

# outWord

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magazine  
sacramento

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# Poll Finds One in Eight CA Voters Identifies as LGBT

Equality California has announced that a poll conducted by Tulchin Research in January 2017 has found that 12 percent of California voters identify as being members of the LGBT community.

The online survey of 600 registered voters asked "are you a member of the LGBT community?" The answers showed notable divisions by age, with 16 percent of respondents ages 18-29 identifying as LGBT, while 10 percent of those aged 40 and above did so. The survey shows significantly more people identifying as part of the LGBT community across all age categories than has traditionally been the case in previous polls conducted by telephone.

"This poll gives us new data indicating that the number of LGBT people who are part of the California electorate is significantly higher than previously estimated," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "Because of our decades-long fight for full equality and social justice, it's not surprising that LGBT people are especially engaged in the political process and appear to make up a significant percentage of the voting public."

LGBT organizations have traditionally estimated that LGBT people comprise four to 10 percent of the general population, based in part on surveys that set the number at the

low end of that range. Homophobia and a lack of acceptance make many LGBT people unwilling to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity publicly or to a stranger over the phone.

"While this is only one survey, it used sound methodology to examine a statistically valid sample of California registered voters and demonstrates that LGBT people make up one of California's largest voting blocs," said Zbur.

"Politicians take note: with 12 percent of the electorate, LGBT people make up one of the largest voting blocs in California and our issues must not be ignored," said Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus. "With strength in numbers, LGBT voters stand ready to hold their elected representatives accountable."

Tulchin Research pollsters believe that the wording of the question and the anonymity of completing a survey online, rather than disclosing personal information to a stranger over the phone, contributed to higher numbers identifying as LGBT.



## Hate Groups Increase for Second Consecutive Year

The number of hate groups in the United States rose for a second year in a row in 2016 as the radical right was energized by the candidacy of Donald Trump, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) annual census of hate groups and other extremist organizations.

The most dramatic growth was the near-tripling of anti-Muslim hate groups – from 34 in 2015 to 101 last year.

The SPLC also released an in-depth profile of the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), an anti-LGBT hate group. Leaders of the legal advocacy organization and its affiliated lawyers have regularly demonized LGBT people, falsely linking them to pedophilia, calling them "evil" and a threat to children and society, and blaming them for the "persecution of devout Christians." The group also has supported the criminalization of homosexuality in several countries.

The growth has been accompanied by a rash of crimes targeting Muslims, including an arson that destroyed a mosque in Victoria, Texas, just hours after the Trump administration announced an executive order suspending travel from some predominantly Muslim countries.

The latest FBI statistics show that hate crimes against Muslims grew by 67 percent in 2015, the year in which Trump launched his campaign.

The report, contained in the Spring 2017 issue of the SPLC's Intelligence Report, can be read at [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org). Online readers will also find an interactive map showing the names, types and locations of hate groups across the country.

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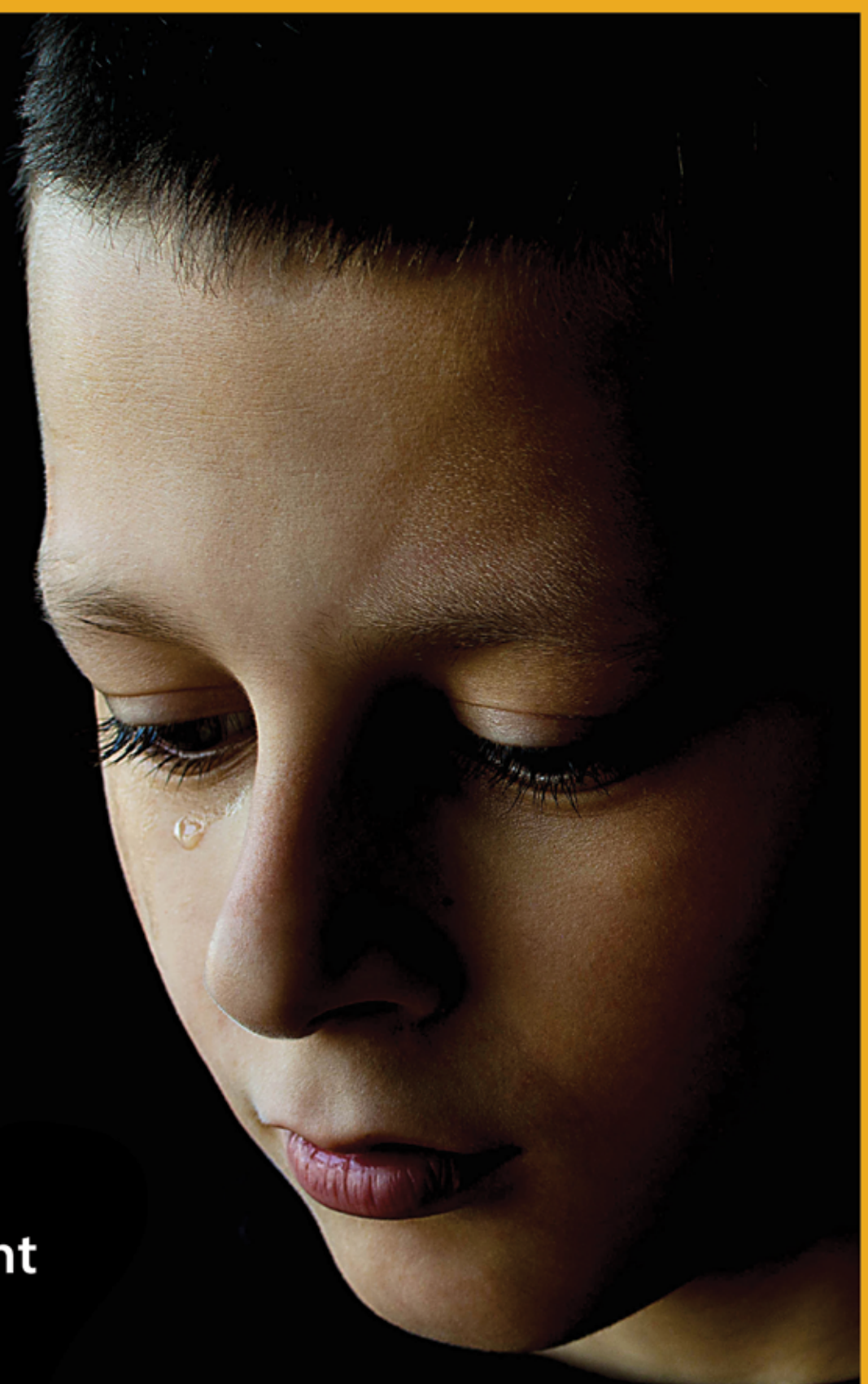
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# Sac Equality Awards to Honor Three LGBT Champions

Equality California will honor California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, California Legislative LGBT Caucus Chair Asm. Evan Low and Equality California Outside Legislative Director Alice Kessler for their years of extraordinary service to the LGBT community at its 2017 Sacramento Equality Awards.

This year's Sacramento Equality Awards will take place Monday, March 27, 2017 at the Sacramento Public Library Galleria, at 828 I St. in Sacramento.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Paramount), recipient of this year's Vanguard Leadership Award, is one of the LGBT community's staunchest allies in the California Legislature.

"Speaker Rendon has been instrumental since becoming speaker in supporting passage of legislation vital to improving the lives of LGBT people," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "During his time in the Assembly, Speaker Rendon has been a powerful advocate not only for LGBT people, but for children, education, a clean environment and for all marginalized communities. Since the November presidential election, he has helped lead the charge against the regressive policies of the Trump Administration and has been a constant voice in support of California values of inclusion and tolerance."

Asm. Evan Low (D-Campbell) will receive this year's Equality Leadership Award.

"Assemblymember Low authored cutting edge legislation that aims to address the wave of anti-LGBT laws sweeping the country by helping to keep California taxpayer dollars out of the coffers of states that discriminate," said Zbur. "Even before becoming its chair, he helped maintain and increase the size and strength of the LGBT Caucus and mentored LGBT candidates at the local level to build a bench of candidates for state senate and assembly. His work will help maintain an invaluable 'seat at the table' for LGBT people in the state legislature for years to come."

Alice Kessler, recipient of this year's Community Leadership Award, serves as Equality California's outside legislative director, heading the organization's legislative work in Sacramento.

"Very quietly, Alice has been one of the most important forces behind many of the advances our community has made over the past ten years," said Zbur. "She is a key architect of the legislative strategy that took California from a state with few protections for LGBT people to the state with the



**Alice Kessler**

nation's strongest. With her deep knowledge of both the challenges facing LGBT people and of our state's legislative landscape, her work has improved the lives of millions of LGBT Californians."

Each year, Equality California recognizes individuals and organizations who have made an impact on the movement to secure full and lasting equality for LGBT people at its annual Equality Awards – a series of formal events held in San Francisco, San Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, and Sacramento.

For tickets or sponsorship information, contact Scott Gizicki at [scott@eqca.org](mailto:scott@eqca.org) or by calling 323-848-9801.

## Former Elk Grove Police Trainee Files Discrimination Lawsuit

A former officer with the Elk Grove Police Department, who is openly gay, has filed a discrimination lawsuit against that organization claiming he was terminated based on his sexual orientation.

The plaintiff, Jeremy Lemire, was a probationary police officer who was hired by the Elk Grove Police Department in June 2014, and was terminated on February 25, 2016.

Before being hired by the EGPD, Lemire, age 34, served in the United States Army and as a civilian contractor between 2003 and 2014, including two terms in combat, and was honorably discharged in 2014. He currently lives in Yuba City, CA.

Attorneys representing Lemire are Lawrence A. Bohm of the California-wide BOHM Law Group (Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego), and Robert Boucher, of counsel to the BOHM Law Group and founder of Sacramento-based Boucher Law. Bohm is a well-known trial lawyer renowned for winning what are believed to be the two largest single-plaintiff employment verdicts in U.S. history, each in excess of \$ 100-million.

According to the Verified Complaint [34-2017-00206276] recently filed in the Superior Court of the State of California/ County of Sacramento, Lemire alleges that he was fired because of his sexual orientation – he describes the working conditions and co-workers he was exposed to at the department as hostile.

"Living through the discrimination I experienced at Elk Grove Police Department



**Jeremy Lemire**

made me feel like a second-class citizen," Lemire said in a released statement. "I felt degraded by my superior officers, and was thrust into an environment of fear, anxiety and constant stress. An overwhelming weight, like a mountain, crushed every aspect of my life, both professionally and personally. I was made to feel like a degenerate, unworthy to be accepted and treated like an equal. I lived in constant fear that if those around me found out about my sexual orientation, that the leadership would also find out, and I would lose my job."

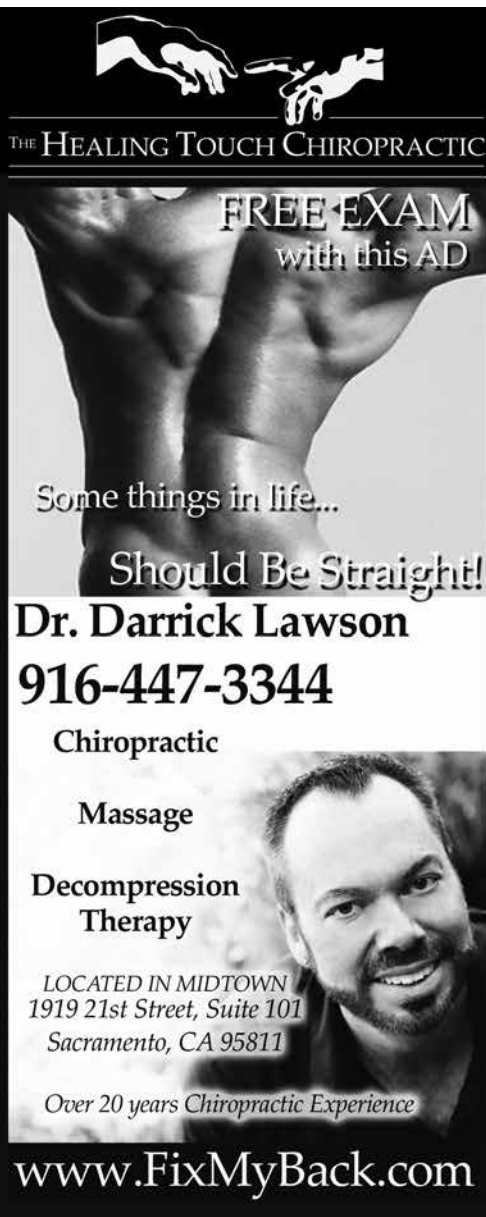
He adds, "I observed continuous degrading jokes, slurs and comments – all of which reaffirmed my fears. The leadership minimized my complaint and refused to

conduct a proper self-evaluation of the pervasive environment and atmosphere condoned within their department. I was targeted by the leadership, and unable to function without intense scrutiny. Without reprieve from department leadership, I felt crippled, unable to comprehend why this behavior, environment and atmosphere would be tolerated and overlooked in today's society. By filing this lawsuit, I want to ensure that what happened to me with the EGPD does not happen to anyone else in the future. I want to ensure that our law enforcement agencies truly reflect the diversity of the people they serve."

Lemire began his field training in September 2014, following graduation from the police academy. Over the course of this training period, the lawsuit describes several instances where Lemire allegedly endured homophobic behavior from fellow officers. In one case, the lawsuit implies two officers did not seriously respond to a service call made by Lemire during an alleged sexual assault involving three gay men.

In another incident, the lawsuit claims Mr. Lemire's supervising sergeant began a rant about the TV show "Modern Family" while in a break room at the police station. In that series, two of the main characters are a married Gay couple. Mr. Lemire claims that the sergeant said, "I can't believe they are allowed to air this shit on TV. I just can't support a show that displays such despicable

**ELK GROVE**  
*continues on page 26*



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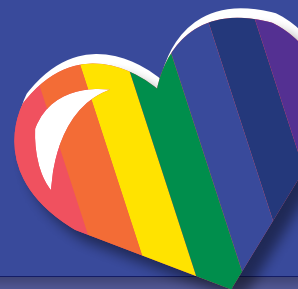


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# Briefly Put

## Actors Sought for “Legends of Courage” Documentary

Dawn Deason and Charlene Jones are researching and interviewing local people/experts for a documentary about Rosemary Metrailler, a civil rights attorney who practiced in Sacramento.

Auditions for Legends of Courage: The Rosy Metrailler Story will be held Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at Sacramento City College. For more information, email [dddeason@me.com](mailto:dddeason@me.com)

## Calendar of Black Pride Celebrations Released

The Center for Black Equity’s (CBE) has released their 18th Official Black Prides Calendar. With the Black Pride Movement growing, each year, more and more communities organize Black Prides around the United States and beyond.

The 2017 calendar can be viewed and downloaded at [centerforblackequity.org/black-prides](http://centerforblackequity.org/black-prides).

## Briefs Filed in Supreme Court Supporting Gavin Grimm and Transgender Rights

Individuals and institutions from across the country representing a diverse and extraordinary cross-section of interests, perspectives, and concerns filed friend-of-court briefs in support of Gavin Grimm, a 17-year-old high school student from Virginia whose case against his school board over their refusal to allow him access to the boys’ restroom at school because he is transgender will be heard by the Supreme Court on March 28.

“The overwhelming level of support demonstrated for Gavin from fellow transgender youth, business leaders, educators, faith leaders, medical professionals, political leaders, and more underscores the urgency of stopping these attempts at expelling trans people from public life,” said James Esseks, director of the ACLU’s LGBT Project.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra joined 18 other state attorneys general in filing a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, *Gloucester County School Board v. G.G.*

## Washington DC Named Finalist to Host Gay Games XI

Washington, DC’s bid to host Gay Games XI has been named one of three finalists for the games to be held in July of 2022. Washington was chosen from among eight bidding cities and will join Guadalajara (MX) and Hong Kong (CN) in the final round to determine which city will be chosen.

As a finalist, DC will receive a visit from the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) for a site visit in early May. The delegation will visit and inspect all proposed sites for Games events, evaluate the logistics for the Games, and appraise the level of community support for the bid.

“We will host a large community rally to show the FGG how deep the support for this bid is in DC,” said Minor. “It’s vital to the bid’s success to show how much DC wants to host these Games. We want everyone in DC, not just the LGBT community, to join us to support this event.”

For more information visit [www.ggdc2022.org](http://www.ggdc2022.org).

## Gay Social Networking App Hornet Becomes Information Platform For LGBTQ Resistance Marches

Hornet, a gay social network, has joined forces with LGBTQ grassroots activists across the country to serve as a hub for resistance marches and protest information. Hornet will now provide logistical information to millions of active users who are interested in marching against the Trump Administration’s discriminatory policies. Hornet will launch this initiative with #ResistMarch an LA Pride Project that will take place in Los Angeles on June 11, 2017.

Additional protest march logistics will be pushed out to members of the LGBTQ community seeking information about when and where marches are being held, how to participate, and how to connect with others that share a commitment to social justice. Users can then share the content with their network, including editorial, photos and additional event information.

For more information, visit [love.hornetapp.com](http://love.hornetapp.com) or download the free app, available for iOS and Android.

## Kathy Griffin to Be Honored by the SF Gay Men’s Chorus

The San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus (SFGMC) has announced a stellar lineup of honorees and VIP guests for the 11th annual Crescendo Gala that will honor two-time Emmy and Grammy award-winning comedian Kathy Griffin with the Vanguard Award for her achievements in LGBTQ equality and for using her voice as an agent of change in the movement.

The evening will also honor Rev. Dr. Susan Hrostowski, Kathy Garner and their son, Hudson, with the Human Rights Champion Award. Additionally, Lexus will be recognized with the Corporate Champion Award. Guests will be entertained with performances by *RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 5* winner Jinkx Monsoon and country music star Chely Wright.

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# 100 Things To Do In Sacramento Before You Die

reviewed by Matthew Burlingame

Most people tend to take their hometown for granted. The statue of Liberty may not seem as such a big a deal when seen her out the back door all one's life. Sacramento natives tend to do the same.

But Mark S. Allen's new book *100 Things to Do in Sacramento Before You Die* attempts to show that Sacramento is more

Bike, Allen explores over 25 dining and drinking experiences. Though some may seem like obvious choices for locals, Allen's perspective challenges even the most blasé Sacramentan to look at the experience through fresh eyes.

In the music and entertainment section, the list seems endless with shows at The B Street theatre, Music Circus, The Delta King and drive-in movies.

The sports and recreation section is a show-stopper. Allen manages to pull together the seemingly random to get readers excited about everything from rafting and jet skiing to watching bug races and pinball.

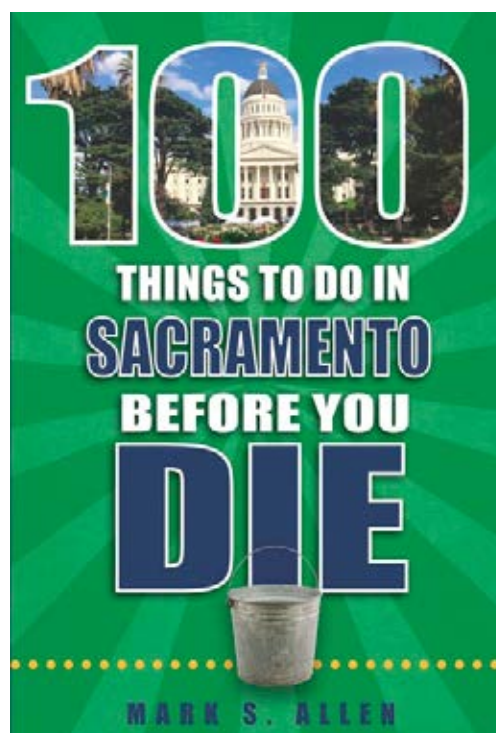
While the pages on shopping and fashion offers some fun suggestions on local shops and traditions, the standout section of this collection centers around what Sacramento is best known for: our culture and history.

Being one of the central hubs for the Northern California gold rush, Sutter's Fort, the train museum and Old Sacramento are among the first stops for anyone exploring the city. Along this vein are suggestions to see the governor's mansion and the capitol. Additionally, the many galleries, artist hubs and entertainment experiences have made Sacramento a haven for the forward-thinking.

Now when out-of-town guests ask what is there to do in sacramento, there are 100 answers wrapped up in an easy to read package that's also perfect for tourists traveling to Sacramento or locals looking to explore their hometown.

Allen's *100 Things to Do in Sacramento Before You Die* belongs on the bookshelf or coffee table of every Sacramentan. Available from Reedy Press in both eBook and print formats.

Matt Burlingame is an award-winning journalist and playwright turned novelist. For more information visit his website at [JustKissTheGuy.com](http://JustKissTheGuy.com)



than a gateway between San Francisco and Tahoe.

Allen has been a staple in Sacramento television and radio since 1996 when he started at ABC10. He went on to win three Emmy Awards and his show *Mark At The Movies* aired in 27 countries and 168 million homes worldwide both on Reelz Channel and AFN.

Complete with the tongue-in-cheek humor Allen is known for, the book explores the evolution of Sacramento into it's own unique cultural hub. Named the most integrated and culturally diverse city in America by *Time* magazine, the book is equally diverse in the selection of experiences.

From Taco trucks to Pizza Rock, Paragary's to the phenomena of the midtown Brew

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# It Turns Out That Sacramento Is a Queer Literary Town

A number of LGBTIQA fiction writers live in and around the area, and they've just formed a new group, The Queer Sacramento Author's Collective.

The collective includes queer romance, sci fi and contemporary fiction authors, and is the brainchild of J. Scott Coatsworth, gay writer and author of the weekly Sacramento-based serial tale *The River City Chronicles* and he has a new novel out, *Skythane*.

QSAC's mission is to connect authors with the local queer community through a series of events including readings and meet-the-author hang-outs. They also want to mentor local up-and-coming queer authors.

Currently-planned events include a meet and greet reading at the Lavender Library on March 19th at 5 p.m. Nine authors will bring milk and cookies and read from their work. Authors attending include: J. Scott Coatsworth, contemporary magical realism and sci fi-fantasy; S.A. "Baz" Collins, the co-host of *The Wrote Podcast*; Kim Fielding, M/M romance stories; Pat Henshaw, *Foothills Pride* gay romance series; LE Franks; Christopher Koehler; DL Kent, M/M action/adventure/romance; Amy Lane, fantasy, urban fantasy, and M/M romance;



J. Scott Coatsworth is not at all surprised by all the talented writers in the Sacramento area.

and Genevieve Wolfe poetry and short stories.

Future events include a reading on the lawn at the Sacramento Pride Festival and the Rainbow Festival.

QSAC meets monthly at a local cafe – if you're a local author interested in joining them, contact Coatsworth via his website, [www.jscottcoatsworth.com](http://www.jscottcoatsworth.com).

# SGMC Bets You're Going to Love Their Casino Night

The luck of the Irish will be with you this St. Patrick's Day when the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus hosts its Third Annual Crescendo, an exciting evening of wine, beer, music and casino games.



Musical hits from the Vegas strip will be performed by SGMC, and there will be a Vegas themed dinner and auctioneer Kathy Kingston will helm a live auction with some new and exciting items to bid on.

A new component for the Crescendo's High Roller Gaming Night this year will be chances to win raffle prizes, so come dressed up as your favorite Vegas act and be treated like a VIP High Roller!

The Honorary Committee Chair for this year's Casino Night is Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and the action begins at 6 p.m. at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St., on Friday March 17th.

You can still sponsor a table of eight and you can purchase individual tickets at [sacgaymenschorus.networkforgood.com/events/1302-crescendo-2017-bigger-better-sacramento-gay-men-s-chorus-annual-dinner-live-auction](http://sacgaymenschorus.networkforgood.com/events/1302-crescendo-2017-bigger-better-sacramento-gay-men-s-chorus-annual-dinner-live-auction)



# The Hunks of Cheese Coming to Artisan Cheese Festival

Charlie and Michael Kalish, aka the Cheese Twins or Hunks of Cheese, will demonstrate their cheese knowledge and cooking expertise with decadent and cheese-centric dishes at the United States' premier artisan cheese event, the 11th Annual California Artisan Cheese Festival in Petaluma.



Twin brothers Charlie and Michael Kalish

Featuring Bubbles & Brunch with the Cheese Twins, the festival will include cooking and entertaining demonstrations, and more than 90 cheesemakers and artisan food and beverage purveyors March 24-26,

Participants in the Festival's finale events the Bubbles & Brunch and Artisan Cheese Tasting & Marketplace on Sunday, March 26 can take a place at the table for a four-course brunch event featuring Gloria Ferrer sparkling wine. The brunch and cooking demonstration by the Cheese Twins will take place on Sunday morning before the weekend's popular grand finale, the Artisan Cheese Tasting & Marketplace.

Charlie and Michael Kalish are two cheese industry professionals who also happen to be twin brothers and recent television stars! After winning Season 7 of "The Great Food Truck Race" on The Food Network, the brothers were given their own show, aptly called "Big Cheese" which is now airing on

The Food Network.

For Sunday's Bubbles & Brunch at the California Artisan Cheese Festival, the Cheese Twins will be dishing up their cheesy favorites paired with Gloria Ferrer sparkling wine, such as Bellwether Farms Ricotta Stuffed French Toast with Strawberry Coulis and Chocolate Cheese Truffles with Nicasio Valley Foggy Morning.

Throughout the meal, the Kalish brothers will share stories about their escapades training as cheesemakers and cheese agers in Europe, details about their new television show, and what they have in store for the future. The twins will also be fielding questions and performing live cooking demonstrations while guests enjoy brunch, adding to the festive and interactive atmosphere.

For more information and tickets, visit [www.artisancheesefestival.com](http://www.artisancheesefestival.com)

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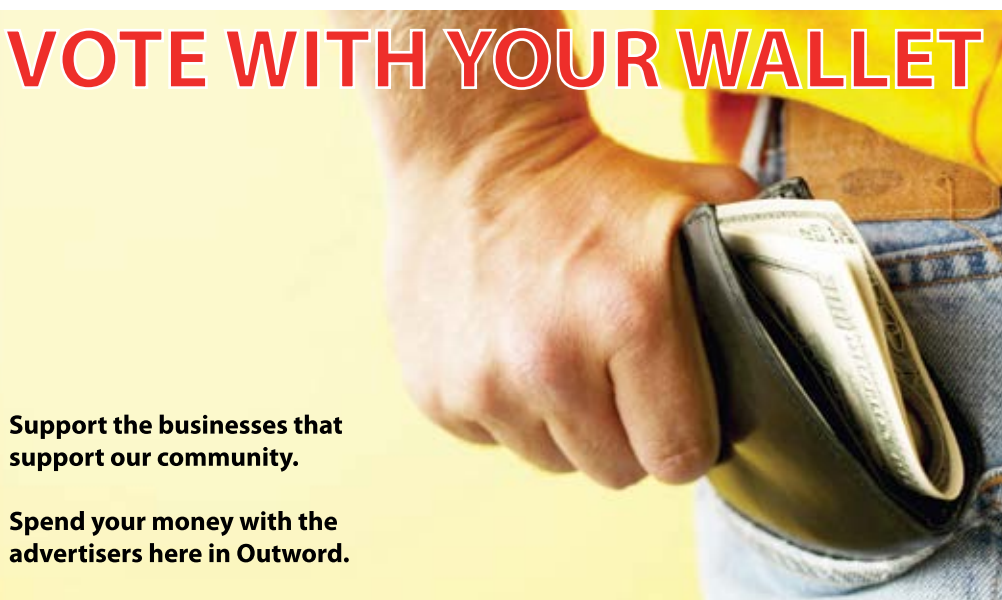
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## South Florida Is an LGBT Playground at the Beach

by Ed Walsh

**L**GBTs were a big part of the revitalization of South Florida beginning in Key West in the 1970s, Miami Beach in the 1980s, and Fort Lauderdale in the 1990s. The gay influence is woven into the political and cultural tapestry that continues to keep those cities hot tourist destinations.

If you want to combine all three cities, you could easily start by flying into the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Connecting flights from Sacramento, Los Angeles or San Francisco can get you there in about seven hours or less.

After spending a few nights in Fort Lauderdale, you could drive 45-minutes south to Miami, spend time there and continue on the 3.5 hour drive to Key West. With a one-way car rental, you could fly back home on a connecting flight from Key West.

### Fort Lauderdale

### Miami

Miami Beach's South Beach has an official gay beach known as the 12th Street Beach, you will know it by the rainbow flags planted in the sand in front of the beach.

The boutique hotel, Gaythering ([www.gaythering.com](http://www.gaythering.com)), as its name implies is marketed toward the LGBT community, but it is straight friendly and is located at the west end of Lincoln Road.

One of the best ways to see the Greater Miami area is on the "hop on and hop off" tourist buses. A couple of companies offer



The pink 801 Bourbon Bar at Key West's gayest intersection Duval and Petronia Streets.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale area includes Wilton Manors (pop 12,000) that is second only to Provincetown, Mass as the nation's gayest city per capita. Wilton Manors also has the largest number of bars, restaurants and shops of any place in Florida. Most of the gay resorts are closer to the ocean, in Fort Lauderdale city limits, about five miles from Wilton Manors' nightlife.

Of course, Fort Lauderdale is best known for its beach, lined by its signature white rolling wave wall. People often refer to the section of the beach by the street that intersects with it. The two sections of the beach that are most popular with gays are at Sebastian Street and on the far northern end of the wave wall at 18th street. The latter is more popular with locals.

Fort Lauderdale, like Palm Springs, is known for its wonderful gay resorts. The city's largest, Worthington Resorts ([www.theworthington.com](http://www.theworthington.com)), is three resorts combined into one with a total of 63 rooms, three swimming pools, two hot tubs and a small but well equipped fitness room.

The upscale 33-room Grand Hotel and Spa ([www.grandresort.net](http://www.grandresort.net)) is next door to the Worthington and includes a fabulous spa on the property that is open to guests and non-guests alike.

For more information, check out Fort Lauderdale's official travel Web site: [www.sunny.org/lgbt](http://www.sunny.org/lgbt)

the service. A good overall guide to gay Miami and other South Florida cities can be found on the web site [www.jumponmarkslist.com](http://www.jumponmarkslist.com).

### Key West

Key West was LGBT friendly long before it was fashionable. Beginning in the 1970s, gays helped revitalize businesses along Duval Street, the city's main drag, and a bounty of gay resorts sprung up in place of run-down smaller hotels in the city's historic Old Town.

While many of the formerly gay resorts have since gone mainstream, Key West still has a handful of gay hotels that deservedly have a loyal repeat clientele. The gay men's 34-room hotel, Island House Key West ([www.islandhousekeywest.com/](http://www.islandhousekeywest.com/)), deservedly ranks at the top or near the top of lists of the best gay resorts in the US. It has a 24-hour cafe and is open for day passes, making it popular with locals.

Key West has an active LGBT business association, the Key West Business Guild, that maintains the great Web site, [www.gaykeywestfl.com](http://www.gaykeywestfl.com), which lists information on LGBT nightlife, special events, and tours.

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



# Hot Stops in Santa Barbara for Some Great Wine

by Diana Kienle

Wineries of the middle and southern Central Coast of California are mostly casual visits and offer a very down to earth experience, and many are small family operations with simple tasting rooms.

This may well be attributable to the late development of wineries in the area. It was not until the 1980s that viticulture took off here and in 1970, there were only 171 acres of grapes in Santa Barbara County. By 1998, there were 16,500 acres generating great revenue.

During a day of wine tasting with friends, we visited Stolpman Vineyards and Beckmen Vineyards. Both are great examples of family wineries making a mark in the Santa Barbara area.

Stolpman was a very pleasant surprise! Knowing the climate and the varieties that do best in that area, they have a great line of Sangiovese. The line-up included three different bottles that vary in price and complexity.

Inspired, we bought all three for different occasions. They also produce some deep and rich Syrahs, which I also purchased. Chris, whose business card title is "Passionista," orchestrated our visit and stated that this title best describes his work at Stolpman, because he loves the wine and enjoys talking to folks about it every day.

Beckmen Vineyards was a bigger property with a very extensive line of wines, yet they

are also family owned. The winemaker is Steve Beckmen whose original training was in archaeology. The tasting room was big, bright and airy with an outside patio area that I wanted to visit since I had previously enjoyed their Grenache.

On this day, we were greeted and served by the Tasting Room Manager and he walked us through their line of wines from the estate. The wines showed depth and richness with excellent fruit. I was impressed with the Syrahs and walked away with several wines to add to my collection.

While the Santa Barbara area is young, it shows great promise for the future and many talented wine makers are calling this area home. It is worth your time to visit this beautiful area.

If you're looking to really treat yourself, you could stay at the Bacara Resort for a peaceful time to relax and enjoy the area, which includes quaint towns like Solvang and Los Olivos. While we were there, we had a chance to explore Los Olivos and enjoyed lunch at Sides Hardware and Shoes, where I had the best hamburger I've ever had! But, I digress...

Enjoy!



Stolpman's tasting room. Photo by Cathy Schwamberger.

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at [www.dianaswineblog.com](http://www.dianaswineblog.com).

She can be reached at [diana@dianaswineblog.com](mailto:diana@dianaswineblog.com).

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# 6 LGBT-Friendly Hotels You Should Bang In Before You Die

by Mikey Rox

We can debate endlessly what constitutes a great hotel room, but there are only three criteria that matter: A comfortable bed so you can catch all the Zs, a clean bathroom to wash your bits like they're receiving a medal of valor, and an ambience of well-insulated relaxation and romance to bang with reckless abandon. These six selections, inviting of LGBT travelers, receive our seal of approval.



## Kimpton Rouge Hotel, D.C.

Trade in your fifty shades of gray for a kaleidoscope of crimson during a stay at the fashion-driven Kimpton Rouge, equidistant (just a couple blocks) from D.C.'s LGBT epicenters Dupont and Logan circles. Subtle nods to Venus, the Roman goddess of love, beauty and frisky fornication, pepper this palace of playfulness – including statues at the hotel's entrance and custom-made Grecian-inspired bedside pedestals – the heart of which is enriched by flowing red draperies, floor-to-ceiling faux leather headboards, and colorful pop art indicative of a soul dedicated to sensuality. Plus, there's a massive mirror next to the king bed so you can Patrick Bateman your fuck sesh. [rougehotel.com](http://rougehotel.com)



## Inn of the Dove, Bensalem, PA

There's something to be said about nostalgia – and a touch of tackiness every now and then – and if you're the type who embraces counterculture like a long-lost cousin, the Inn of the Dove's "Love Shack" is likely what your getaway dreams are made of. Taking its design cue from the porn VHS you kept hidden under your boxer-shorts drawer in high school, this every-shade-of-red respite includes a heart-shaped bed with mirrored headboard, in-room hot tub, gas fireplace, and more Formica than you can shake a dick at. But, hey, it's a worth shot. [dovesuites.com](http://dovesuites.com)



## The Keating Hotel by Pininfarina, San Diego, California

Bro out like you've never bro-ed out before in this ultimate whisky lover's retreat that combines two of life supreme pleasures – booze and naked man butt. The mood-lighted Macallan Suite, inspired by the celebrated Scotch, emphasizes a Lavazza espresso machine; mini-bar with grown-up bottles of its namesake hooch; copper-gilded Morpheus Jacuzzi tub; and an intimacy kit with massage oil, candles, and handcuffs that you'll put to good (but perhaps sloppy) use once you're sufficiently tipsy. High-fives afterward. [thekeating.com](http://thekeating.com)



## The Ivy Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

Located in historic Mount Vernon – the epicenter of Baltimore's LGBT community and steps away from the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore Symphony, and Mount Vernon Marketplace – the Ivy Hotel (a retrofitted mansion designed by architect Charles Carson in the 1890s) features 18 individually designed rooms given a mid-century modern makeover by interior designer Joszki Meskan. The Tower Suite, the magnificent two-story sex-cape, features a living area, fireplace and powder room on the first level – because foreplay – while the second story, with its vaulted ceiling and platform bed plus bathroom are ideal conduits for finishing each other off in comfort and luxury. [theivybaltimore.com](http://theivybaltimore.com)



## Victorian Mansion Bed and Breakfast, Santa Barbara, California

Indulge your deepest, darkest fantasies at the Victorian Mansion Bed and Breakfast – which National Geographic calls one of the "quirkiest hotels around" – smack in the heart of Santa Barbara Wine Country. Quench your already thirsty loins with tastings in the area then return to this oasis of intimate imagination (pack costumes for an even more satisfying experience) and your suite decked out to the nines in 1950s, Egyptian, Roman, pirate, gypsy and French themes. Refuel at sunrise with a hot gourmet breakfast delivered bedside via private butler – which, coincidentally, is the perfect time to put your pants back on. [thevick.com](http://thevick.com)



## Hôtel Gaythering, Miami Beach

Thoughtful implementation of industrial aesthetics dot Miami Beach's only "fully gay" hotel – like concrete-colored walls, aluminum drop pendants, and untreated wood headboards in the rooms (how butch!) – but it's the nontraditional amenities and sleeping arrangements that truly set Hôtel Gaythering apart. After a dip in the Jacuzzi at the men's self-spa and a cocktail at the bar, guests can retreat to their whatever-happens-behind-closed-door quarters, the options for which include classic suites; double king rooms for groups; or a "crate" shared room for especially social travelers, which is kind of like an all-counselor camp cabin with an identical amount of sexual tension. [www.gaythering.com](http://www.gaythering.com)

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*





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# Don't Miss The Mendocino Film Festival

by Chris Narloch

**E**ast of Eden, Summer of '42, Same Time, Next Year, Cujo, and The Russian Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! are just a few of the great movies that were filmed in and around the beautiful city of Mendocino, on the coast of Northern California.

Today, Mendocino isn't just a great place to shoot a movie. It's also the perfect place to enjoy watching some of the finest cinema from around the globe, at a world-class yet cozy film festival.

In 2006, the late, great American movie director Sydney Pollack (*Tootsie*, *The Way We Were*, *Out of Africa*) helped found a film festival in this gorgeous seaside town, and the Mendocino Film Festival was born.

You'll spend a fortune to attend the Cannes Film Festival or Sundance, but Mendocino is equally beautiful, more affordable, and right in our backyard if you live in Northern California.

2017 will mark a dozen years for this gem

farm-to-table movement.

This celebration of the community explores the future of food and the history of wine, featuring films from around the world paired with special events that highlight the best of the Anderson Valley.

Last year's 11th Annual Mendocino Film Festival featured 66 films total, including two Academy Award winners, three Academy Award nominees, three California premieres, and one U.S. premiere.

Five cities hosted events last year, including Mendocino, Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Arena, at eight different venues, including an enormous white tent that housed one of the most memorable



When not taking in the films at the Mendocino Film Festival, you can enjoy the amazing beauty of the coast at the North Cliff Hotel.

of a film festival, and you can join the fun this June 1-4 for one of the most unique and scenic film events anywhere.

If I had to list all of the great movies I saw last year during my first visit to the Mendocino Film Festival, it would be considerably longer than the list of titles at the top of this article.

A rare screening of *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, David Bowie's classic concert film from 1973 by the great documentary filmmaker D. A. Pennebaker was probably the highlight for me.

The schedule of movies for this year's festival won't be announced until this spring, but you can bet it will include another great collection of independent features, foreign films, documentaries and more, all selected by this year's Program Director Claudia Puig, who is also the president of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

The uniqueness of the Mendocino area allows the festival to celebrate not only film but also food and wine, with exciting programs such as the popular Cinema in the Vineyards, which showcase agrarian and country living, sustainable farming, and the

screenings I attended.

Equally memorable was the beautiful North Cliff Hotel, on South Main Street in Fort Bragg, where I enjoyed breathtaking ocean views from my very comfortable room, which was a short drive from all of the Festival venues.

Over the years, the Mendocino Film Festival has established a reputation for presenting award-winning international and independent films and has become renowned on the festival circuit, drawing filmmakers and attendees from around the world while maintaining its commitment to the local community.

Featuring special events, filmmaker Q & A's, and panels, the festival offers the unique opportunity to meet filmmakers and film aficionados in an intimate setting while enjoying the striking natural beauty of Mendocino, which has inspired generations of artists.

For more information, please visit [www.mendocinofilmfestival.org](http://www.mendocinofilmfestival.org). Chris Narloch is Outword's Arts and Entertainment Editor. You can reach him at [Chris@OutwordMagazine.com](mailto:Chris@OutwordMagazine.com).



# I Love Amsterdam!

by Adrian Sanchez

I’ve traveled to so many places in Europe and whenever I’m asked about places that I’m embarrassed for not having visited yet I always think of Budapest, Munich and Amsterdam.

Now Amsterdam is no longer on that list and I’m so excited to write about this town, which has become almost my favorite city in Europe, just right after Rome.

Even though Amsterdam is a “big” city, it still has that old-small-town feeling when you stroll down the streets and cross the hundreds of canals, yes hundreds. Second city in the world with the most number of bridges, after Venice.

The best method of transportation is walking, like I always recommend, walk for miles, get lost and you’ll find the best hidden spots in town.



photo by Adrian Sanchez

Biking is so popular and polite-ish in the city, but don’t get fooled, look in every single direction when you cross the street because bikes have the right of pass and they take that very seriously.

Eating was amazing, not sure why Amsterdam doesn’t get that reputation as we ate deliciously every single meal and definitely more affordable than San Francisco and NYC. There are so many bars to choose from, great Dutch beer including the famous Heineken. And the shopping was another great surprise as it has very unique styles and prices attractive.

Lastly, of course you have to check out their coffee shops, which are not really coffee shops but legal cannabis shops where you can taste dozens of types and give you the fix that you need to keep experiencing the city. When in Rome ...

## Where to stay.

Canal House. Definitely an elaborate small boutique hotel, and part of the SLH collection, and our home away from home in Amsterdam. Located right on Keizersgracht street, one of the main and most luxurious canals with the typical architecture from the Dutch Golden Age, with narrow and tall intricate buildings with the most picturesque windows lined up the walls.

## What to see.

Vincent Van Gogh Museum was my favorite museum. Book tickets in advance and skip the lines. The most impressive collection that I’ve seen, so colorful and so deep. Rijksmuseum is another impressive museum that was recently renovated and just re-opened a couple of years ago.

Anne Frank House-Museum is a time capsule that takes you back to World War II in Amsterdam and the way Anne and her family lived in the attic of that place. Humbling experience. Best to buy ticket in advance for a specific time and skip the lines.

Flower Market is open year long and the best time to see it is Spring and Summer seasons. You can still experience the market in Winter with all the different tulip bulbs, souvenirs, and Dutch memorabilia. All laid out alongside the canal as

this market is floating on the canal. Tourist spot but worth it.

## Drinks and Eats.

There are so many, and honestly picking any restaurant by walking by it will be good. Still here are some of my favorites: Dante Bar, Black and Blue steakhouse, Bleu Brasserie with the best desserts, Adonis and Venus for best burgers, De Belhamel with more of a classic Dutch cuisine. And for special occasion check out Mr. Porter at W Hotel and Jansz at the Pulitzer Hotel, best restaurants on my list.

## Gay Amsterdam.

Did anyone doubt Amsterdam is gay friendly? This was even impressive for me as one of the friendliest cities with tons of things to do for gays and lesbians. I’m not usually about narrowing options to gay alternatives, but there’s no difference here and you can find the spots all over the city. The city has an openness to lifestyles, no judgment and embracing diversity that is really hard to compare to other cities in the world.

Prik is a small gay club with cool European pop music, good cocktails and the crowd is very friendly.

The Eagle and The Cuckoo’s Nest are a little more alternative as they are more leather and S&M bars, still friendly and cool to have a beer and it’s up to you to explore beyond that. Totally safe, friendly and fun.

Gay Pride is probably the best holiday to spend in Amsterdam, which is usually the first or second week of August, right in the middle of the summer and the entire town is a celebration-parade for a week. Check out the specific dates and book in advance as the place is party central for everyone. I can only imagine with warm weather and celebrations all over. Fun!

## Lastly.

The Heineken Experience is something that everyone should try. Touring the oldest brewery in town, learning about its history and why it’s considered a landmark was fascinating. Not to mention the brewing process, tasting and all fun experiences that they have throughout the tour. Special tip: go there on your birthday, get in the contest of juggling a beer and get your own Dutch birthday beer mug. Priceless.

There is o much to see, do, experience in this amazing city, so make sure you spend a few days there.

Adrian Sanchez is a passionate Travel blogger that spends most of his trips in Northern California, U.S., Mexico and Europe. For more about him visit his blog <https://medium.com/@triponmesf>. He can be reached at [adsanchez77@gmail.com](mailto:adsanchez77@gmail.com)

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# Who You Know Is the Key in *The Art of the Affair*

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer, The Bookworm Sez

**D**id you ever go somewhere with someone who seems to know everybody? That's what it's like to read *The Art of the Affair*. It's all about who you know.

The guy who bags your groceries might have stock tips for you. A co-worker introduces you to your next best friend. You find a great restaurant from your stylist, a new job from a former classmate, and your neighbor gives you gardening advice.

It's all about who you know or, as in the new book *The Art of the Affair* by Catherine Lacy and Forsyth Harmon, it's who you've dallied with.

Somehow, in some way, the people you meet leave fingerprints on your life. A laugh you'll never forget, a bon mot you'll quote, or even an attitude can be a memorable springboard for an idea.

That goes doubly for creative types, for whom romantic (or platonic) relationships, their "carnage of affairs" could lead to "countless works of art." These unions, whether legal or otherwise, also left a tangle of threads between many artists and writers.

Essayist and editor Edmund Wilson, for instance, helped launch the career of Anaïs Nin, who later wrote erotica. Nin was "unapologetic about her ... affairs," of which there were many, including a banker, "probably a homosexual," and novelist and playwright Gore Vidal, who himself

had "a short affair" with writer James Baldwin, who called another man "the love of his life."

Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington both collaborated professionally with Grammy-winner Ella Fitzgerald, but it was Marilyn Monroe who helped boost

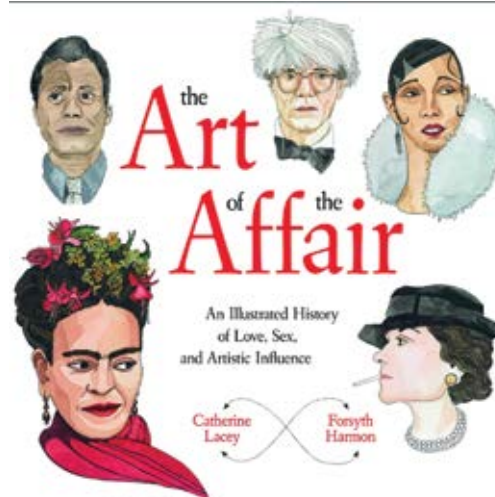
which, presumably, included her lover, Billie Holiday.

Oh, and playwright Williams ...? He was a friend of Gore Vidal, who also knew Truman Capote and Anaïs Nin ...

Author Catherine Lacey and illustrator Forsyth Harmon play a sort of Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon in their book – except, not surprisingly, Bacon isn't here. Instead, readers are taken back many decades to look at the dalliances and relationships of artists and stars of the early Twentieth century, and because very few contemporary artists grace these pages, there may be many times when you won't recognize the people among the threads. That can be remedied through inference, but a better explanation (at least for some artists) might have been nice, as would an index.

Still, I liked the tidbits in this book, the mini-factlets between ties, and the obvious delight that author and artist lend to the love affairs they so diligently discovered. Light, gossipy, and a little scandalous, *The Art of the Affair* shows that it's who you know that's important – and I know you'll like it.

Terri Schlichenmeyer is an avid reader and owner of *The Bookworm Sez*, a self-syndicated book review column. She can be reached at [bookwormsez@yahoo.com](mailto:bookwormsez@yahoo.com).



Fitzgerald's career. Monroe talked the owner of an L.A. nightclub into booking the singer, and she attended each of Fitzgerald's performances there. Monroe, of course, had her share of affairs, too, as well as a friendship with Truman Capote, who was repeatedly insulted by none other than Tennessee Williams.

Williams was no fan of Tallulah Bankhead, and the two publicly snarked at one another for years. Bankhead was an exhibitionist and didn't care who saw her naked –

## The Crocker Celebrates Women In The Arts

**I**n honor of Women's History Month, Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum will present an evening of in-depth conversation with a panel of artists discussing the issues facing female artists today.

The "Women In The Arts" program will be moderated by Kathrine Lemke Waste, the president of American Women Artists, and will include Texas-based painter Donna Howell-Sickles and Los Angeles-based interdisciplinary artist Micol Hebron.

What unique challenges do women face as they break into the art world? Why are women still underrepresented in museums today (typically making up only 20 percent of museums' collections, with an even smaller percentage of those works actually on display),

and how can we address this inequality?

The panel discussion will also take stock of how far efforts toward equal representation of female artists have come, and how far they still have to go.

This special one-time-only event at the Crocker takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. Space is limited and advance registration is recommended.

You can purchase tickets by visiting the Museum Admission Desk, or call (916) 808-1182. For more information, visit [www.crockerart.org](http://www.crockerart.org).





# A Gentleman's Guide To Love & Sacramento Surrogacy

by Chris Narloch

Anyone still stupid enough to think that a gay man cannot be a doting father has obviously never met composer Steven Lutvak, whose 2014 Tony-winning Best Musical, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, comes to the Community Center Theater this month, courtesy of Broadway Sacramento.

Lutvak, a popular NYC singer-songwriter and the co-creator of *A Gentleman's Guide*, briefly and politely excused himself during our recent phone interview to make sure everything was okay with his husband, who was watching their five-month old baby.

relatives who stand in his way. (I spoke with Lutvak the day after the Oscars telecast.)

**Hi, Steven. Did you watch the Academy Awards last night? How about that Best Picture debacle?**

**It was also an underdog because there was a lot of legal wrangling over the rights to *Kind Hearts* and *Coronets*, the movie that *Gentleman's Guide* was originally inspired by.**

Oh, yes. That's a long story. Basically, we had to go back to the original 1907 novel that the movie was based on which is in the public domain, and anything that was only in the movie had to be removed from our show. Ultimately, that actually made it stronger and better and funnier. **Tell me about Eliot Rose and her Sacramento connection.**

We went through an agency based in Portland, Oregon, and they did the match for us. Then we had a Skype session with the potential surrogate who happened to live in the Sacramento area. We liked her very much, and she liked us. It's not a traditional surrogacy in that we used an egg donor, but we had a wonderful experience, and now we have an incredibly healthy, happy baby.

**How has your life changed, both personally and professionally, since becoming a father?**

Well, it's the cliché of all time that having a child changes your life on every level, but that has certainly been my experience. And there is no preparing yourself for that. So, that said, at the ripe age of five months plus a couple of days into fatherhood, I will say that everything has new meaning. There is someone else for who I'm responsible, and my feelings about my work, and how that fits into my life, have changed, deeply, and irrevocably. I am part of a family, which is very, very new to me. And she's pretty cute, too!

***Gentleman's Guide* has been hugely successful, but a little show named *Hamilton* has also done pretty well recently. Not sure if you've heard of it? Ha ha. How do you account for the insane success of that show, and do you think that kind of theatrical phenomenon**

**SURROGACY**  
*continues on page 27*



Michael McGowan, Eliot Rose Lutvak-McGowan, and Steven Lutvak

If that wasn't endearing enough, the multi-talented artist and proud new papa obliged my request and sent several adorable photos of little Eliot Rose Lutvak-McGowan, who was born last September in Folsom, California via a Sacramento-area surrogate.

Lutvak and his husband, Michael McGowan, met and fell in love six years ago (thanks to Match.com, no less), and they reside in Manhattan after being married two years ago.

The following are excerpts from our chat about gay parenting, the current state of Broadway theater, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, which tells the uproarious story of Monty Navarro, an heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession by eliminating all eight pesky

My agent made a joke to me earlier today. He said, "I meant to tell you that *Beautiful* actually won the Tony."

**Your agent has a sharp wit...**

I thought last night was kind of proof that there's a God. I thought it was remarkable that *Moonlight* was even up for the Oscar so I was thrilled for them. A movie about a black gay man wins the Oscar for Best Picture? It's remarkable, and so many more people will see *Moonlight* now that otherwise would not have. *La La Land* was already a hit.

**Your show was something of an underdog too, right?**

Absolutely. Many people expected *Beautiful* to win Best Musical, including my own husband (laughs).

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## ***Beauty and the Beast* in IMAX** **Plus More Miyazaki at the Crest** *by Chris Narloch*

The new live-action, big-screen musical version of *Beauty and the Beast* reportedly features Disney's first ever openly gay character, making it the must-see movie of the spring.

That highly anticipated film opens at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX this March, and there are a number of other exciting film events happening this month just down the street at the Crest Theatre.

### **Esquire IMAX**

I was thrilled when this theater recently showed *La La Land* on its gigantic screen for one week because I am a firm believer that movie musicals should be seen in a theater, on the largest screen you can find, with a killer sound system.

In Sacramento at least, it doesn't get any bigger than the Esquire IMAX Theatre, which will begin showing the much awaited musical *Beauty and the Beast* on Thursday, March 16.

Starring Emma Watson (the *Harry Potter* movies) as a more feminist Belle, the new film also stars Emma Thompson, Kevin Kline, Audra McDonald, Stanley Tucci, Ian McKellen, Ewan McGregor, and Dan Stevens (*Downton Abbey*) as the Beast.

A more progressive Belle isn't the only improvement to the story. Apparently, in this version LeFou (Josh Gad) has a crush on his hunky master Gaston (Luke Evans), and it

deadline and you will have to decide for yourself whether the movie works or not.

It looks like Disney spent a ton of money making it, and the cast and director are



**Luke Evans and Josh Gad costar in *Beauty and the Beast*.**

should be fun to see how far Disney allows the gay angle to go in this PG-rated movie.

The film's openly gay director, Bill Condon (*Chicago, Dreamgirls*), probably had something to do with this queer twist, but I was unable to review the film before our

first-rate, so I am optimistic that *Beauty and the Beast* will be a winner. For tickets, visit <http://www.imax.com/imax-esquire-00>.

### **The Crest**

This historic movie palace on K Street is proud to present *My Neighbor Totoro*,

another timeless animated classic by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki.

Featuring fantastic animation, a lot of heart, and a sweet story, *Totoro* is perfect for adults and children of all ages.

The plot concerns two young sisters who move into a house that borders an enchanted forest. When they discover who lives in the woods, the fun never ends.

The Crest is also showing a dubbed version of *My Neighbor Totoro* for those moviegoers who are too young to read subtitles, but I recommend that adults see the subtitled print (on 35mm film!) at 7:30 p.m. on Sat. March 18, 2017.

The next night, March 19, finds the Crest hosting the movie *Repo Man*, a much-beloved indie film starring Emilio Estevez and Harry Dean Stanton, from 1984.

On March 26, Charlie Chaplin's iconic Little Tramp character will light up the Crest screen in his classic film *The Gold Rush*.

Rounding out the month of March on the 31st, *The Dude* takes over the Crest with a one-night only showin of *The Big Lebowski*, starring Jeff Bridges, Julianne Moore, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, John Turturro, Sam Elliott, and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

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

## **A Prequel & a Parody on NorCal Stages** *by Chris Narloch*

If you weren't able to score tickets to see *Hamilton* in San Francisco – or even if by some miracle you were – I have two other great shows you can check out, one in Sacramento and the other in the Bay Area.

### **Peter and the Starcatcher**

This Tony-winning play upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up (a.k.a. Peter Pan).

A wildly theatrical and imaginative adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's best-selling novels, *Peter and the Starcatcher* was conceived for the stage by directors Roger Rees and Alex Timbers, and written by Rick Elice, with music by Wayne Barker.

Filled with marauding pirates and jungle tyrants plus plenty of slapstick fun, *Peter and the Starcatcher* playfully explores the depths of greed and despair and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

Performances of *Peter and the Starcatcher* continue at Sacramento's Grange Performing Arts Center through Sunday, March 26, 2017. For more information, visit [www.greenvalleytheatre.com](http://www.greenvalleytheatre.com).

### **Silence! The Musical**

Due to overwhelming audience response,

the San Francisco premier of *Silence! The Musical*, the award-winning musical parody of *The Silence of the Lambs*, has been extended.

Originally scheduled to close on Saturday, February 25, tickets are now on-sale through Saturday, March 18. If you're a fan of the original movie, don't miss it.

*Silence! The Musical* tells the story of rookie FBI agent Clarice Starling (played by Jodie Foster in the movie) as she matches wits with the brilliant but insane cannibal, Dr. Hannibal Lecter, in order to catch the serial killer known as Buffalo Bill.

Clarice faces her own demons -- and a troupe of singing and dancing lambs -- while racing against the clock to unlock Lecter's clues before another innocent girl is killed.

Featuring a book by Tony Award nominee Hunter Bell (*[title of show]* on Broadway) and music and lyrics by Jon and Al Kaplan, *Silence! The Musical* was a big off-Broadway hit in New York City.

Tickets range in price from \$35-\$55 and



**Kyle C. Burrow and Kevin Caravahlo in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Photo by Meredith Nixon**

are available online at [www.silencethemusicals.com](http://www.silencethemusicals.com) and at the Victoria Theatre box office (2961 16th St., SF)

(Chianti will be on tap at the theater, but at this time, no fava beans will be made available for public consumption.)



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# Queer Leather Association Forms In Sacramento

Members of Sacramento's Leather, BDSM and Kink Play community have come together to form a new leather association, the Queer Leather Association of Sacramento, with the goal of providing educational, social and charitable activities and events.



The board of the Queer Leather Association of Sacramento; Sage Brown, Ty Redhouse, John Bessen, Palma Ashley St. James, Matt Bunch and Laine Mejia (Mike Smith not pictured.)

The new group formally adopted their bylaws and elected officers and board members at a meeting held February 27th, 2017. The new officers are Matt Bunch, president; Sage Brown, vice president; Laine Mejia, Secretary; John Bressan, treasurer; and Palma Ashley St. James, Sargent-at-Arms. Board members at large are Ty Redhouse and Mike Smith.

The new group plans to hold monthly meetings the first Monday of each month at the Lavender Library, 1414 21st St., at 7 p.m.

"QLAS will have similarities to previous leather clubs in Sacramento," said Brown.

"What is different is that this club is starting out as a queer club of all gender expressions. We are committed to respect, kindness and inclusiveness."

"The leather community, is really just that: Community," said Bunch. "Organizations like ours start from a place of fraternity. We are very different people with very different backgrounds and varied interests, but we have shared values. Our shared values give us purpose: being a place people can go to safely learn about BDSM."

For more information, message [www.facebook.com/Bunchie](http://www.facebook.com/Bunchie) and they should soon be online at [queerleatherassociation.com](http://queerleatherassociation.com).

# SOULSKIN Comes to SF with *Satin & Swing* and Will Also Be Live Streamed

SOULSKIN Dance is presenting a brand new work, *Satin & Swing*, as part of their 4th Season in San Francisco that will feature guest choreographers Dylan Elmore and Robert Sund and three virtuosic Cuban male dancers and will be live streamed on Saturday, March 11.

Artistic Director and Choreographer Adrianna Thompson seeks to engage

music on stage as part of the performance.



Edisnel Rodriguez Gonzalez, Delvis Savigne Frinon and Adonis Martin. Photo by Andy Mogg. audiences in a study of two eras, the 1920s and the present. Transforming the Dance Mission Theatre into a time machine and transporting you back to the 1920s, where the glitz and glam sparkle from the dingy corners of a speakeasy and raucous jazz blares, bringing bejeweled and sequined dancing flapper girls to life.

An evening of indulgence has begun. The entry notes of Prince's "Erotic City" ring in your ears, an echo from another time. Suddenly you notice the writing on the wall. The crash of over-indulgence is imminent.

Adrianna Thompson's choreography for *SATIN & SWING* is a mix of contemporary ballet and modern dance, incorporating stylistic cues from 1920s swing and erstwhile social dances. The music is a mix of newly commissioned work by Noh Salomon which links the iconic 1920s classics of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Helen Kane (voice of Betty Boop), with the music of 1980s rock legend Prince.

Thompson aims to draw parallels between the '80s musical icon and the artists who thrived in the 1920s; calling to attention his racial background, gender non-conformity, and rejection of the status quo. DJ CAMCON (Camille Conrotto) will design and live mix



T to B: Edisnel Rodriguez Gonzalez, Adonis Martin and Delvis Savigne Frinon. Photo by Andy Mogg.

The evening will open with two works created by guest choreographers Robert Sund and Dylan Elmore.

Performances are March 10, 11 12, (Fri., Sat. 8:00 pm / Sun. 7:00 pm) at Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. Tickets are \$20 - \$25 (Gen. Admission). Advance tickets are \$20 at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006. For further information visit [soulskindance.org](http://soulskindance.org).

*SATIN & SWING* will be live-streamed on Sat. March 11, at 8 p.m. for \$10 at [www.concertwindow.com/80088-andy-mogg-live-streaming-presents](http://www.concertwindow.com/80088-andy-mogg-live-streaming-presents).

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# RuPaul's Drag Race Lands Lady Gaga for Season Premiere

Fresh off a stunning Super Bowl halftime show performance, Lady Gaga is set to appear on the season premiere of Logo's Emmy Award-winning competition series, *RuPaul's Drag Race*. The new season will kick off with "Mother Monster" and RuPaul this March.



Lady Gaga will be a guest judge on the season premiere of Ru Paul's Drag Race.

The season nine premiere event features a shocking opening that will go down as one of the most jaw-dropping moments in *Drag Race* history. Additionally, the premiere event will unveil a court of cut-throat Queens each competing to snatch the crown and strut away with a \$100,000 cash prize and the coveted title of "America's Next Drag Superstar."

Along the way, they'll face an unpredictable competition and deliver watercooler moments as these talented ladies of drag join the fabulous 100 Queens who fought for the crown before them.

For a sneak peek at Lady Gaga's appearance on the new season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, visit [www.logotv.com/video-clips/](http://www.logotv.com/video-clips/)

xca5d1.

The 13 previously announced Queens include: Aja (Brooklyn, NY), Alexis Michelle (New York, NY), Charlie Hides (London, UK), Eureka O'Hara (Johnson City, TN), Farrah Moan (Las Vegas, Nevada), Jaymes Mansfield (Madison, Wisconsin), Kimora Blac (Las Vegas, Nevada), Nina Bo'nina Brown (Atlanta, Georgia), Peppermint (New York, New York), Sasha Velour (Brooklyn, New York), Shea Coulee (Chicago, IL), Trinity Taylor (Orlando, FL) and Valentina (Los Angeles, CA).

After an epic Super Bowl halftime show performance that still has the world talking, Lady Gaga announced the Joanne World Tour set to begin this summer. For dates and tickets, go to [www.ladygaga.com](http://www.ladygaga.com).

## Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens on VOD

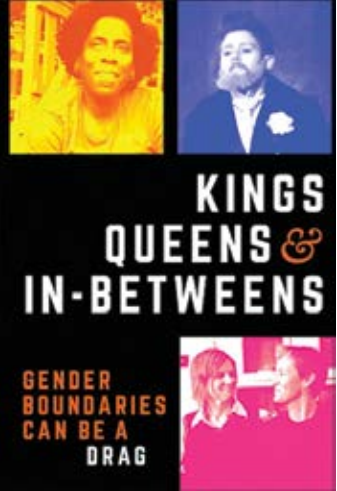
The award-winning documentary *Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens*, which focuses on the drag kings, drag queens and transgender performers in Columbus, Ohio, received a national VOD launch on March 7, 2017 (including iTunes, Amazon and Google Play).

*Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens* explores a Midwestern city with an extraordinary and unexpected drag scene, and the larger theme of exactly what gender is and means.

Through the compelling personal stories of eight performers and their troupes in Columbus, Ohio, *Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens* makes a complex subject approachable for mainstream audiences – inviting viewers into a conversation about the distinct and important differences between gender, sex, and sexuality.

A heart-warming, engaging film, *Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens* is thought-provoking and sends a message of love and acceptance, reflecting a community unified in the belief that we are all just human.

Watch the trailer at [youtu.be/3nBULq8d-jQ](http://youtu.be/3nBULq8d-jQ).



## Esteros Is a Charming and Heartfelt Take on Second Chances at Love



More than ten years after Matias' and Jeronimo's high school romance is broken up by a family move, Matias returns to his old town for Carnival where he unexpectedly runs into Jerónimo. Feelings between the two men slowly reappear, leading to a long-repressed awakening in this film festival favorite from Argentina. Available at [bgpics.com](http://bgpics.com), VOD and iTunes. Watch the trailer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQPPGQNf2XY&t=4s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQPPGQNf2XY&t=4s)

## S & M Sally Makes Taboo Faboo



When Jamie finds out her girlfriend Jill, identifying as the butch one in a traditional butch/femme couple, has spent time exploring BDSM, they start going to underground clubs. Meanwhile, the polyamorous bisexual Sebastian proposes to have a threesome in this provocative and hilarious ride. Available from [www.Ariztical.com](http://www.Ariztical.com) and you can watch a trailer at [youtube.com/watch?v=7i2jDXUapXw&feature=youtu.be](http://youtube.com/watch?v=7i2jDXUapXw&feature=youtu.be)

## Gentleman's Guide Is Slaying Its Way to Sacramento



A *Gentleman's Guide To Love & Murder* tells the uproarious story of Monty Navarro, a distant heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession, by any means necessary. The Tony Award winning musical comedy comes to Broadway Sacramento through March 12. Watch a trailer at [www.agentlemansguidebroadway.com](http://www.agentlemansguidebroadway.com) and get tickets at [BroadwaySacramento.com](http://BroadwaySacramento.com). Pictured are John Rapson, Megan Loomis and Kevin Massey as Monty Navarro. Photo by Joan Marcus.



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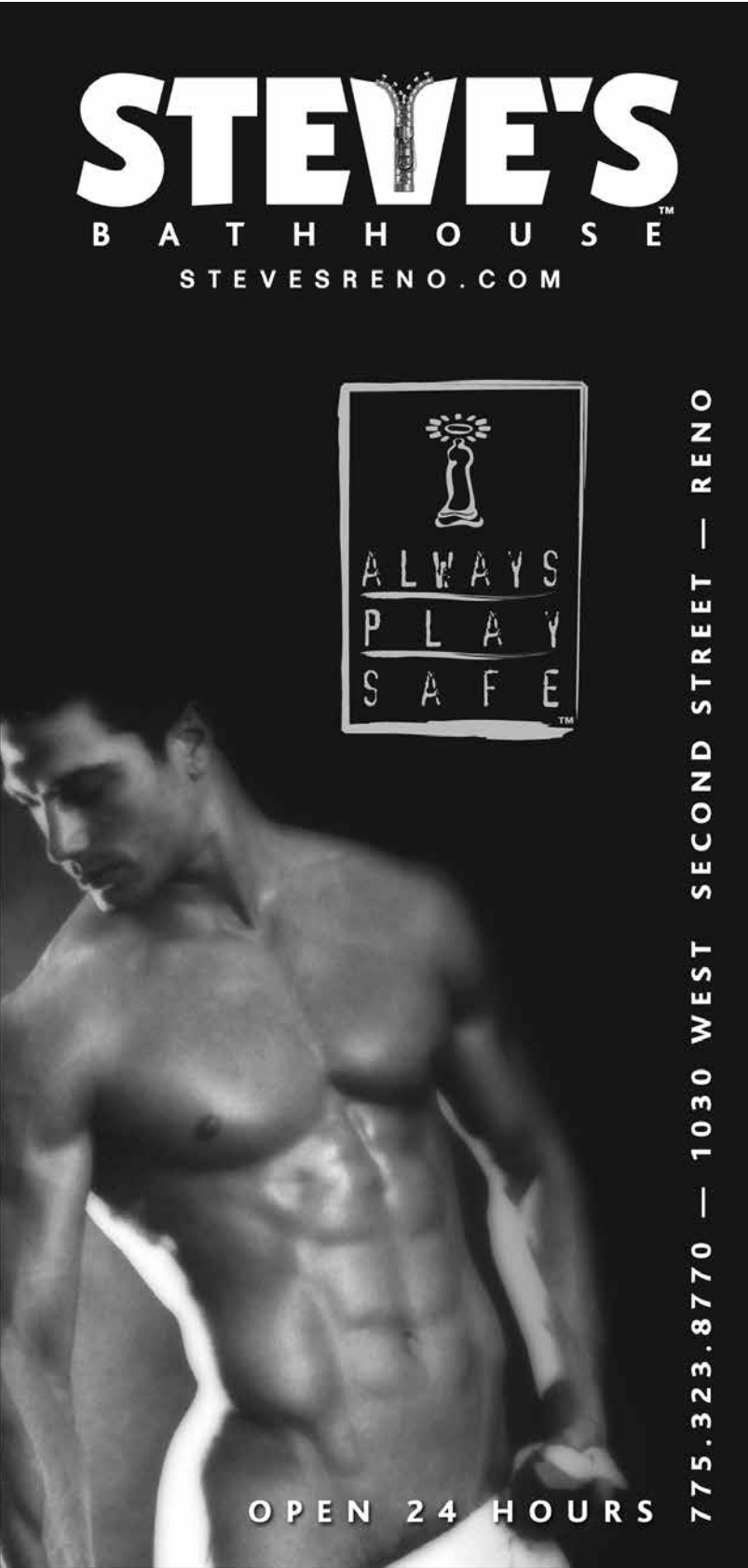
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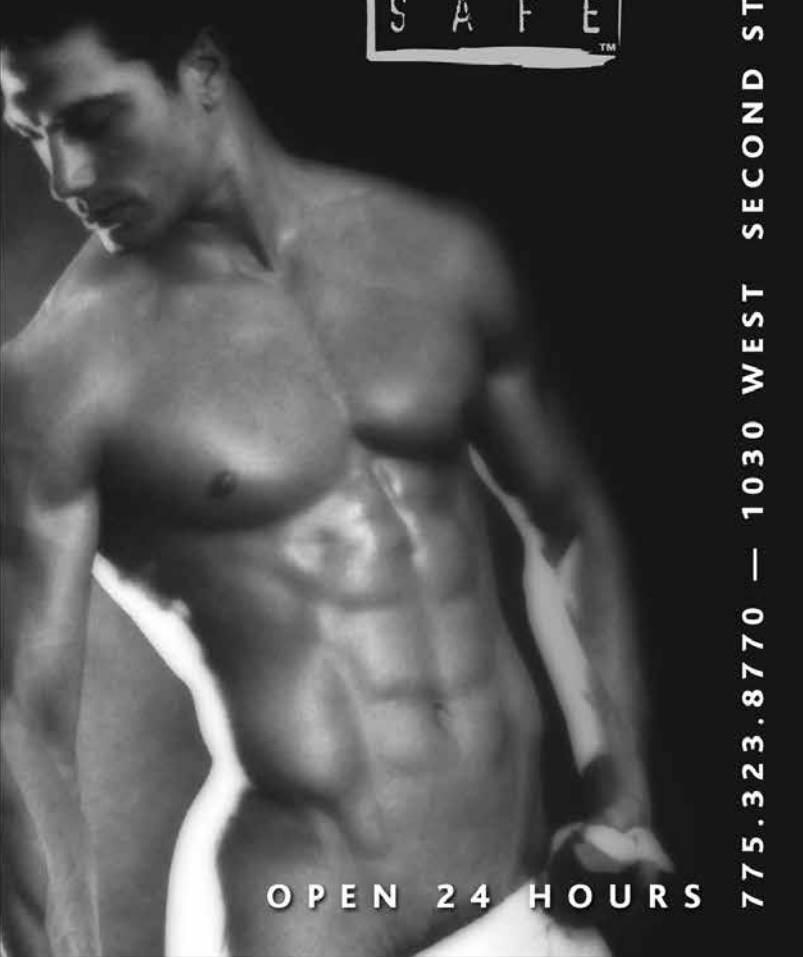
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## Elk Grove

*continued from page 6*

and unhealthy lifestyles - like this is a normal family. It is immoral and disgusting, and it's worse that we all watch it as if that's OK.' Other supervisors who witnessed the sergeant's rant joined in, laughing and joking.

Lemire also alleges he was exposed to "cat calls" in the changing room; questions thought to be inappropriate regarding his personal life; asking if the medication he was taking was for HIV; and insinuating he might make passes at other male officers.

The lawsuit asserts that Mr. Lemire complained about this treatment through several channels during his tenure, but they were in part unaddressed. The complaints were filed with then Assistant Chief Bryan Noblett, the Internal Affairs Lieutenant Arthur Olsen, City of Elk Grove Human Resources Director Jackie Langeberg, and then Police Chief Robert Lehner.

Along with his discrimination claim, Lemire is also suing the Elk Grove Police Department based on retaliation for complaining about

discrimination; failure to prevent discrimination, retaliation and discrimination; defamation; violation of Labor Code Section 1050; and violation of Labor Code Sections 1102.5(b) and 1102.5 (c).

The  
Word  
is out.



# This Trip Was Born as a Mileage Run

by Clayton Whitehead

I needed about 20,000 miles on a combination of Star Alliance carriers to maintain my all-important status when flying “the friendly skies.” The internet search took a lot of patience.

A travel website is designed to get a person from A to B as quickly and economically as possible – not to plan mileage runs. I persevered. My options slowly began to download. Dubai? Too hot. Calcutta? Isn’t that where Mother Teresa did her thing? Dhaka? I don’t even know where or what that is! Johannesburg – I liked the sound of that!

I’d heard South Africa was nice. Beautiful beaches. Lush wine country. Rich history with the likes of Mandela and Tutu leading the way. Friendly ties with our country (and no rogue mosquitoes) meant no visas or shots were required – just a valid Passport and I could be on my way.

I booked my airline ticket – Sacramento to San Francisco to Los Angeles to Frankfurt to Johannesburg – 57 hours in the air or in airports. But this routing contained the needed miles. OK – now what?

I Googled “things to do in South Africa” and SAFARI was first on the list. Kruger National Park, larger in size than most New England states, would have required another flight. After 57 hours, I thought a nice drive would be more my speed.

After a few more internet searches I stumbled upon Entabeni Safari Conservancy.

The images were stunning. It looked not at all unlike Sedona – red rocks, steep cliffs, other-worldly formations that seemed more like the set from a si-fi movie than real life. And animals!

The Big 5 is what you want to see when visiting Africa: Elephant, lion, leopard, cape buffalo and rhinoceros. Entabeni guaranteed to have all five in residence on 22,000 thousand acres of unspoiled savannas. They also boasted cabins for visitors. (With all those lions wondering around I decided early on I did not want to sleep in a tent, though I would learn hippos kill more people every year than lions and elephants combined!)

I booked five days there which included the cabin; daily breakfast, lunch and dinner; two safaris daily at dawn and dusk; and transport to and from the airport. All this for less than the price of the plane ticket. It sounded too good to be true. And it was . . .

Shortly after my arrival I met Jimmy Cricket, resident ranger and safari guide extraordinaire. His instincts were as well-tuned as those of the animals. He could just sense where they would be. In total I would do eight safaris and we’d see the Big 5 along with zebra, giraffe, cheetah, impala, warthog, kudu, hippopotamus, gnu, monkey and



baboon – just to name a few.

The awesomeness of Africa is difficult to put into words. Imagine being deep in the bush, half a planet from home, completely surrounded by a pack of pachyderms. Or coming upon a pride of lions relaxing nonchalantly after a kill. Finding yourself in the middle of a herd of impalas so large you can’t see where they begin or end. Witnessing a female cheetah making her choice from two interested suitors, and eventually finding neither quite to her liking. Lying in bed and listening to the resident hippo rooting outside your cabin under a full moon.

Every sensation in Africa is so immediate, so honest, so close. Some creatures are predators; some are prey. No judgment. No PETA protesters. No tears. That’s just the way it is. It’s the “circle of life” we learned about in *The Lion King*, only this was REAL. The human (me!) was simply allowed as an observer – as long as I didn’t get too close.

Clayton Whitehead is a frequent traveler and travel specialist and Vice President of Sports Leisure Vacations. He can be reached at [clayton.whitehead@sportsleisure.com](mailto:clayton.whitehead@sportsleisure.com).

## Surrogacy

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is ultimately good or bad for Broadway.

I think the success of *Hamilton* – the staggering success – comes from many aspects, and the one that I’m most excited about is that, yes, there’s a new audience for the show, but I love that the face of the cast is one we haven’t really seen (except with some exceptions). I love that *Hamilton* tells this particular story with a completely multi-ethnic cast. That’s where I think its brilliance lies, primarily. It’s also beautifully written, but that alone doesn’t account for the profound effect it’s had on Broadway, and the culture at large. That kind of thing happens every so often, and if it brings people in and it’s good I’m all for it.

**Getting back to *Gentleman’s Guide*, how would you describe it to our readers, Steven?**

When I was pitching it to people years ago, I described it as a cross between *Little Shop of Horrors* and *My Fair Lady* (laughs). You will laugh your tush off, it has a very fun score, and there are two or three twists in a row at the end that you will not see coming.

**“A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” plays through March 12, 2017 in Sacramento. For more information, visit [www.californiamusicaltheatre.com](http://www.californiamusicaltheatre.com).**

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