the 2011 groundbreaking National Transgender Discrimination Survey report published by the National LGBTQ Task Force and NCTE.

"The report findings are devastating and unfortunately not surprising," said Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, The National LGBTQ Task Force's Trans/Gender Non-Conforming Justice Project Director. "As a transgender Latina, the findings that 43 percent of transgender Latinos and Latinas living in poverty, and 41 percent of transgender Latinos and Latinas reporting unemployment, hit very close to home."

The report highlights the barriers

transgender people experience when attempting to access basic health and human services and that transgender people continue experiencing inequalities in the U.S.

"At the National LGBTQ Task Force, we are working tirelessly to advance civil rights for transgender people with disabilities and to end discrimination in health care," said Rodriguez-Roldan. "The findings that 40 percent of transgender people have attempted suicide, and that a third of respondents have experienced mistreatment when seeking medical care are particularly distressing and underline the need for improving access to health care for trans people."

The full report is available online at www. ustranssurvey.org/report.

### **New Group Launches to Stop LGBTQ Conversion Therapy**

new grassroots group, 50 Bills 50 States, launched this week seeking to protect LGBT youth from the practice of conversion therapy. The discredited therapy seeks to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity using what many consider torturous techniques.



"Conversion therapy is a scam," said Samuel Brinton, a survivor of conversion therapy and one of the group's founders. It starts with the idea that being lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender or queer is a mental illness. That's wrong. Our sexualities and gender identities are gifts that should be celebrated.

"Instead, these snake oil salesmen abuse children, attempting to change who they were born to be. They are born perfect and any therapist that says otherwise shouldn't be allowed anywhere near kids."

Young people in conversion therapy are subjected to shame, verbal abuse and even aversion techniques like electric shocks. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that these techniques are both ineffective and cause lasting damage.

This has led the major mental health

organizations to reject conversion therapy. The practice has already been banned in five states including California, New Jersey, Illinois, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, D.C and several cities and the group hopes to increase the number of areas across the country where LGBT youth will be protected.

"In the states and cities where the bans are already in place, we want to revive the conversations so that LGBTQ kids know they are beautiful and loved," Brinton said. "And in the other 45 states, we are going to work with legislators to introduce bills banning these brutal practices. We know every state won't pass these bills in 2017 but the unanimity of submitting them will resonate from coast to coast."

For more information, visit 50bills50states.org.





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# **Xavier Becerra Appointed California Attorney General**

ov. Jerry Brown has appointed Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles) to serve as California's new attorney general, replacing Kamala Harris who has been elected to serve in the U.S. Senate.

"With the prospect that civil rights protections and programs protecting the LGBT community will be under attack for the next four years, Congressman Xavier Becerra is a superb pick to serve as the state's top law enforcement official," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur.

Becerra is a member of the Congressional LGBT Caucus and has been a staunch ally of our community for many years. He was one of only 67 members of Congress who opposed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996, has been a vocal supporter of marriage equality, and has championed other priorities of the LGBT community, including passage of the federal Equality Act and the inclusion of LGBT people in demographic data collection.

"Becerra brings years of experience gained in the California Attorney General's office, in the state legislature and in Congress," said Zbur. "We are confident that he will join other state officials in defending the civil



Congressman Xavier Becerra has been appointed as California's new Attorney General.

rights of LGBT people, women, people of color, immigrants and the many communities that have been under assault following the election of Donald Trump. As the son of working-class Mexican immigrants, we are confident that Becerra will ensure that California stands strong against attempts to target any community based on sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic or religious background or immigration status."

### **Randy Taylor Promoted to Major General**



Randy Taylor, the first openly gay male general officer in the United States military, has been promoted to Major General. General Taylor's shoulder boards were attached by his husband Lucas Taylor and Army Secretary Eric Fanning, the highest ranking openly gay official in the United States military. Major General is a two-star General-Officer rank, with the pay grade of O-8. Major General ranks above Brigadier General and below Lieutenant General and typically commands division-sized units of 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers.



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6 Outword Magazine

# **AmeriCorps Volunteers Help** LGBT Center Sparkle by Kent McCord

acramento's LGBT Community Center gets a lot of use, with hundreds of visitors each week. So it was with great gratitude that on Sunday, December 11, a team of AmeriCorps members from across the country gave the Center winter clean-up.









The team arrived at 8 a.m. to coffee and donuts and given a quick overview of the multitude of life-changing free services the Center offers to our community.

Volunteers were asked to help with a variety of deep cleaning and repair tasks including cleaning floors, restrooms, our back porch area, interior blinds, and touching up paint that will help us create a cleaner, healthier, more vibrant space for clients and community members.

If you are interested in helping us out on the next Center Clean-Up Day, email our Facilities Director and Volunteer Manager, Kent McCord at Kent.McCord@sacCenter.org.





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# More Companies Embracing LGBT Inclusive Policies

he nation's major companies and law firms are advancing in record numbers vital policies and practices to protect LGBT workers around the world, according to the 2017 Corporate Equality Index released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation.

The Corporate Equality Index (CEI), launched in 2002 to assess LGBT-inclusive policies and practices at Fortune 500 companies, also highlights how corporate leaders are increasingly stepping up to play a leading role in opposing anti-equality legislation – from statehouses to the U.S. Capitol.

Through their actions, taken as LGBT workers and customers have been facing a record number of anti-LGBT bills in state legislatures across the country, business leaders are building on their longstanding commitment to expanding workplace equality for LGBTQ people.

This year, a record-breaking 517 businesses earned the CEI's top score of 100, up from 407 last year. That's a single-year increase of more than 25 percent – the largest jump in the 15-year history of the nation's premiere benchmarking tool for LGBT workplace equality. Leadership demonstrated by these businesses, including speaking out against discriminatory laws like North Carolina's

HB2, reflect more than a decade of work inside these companies to expand LGBT, and particularly transgender, workplace equality.

"Even in the face of relentless attempts to undermine equality, America's leading companies and law firms remain steadfast and committed to supporting and defending the rights and dignity of LGBTQ people," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "The unprecedented expansion of inclusive workplaces across the country and around the globe not only reflects our progress, it helps drive it."

The CEI rates companies and top law firms on detailed criteria falling under five broad categories: Non-discrimination policies; Employment benefits; Demonstrated organizational competency and accountability around LGBT diversity and inclusion; Public commitment to LGBT equality; and Responsible citizenship

This year 887 companies and firms were officially rated. The full report is available online at www.hrc.org/cei.

# **Briefly Put**

### **SD Pride To Give \$80,000 to LGBT Nonprofit Organizations**

San Diego LGBT Pride is has announced that due to the success of this year's Pride event, they were able to donate \$80,000 of the proceeds back to 40 LGBT-serving organizations through their annual Pride Community Grant Program.

Over the years, San Diego Pride's community contributions have exceeded two million dollars, which have been distributed to dozens of organizations through Pride Community Grants, sponsorships, and event support.

"Pride's annual celebration, year-round advocacy and education efforts serve our community well, but no one organization can do it all, which is why our grant programs are so vital," said Fernando Lopez, San Diego Pride Director of Operations. "Pride grants help to fund HIV testing, LGBT youth programs, sobriety services, programs that support our transgender community, LGBTQ arts and culture, QPOC programs, and a variety of other LGBTQ health and human services that our community relies on and enjoys."

To see who got the bucks, visit www.sdpride.org

### **Washington, D.C. Bids to Host Gay Games XI In 2022**

Gay Games Washington, D.C. 2022 (GGDC2022) has officially submitted a bid to host Gay Games XI from July 16-23, 2022.

"Few events have the prestige or international focus of the Gay Games and GGDC2022 is proud to submit this Bid on behalf of the 34 LGBT sports teams of the Washington, D.C. region and, indeed, our whole community," said Brent Minor, Chair of the Bid Committee. "We know that Washington has the experience, passion and international appeal that make us an excellent choice."

Minor added, "We are delighted to announce three outstanding individuals as Honorary Chairs of the Washington, D.C. Bid, including: Sports legend Billie Jean King; Former Attorney General Eric Holder; and Former Commissioner of the NFL Paul Tagliabue

It is expected that eight other cities will submit Bids including Austin (TX), Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Denver, Hong Kong, and Guadalajara, Mexico. Washington, D.C. bid previously for Gay Games IX and placed second.

Three finalists will be named on March 1, 2017 by the Federation of Gay Games and will be invited to make full presentations at the FGG Annual Meeting later that fall when a final vote will be taken and the Host will be announced.



### We Are Looking For New Members!

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# Wedding Announcement

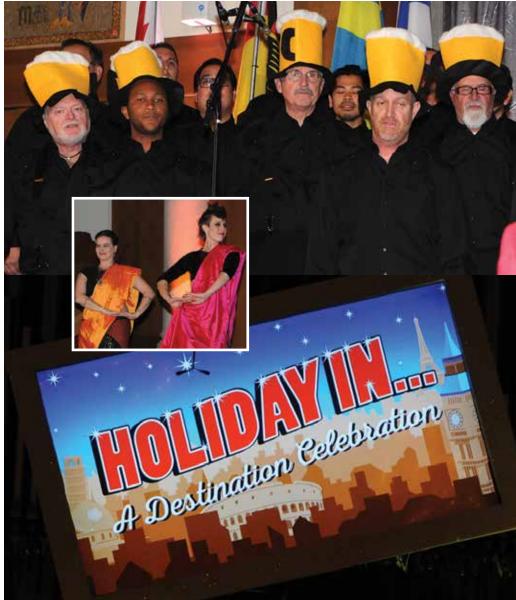
Billy Ng & Paul Sabatini



Billy and Paul are now husband & husband following a private ceremony that was performed on December 2, 2016.

# From Bollywood to Chanukah in Santa Monica, SGMC's Holiday In . . . Was a Fun Musical Trip Around the World

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus *Holiday In ... A Destination Celebration* was their gift to Sacramento this holiday season and was a journey through songs influenced by the holiday traditions of many different countries. Performed Dec. 2, 3, 4, and 6, at the First United Methodist Church under the direction of Artistic Director Steven Johnson, the concert featured traditional holiday favorites, both solemn and at times hilarious. The chorus was joined by soloists Kay Hight and Daniel Paulson and the ever popular Boy Howdy. Keep advised of the Chorus' upcoming events, including their June extravaganza *Puttin' on the Glitz*, featuring The Kinsey Sicks, at SacGayMensChorus.org.





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# There's Gays in Them Thar Hills!

by Jack Gorman

If you've never heard of, much less been to Amador County, you aren't alone. I know that when I started working for a small winery nestled here in the Sierra Nevada foothills three years ago, I wasn't sure what to expect.



Jack Gorman and Kyle Peppers on their wedding day at their home in Amador. Photo by Lauren Lindley..

So much of Amador feels like a step back in time and, as many of us do, I made assumptions about what that meant about the people and culture. Then I met the residents of Amador. Colleagues turned into friends, acquaintances turned into confidants and without exception I was welcomed with open arms.

It didn't take long for my husband, Kyle, and me to begin to explore Amador's amazing countryside. As we drove around the county we saw golden grasslands turn into rolling hills dotted with manzanita and mighty oaks, green and lush in the winter and spring, gold and majestic in the summer and fall. I am still in awe when I drive to work everyday.

We've fallen so in love with this area that we take every chance we have to share it with family and friends. This winter we finally have the opportunity to spread the love even further. This January, Kyle and I are proud to announce the first *Come OUT to Amador* weekend, a three-day experience dedicated to showcasing the best food, wine and culture Amador county has to offer.

Elevations in Amador climb from 900 feet to nearly 9,000 feet, with most of the population nestled in the hills among a string of small towns, each a mix of rich California history and modern culture and cuisine. Established in the 1840-50s, these towns served as the focal points for commerce and culture during the Gold Rush, much as they still do today.

Outside of these "thriving metropolises" is an outdoor playground. Kayaking, fishing, hiking and just enjoying the scenery are activities available within a short drive from Amador's towns. Bring bicycles for rides that provide a terrain challenge or hiking boots for trails with inspiring views.

A major source of these views, (coincidentally where we work and live) is the Shenandoah Valley. Here, the rolling hills are soon covered by row after row of grape vines. Many of those wineries are still family run, with owners so passionate the only way to truly understand their work is to taste the fruits of their labor – literally. While I have nothing against my wine brethren from other regions, tasting wine in Amador is just a different experience.

We've been lucky enough to meet many of the people who make wine in Amador and hear their stories of what brought them to Amador or how their family history goes back generations in the County. Chances are when you come to visit Amador you will get this same opportunity.

About three hours from San Francisco, two hours from Lake Tahoe and an hour from Sacramento, Amador is an easy drive but feels worlds away. To entice you, the weekend of January 20-22, we've got a fantastic way for you to experience Amador for yourself. We are hosting "Come OUT to Amador."

This curated weekend of intimate experiences is a great way to experience Amador and something you will be talking about for years to come! Visit comeouttoamador.com for more details.

Jack Gorman is the General Manger of Scott Harvey Wines in Amador County. He and his husband, Kyle, were married at their Amador County home in May, standing under a mighty oak tree, surrounded by rolling vineyards and tons of love.

# **Dine Downtown Celebrates with 35 Sacramento Restaurants**

The 12th Annual Dine Downtown is the season's hottest, budget friendly way to enjoy the flavorful selections of downtown Sacramento's best L restaurants, giving local foodies and families the opportunity to explore pre-fixe, 3-course specialty menus from 35 participating restaurants for only \$35.

The 10-day dining extravaganza, produced by Downtown Sacramento Partnership, returns January 12-22.

"Dine Downtown Restaurant Week showcases the immense talent of those working in our restaurant industry and, just as important, highlights the seasonal bounty of the region," said Kevin Fat, chief operating officer of Fat Family Restaurant Group and board member of **Downtown Sacramento** Partnership. "This culinary celebration invites people to experience diverse menus and delicious flavors created

by downtown's top chefs."

Launched in 2005, Dine Downtown provides a significant boost for local restaurants during an otherwise slow period for the industry. In its 11-year run, the program has generated an estimated \$4.5 million in restaurant sales in the Central City.

Hoping to surpass the 12,200 meals served in 2016, the 35 participating restaurants are preparing to show new and long-time customers what their food is all about through creative menus at an excellent value.

Not just an economic benefit, one dollar from every Dine Downtown meal served is donated to food literacy and social service programs in the community. It only takes one

Diners can help us make these healthy programs possible."

Participating restaurants include (to date): Blackbird; Aioli Bodega Española; Biba; Blue Prynt Restaurant & Bar; Brasserie

> Capitale; Cafeteria 15L; Capitol Garage; Chops Steakhouse; Dawson's; de Vere's Irish Pub; Downtown & Vine; Ella Dining Room and Bar; Empress Tavern; Fat City Bar & Cafe; Firestone Public House; Frank Fat's; Grange Restaurant & Bar; Hock Farm; Hook & Ladder; House Kitchen & Bar; Il Fornaio Sacramento; Iron Horse Tavern; Kasbah; Mayahuel; Paragary's; Plan

B Cafe; Rio City Cafe; Skool; Takumi Izakaya Bar; Ten22; The Delta King; The Firehouse; The Melting Pot; The Porch Restaurant & Bar; and The Red Rabbit.

For more information, including menus and event updates, visit GoDowntownsac.com/ DineDowntown. Diners are encouraged to tag their foodie photos with #DineDowntownSac for a chance to be featured in Dine Downtown promotions.





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Center. "It's a fun way to raise

again!" said Amber Stott, executive

director of California Food Literacy

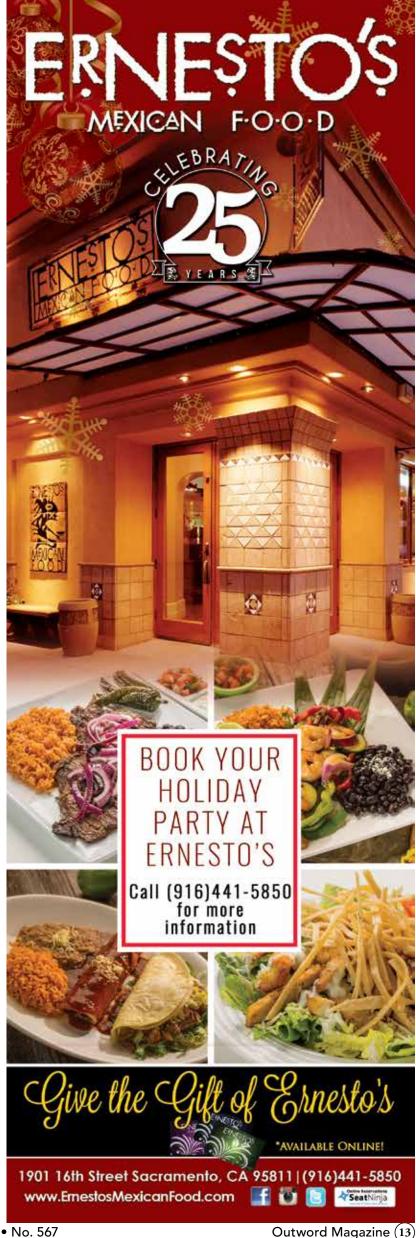
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### **Celebrating the Season with WEAVE's Toy Drive** and Badlands' Customer Appreciation Party



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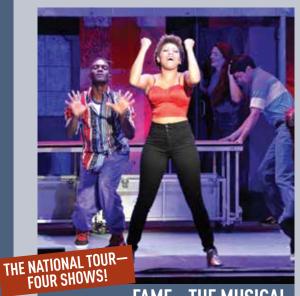
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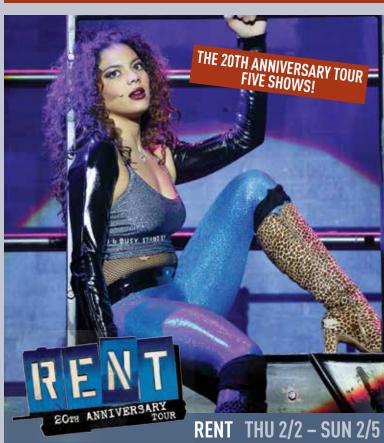


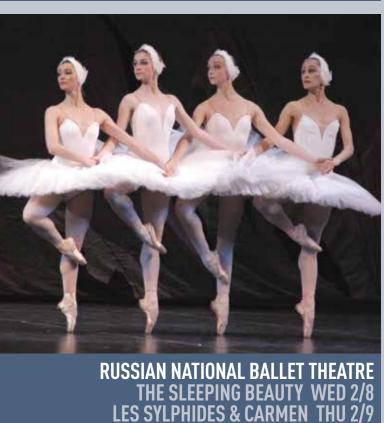
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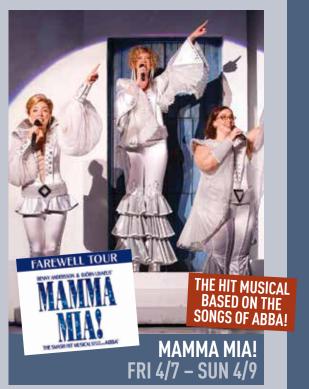


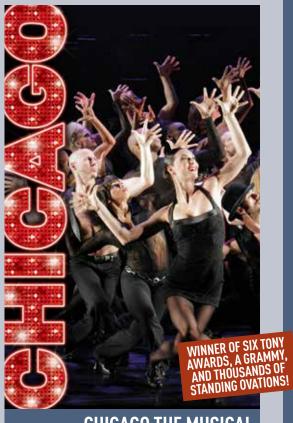
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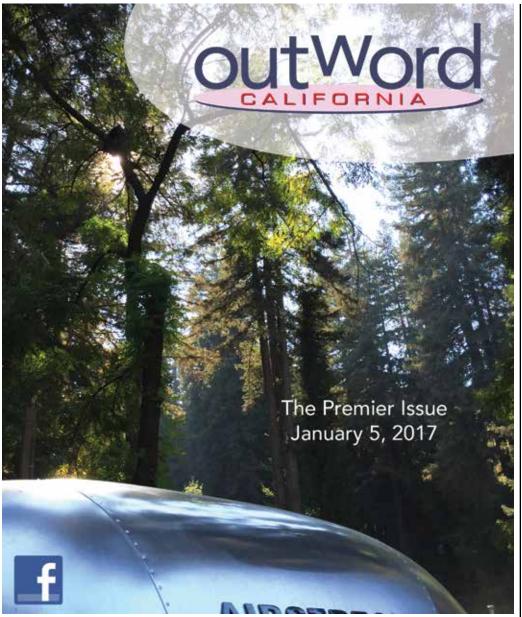


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# **Remembering Gayiel Von**

by Jim Jordan

was asked to write about my friend Gayiel Von. Where do you start? First of all she was born Gayiel von Geldern, November 23, 1950. She was a larger than life personality, but kind and genuine to all who ever met her.

I was privileged to meet her early in 2001 right after I had moved to Sacramento. I remember walking into Faces on a sunny afternoon and seeing this fabulous woman in a big hat. From that day on I was her pianist, arranger and friend and we became family.

We regularly performed at Faces, Club21, The Delta King and finally at HeadHunters which became Mangos.

We would often find ourselves on the coast performing for a private party, singing at many political events, birthdays and weddings, we even were booked at a nudist colony. I, being the "preacher's kid" had never seen anything like it. She said "Oh Honey, just play," and I did and she sang and it was wonerful.

Miss Gayiel Von loved live music and she found great joy in sharing her stories and Gayiel knew everyone but more importantly they knew HER. Gayiel Von was featured in *Forbes Magazine*, being named the Number One West Coast Cabaret Artist. She was also *Sacramento Magazine's* BEST winner for Live Cabaret and she was voted "Best One Woman Show" by the Palm Desert Theatre Guild for the entire Los Angeles

But to us she was just Gayiel Von, the beautiful lady with the big voice who always wore a hat. But did you know that she was also an artist? She drew and painted beautiful works of art. She was also a prolific writer and in the last few months she had joined a writing group and was telling her story. A story that should be used by Hollywood to make a movie.

What an adventure she lived. And that's what I need to tell you, she LIVED. Gayiel



Gayiel Von Photo by Diana Miller, dianamillerphotography.zenfolio.com

song. She would tell stories of playing a weekly poker game with George Carlin, smoking in the bushes with James Coburn, hanging out with her best friend Martha Ray.

She worked at clubs in Los Angeles and had some of the greats of the music industry call her friend. She sang with Nancy Wilson, Sally Kellerman, Ellen Greene and Linda Hopkins. One of her former pianists was a young Michael Feinstein. She sang back-up for Barbra Streisand. She also worked with Bob Hope, Milton Berle, Eartha Kitt, and others

Gayiel was honored to sing with The Ink Spots at the Biltmore Hotel for their annual Martin Luther King Breakfast. Seated directly in front of her was Coretta Scott King. Von lived to make you smile. To tell you a story in song that would touch your very soul. She knew how to make you laugh and she knew how to make you cry.

She would sing "Someday Somebody's Going to Love Me" and you felt every word. She would sing "Send In The Clowns" and you would finally understand and request it again and again. She would sing "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and every eye would be on her.

I've never met anyone like her and I don't think I ever will. She was one of those rare, precious treasures that God loans to us for a while. She started a legacy and I plan to keep it alive every Friday with live music in Sacramento.

Gayiel I loved you with all my heart. "Here's to Life!"

### **Have A 'White Christmas' In Sacramento**

by Chris Narloch

Tollywood royalty will be in the house when *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* comes to Sacramento in late December, featuring actress, author and singer Lorna Luft, the daughter of Judy Garland and half-sister of Liza Minnelli.



Kelly Sheehan, Jeremy Benton, Sean Montgomery and Kerry Conte in *Irving Berlin's White Christmas 2016 National Tour.* Jeremy Daniel Photography.

Luft will play Martha Watson in the musical the *New York Daily News* hailed as "a holiday card come to life."

The stage adaptation of the beloved classic film that starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney boasts a charming score that features some of the greatest songs ever written, including "Blue Skies," "Sisters," "Happy Holiday," "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" and the iconic title song.

Bring your loved ones for a heart-warming celebration of Americana with this brand

new production of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, which tells the story of two showbiz buddies putting on a show in a picturesque Vermont inn, and finding their perfect mates in the bargain.

Full of dancing, romance, and laughter, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* promises to be a merry and bright experience for the entire family. See it this Dec. 27 through Jan. 1 at Sacramento's Community Center Theater.

Visit www.californiamusicaltheatre.com for more information.

# **Seasonal Sounds From** *Hamilton* **Star Leslie Odom Jr.** by Chris Narloch

s I predicted in print, the recently-released *Hamilton Mixtape* soared to the top of the music charts, which wasn't really surprising considering the worldwide mania for all things *Hamilton*.

*Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda isn't the only person whose career is receiving a boost from the amazing success of that Broadway blockbuster.

Original cast members Daveed Diggs and Christopher Jackson have joined popular television shows this year, and Leslie Odom Jr., who played Aaron Burr, released two CDs in 2016, including his first holiday release.

Entitled *Simply Christmas*, Odom Jr.'s seasonal CD could have been a cash grab rushed out to capitalize on his sudden fame; instead, it's an indispensable album for lovers of holiday music, jazz music, and Broadway performers.

With no fat to speak of, the eight tracks on *Simply Christmas* are all winners, without a dud in the bunch. Odom Jr.'s taste in material and his taste in arrangements are as impeccable as his jazz chops.

The singer's gorgeous voice sounds right at home on familiar material such as "The First



Leslie Odom Jr.

Noel," "The Christmas Song," "My Favorite Things," and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," and also on an unfamiliar track like "Winter Song."

The final cut on *Simply Christmas*, a hushed and hypnotic version of "Ave Maria," is alone worth the price of the CD.

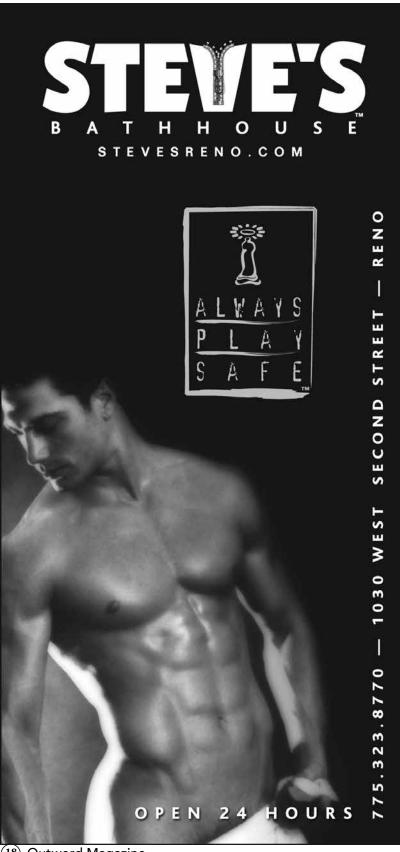
Note: For more CD and movie reviews, go to www.outwordmagazine.com.



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### **The Trevor Project Hosts Star-Studded 2016 TrevorLIVE Los Angeles Gala and Fundraiser**



The Trevor Project hosted its 2016 **TrevorLIVE Los Angeles** gala at The Beverly Hilton on Dec. 4, honoring Kelly Osbourne with the **Trevor Hero Award and** Facebook with the 20/20 Visionary Award. Also speaking and pictured are actors Jay R. Ferguson, Martha Plimpton, Noah Galvin and Matt Shively. Photo by Tommaso Boddi/ **Getty Images for The** Trevor Project.

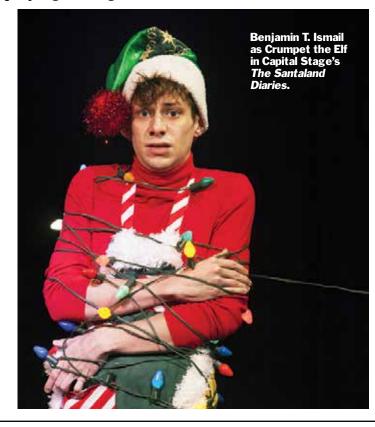
# **Capital Stage Unwraps** *The* **Santaland Diaries**

A ctor/director Benjamin T. Ismail gets the plum role of Crumpet the Elf in Capital Stage's current production of humorist David Sedaris' perennial holiday favorite, *The Santaland Diaries*, playing through this New Year's Eve.

The sardonic and sidesplitting play is based on the outlandish, and true, chronicle of Sedaris' brief stint as an elf in Macy's Herald Square Santaland display.

Crumpet's hilarious, behind-the-scenes anecdotes are a holiday treat for adults, mercilessly cutting through the sticky sweetness of Christmas to illuminate the insanity of the holidays and the resilience of the human spirit.

Sedaris' wry tale was adapted by Joe Mantello, and the CapStage production is directed by Shannon Mahoney. For more information, visit www.capstage.org.



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with you for free!

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And it really is free, there aren't even any pop-up ads! All you have to do is visit xopublicity.com/xo-for-the-holidays-vol-ix. Then just click to download the track of your liking, or the whole album. And if that is not



Artwork by Katie Whitaker (this years first snow in Colorado, featuring apache white horse)

enough music for you, you can still download the first eight albums!





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