

No. 582 • August 10, 2017  
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# outword



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# Rainbow Chamber Rebukes Transgender Military Ban

commentary by Richard Hernandez

On July 26th the President of the United States revoked the right of transgender individuals to serve in the U.S. military, a hard-fought right won only a year ago.

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce rebukes the President's actions in the strongest possible terms and calls upon our fellow Americans to take a

stand for the full equality and inclusion of transgender people, and for all human beings, regardless of their sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. All of us are human beings.

Transgender Americans live, work, volunteer and serve alongside us every day, including thousands currently serving in the U.S. military. The President's action to strip them of the right to serve

their country simply because of the way they were born is inhumane and wrong. Which community will be next to lose its equal rights?

# Sacramento



The Rainbow Chamber remains committed to defending the equal rights of our transgender neighbors and friends, and to working with our community and corporate allies to resist the intolerant and discriminatory actions of the current administration toward transgender people.

Richard Hernandez, President,  
Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of  
Commerce, [www.rainbowchamber.com](http://www.rainbowchamber.com).

## Healthcare Repeal Bill's Defeat Saves LGBTQ Lives

The Republican plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act would have gutted healthcare for as many as 32 million Americans, defunded Planned Parenthood for one year, and allowed states to offer junk insurance policies once again.

It was released under the cover of night, as if that would blind anyone to who was responsible for what the bill would have done. Its defeat on July 28th, late at night, was a fitting end, at least for now.

"Repeated efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act collapsed late last night thanks to the hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ and other Americans who attended town hall meetings and rallies, made phone calls to their elected officials, sent emails, wrote letters and kept the pressure on senators," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur. "Passage of the bill would have cost thousands of LGBTQ lives and we're profoundly grateful to all who took a courageous stand."

In their obsessive attempts to gut healthcare coverage for millions of Americans, Senate Republican leadership has followed a cynical playbook that makes a mockery of our political process.

The LGBTQ community would have been hit especially hard by a repeal of the Affordable Care Act, with millions losing healthcare coverage under the legislation. Being transgender or having HIV or other preexisting conditions meant that many LGBTQ people received coverage for the first time under the ACA.

Additionally, LGBTQ people are twice as likely to be living in poverty as the general public, making the Medicaid expansion and federal subsidies important components of the ACA which significantly increased healthcare coverage for people in the LGBTQ community.

"Our work is not finished on healthcare," said Zbur. "Congress will have to work on stabilizing the insurance marketplace and many states may now choose to expand Medicaid. Equality California will continue to fight to ensure that LGBTQ Americans are protected and continue to have vital healthcare access."

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# Standing in Love

by Tom Moon, MFT, *The Examined Life*

“In this world there are only two tragedies; one is not getting what one wants, the other is getting it.” This line from Oscar Wilde reminds me of the two most common questions I hear from gay men.

The first is ‘How can I find a boyfriend?’ The second, once he shows up, is all-too-often “How do I get rid of this guy?” Nothing begins more frequently with excitement and hope than romantic love, or ends more consistently in disappointment and bitterness.

Psychology, on the whole, is fairly skeptical of romantic love. The consensus seems to be that it's mostly based on a combination of lust and projection. We create, out of our wounds and unmet needs, an idealized picture of the partner who has the power to soothe, transform, and heal us, and then project this image onto some unsuspecting soul who happens to look the part.

In other words, “falling in love” involves not knowing each other. Love, literally, is blind.

There's no denying that romantic love is one of life's great adventures. It's typically a roller coaster ride of emotions that swing from ecstasy to agony and back again – hardly the road to inner peace and balance.

And it has a dark side. “Love” can be as selfish as hell – demanding, suspicious, petty and jealous. It's volatile and unpredictable; and, as Walt Whitman acknowledges in poem, is generally short-lived (“one brief hour”). Scientific studies consistently arrive at the melancholy finding that romantic intensity tends to fizzle out within about four years at the outside, which makes it a notoriously shaky foundation for long-term relationships.

Inevitably, in most romantic relationships, the projections begin to fade because the partners can't forever ignore the mounting evidence that their Soul Mates are, at the end of the day, mere mortals. Inevitably, the dreamer awakens from the dream, and a crisis typically ensues. The partners “fall out of love,” Disillusionment is common at this stage,

even a sense of betrayal All-too-frequently, this is where the relationship ends.

Successful relationships seem to be those in which both partners at this point make the decision to “stand in love” – to stay together and find their way to a love that is more realistic and grounded. If romantic intensity is an initial phase of love; real depth of connection comes to those willing to work at knowing each other after the projections fade.

Partners who commit to stand together at this point begin to embody Scott Peck's definition of love. He calls it “the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth.” As one of my friends puts it, “It's not all sex and puppies.”

It's a spiritual truism that the opposite of love isn't hate, but fear, and that overcoming the fear that keeps us separate is one of our most basic tasks.

All schools of personal development confront the strange paradox that, on the one hand, our true nature is love, but that we're all more or less out of touch with our depths because of various hindrances – usually involving fear-based perceptions of threats to the ego. The task is to remain vigilant toward all the inner and outer forces that cause us to close the heart, and to work continually to stay open.

I wonder how much better off we'd be if, instead of asking “How can I find a partner?” we devoted the same passion to asking “How can I open my heart ever wider?”

Maybe the idea that people could be persuaded to think in that way is just a utopian dream on my part. On the other hand, I have noticed that those who grapple seriously with that question do seem more often to be the ones who find what measure of Utopia is to be found in this life.

Tom Moon is a psychotherapist in San Francisco. His website is [tommoon.net](http://tommoon.net).

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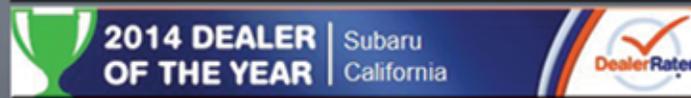


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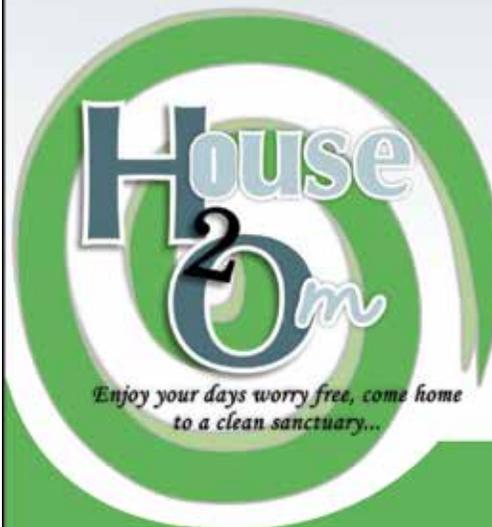
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# Briefly Put

## Fake Repeal of North Carolina's Discriminatory HB 2 Challenged by ACLU and Lambda Legal

The American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of North Carolina, and Lambda Legal on July 21st announced they have taken steps to expand the federal lawsuit challenging North Carolina's sweeping anti-LGBT law HB 2 to include a challenge to its discriminatory replacement, HB 142, which left many of the harms caused by HB 2 in place.

HB 142 bars the "regulation" of access to restrooms and other facilities in schools and other state or local government buildings in North Carolina, leaving transgender people vulnerable to discrimination and even possible arrest.

It also prevents cities from passing any protections against discrimination in private employment or places of public accommodation – for LGBT people or anyone – until 2020.

## DOJ Seeks To Undermine Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Protections

The Department of Justice on July 26th filed an amicus brief in *Zarda v. Altitude Express* arguing that sexual orientation is not covered under Title VII's non-discrimination protections.

"The DOJ's brief arguing against sexual orientation protections in employment is an egregious display of the Administrations harmful ideological slant; this brief seeks to upend well-established legal theory," said Rea Carey, Executive Director, National LGBTQ Task Force. "Of course, it comes as no surprise. Jeff Sessions consistently voted against LGBTQ rights during his time in the Senate, recently took time out of his schedule to speak at an LGBTQ hate group's conference, and as Alabama attorney general actively fought to keep an LGBTQ rights group from convening at the University of Alabama,"

## EQCA Endorses Four Candidates for LA's AD 51 Race

Equality California has announced the endorsement of four outstanding LGBTQ and allied candidates to replace Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-California) in representing District 51 in the California Assembly. The district encompasses northeastern Los Angeles, including parts of the Eastside. The district is primarily urban and heavily Latino.

Three of the endorsed candidates are out gay men, and one is a straight ally. The Equality California endorsed candidates are Luis López, Alex de Ocampo, Mark Vargas and David Vela. To learn more about the candidates and their qualifications, visit [eqca.org](http://eqca.org)

## Montana's Anti-LGBTQ Ballot Initiative Challenged

The ACLU of Montana is challenging in the Montana Supreme Court the legal sufficiency of a proposed anti-LGBTQ ballot initiative, I-183. The petition argues that the ballot and fiscal impact statements fail to adequately explain the initiative's discriminatory impacts on transgender individuals and state and local budgets.

"Any description of the true intent of this discriminatory initiative – to prevent transgender individuals from using public facilities that correspond with their gender identity – is entirely absent from the ballot statement," said Caitlin Borgmann, executive director of the ACLU of Montana. "In order for Montana voters to cast an intelligent and informed vote they must have clear and accurate information about the Montana Family Foundation's proposed initiative."

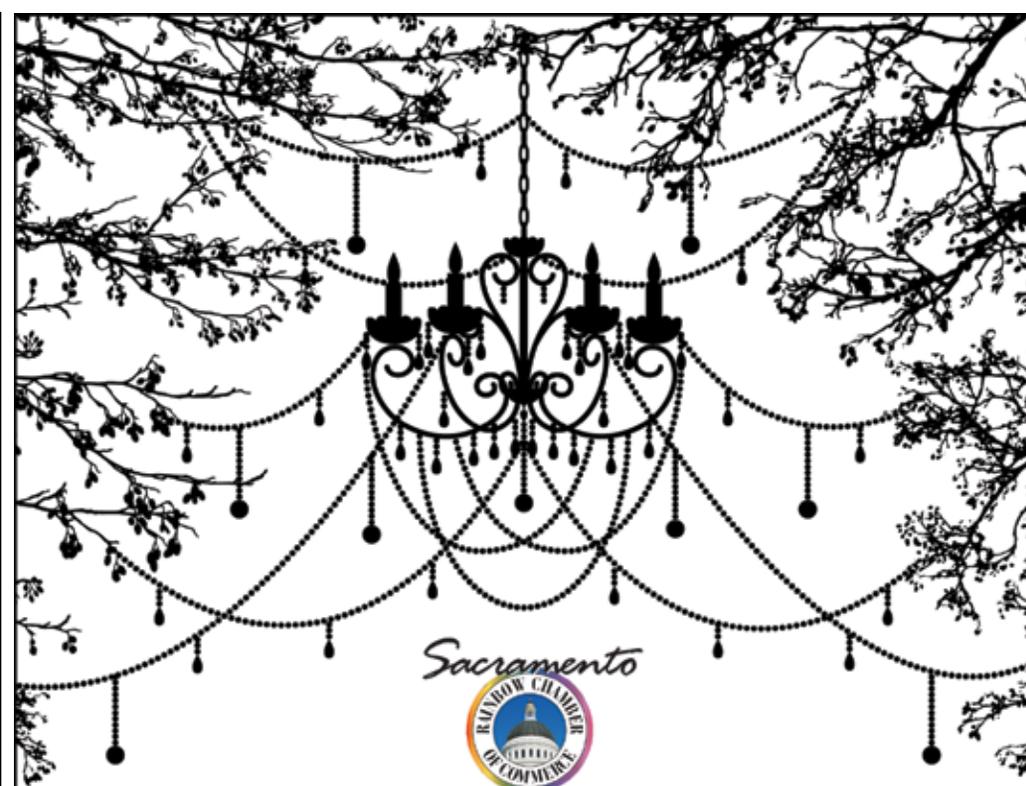
In addition to the harm the initiative would cause to transgender and gender non-conforming Montanans, the initiative would have dramatic and unpredictable long-term financial impacts to the state.

## 56 Retired Generals and Admirals Warn That Trump's Anti-Transgender Tweets Would Degrade Military Readiness

Fifty-six retired General and Flag Officers provided the following statement to the Palm Center on August 1. [www.palmcenter.org](http://www.palmcenter.org)

"The Commander in Chief has tweeted a total ban of honorably serving transgender troops. This proposed ban, if implemented, would cause significant disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent, and compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced to live a lie, as well as non-transgender peers who would be forced to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy.

"As a result, the proposed ban would degrade readiness even more than the failed 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. Patriotic transgender Americans who are serving – and who want to serve – must not be dismissed, deprived of medically necessary health care, or forced to compromise their integrity or hide their identity.



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# Gold Rush Days Return to Old Sac for Labor Day Weekend

Get ready to turn back time to the turbulent 1850s when Gold Rush Days (& Nights!) return to Old Sacramento over the extended Labor Day Weekend, bringing Sacramento's unique, diverse and fascinating Gold Rush history to center stage.



During this annual heritage event that begins with an Education Day on Friday, September 1 (primarily for school groups,) then kicks into high gear for the general public with a wide variety of fun and entertaining activities that take place throughout the historic district through Monday, September 4 to help visitors experience what life was like during this important time in the city's past.

Plus, new this year - and coinciding with Gold Rush Days - Old Sacramento M7 Con (formerly known as the Western Film Festival) will be happening simultaneously at various venues throughout the district to the delight of film buffs and history enthusiasts alike.

Gold Rush Days is a signature event for the historic district showcased by interesting, lively and wildly entertaining activities for Old Sacramento guests to experience and enjoy. While some special activities and offerings are ticketed (prices vary), an impressive line-up of free, live entertainment will be available on the streets and various stages throughout Old Sacramento.

Daily activities include the ever-popular, hands-on and interpretive Tent City, depicting daily life during the Gold Rush and live music, magic, dancing and children's shows are offered at various venues throughout the historic district including the (air-conditioned) Eagle Theater.

There will also be engaging melodramas performed by talented re-enactors in period apparel - examples include one focused on a riveting Ladies Duel, another that spotlights a scandalous old-time murder trial, the arrival of mail order-brides and one that features the visually spectacular Gold Rush Fire Brigade.

There will of course be tasty treats and beverages available for purchase in the dozens of local eateries and bars along with homemade sarsaparilla, draft ale, local wines, and more available throughout Old Sacramento;

Horse-drawn carriages and wagon rides will help you get around, plus an expanded schedule of excursion train rides, underground tours and new Gold Fever! tours (all ticketed activities);

In addition to the ever-popular daily activities, special activities and evening events are offered as part of Gold Rush Days (and Nights!), including a Friday night Gold Rush Beer Crawl, a Saturday Street Party & Country Dance - with headliner and national recording artist and country music sensation Buck Ford - and two free outdoor movie showings on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Two free outdoor movie showings will be on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. on the 1849 Scene (grassy area in front of the California State Railroad Museum). The free outdoor movies include *McLintock!*, a 1963 American western comedy film starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, on Saturday and *Back to the Future III*, a 1990 American science fiction and western film starring Michael J Fox;

Then, on Labor Day Monday only, a grand finale statehood celebratory procession - complete with a brass band, wagons, horses, donkeys, Living History characters, street performers and more - will take place beginning at 1 p.m. starting at the Eagle Theater with optimal public viewing along the route on J, Second, L and Front Streets.

Admission to Gold Rush Days 2017 is free and official event hours are as follows: Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Education Day for school groups); Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to the official daytime event hours, times vary for the evening activities, some of which are ticketed and sell out quickly.

For a complete listing of activities or more information about the 2017 Gold Rush Days (& Nights!), please visit [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com).

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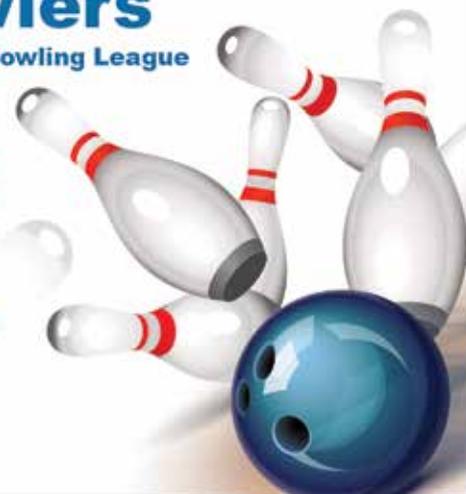
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# Common Set to Perform in Sac for Free

The good news is that Sacramento is now hosting many more headline music acts since the opening of the Golden 1 Arena. The bad news is that the better seats for big concerts by popular performers like Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga can be unbelievably expensive.



Common

So a free show by a major artist is a rare and beautiful thing nowadays, but that is exactly what we can expect later this month, right here in River City.

Rapper, poet, model, actor and activist Common, who won the 2015 Academy Award for Best Original Song, for his tune "Glory" from the film *Selma*, will perform in a free concert this August 21 in Sacramento, to help raise awareness about criminal justice reform.

As many as 10,000 people are expected to attend the Capitol Mall show, which Common promoted via Twitter, saying: "As

an artist, I believe it is my duty to fight injustice wherever it appears and take a stand for my fellow brothers and sisters."

As reported in *The Sacramento Bee*, "the concert is the start of a three-day Sacramento campaign that includes a day of lobbying at the Capitol and a second concert for inmates inside a nearby prison, possibly Folsom State."

No tickets are required for Common's Capitol Mall concert, but fans planning to attend should RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/imagine-justice-concert-tickets-36230203514](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/imagine-justice-concert-tickets-36230203514) or Twitter.

# tello Films Becomes First Lesbian Network to Receive an Emmy Nomination

tello Films received its first Emmy nomination for their original web series "secs & EXECS," with actress Mindy Sterling getting the nod for her role in the series. This makes tello Films the first lesbian network to receive such an honor.

Sterling, best known for her role as Frau Farbissina in the *Austin Powers* movie series, was nominated for Outstanding Actress in a Short Form Comedy or Drama Series in the tello original, *secs & EXECS*. Sterling received two nominations in this category.

tello Films produces and distributes web series with a lesbian focus, telling authentic stories about people whose lives are often ignored or marginalized. tello creates web series specifically for the lesbian/queer community. Meaning that lesbian/queer characters are front and center.

"We love lesbians and we don't feel that there are enough stories about us," mentions Christin Baker, founder of the network. "At tello, we create new web content that is intelligent but fun, timely

but classic, and tasteful yet sexy. Providing a whirlwind of classic ideas from a lesbian perspective, brave and challenging content with a lesbian twist."

*secs & EXECS* was co-produced and directed by TV veteran Stan Zimmerman, who is known for such shows as *Roseanne*, *The Golden Girls* and *Gilmore Girls*. Zimmerman and James Berg created and wrote the six part web-series. They recently gained national attention with their pilot script *Silver Foxes*, a gay men's *Golden Girls*.

For the past 10 years, tello Films has produced and distributed innovative, high-quality original content with a lesbian/queer focus. Other original programming for the network include: *Nikki & Nora*, *Plus One*, *Maybelle* and *Skirtchasers*.

Visit [www.tellofilms.com](http://www.tellofilms.com).

# LGBT Dance Musician Joey Suarez Overcomes Abuse Through His Music

**E**nergetic. Dynamic. Electrifying. These are just a few words used to describe LGBT dance/pop musician Joey Suarez. And although his future is bright, the road he traveled had some dark moments. Growing up in a family of 12 siblings, Suarez was a sex slave to his grandfather for six years in his own home.

This occurred shortly after his biological father was convicted of raping his two older sisters. "It's sad to start with, but outside myself, nine out of the 12 of us have experienced some sort of sexual abuse in our past," Suarez states. "You'd think a family so large would be distant but we're actually closer than most small families. It's no mystery what has brought my abnormally large family together."

Suarez was 15 years old when he opened up about being abused. This abuse contributed greatly towards his coming out as a gay man. "To my surprise, this experience helped heal my future relationship with my mother who did not agree with my gay lifestyle, believing it was residual of my abuse. It gave us a common ground of experience to build off of. In my mom's words, she believes God gave us the chance to heal one another."

These experiences would be enough to derail any dreams and ambitions, but instead, Suarez recalls more highs than lows in his childhood. "I was very fixated on the arts, and as a child, my rehearsals and performances gave me refuge. It was like being 'high' on life or 'high' on music. In hindsight I know it was the few times I felt safe."

Although modeling and acting play an important role in Suarez's life, his heart lies in creating music. "I wrote my first song when I was six and have not heard the last of it from my family, who to this day sing it to annoy me."

The first real song that Suarez remembers writing was composed shortly after experiencing the loss of his beloved grandmother, who passed away from stomach cancer. "The experience of watching such a beautiful, strong, Hispanic woman just crumble under her cancer was heartbreaking. I didn't want to remember her that way. So I wrote a song called 'Memories.' It talks about how we should remember each other for the love and memories we've created together. I know it's how she would have wanted me to remember her rather than in a hospital. That's truly when I began writing music."

Today, he draws influence from his family, all of whom are blessed with a musical gift. As with most large families, they are very

competitive, so each family member plays a different instrument as a means of limiting that rivalry. "By the time it fell to me to choose an instrument, the only thing left with singing. Which, for a Mormon child means you're to sing in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Unfortunately my voice wasn't meant to blend with others."

While most musicians tend to hide their sexuality at the beginning of their career for fear of rejection, Suarez consciously decided to flaunt it. "I lived a life of secrecy from a very young age. I was about 14 when I



Joey Suarez

decided secrets weren't worth it. From then on, I vowed never to lie and never to hide who I was from anyone and most of all, myself."

His first two singles, "High in the Sky" and "Love Me Back" have generated almost 135,000 streams collectively on Spotify.

In recent months, Suarez has performed at New York City Pride as well as gay pride in his hometown of San Antonio. He is scheduled to perform in Coming Out with Pride in Orlando this October. "Performing in NYC Pride for two years in a row was an absolutely dream come true. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I find it important to stand up and speak out loud about what it means to be proud. I do this through my music. PRIDE has given life to my career by supporting and introducing me to a community that gives me confidence in who I am."

For more info, visit [www.joey Suarez.com](http://www.joey Suarez.com).

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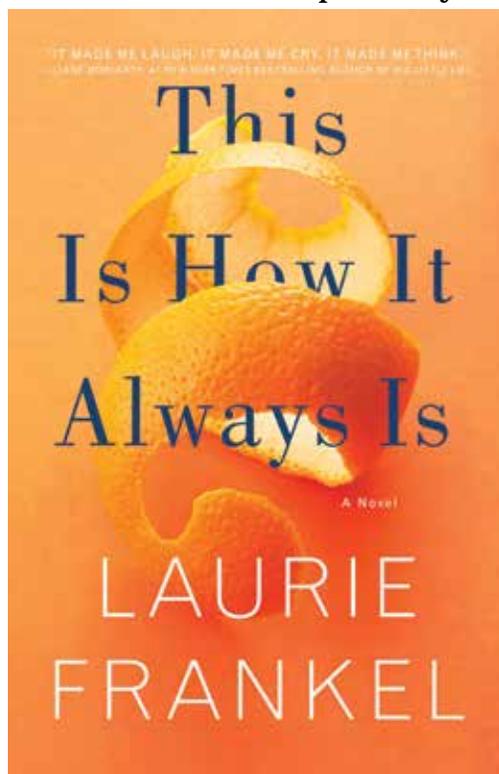
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# With Supportive Parents, You Really Can Be Anything

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You must not tell. You cannot breathe a word to anyone who doesn't already know. That Which Cannot Be Spoken must remain buried, put away, frozen, lips sealed, or in the closet.



his loved ones as Roo. Not long after he was born, Ben entered the family. Then the twins, Orion and Rigel, arrived and so Rosie Walsh, still hoping for a girl baby, did everything the Talmud recommended she do next. Months later, she and her husband, Penn, welcomed - Claude.

And that was okay. Another boy in their raucous, rowdy family of boys was fine and Rosie and Penn loved them all. They were happy in their big, rambling, open farmhouse just outside of Madison, Wisconsin. Rosie loved her job. Penn worked on his novel. And Claude dreamed of being a girl.

It started when, as do most parents, Rosie told Claude that he could "be anything" he wanted to be someday. Claude was three years old and loved dress-up; it didn't seem odd to let him wear dresses at home. But soon, home wasn't enough and Claude tantrumed until he was allowed to wear dresses to preschool, though he was told that he'd have to use the nurse's station bathroom and his teacher was "not happy."

Still, Rosie and Penn were willing to do what it took to make Claude feel secure. With his dresses and pink, he was a confident child;

You cannot tell because, as in the new novel *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel, secrets change everything.

In the beginning was Roosevelt, known to

**SUPPORTIVE**  
continues on page 18

# Sac Zombie Walk Honors George A. Romero

by Chris Narloch

The late, great horror movie director George A. Romero, who died this summer, will be honored after this year's Sacramento Zombie Walk with an outdoor screening of his seminal film, 1968's *Night of the Living Dead*, which is generally credited with launching the zombie craze in modern culture.



The first time I saw that horrifying flick on the late show on TV, as a teenager, I recall having to sleep with the lights on (if I slept at all?) because the low-budget, black-and-white shocker was so realistic-looking and intense.

The film is tame by today's standards, but fans of *The Walking Dead* who have never seen a George A. Romero movie owe it to themselves to see the picture that started all the undead fuss.

Romero made many other movies, but he never topped his zombie trilogy of *Dawn of the Dead*, *Day of the Dead* and the original classic, *Night of the Living Dead*.

The Sacramento Zombie Walk is an annual and much anticipated summer tradition in Downtown Sacramento.

Started in 2001, the Zombie Walk was originally a promotional event for the Trash Film Orgy Film Festival but has since

evolved into a stand-alone event.

The large-scale performance art experience has zombie fans dress up as the undead and infiltrate the streets of downtown Sacramento.

This year's Zombie Walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 26th and will include a Carnival of the Dead and the free outdoor screening of Romero's undead masterpiece.

The Carnival will take place at Roosevelt Park and will feature live music, food trucks, professional make-up stations, zombie sports, dancing, carnival games, vendors, contests, prizes and much more.

The 2017 Sac Zombie Walk will infiltrate the R Street Corridor, complete with an Undead Marching Band, and then return to the park for the film.

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

## Handsome Devil, a Frameline Film Festival 2017 Official Selection, Is Now Available on Demand



When Ned (Fionn O'Shea) and Conor (Nicholas Galitzine) are forced to share a bedroom at their boarding school, the loner and the macho athlete form an unlikely friendship until the authorities test it in the coming-of-age LGBT film *Handsome Devil*. Check out the trailer at [youtu.be/2p306ofMP3Q](http://youtu.be/2p306ofMP3Q). Now available On Demand and Breaking Glass Pictures, [bgpics.com](http://bgpics.com)

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# Wide Open Walls to Transform Sacramento with Color and Art

by Patrick Harbison

Sacramento is about to get a lot more colorful! Wide Open Walls, the nation's largest mural festival is scheduled for August 10-20, and will give the public a chance to watch artists create murals in real time – on buildings and in other public spaces – with a goal of energizing the city through art.

More than 50 local and international artists representing 12 countries including Australia, China, France, Germany, New Zealand and the U.K. are participating this year.

Onlookers can watch the artists work in real time, creating murals up to several stories high on the sides of buildings and

other public spaces. Organizers plan to augment the live painting with gallery showings, artist panels, and running, walking and biking tours.

Festival founder David Sobon says Wide Open Walls is a labor of love for he and his wife Anna. “Not everybody is going to go walk into a museum or be able to afford an

expensive piece of art,” Sobon begins. “But anybody can walk or drive or bike down the street and look at beautiful art. Our mantra is ‘Art for All’ and we want to bring beautiful, accessible works of art to Sacramento for everyone to enjoy.”

The festival – free to the public – is slated to transform the city into an array of color and spread far across the city, reaching areas such as: Downtown, Midtown, Natomas, Del Paso, the River District, Broadway, Oak Park, South Sacramento, and Power Inn Road.

With its central location, Midtown’s famed Lavender Heights will play a pivotal role in the success of the event while also helping to

bring LGBT awareness to the community. A number of participating artists identify as LGBT and have expressed delight at bringing their artistic vision to the masses.

“What’s truly great about this festival is that artists from various backgrounds and cultures are all coming together to make great art and help spread love, all the while beautifying our city,” says Sobon. “Our festival name isn’t coincidental. We want to embrace the wonderful diversity of our city and show the world exactly how talented Sacramento is.”

For detailed artist bios and a map of mural locations, visit the festival website: [www.wow916.com](http://www.wow916.com).



WOW Artist's Mural - Character by Christina Angelina - Bird by SV Williams



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- Food trucks, beer/wine garden (21+) & much more!

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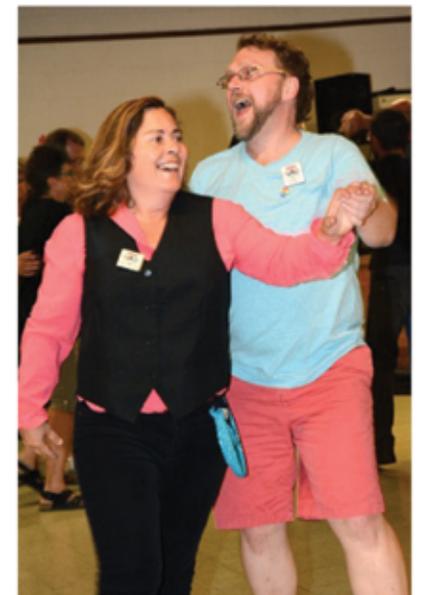
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# Damn Yankees & The Robber Bridegroom Hit Local Stages

by Chris Narloch

Baseball used to be known as ‘America’s favorite pastime’, and 1955’s *Damn Yankees*, the current show at Sacramento’s Music Circus, is without a doubt the most beloved Broadway musical about the game.

The other notable musical playing locally this month is Green Valley Theatre’s production of *The Robber Bridegroom*, a Robin Hood-like tale based on a novella by Eudora Welty.

## Damn Yankees

The 67th Music Circus season continues with *Damn Yankees*, one

Graae appears in the role of the devilish Mr. Applegate, who offers mega-fan Joe Boyd the chance to lead the Washington Senators to victory over the New York Yankees in exchange for Boyd’s soul.

You won’t have to make a deal with the devil to enjoy this clever, multi Tony Award-winning Best

Wells Fargo Pavilion through Sunday, August 13. Visit [www.californiamusicaltheatre.com](http://www.californiamusicaltheatre.com).

## The Robber Bridegroom

*The Robber Bridegroom* is a bluegrass-influenced musical with a book and lyrics by Alfred Uhry and music by Robert Waldman.

The story is based on a 1942 novella by Eudora Welty of the same name, which features a Robin Hood-like hero named Jamie Lockhart, who seeks to romance (but not necessarily wed) the daughter of wealthy landowner Clement Musgrove.

Clement is married to the vicious Salome, who is jealous of her beautiful stepdaughter, Rosamund. Salome hires bandits to kill Rosamund, but they are continually thwarted by Jamie. Mistaken identities, hidden motives, and a sense of adventure all contribute to the plot.

Green Valley Theatre Company excels at this type of off-beat musical, so I am fully expecting *The Robber Bridegroom*, which I have not yet seen, to steal the hearts of Sacramento theater fans.

*The Robber Bridegroom* plays through August 27 at The Grange Performing Arts Center, on V Street in Sacramento. Visit [www.greenvalleytheatre.com](http://www.greenvalleytheatre.com).



Rick Eldridge and Lauren Eddensohn in *The Robber Bridegroom*. Photo by Christopher Cook.

of Broadway’s most enduring musical comedies, featuring a score by legendary composers Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, and a cast that includes a number of veterans of New York City’s Broadway stages.

Music Circus favorite Jason

Musical, which includes such iconic songs as “Heart” and “Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets.”

There are sure to be handsome men in baseball uniforms singing and dancing their hearts out in this one. Need I say more?

*Damn Yankees* performs at the

## Bria With a Twist CD Review

by Chris Narloch

Why aren’t there more women trumpet players? History is filled with famous men who blow (or blew) – Louis Armstrong, Wynton Marsalis, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Chet Baker and Herb Albert, just to name a few – but I was at a loss to name a single great female trumpet player, until I heard Bria Skonberg’s new CD.

Maybe men just have more “hot air?” All jokes aside, I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if Skonberg changes all that after jazz fans get their hands (and ears) on *Bria With a Twist*, the dynamite new disc from this multi-talented vocalist and trumpet player.

Bria’s latest release contains thirteen tasty tracks, including well-known jazz standards such as “Sway” and “My Baby Just Cares for Me” that somehow sound fresh all over again, plus fun, jazzy versions of unexpected selections, like the late, great Leonard Cohen’s “Dance Me to the End of Love” and “Whatever Lola Wants” from Broadway’s “Damn Yankees.”

In addition to Skonberg’s immaculate trumpet playing, the woman can also sing, with a slight echo of the jazz goddess Billie Holiday on a couple tracks but mostly in her own singular style.

I especially enjoyed the upbeat cuts on *Bria With a Twist*, including “Alright, Okay, You Win” and “High Hat, Trumpet, and Rhythm.”

If you like a little pop with your jazz – or jazz with your pop? – this is the CD for you.



Bria Skonberg. Photo by Georgia Nerheim.

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8/20

Lady  
Bunny  
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8/25

Kim Chi &  
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BADLANDS



8/25

Topher, Jimmy  
& Arad  
BADLANDS



9/1

Peppermint  
& Cazwell  
BADLANDS



9/3

Peppermint  
& Wendy Ho  
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# Revenge of the Chick Flicks

by Chris Narloch

Ordinarily, movie theaters are clogged with sequels and superhero schlock this time of year, in order to attract all the teenagers who are out of school.

While this summer has seen its share of cinematic kiddy crap, there has also been a record number of movies aimed at and in some cases directed by women, which is an exciting development considering so many films nowadays are marketed towards 12-year-old boys.

I was a 12-year-old boy once myself, but even back then, I didn't like junk like *Transformers: The Last Knight*, one of the worst reviewed films of the summer.

*Wonder Woman* is the highest profile (and most successful) "chick flick" in theaters this summer, but I also recently enjoyed *Megan Leavey*, *The Beguiled*, and *Maudie*.

Read on for my reviews of the latest female-friendly movies to open on the big screen, including the highly acclaimed drama *Detroit* which was directed by Kathryn

Theron blew my mind she was so good in *Mad Max: Fury Road*, and the actress is back to her butt-kicking ways in this film, a Cold War thriller about a spy (Theron) dispatched to retrieve a list of names before it falls in to the hands of the Russians.

Generally speaking, the spy genre, with all of its deceit and double-crosses, is not really my thing, but Theron is so fierce in the movie, and she looks so glam, that I just sat back and drank the cinematic Kool-Aid.

In addition to Theron, *Atomic Blonde* also has going for it a terrific supporting performance by James McAvoy, hot lesbian love scenes between its star and Sofia Boutella, and a killer soundtrack of 80s era hits from the likes of David Bowie, Public Enemy, and Blondie.

commits to her role, and the director kept me on the edge of my seat during the wild (and lengthy) car chase scenes.

*Kidnap* is one of those "so-bad-its-good" flicks that if I were watching it at home I would be gleefully talking back to the craziness on my TV screen.

## Step

This highly acclaimed documentary chronicles the senior year of a girls high school step dance team against the backdrop of inner city Baltimore.

Empowered by their teachers, teammates, counselors, coaches and families, the inspiring sisterhood chase their dreams: to win a step championship and to be accepted into college.

This is the only movie in this article that I have not yet seen, but



Girls Trip

Bigelow, the only woman ever to win an Oscar for Best Director.

## Girls Trip

Four African-American actresses (Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith, Regina Hall and Tiffany Haddish) make for hilariously good company in this female bonding comedy that, at least in trailers, looked like a chick-flick rip-off of *The Hangover*.

The surprise is that *Girls Trip* is probably funnier and definitely has more heart than that raunchy bro comedy.

Thanks to Tiffany Haddish, who gives an uninhibitedly carnal performance, *Girls Trip* more than earns its R rating, and although its plot is predictable, I thoroughly enjoyed this film.

## Atomic Blonde

If this gay man could come back as a woman in my next life, I think I would want to be Charlize Theron, who is almost unbelievably talented, cool and beautiful.

## Detroit

This movie and *Dunkirk* are the prestige pictures of the summer, and if you aren't scared off by serious subject matter involving intense depictions of racial violence, *Detroit* is a must-see.

I doubt that I would want to sit through the film a second time but only because director Kathryn Bigelow does such an amazing job of putting moviegoers right in the middle of a harrowing, real-life confrontation that occurred between police and the residents of a Detroit motel while riots tore that city apart in 1967.

## Kidnap

Every so often, I like to see a super-cheesy B-movie, and this summer my recommendation is this nutty thriller starring Halle Berry as a desperate mom hell-bent on rescuing her young son from kidnappers.

The film has more holes than a cheese cloth, but Berry totally

it is getting such great buzz that I look forward to checking it out soon.

*Step* is currently scheduled to open on Friday, August 18 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

## Lady Macbeth

If this movie is no longer playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre by the time you read this, add it to your streaming wish list so you don't miss the film when it becomes available for home viewing.

British actress Florence Pugh gives a ferocious performance as a woman stifled by her loveless marriage who embarks on a passionate affair with a young man who works on her husband's rural estate.

Things do not go well for our heroine after that, and it would be criminal to say any more.

*Lady Macbeth*, which has little to do with the famous Shakespeare play, is nevertheless an increasingly intense, must-see movie.



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## Supportive

*continued from page 12*

without, he was sullen and sad. None of his classmates minded his clothing. His brothers never gave it a second thought. Claude was simply Claude, until he asked his parents to call him Poppy.

And that was fine, too, especially when the family moved to another state and it was easier to keep quiet – until it wasn't. Until Poppy started growing up, the world became a vicious place, and secret-keeping couldn't last forever.

And so, here's the thing: once you've started reading *This Is How It Always Is*, you might as well just clear your schedule. Cancel all appointments. You won't want to do anything but read, so just give in. Blame it on the book.

Part of the appeal, I think, is in the way that author Laurie Frankel writes: there are no airs, no try-to-impress-you words, nothing uppity. Her characters are normal people with everyday lives, trying to maintain that normalcy and Frankel writes like they might talk: with down-to-earth matter-of-factness and a fast dash of humor that winds its

way through a serious topic. And on that topic, you've perhaps heard it before (or something similar) but not in a voice like this, and not quite as enjoyable.

One more thing: be sure to read Frankel's after-notes, which brings her novel full-circle and will make you smile. But don't peek; instead, start *This Is How It Always Is* from the beginning and savor it properly. It'll make you want to tell everyone.

*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.*

SACRAMENTO  
**PRIDE  
AWARDS**

WEDNESDAY  
**AUGUST 30**  
5:30 - 9 P.M.

**TSAKOPOULOS  
LIBRARY GALLERIA**  
828 I STREET

VIP RECEPTION 5:30 P.M.  
DINNER 7 P.M.

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