

outword

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magazine
sacramento

Swimwear to Accentuate Your Assets

page 15

Cast of
"Transparent"
Releases PSA
page 6

Remembering
Camille
Wojtasiak
page 10

Railroad Museum
to Showcase
Photographs
page 13

Crocker's
MEISSEN Exhibit
Is Delicate
page 16

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UOT Study Finds Gay Blood Preferred by Mosquitos

FauxNews is reporting that a new study from the University of Transylvania finds that mosquitos have a strong preference for the blood of gay men and lesbians. Research also shows the mosquitos appear to be ambivalent about bisexual's blood.



April Fools' Day aside, the Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District advises that while the official start of spring is still a couple of weeks away, warming temperatures means an increase in mosquitoes.

Warm sunny days along with stagnant water left behind from winter rain storms makes the perfect combination for mosquitoes to breed. "Over the past few weeks we've definitely seen an increase in mosquitoes," said Gary Goodman, Manager for the District. "All the rain we've had this winter has created many potential mosquito breeding sites."

While it's too soon to predict the severity of the mosquito season and the intensity of West Nile virus activity, one element is certain, having more water can definitely create more areas for mosquitoes to grow.

The District asks residents to be responsible and do their part to eliminate areas of stagnant water around their home. "It's easy to see the buckets, tires, flowerpots and other containers that get filled with water and dump them out, but don't forget about clogged rain gutters, tarps that hold

water or other sources that may produce thousands of mosquitoes and may not be so obvious," said Goodman. "Reducing these mosquito breeding sites around the home now will go a long way later in the season and will help us out significantly."

Over the past few weeks the District has received an increase in public service requests regarding aggressive day biting mosquitoes. This specific species of mosquito typically breeds in hollow tree holes filled with water and is a seasonal nuisance common during this time of the year.

However it's important to note that these mosquitoes do not pose a threat for transmitting West Nile virus. District crews are currently out inspecting areas where these mosquitoes can breed and making appropriate treatments. The best protection for this and other mosquitoes is to dress in long sleeves and pants or to wear an effective mosquito repellent while spending time outdoors. Insect repellents that contain DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus provide the best protection against mosquito transmitted diseases.

To report neglected swimming pools, areas with stagnant water or mosquito breeding problems, please call 1-800-429-1022 or fill out a service request online at www.FIGHTtheBITE.net.

Study Finds LGBTQers At High Risk To Be Violence Victims

LGBT people are at high risk for being victims of physical and sexual assault, harassment, bullying, and hate crimes, according to a new study by RTI International.

"Our research indicates that LGBTQ+ people face significant danger in their daily lives - and that their victimization affects their education, safety, and health," said Tasseli McKay, a social scientist at RTI and the study's lead author.

The researchers found that in a range of studies with LGBTQ+ individuals, victimization experiences are clearly and consistently correlated with behavioral health conditions and suicidality, sexual risk-taking and HIV status, other long-term physical health issues, and decreased school involvement and achievement. Such effects are often sustained many years after a victimization event.

Key findings from the report include:

- Despite a public perception of greater acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals in present-day society, disparities in victimization have remained the same or increased since the 1990s.

- Schools are a special concern. Many

LGBTQ+ youth reported being afraid or feeling unsafe at school. School-based victimization of LGBTQ+ youth was associated with decreased school attendance, poorer school performance, and steeply increased risk of suicide attempts.

- Contradicting the common perception of hate-related victimization as being committed by strangers or acquaintances, LGBTQ+ people are often victimized by close family members, particularly their own parents and, for bisexual women, their male partners.

"We need more research to better understand what policies will provide LGBTQ+ youth with safer school and home environments, what resources provide LGBTQ+ people who are victims of violence the best support and how we can ultimately create a larger societal climate that doesn't tolerate persistent, pervasive, lifelong victimization," McKay said.

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Hawaii-based designer Reyn Spooner's swimsuits emphasize "Mai iloko mai." Photo courtesy of Reyn Spooner

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Two Sacramentans to Head EQCA Boards of Directors

Equality California and Equality California Institute have announced the 2017 officers of their boards of directors, including two Sacramentans who will become the president and vice president of the Equality California Board.

"Our board leadership is comprised of individuals of extraordinary skill and accomplishment," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "They are all leaders in their respective fields and come from the length and breadth of California. We're thrilled that they have chosen to devote their time and energy helping to lead Equality California. We are in good hands as we defend the civil rights we have worked so hard to achieve."

Mandy Lee of Sacramento is beginning a two-year term as president of Equality California. She is a distinguished public affairs professional with over 10 years of government relations, public affairs, political campaigns and public service experience. In 2016, Mandy was nationally recognized as one of the top Asian American Pacific Islander political and public affairs professionals under 40. She holds a bachelor's degree from California State University-Hayward in political science and pre-law studies.

Joe Gregorich also of Sacramento is

beginning a two-year term as Equality California board vice president. He currently serves as associate vice president of state government affairs for the Apollo Education Group, Inc. He is also a former board member of CAPPAC, which was a non-partisan political action committee formed to promote the civil rights and ensure the equality of LGBT people through the political process, focusing on the Sacramento area. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and legal studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Additional board officers for Equality California are Scott Malzahn (Los Angeles), secretary; and Laurie Hasencamp (Los Angeles), treasurer.

Equality California Institute Board members include: Beth Collins-Burgard (Santa Barbara), president; Jackie Thomas (Palm Springs), vice president; David B. Cruz (Los Angeles), secretary; and Lisa Middleton (Palm Springs), treasurer.

To learn more about Equality California and the Equality California Institute Board, visit EQCA.org

Celebrating Carnival in São Paulo with SCRUFF



OK, there was no reason to include this except, well, cute guys! Some of the SCRUFF guys got dressed up by celebrity drag queens at Carnival in São Paulo and then paraded through the streets personally delivering WOOFs (stickers) to their community members in Brazil. Want to see the video? Visit bit.ly/SCRUFFCarnival2017

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Vertrumpf!

by Tom Moon, MFT, *The Examined Life*

Since this is a mental health column, I usually avoid political commentary, but this week the subject is how we're responding psychologically to Donald Trump. Here politics and mental health overlap.

My personal view of Trump's character is best summed-up by the incomparable Charles Blow, who recently wrote in the *New York Times*, "Donald Trump is a vulgar, uninformed, anti-intellectual, extremely unpopular grifter helming a family of grifters who apparently intend to milk their moment on the mount for every red cent."

I also share Carl Bernstein's view of Trump as "authoritarian" with a "pathological disdain for the truth." I believe that he suffers from a severe character disorder (Narcissistic Personality Disorder), that he is dangerously unstable, and represents a clear and present danger to the country and to the world.

I believe that it is the duty of every citizen who sees what is happening to use all legal and nonviolent tools available to us to protect and defend those he targets, and to oppose, resist, and thwart this regime.

The reason that politics and mental health overlap where Trump is concerned is that this administration is profoundly stressful to almost anyone who isn't delusional and is paying attention (and that includes many of his supporters), and we're going to have to manage this stress for however long this dark time in American history lasts.

I have pitifully few suggestions for how to do this, because I'm still trying to find my own way, but here are a few ideas:

First, if you're fearful, angry or stressed, understand that your reactions are normal. More than half of Americans (57 percent) say the current political climate is a very or somewhat significant source of stress, and nearly half (49 percent) say the same about the outcome of the election, according to an American Psychological Association poll conducted in January.

Katherine Nordal, PhD, APA's executive director for professional practice, commented, "The stress we're seeing around political issues is deeply concerning, because it's hard for Americans to get away from it. We're surrounded by conversations, news



and social media that constantly remind us of the issues that are stressing us the most."

Between August 2016 and January 2017, the overall average reported stress level of Americans rose from 4.8 to 5.1, on a scale where 1 means little or no stress and 10 means a great deal of stress, according to the APA survey. This represents the first significant increase in the 10 years since the Stress in America survey began. At the same time, more Americans said that they experienced physical and emotional symptoms of stress in the prior month, health symptoms that the APA warns could have long-term consequences.

So how do we respond to this stress? I think that the most important thing, above everything else, is to listen to your feelings and to treat them with respect. You're not "overreacting," you aren't a "snowflake" you don't need to "suck it up," and your feelings aren't misleading you. It really is as bad as it seems.

If you believe, as I do, that this presidency

is a serious threat, then you must also believe that you have a moral obligation not to compromise with it, and not to buy into the tendency of too many to normalize this abnormal situation. Listen to what your heart tells you, and stand in defense of the truth as you understand it. This is what it means to behave normally in an abnormal situation.

That said, the very gravity of the moment may be a good reason to limit exposure to the media. We do have to be informed in order to resist effectively, but the obligation to know what is happening doesn't mean that we have to stay plugged in 24/7.

For many of us, following all the minutiae of this train wreck is almost an addiction. It's as if our internal emergency buttons have become stuck in the "on" position, and we spend hours every day keeping ourselves in states of agitation, fear, and anger – maybe because it feels too dangerous to look away.

It is as if the country and Trump are in a toxic relationship. He's the abusive partner who sucks all of the air out of the room, and it's a victory to be able to refocus our attention on our own well-being for even a moment. Set your intention to do something every day to relax and self-soothe – exercise, spend time outdoors, meditate, walk, or just be quiet. This is an especially important time to take good care of ourselves.

Debating the issues is important, but we should all refuse to participate in any discussions of the "libtard/repub" variety. American political debates on social media in the past decade seem to have degenerated into juvenile rants and name-calling. Such exchanges are demeaning to all who participate in them; they trivialize the important issues being discussed; they don't advance causes or change minds; and they are enormously stressful.

While we should avoid all forms of hate-speech, it is vitally important that we speak from the best in ourselves. Let's not just focus on what we want to move away from, but remember what we want our destination to be. In saying no to hate and intolerance, we must also say yes to compassion and kindness, and demonstrate our commitment to these values not only by the way we speak, but by the way we live.

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Cast of *Transparent* Releases Support PSA for Gavin Grimm

The cast and crew of the award-winning Amazon series *Transparent* have released a Public Service Announcement urging support for Gavin Grimm, a transgender high school student whose lawsuit against his school board over its refusal to allow him to use the boys' restroom helped bring the fight for transgender rights to the national stage.

The American Civil Liberties Union represents Grimm in his suit. Although the Supreme Court sent the case back to the appeals court this week, the case has helped build awareness and illustrate the widespread support for transgender people.

The PSA, streaming at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR9ixxq-pLM&feature=youtu.be, continues to illuminate how important Grimm's case has become as a rallying point for Americans everywhere, and features the testimony and heartfelt reflections of *Transparent* cast members Jeffrey Tambor, Judith Light, Jay Duplass, Gaby Hoffmann, Trace Lysette, and Alexandra Billings, as well as creator Jill Soloway.



Cast of the award-winning Amazon series "Transparent?"

"The cast and crew of *Transparent* are deeply connected to the trans civil rights movement," said Zackary Drucker, director of the PSA and a producer on the show. "While in the thick of Season 4 production, our entire team made it a priority to rally around Gavin and express solidarity with trans youth everywhere; it was incredibly inspiring."

The PSA adds to the growing number of voices from across the country that has come out in support of Grimm. Last week, individuals and institutions from across the country representing a diverse and extraordinary cross-section of interests, perspectives, and concerns rallied behind

Grimm by filing friend-of-court briefs with the Supreme Court.

In recent weeks, Grimm's case has been highlighted by a number of leading figures in the entertainment world, including Laverne Cox's mention of him on stage at the Grammys, as well as his story being featured on a number of national television programs, including *The Daily Show*, *The Ellen Show*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The View*, and many others.

More information about Grimm's case, as well as stories and personal accounts of people from across the country who are standing with him are here: <https://medium.com/stand-with-gavin>

29th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists Announced

Lambda Literary, the nation's oldest and largest literary arts organization advancing LGBTQ literature, has announced the finalists of the 29th Annual Lambda Literary Awards – or the "Lammys," as they are affectionately known.

The finalists were chosen from nearly 900 submissions and over 300 publishers. Submissions came from major mainstream publishers and from independent presses, from both long-established and new LGBTQ publishers, as well as from emerging publish-on-demand technologies.

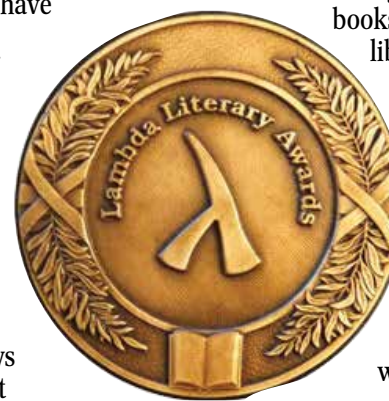
Visionary and Trustee Award honorees, the master of ceremonies, and celebrity presenters will be announced in April. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on Monday evening, June 12, 2017 in New York City.

"Never in my lifetime have LGBTQ stories felt so important as a means of being recognized and counted, as a form of resistance to this dangerous political climate we find ourselves in," said Lambda Literary Executive Director Tony Valenzuela. "The Lammys are a celebration of great

queer literature, and this year they're also a reminder that our community of writers, publishers, and readers is not only strong, but part of a vital pathway to asserting our humanity."

75 literary professionals, including booksellers, book reviewers, librarians, authors, academics and previous Lammy winners and finalists volunteered countless hours of reading, critical thinking, and invigorating discussion to select the finalists in 23 categories.

To see the full list of the 29th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists, visit <http://www.lambdaliterary.org>



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Riders Are Pumping Up for NorCal AIDS Cycle 2017

by Jerry Mitchell

While there have been remarkable medical advancements to care for those with HIV/AIDS, a cure remains elusive, infection rates are on the rise and many in the community do not have the resources needed to manage daily life. For those reasons, the NorCal AIDS Cycle will ride again.

The NorCal AIDS Cycle, May 11 to 14, is a 300 mile cycling event to raise money and awareness about HIV/AIDS. Now in our 13th year, we have distributed \$2.5 million to HIV/AIDS service organizations in the Greater Sacramento region.

Although we don't provide direct services, the money that our cyclists and crew raise is distributed to agencies with "boots on the ground" supporting men, women, children and infants affected by HIV/AIDS.

Many of these agencies rely on the NorCal AIDS Cycle to keep their doors open. As the last large scale HIV/AIDS fundraiser in the Sacramento region, our mission is to raise as much as we can to ensure that those in need do not go without. We do this by coming together as a community to share a remarkable four day journey that creates hope.

introduced a youth program that offers extra support with gear needs, training and fundraising. Those over 18 can participate on their own. For those under 18, we do require that a parent or legal guardian participate as well.

To make the most of all the work that goes into the NorCal AIDS Cycle, we're reaching out. We want to share this amazing, life changing

NorCal AIDS Cycle Board Chairperson, Jerry Mitchell, speaking at the 2016 closing ceremony.



What sets the NorCal AIDS Cycle apart is that the event is almost entirely organized and produced by volunteers. This approach helps us maximize the dollars we distribute and, as importantly, helps us deliver an event that reflects the wants and needs of those who participate.

Now, more than ever before, we're looking for dedicated cyclists and crew members to join us in making a difference that matters. Everyone is welcome – experienced cyclist or not, we have a support structure before and during the ride that's second to none. It doesn't matter if you can ride every mile or just some of the miles – all that matters is that you're with us. We take great care of each other.

Perhaps you'd like to work in a support role, helping with logistics, rest stops, route marking or at our base camp in Auburn. We've got a spot for you, too!

To participate in the NorCal AIDS Cycle, cyclists must raise a minimum of \$2,000. Crew members must raise a minimum of \$500. We understand that these are hefty requirements but we also know that you can do this! We'll help you!

With infection rates on the rise, particularly among those 24 years old and younger, the NorCal AIDS Cycle has

experience with you. We want to show you that you can achieve those things that you set out to achieve. We want to meet you, welcome you and have you become part of our family.

You can help support the NorCal AIDS Cycle at two fun upcoming events. The first is Drag Queen Bingo at 7 p.m. at Mango's Burgertown on Thursday April 6. Presented by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, this is a no holds barred FUNdraiser, where it is always "It's on bitches."

Then on Saturday, April 8, you can enjoy some Texas West Bar-B-Que at the annual dinner held in West Sacramento. Mayor Christopher Cabaldon will keep things hopping as the emcee and there will be raffles, dessert auctions, silent auctions and live auctions! Come for the food, spirits & friends, this finger licking dinner starts at 5 p.m. and includes live entertainment! Get tickets at 2017ncacbbq.brownpapertickets.com/

For more information about the NorCal AIDS Cycle, please visit us at www.norcalaidscycle.org.

Jerry Mitchell is the NorCal AIDS Cycle Board Chairperson and has been an active participant since first riding in the event in 2008.

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Briefly Put

SF Community Center Commemorates Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) on March 30 & 31

A group of community organizations, led by the Trans Employment Program of the SF LGBT Center and Trans:Thrive at the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Wellness Center will host a free community-wide event to commemorate Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) on March 31 at SOMArts.

This year's event will feature YouTube Star Gigi Gorgeous, an actress, model and internet personality with more than 7 million followers. Gigi's new film "This is Everything: Gigi Gorgeous" on YouTube Red will screen on March 30 --- the night before TDOV --- at Twitter's HQ in San Francisco. All proceeds from the film screening will be donated to support TDOV 2017. Info at eventbrite.com/e/tdov-2017-tickets-32006990771

South Dakota Becomes First State This Year to Enact Anti-LGBT Legislation

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard made South Dakota the first state this year to enact anti-LGBT legislation following the signing of S.B. 149, which permits taxpayer-funded agencies to deny services to LGBT people, authorizing discrimination through the use of religious exemptions.

With the signing of S.B. 149, the legislation becomes the first this year in a series of anti-LGBT bills advancing in state legislatures across the country.

While South Dakota becomes the first state in 2017 to enact anti-LGBT legislation into law, other state legislatures across the country are aggressively pursuing similar measures, including Texas (S.B. 892 and H.B. 1805), Oklahoma (H.B. 1507), and Alabama (S.B. 145), among others.

Exhibition Offers "Groovy Gay Look" at SF's Summer of Love

The San Francisco GLBT History Museum is mounting a new exhibition set to open April 7 titled *Lavender-tinted Glasses: A Groovy, Gay Look at the 'Summer of Love'* in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Summer of Love.

"Lavender-Tinted Glasses" highlights the roles of four queers in the making of the Summer of Love: poet Allen Ginsberg, filmmaker Kenneth Anger, philosopher Gavin Arthur and singer Janis Joplin. All of them brought their perspectives as artists, visionaries and sexual outsiders to the uprising; all made a lasting impact on American culture. In addition, the exhibition documents the ways San Francisco's homophile community responded.

Lavender-tinted Glasses: A Groovy, Gay Look at the 'Summer of Love' opens Friday, April 7, with a public reception from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the GLBT History Museum at 4127 18th St. in San Francisco. Admission is \$5.00; free for members. The show runs through September 27. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org/museum.

Calling All Dreamers Business Competition Now Open

Downtown Sacramento Foundation (DSF) is calling all dreamers to launch their dreams into reality by submitting an application for a business start-up package to open in downtown Sacramento.

Applications for the 5th Annual Calling All Dreamers competition will be accepted online at CallingAllDreamers.org through 5 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2017.

"The Calling All Dreamers competition is an incredible opportunity for entrepreneurs to refine their ideas and realize their dream of opening a business," said Valerie Mamone, Business Development Senior Manager of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "With all of the excitement and activity happening downtown, this is a uniquely opportune time for a new retailer to tap into downtown's growing market. There really has never been a better time to open a business in downtown Sacramento."

G&L Real Estate Professionals Seek Support Of Two LGBT-Focused Bills

The National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals (NAGLREP) has endorsed two separate Congressional bills which will positively impact the lives of the LGBT community and outlaw housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Congressmen David Cicilline (D-RI), co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, and Scott Taylor (R-VA) met NAGLREP Policy Summit attendees on Capitol Hill, submitted his bill on March 9 (House Resolution 1447) which would "extend protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity."

Cicilline's bill, the Equality Act that he will soon re-introduce, would prohibit discrimination against the LGBT community in public accommodations, housing, employment, federal funding, education, credit, and jury service.

"NAGLREP has an important role to work with such distinguished members of Congress and we recognize we are living in uncertain times. We were reminded during the Summit how important it is for all us to share our views with our national and state leaders," Berger said. "While not everyone aspires to be an advocate, it is critical that all of us in the real estate community do what we can to eliminate housing discrimination against anyone."

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Remembering Camille Wojtasiak

by Bonnie Osborn

Sacramento financial planner and arts patron Camille Wojtasiak died Wednesday, March 8, following an extended illness. She was 56. Known locally as a brilliant advisor and tireless supporter of LGBT and arts organizations, Wojtasiak is survived by daughter, Jordan Jensen, to whom she was a loving mother, mother Glenda, siblings Lisa and Glen Wojtasiak, and nieces and nephews Carlos, Marcelo, Amanda and Sofia Wojtasiak,

Bob Herne, CEO of the non-profit foster family and adoption agency Sierra Forever Families, where Wojtasiak served as a board member for the past three years, recalled the passion she brought to the position.

"Her commitment, her philosophy, her belief in change was contagious," Herne said. "She was just an amazing woman. She came into a very established board and shook things up. When she believed in something she put her whole heart and energy into it. She was a changemaker. She did it with love, passion and compassion. She will be missed."

Wojtasiak was born March 29, 1960, at Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois, to parents then in active service in the U.S. Marine Corps, and grew up in Greenfield, Wisconsin. She earned a Mathematics degree at Northern Illinois University and an MBA in Finance and Marketing at UC Davis. Still in her 20s, she and a partner founded a voice mail technology company before she joined Orkin Pest Control in 1992, becoming region sales manager. In 1999 she joined Merrill

Lynch as a Certified Financial Planner Professional, where she served for 14 years, attaining the position of Assistant Vice President before joining Wells Fargo Advisors LLC in 2011. The *Sacramento Business Journal* listed her one of the top financial advisers in the region in 2011, verified by The National Association of Board Certified Advisory Practices.

Career success aside, Wojtasiak told *Outword* in 2012 she was most proud of her service to the arts community. Among the numerous organizations she supported are the Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, or SIGLFF; the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus; and "Legends of Courage Documentary and Oral History Project," which she founded in 2013 in partnership with local filmmaker Dawn Deason, executive director of 3D Media Solutions. The series' first film, featuring pioneering civil rights attorney and SACWN founder Rosemary Mettrailer, will premiere June 24 at the Guild Theatre

in Sacramento.

Deason said Wojtasiak's dream was to preserve the stories of the men and women who fought for LGBT equality and helped build our Sacramento community. "I am more than honored that she asked me to bring that dream to life," Deason said. "She was my friend, mentor and muse, and I will continue to document stories for 'Legends of Courage' in her honor."

In 2001, Wojtasiak, formerly a competitive ballroom dancer, founded Sacramento Dancesport Project, an organization for same-sex couples and LGBT dancers that quickly evolved into a competitive ballroom dance company, winning several national and international championships. The group offered dance lessons to low-income youth through Sacramento Mutual Housing Association and other community-based organizations. "She brought a lot of people into feeling free to express themselves," Mettrailer said. "Her heart was endless."

Friend and Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus member Mike Tentis recalled Camille as a trusted friend to many people, who brought a spark to any room she entered. "A bright light has been dimmed, but Camille's spirit lives on in the hearts of all of us who were lucky enough to know her," he said.

A celebration of Wojtasiak's life is planned for April, with details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations be directed to Lavender Library Archives and



Camille Wojtasiak. Photo by Mary Burroughs.

Cultural Exchange in the name of "Legends of Courage"; the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus; or the Sacramento International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

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Old Is New Again in Downtown Sacramento

You’ve likely driven passed it a hundred times. Perhaps you’ve attended a wedding reception or high school prom in its grand ballroom. Maybe you’ve taken in the view from its rooftop garden or had an exclusive tour of its infamous basement.

Patrick Harbison (center) descending the elegant stairs of “The Bank.”

Whatever your interaction with the D.O. Mills Bank Building has been over the years, no doubt you have come to appreciate its prominence in Downtown Sacramento. With its stately columns towering over the northwest corner of 7th and J Streets, the iconic building has been home to a variety of businesses and events over the years, making it an important part of the capital city’s history.

Now the summer of 2017 will usher in the revival of the 105-year-old structure, proving once again that age is merely just a number.

Over the course of the next several months, what was once a bank, office tower and event center will undergo a transformation into what developers are calling a “culinary concourse,” featuring some of the capital region’s most diverse and creative talent.

Taking a page out of San Francisco’s Ferry Building and Napa’s Oxbow Public Market, the space will pay homage to Sacramento’s often understated food scene, bringing together multiple local restaurant vendors under one roof.

When complete, the new space – rebranded simply as “The Bank” – will contain three levels and 30,000 square feet of eateries and watering holes that are bound to impress even the most scrutinizing foodie.

“The structure has had a strong functional purpose over the years and we wanted to honor its history while also incorporating the momentum of Sacramento’s farm to fork movement,” said Patrick Harbison, spokesperson for the building’s development group. “The Bank is yet another example of the forward-thinking revitalization of our city.”

Maintaining the building’s renowned architecture has been a top priority for developers, preserving features such as the

grand ballroom. The area will maintain its majestic tall ceiling while food kiosks on the ground level surround a bar positioned in the middle of the room.

Below ground, the bank’s original vaults will be converted to a taproom, home to some 70+ brews. Previously the area was off limits to the general public.

“People know the ballroom because they’ve likely attended a function or two before,” said Harbison. “We’re focusing on the bigger picture of making the entire building a hub of constant activity where the community can come together.”

Harbison noted that the rooftop garden of the building, completed in 1992, will be available to rent for private events. Such news is welcoming for a city who has struggled to provide creative gathering spaces, especially outdoors and with a view.

With an official address of 629 J Street, the building was erected in 1912 and expanded in 1926-1927. Its formation was the brainchild of D.O. Mills, a young New York bank employee who came to California to mine gold. Today the building represents the second oldest bank building west of the Mississippi River.

Learn more about the project at www.thebank629j.com

12 Outword Magazine March 23, 2017 - April 13, 2017 • No. 573 outwordmagazine.com

Railroad Museum to Showcase Photographs from Around the World

The California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are debuting a new exhibit that showcases the impressive award-winning photographs from the prestigious Center for Railroad Photography & Art's 2016 John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program.

For a new twist on the international competition, the Center split the awards program into two categories: one for recent images made with mobile device cameras, and the other for most evocative

showcases a Union Pacific excursion train down the Feather River in Oroville.

In the Mobile Device category, the top award went to Simon Jowett of York, United Kingdom, for a distorted and



Second prize for "Mobile Devices" went to Ryder Bechtold for his candid view on the London Underground.

photographs of all time.

The new two-category format resulted in an incredible array of submissions that included 331 images taken by 141 photographers from more than 30 different states and 10 countries.

Top honors in the "Most Evocative" category was awarded to Olaf Haensch of Fürstentfeldbruck, Germany, for a timeless and impressionistic photograph of a steam train passing through a snowy forest. Second place went to Miško Kranjec of Ljubljana, Slovenia, for his pair of gritty, high contrast images of workers in a roundhouse. The "Judges Also Liked" selections include a visually-compelling image by photographer Steven Schlaht of Tracy, California, that

colorful reflection of a station scene in London.

This special photography exhibit will remain on display at the California State Railroad Museum through January 12, 2018. In addition, the winners and a selection of the award-winning photographs will be featured in the Spring 2017 Center's Railroad Heritage journal and in the March 2017 issue of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine.

More information about the competition and the Center for Railroad Photography & Art can be found at www.railphoto-art.org, and for more information about the California State Railroad Museum in general, please call 916-323-9280 or visit www.californiarailroad.museum.



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Booty and the Beach: Swimwear to Accentuate Your Assets

by Mikey Rox

Step onto any gay beach – from Miami’s Haulover to Asbury Park’s 5th Ave. to Will Rogers Beach in Los Angeles – and you’ll bear witness to a veritable fashion show of loosey-goosey board shorts, fitted trunks, and skintight Speedo-like swimwear.

While anything goes on the summer’s sandy shores – especially if the area is clothing optional (better pack those dark lenses!) – this year’s styles continue last year’s thighs-the-limit trend with a twist: Button-closure shorts with waist-specific sizing.

Here we cultivate some of the more stimulating designs for 2017 with a smattering of tradition for good measure.

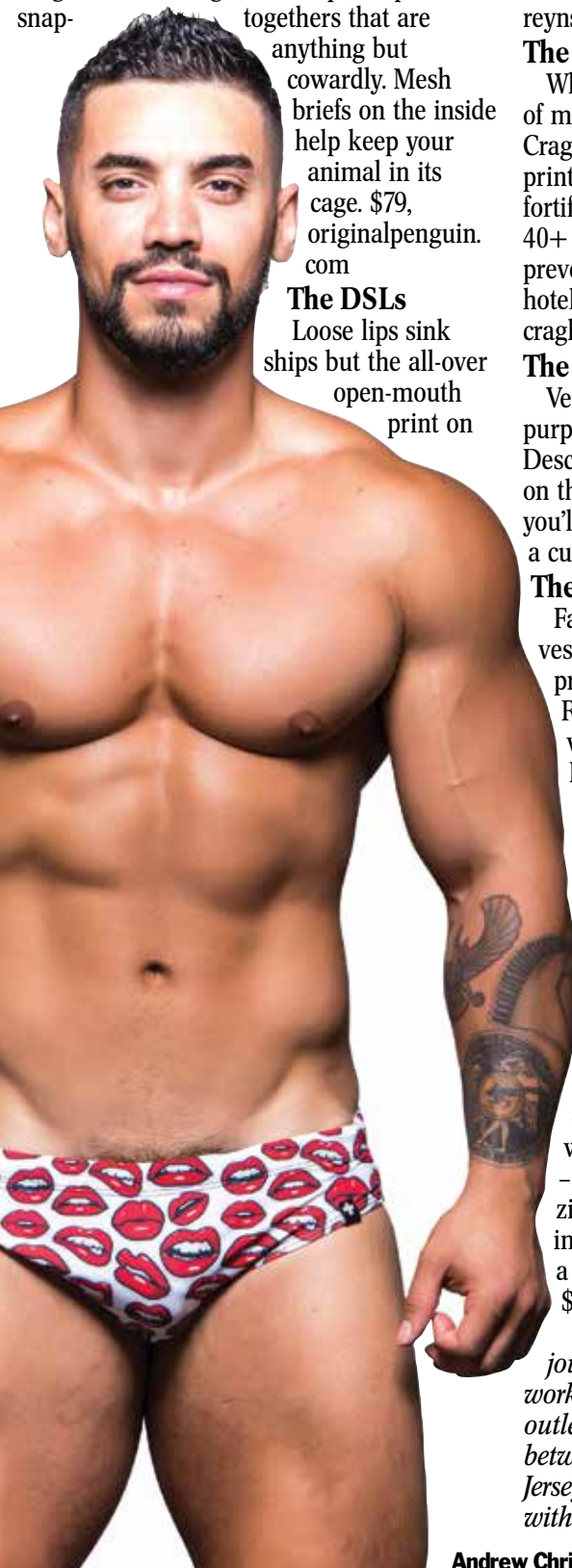
The King of the Jungles

You won’t have to cast a wide net to bring all the bottoms to your beach towel in Original Penguin’s lion photo-print snap-

together that are anything but cowardly. Mesh briefs with the inside help keep your animal in its cage. \$79, originalpenguin.com

The DSLs

Loose lips sink ships but the all-over open-mouth print on



Andrew Christian’s Kiss Me bikinis – featuring a snuggle pocket to hug your goodies just right – will have the Navy’s finest bellowing “Land Ho!” But how’d they know your name? \$41, andrewchristian.com

The Aloha-You-Doins

Hawaii-based designer Reyn Spooner emphasizes “Mai iloko mai” – which translates to “That which is within matters” – in his island-inspired, above-the-knee board shorts constructed with four-way stretch, a drawstring tie with Velcro closure, and UPF 50 protection, available in colors like ink, smoke, and seafoam. \$75-\$85, reynspooner.com

The Royal Tenenbums

While England likely doesn’t top your list of must-plan summer getaways, Craghoppers’ Northbeach shorts, photo-printed with a breezy British seascape, are fortified with SolarShield Zinc Oxide UPF 40+ protection and an anti-chlorine finish to prevent fading so you can turn up at the hotel pool on this side of the pond. \$60, craghoppers.com

The Top-to-Bottoms

Versatility best describes the multi-purpose, bold-hued floral mid-thighs from Descendant of Thieves – they’re just as legit on the beach as they are in a bar – that you’ll wish your one-way boy toy would take a cue. \$89, descendantofthieves.com

The Polly Wanna Partys

Fans of ABC’s *Shark Tank* will feel fully vested in the Caribbean-influenced parrot-print trunks from Topsy Elves – shark Robert Herjavec made a deal in 2013 with founders Evan Mendelson and Nick Morton, providing a \$100,000 investment for 10% of the company – but your pair will only set you back a couple-a Jacks. \$40, tipsyelves.com

The Schools

Frat-tastic Chubbies continues its foray into snap-shut shorts – it’s ‘sky’s out, thighs out’ elastic waists have dominated its swim collection for the past few years – with a few new additions for summer ’17. Seven designs in all, from mono-colored to wild prints – like this salt-water fish style – feature four-way stretch fabric and a zipper-close back pocket for all the important documents you’ll need to take a dip. Anything can happen these days. \$70, chubbiesshorts.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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Crocker's MEISSEN Exhibit Is Delicate, Decadent & Daring

In 2012, Oregon sculptor Chris Antemann received an invitation to collaborate with master artisans at the MEISSEN Porcelain Manufactory in Germany. There, Antemann took inspiration from the MEISSEN great historical model of Johann Joachim Kändler's monumental Love Temple (1750) and sculpted a contemporary celebration of a banquet with her own witty version of the Love Temple at its center.

Using the Garden of Eden as her metaphor, Antemann designed a five-foot temple to house a host of semi-clothed revelers gathered around a sumptuous feast of "forbidden fruit." Her work will be featured in the Crocker Art Museum's new exhibition *Forbidden Fruit: Chris Antemann at MEISSEN*, an exhibition of contemporary

"The latter is especially evident in Antemann's tongue-in-cheek humor, the expressive nature of her figures, and in the complexity of interactions between the sexes, which often subverts traditional gender roles."

Much of Antemann's inspiration comes from painted patterns gracing 18th century



Chris Antemann, Pursuit of Love (detail), 2013. Meissen Porcelain®. Image courtesy of MEISSEN®

porcelain sculpture centered around a lavish banquet scene inspired by 18th century grandeur.

Antemann later expanded the installation to include a pleasure garden made up of eight pieces that surround the temple, creating an elaborate tableau in the great tradition of royal 18th century *surtouts-de-table*. The banquet scene is accompanied by a collection of smaller sculptures that entertain with dalliance and seduction.

A massive porcelain chandelier completes the lush atmosphere, evoking the tradition of palatial porcelain rooms. The intricate – yet extravagant – surface ornamentation is hand-painted or applied to the sculptures using specially designed transfer decals, mixing 18th century designs with modern technology.

"Antemann's work ingeniously blends traditional and modern elements," says Crocker Assistant Curator Christie Hajela.

MEISSEN tableware – a rich sampling of which can be found in the Crocker Art Museum's permanent collections.

Says Hajela, "Antemann searched through the Meissen archives and looked at tableware with designs akin to those on display in the Crocker's Gillmeister Collection of early MEISSEN Porcelain. In this collection, the Museum is fortunate to have examples of almost every pattern produced by MEISSEN Royal Manufactory in the 18th century."

Forbidden Fruit: Chris Antemann at MEISSEN will be on view at the Crocker Art Museum through June 25. Antemann will host a discussion about this exhibition and her artwork on the afternoon of March 19, the exhibition's opening day. Details and registration information for this event, and other events centered around the exhibition are available at crockerartmuseum.org.

Four Family-Friendly Movie Musicals on DVD

by Chris Narloch

The success of “La La Land” has refreshed the popularity of big screen musicals, which is very good news for those of us who love stories that sing (and sometimes dance).

Check out this quartet of recent Blu-ray releases, which include an entertaining new animated musical and three classic stage-to-screen movie musicals from back in the day.

Sing

Fans of singing competitions like *The Voice* and *American Idol* should enjoy this recent animated hit, direct from theaters and now available from Universal Pictures Home Entertainment

Dapper koala Buster Moon presides over a once-grand theater that has fallen on hard times. An eternal optimist, and a bit of a scoundrel, he loves his theater above all and will do anything to preserve it.

Facing the crumbling of his life's ambition, he takes one final chance to restore his fading jewel to its former glory by producing the world's greatest singing competition. Five contestants emerge: a mouse, a timid elephant, a pig, a gorilla and a punk-rock porcupine.

Sing is flat-out fun and features the voice talents of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Scarlett Johansson, Seth MacFarlane, John C. Reilly and Tori Kelly.

The Boy Friend

A G-rated movie from wild man Ken Russell? Yes, it's true. The great British director who made the films *Tommy*, *Whore*, *Crimes of Passion*, *The Devils*, and *Women in Love*, produced, directed and wrote this family musical in 1971.

Starring the iconic '60s model



Matthew McConaughey voices the lead character in *Sing*

Twiggy, this colorful tale of theater hopefuls with stars in their eyes and greasepaint in their veins is an affectionate screen adaptation of Sandy Wilson's London/Broadway stage hit, which had given Julie Andrews her Broadway debut.

Available from Warner Bros. at www.wbshop.com.

Finian's Rainbow

An even more unlikely choice to direct a family musical, none other than Francis Ford Coppola (*The Godfather's* saga) made this 1968 screen version of the timeless Broadway hit about a feisty Irishman and his daughter, who are in possession of a pot of gold stolen from a leprechaun.

The material doesn't work nearly as well on screen as on stage, and Coppola was a bizarre choice to direct it, but the film still has a great deal to recommend it.

Finian's Rainbow was the last

movie musical made by the great Fred Astaire, who plays the male lead, and the wonderful Petula Clark plays his daughter.

Available from Warner Bros. at www.wbshop.com.

Bells are Ringing

If you're unfamiliar with the work of Dean Martin and Judy Holliday, you're in for a real treat watching this terrific MGM adaptation from 1960, of the famous musical by Comden and Green.

Funny lady Judy Holliday reprised her Tony-winning Broadway role of switchboard operator Ella in a fun film that marked her final movie. Martin plays her struggling playwright love interest. Available from Warner Bros. at www.wbshop.com.

Note: For more DVD reviews, visit www.outwordmagazine.com.

Sac. Philharmonic & Opera Return with *La Traviata*

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera will “return to opera” for their first opera performance together since the 2013-14 season with a highly anticipated dramatic realization of *La Traviata* in concert form.

Maestro Jose Luis Gomez conducts the one-night-only 2016-17 Philharmonic's season finale that will present several of opera's finest young singers whose artistry and technical skills are emblematic of opera in the 21st century on Saturday, April 29, at 8 p.m. at the Community Center Theater.

Metropolitan Opera soprano, Jennifer Black, holds the lead role of Violetta, while Houston Grand Opera's Youngzhao Yu takes on the role of Alfredo. Chosen by Opera

News as one of the “25 Rising Stars,” Sol Jin will be Germont and the winner of the Metropolitan Opera Competition, Regina Ceragioli, will perform as Annina.

“It's too rare that emerging singers can be given the chance to be heard in opera's great roles,” said Nancy Gustafson who cast the performance. “So it is particularly thrilling to work with a company as adventurous as the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera. They are not just willing to take chances on these young artists, they are also



Metropolitan Opera soprano Jennifer Black

defining their return to grand opera by showcasing this next generation of vocal artistry.”

With the expectation of a sell-out evening, it is recommended to buy tickets now. Tickets may be purchased at the Community Center Theater box office or online at sacphilopera.org.

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Guards At The Taj Jumps from *The Odd Couple* Breezy to *Game of Thrones* Ghastly.



Guards At The Taj is a black comedy/drama that tells the story of two Imperial Guards in 1648 India who watch from their post as the sun rises for the first time on the newly completed Taj Mahal – an event that shakes their respective worlds and forces them to question the concepts of friendship, beauty and duty, and changes them forever. Playing through April 16 at Capital Stage. Pictured are Rajesh Bose & Mohammad Shehata. Photo by Charr Crail. Visit CapStage.org

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“Classic Man” Jidenna Releases Debut CD

by Chris Narloch

If you’ve seen *Moonlight*, you probably remember the sequence in the movie’s third act when Chiron is driving to a long-delayed reunion with the man he loves, and the song “Classic Man” plays on his car stereo.

It’s one of many perfect moments in the film, and it comes courtesy of Jidenna, an exciting Nigerian-American singer/rapper/producer who made a splash in 2015 as part of the brilliant Janelle Monae’s musical collective.

Jidenna joined Monae for her hit song “Yoga,” which is part of a five-song EP from Monae’s Wondaland Records that also contains “Classic Man.”

Jidenna finally released his first full-length solo disc this year, and the CD, entitled *The Chief*, is as surprising as his look, which resurrects fashion styles from the Harlem Renaissance. (Jidenna sometimes sports a modified Marcel wave in his hair, and he dresses more like a dandy than a rapper.)

There have been so many excellent CDs by men with soul over the last year or so, including those by Leon Bridges, Maxwell, Liam Bailey, Frank Ocean and Bruno Mars, that the bar was set very high for Jidenna, especially after the runaway success of “Classic Man.”

So I am happy to report that *The Chief* is mostly a success, despite the fact that it contains too much profanity for my taste. That statement probably makes me sound like a prude (which I am not) or a 53-year-



old white guy (which I am), but I do feel that the overuse of ‘the n word’ and “the f word” are by now such clichés in rap recordings that they no longer shock, but rather bore.

That said, the crucial difference between Jidenna and most other current rappers is he can actually sing and, in fact, has a beautiful voice, which is on display throughout much of *The Chief*.

Listen to the supple sound of his vocals on “Bambi,” “Helicopters,” “Adaora,” and “Little Bit More,” and you’ll know that if Jidenna ever decides to give up rapping he could have a long career as a soulful crooner.

I’m sure the artist will have a lengthy career regardless, given that this ambitious and entertaining album features influences from pop, soul, and world music, and of course, hip hop.

Below Her Mouth Is a Bold and Sexy Drama



In *Below Her Mouth*, on a night out in the city Jasmine, a successful fashion editor living with her fiancé, meets Dallas, a roofer recently out of a relationship and the two women embark on a steamy affair that forces Jasmine to reevaluate her life. Watch the trailer at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-13v9_9-oU

Outword Salutes Sacramento’s Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Sacramento
Featured Member of the Month

A portrait of Mark Lee, M.D., an orthopaedic surgeon, wearing a white lab coat over green scrubs. He is standing in front of anatomical charts of the human skeleton and muscles. The image has a yellow vertical bar on the right side.

Sticks and stones, meet your match

Mark Lee, M.D.
Health care innovator

It's been said a broken bone heals stronger. Sadly that's not the case – and severe fractures often don't mend at all. So orthopaedic surgeon Mark Lee is pioneering new ways to capture and use a patient's own stem cells in order to grow new bone and improve healing – adding some truth to that old adage.

This is health through innovation.

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