

outward

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Bill to Establish June as Pride Month Is Signed by Governor

Legislation to establish June as Pride Month in statute in California has passed overwhelmingly in both houses of the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Brown on July 16.

Historically, the LGBT Caucus Chair introduced a resolution each June during a formal ceremony to declare June as Pride month in California. AB 2969 will codify in statute every June as LGBT Pride Month.

Assembly Bill 2969 was authored by Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), Chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus, and co-authored by all members of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus and was supported by Equality California and the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

"California has the largest LGBT population of any state in the union, and the state is home to over forty LGBT Pride

celebrations each year," said Assemblymember Low. "I want to thank Governor Brown for adding Pride to the list of celebrations codified in statute."

The month of June is historically significant for the LGBT community. The Stonewall Riots occurred in New York in June 1969 to protest police targeting of the city's LGBT population. These riots, and the swift political organization that followed, are widely considered to be the commencement of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

In 1970, the first Pride parade was held in New York City on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Since, Pride celebrations

have sprung up in cities around the world. These gatherings encourage the community to celebrate accomplishments, bring visibility to the LGBT population, decrease the mystery for those who retain feelings of homophobia, provide an opportunity for LGBT individuals to feel less alone in an oppressive and dismissive world, and establish the LGBT population as a vibrant and vital part of its respective community.

The California Legislative LGBT Caucus was established in 2002. Its role is to present a forum for the California Legislature to discuss issues that affect LGBT Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for all people. The formation of the LGBT Caucus made California the first state in the country to recognize an official caucus of openly-LGBT state legislators. .

CA Hate Crimes Increased by Double Digits in 2017

For the third year in a row, California saw a surge in the number of hate crimes reported in 2017, including an increase in sexual orientation-based hate crimes of nearly 19 percent.

The findings were released in an annual report by the Office of Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

Incidents motivated by a person's sexual orientation (real or perceived) increased by 19 percent from 2016, while anti-transgender and anti-gender-nonconforming hate crimes increased by seven percent.

The data reflects a steady but troubling trend of rising hate crime levels in the state over the last few years.

"With intolerance and hate on the rise across our country, these findings clearly illustrate how much work is left to be done right here in California," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur. "These tragic statistics are just one piece of the story. Behind these numbers are parents and siblings and children, students and teachers, coworkers and neighbors – people who deserve to live safe and healthy lives with equal dignity and respect. We owe it to them to continue doing everything we can to end the epidemic of hate and violence in our state and in our nation."

It is important to note that these numbers

likely represent just a fraction of the total hate crimes that actually occurred in the state in 2017, as numerous studies show that a majority of hate crimes are never reported to law enforcement. California state auditors also recently found that the state has been underreporting hate crimes for years because local law enforcement agencies lack adequate policies and training.

In June, Governor Brown signed AB 1985, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) and cosponsored by Equality California, which sets minimum standards for hate crime policies adopted by local law enforcement agencies and will improve hate crime reporting across the state.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has led efforts to provide local law enforcement agencies with more guidance, training and support to prevent hate crimes and report them accurately when they do occur. Becerra also recently led a coalition of 10 states in calling on the Trump Administration to keep collecting data related to violence against LGBTQ youth.

"An attack motivated by hate against one of us is an attack on all of us," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. "We must strive to make California a place of tolerance – hate crimes have no place here."

Highlights from the California Department of Justice report include:

Hate crime events increased 17.4 percent from 931 in 2016 to 1,093 in 2017.

Hate crime events involving a sexual orientation bias increased 18.8 percent from 207 in 2016 to 246 in 2017.

Anti-gay (male) bias events rose by 13.2 percent from 152 in 2016 to 172 in 2017.

Anti-transgender and anti-gender-nonconforming bias events (combined) rose by 7.4 percent from 27 in 2016 to 29 in 2017.

Hate crime events involving a racial bias increased 16 percent from 519 in 2016 to 602 in 2017.

Hate crime events involving a religion bias increased 21.1 percent from 171 in 2016 to 207 in 2017.

The full 2017 Hate Crime in California Report can be downloaded openjustice.doj.ca.gov/resources/



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Sacramento Stonewall Democrats Elect New Board

The Stonewall Democrats of Greater Sacramento elected a new Board of Directors at their monthly meeting held Monday July 9th at the Sierra 2 Center in Sacramento.

The new Board, pictured left to right below, is Mary Huttner, Membership Chair; Mario Guerrero, Fundraising Chair; Emilio Perez, Secretary/Treasurer; Tim Kamermayer, President; Lanz Nalagan, Communications Chair; Matthew Nielsen, PAC Chair; and Kim Angulo, Vice President (not pictured.)

The Board was sworn in by San Juan Unified School District Trustee Paula Villescáz, who also addressed the membership, along with Sacramento City Unified School District Trustee Mai Vang.

“I want to thank Jann Dorothy, for her leadership and service to Sacramento Stonewall and to the LGBTQ community at large,” said Kamermayer. “For over seven years, Jann gave her time and energy to Stonewall, and her efforts have directly helped us become a strong political force in Sacramento. I would also like to thank Dana Fogle-Vendley for her time as our Fundraising Chair.”

Known among Democrats statewide as the “Club That Gets Thing Done,” the Sacramento Stonewall Democrats meet monthly every second Monday at the Sierra 2 Center in Curtis Park at 6:30 p.m.

“The Board’s 2018-19 term is going to be an exciting opportunity to expand our outreach in Sacramento County and beyond,” said Kamermayer. “We are looking forward to strengthening our voice in the Sacramento community, and exerting our influence to increase LGBTQ protections.”

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Ninth Circuit Denies Another Transgender Military Ban Try

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied yet another attempt by the Trump Administration to implement its discriminatory plan to ban transgender people from serving openly in the U.S. Armed Services.



Staff Sergeant Cathrine (Katie) Schmid

The ruling, announced July 18th, came in the lawsuit brought by Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN and joined by the State of Washington, denied the administration's motion to stay the preliminary injunction a lower court granted in December 2017, and affirmed last month.

The injunction blocks implementation of the ban and enables transgender people to continue enlisting in the military.

"Seven courts across the country have considered this so-called plan, and seven courts have recognized that there is no defensible reason to bar transgender Americans from serving our nation," Staff Sergeant Cathrine (Katie) Schmid said. "Being transgender has no impact on my ability to perform my duties. I'm grateful that the courts to date have recognized the value in our service, and I look forward to the day when we can put this argument behind us and focus on what's really important – the accomplishment of our

mission, and the welfare of our service members."

"The Ninth Circuit, much like the six other courts to have considered the proposed policy, has recognized it for what it is – blatant and impermissible discrimination. The court rejected the government's attempt to 'upend' the status quo, as well as the lives of transgender people serving and seeking to serve our country," said Lambda Legal Senior Attorney Peter Renn. "It has been one year since President Trump announced via tweet his plan to bar transgender people from the military, and in that year four district courts and, now, three courts of appeal have blocked its implementation. What more evidence does the administration need before it abandons this discriminatory and harmful scheme to prevent brave and qualified transgender people from serving their country?"

The lawsuit, *Karnoski v. Trump*, is on track to go to trial in April 2019.

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Goodbye Federal Perkins Student Loan Program

by Emily DeSanto

The Federal Perkins Loan is a low-interest loan for both undergraduate and graduate students with a low interest rate of five percent. The school is the lender and the loan is made with government funds, and each school contributes a share.

On September 30, 2017, the Perkins Loan expired. However, there was bipartisan support to keep the program running until 2019, only allowing schools to decide whether they want to continue funding it until then. Supposedly, getting rid of the Perkins Loan program would help to free up operating costs and federal allowances that could be used for other programs.

Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin and Republican Senator Rob Portman both fought for the bill to keep the program, yet Republican Senator Lamar Alexander objected, which then stopped the bill dead in its tracks.

He stated, "It is time for our country, through legislation by this Congress and attempted to pass it through an expedited process requiring unanimous consent, to move on to a simplified federal student aid program, that has only one federal loan for students, one federal grant for students and one work-study program for students."

Many members of the Senate made the remarks that the Perkins Loan Program added to the extremely complex federal loan system. Also, even though he objected to the bill, he and Senator Baldwin are working together to come up with a long-term solution to make college more

affordable for everyone. As of now, there is no timeline to when they will establish this new solution.

As a student who utilized the Perkins Loan, the cancelation hit me personally. I had to reevaluate my choice of school and money spending. Also as someone who works in an admissions office, I had more opportunities than most to learn about other options and ways to compensate for the loss of \$5,500, such as other loans, scholarships and grants.

Now if you are reading this and it all seems familiar to you or you feel as if you've heard of this ending already, it's because it has. The program was originally scheduled to expire back in 2014, but it received an automatic one-year extension until October 1, 2015. Then, in 2015, the program was given a two year extension with the hope that in those two years, Congress would reauthorize the Higher Education Act and address all types of federal student loans.

Currently, legislation has been introduced to allow for another extension of the program, but no action has been taken so we must assume the program will end officially.

Emily DeSanto is a writer and a student at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN studying communications and marketing.

Lambda Legal & OutServe-SLDN Ask Court to Stop Pentagon from Discharging HIV-Positive Service Members

Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN, along with pro bono counsel from Winston & Strawn LLP, asked a federal court to halt implementation of a new Department of Defense policy resulting in the discharge of service members living with HIV.

These service members are being denied significant career advancement opportunities or threatened with discharge due to President Trump's new "Deploy or Get Out!" policy. Left unaddressed, hundreds of service members who are otherwise fit for duty, including named-plaintiff Sgt. Nick Harrison, will be discharged from the military, suffer irrevocable harm to their careers, and lose critical health care and other benefits.

"This case is not just about me," Harrison said. "This is about every person living with HIV knowing that they can perform any job in the world, including serving in the military. Together, we must stop the Pentagon from closing its doors to successful and talented service members. I look forward to the day that I can serve my country to the full extent of my abilities, based on my performance and unfettered by unfounded fears and misperceptions about HIV."

HHS Erases Resources for Women and LGBTQ People From Its Website – Again

The Sunlight Foundation reported that the Trump-Pence administration's Department of Health and Human Services has removed and altered language from its website on the provision of the Affordable Care Act that prohibits discrimination in health care services.

The move limits access to information and resources that protect women and LGBTQ people, particularly transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, from sex-based discrimination by health care providers.

"The Department of Health and Human Services has sent a clear signal that it doesn't intend to protect the rights of women and LGBTQ individuals," said DNC LGBTQ Media Director Lucas Acosta. "The Trump-Pence administration's decision to hide these resources – and the likely forthcoming action from HHS to roll back enforcement of discrimination protections – is shameful and part of a continued effort to rip away access to medical care for women and LGBTQ people."

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Sac Intl Airport Adds New Nonstops, including Western Canada

by Mark Haneke

Sacramento International Airport is set to break records again this year, primarily due to increasing demand and the continuing growth of new nonstop service to attractive destinations, including the return of international service to Western Canada.

Sacramento travelers are fortunate to enjoy an airport with award-winning customer service, ease of use and light traffic compared to the Bay Area airports.

I spend most of my time continuing to educate the airlines and their route planners about Sacramento International Airport and our passenger needs and desires. Since

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- Alaska Airlines just announced service to Kona beginning in December. Experience the Manta Ray snorkeling tour (www.kamanu.com/kamunu-catamaran-tours/manta-ray-snorkel/)



joining the Sacramento International Airport team in June 2015, I have been able to secure new nonstop service to 20 destinations.

This year's exciting new additions, and some places you should visit, have included:

- Daily service to St. Louis and Austin began in April on Southwest. Check out County Line for great barbecue in Austin (www.countyline.com/) and the famous St. Louis Gateway Arch (www.gatewayarch.com/).

- Seasonal service to Boston began May 3 on JetBlue. Visit Wagamama for amazing Japanese cuisine (www.wagamama.us/restaurants/boston-faneuil-hall)

- Daily service to Orlando began May 6 on Southwest. A theme park lover's paradise!

- Daily service to Vancouver began May 17 on Air Canada. Air Canada is the airport's third international carrier. Visit Grouse Mountain for an amazing birds-eye view overlooking all of Vancouver (www.grousemountain.com/) and enjoy amazing fresh seafood at Sandbar (www.vancouverdine.com/sandbar/menus/)

- Seasonal service to Cabo San Lucas runs through Aug. 11, resumes Nov. 10 - Dec. 29 on Alaska Airlines. Four seasons of fun with watersports galore!

- Southwest recently announced that Sacramento will be one of four West Coast airports to serve the Hawaiian Islands in the coming months. Schedules and destination cities have not yet been announced. Southwest also said their weekly New Orleans nonstop flight will expand to daily service in November, after a pause during

- Hawaiian Airlines just announced service to Maui beginning in April. • Both Maui Brewers Fest and Restaurant Week Wailea are in May – great for Farm to Fork fans! www.mauiaccommodations.com/blog/things-to-do-on-maui-in-spring-march-april-may/

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Mark Haneke is the Director of Marketing and Service Development for Sacramento International Airport as well as a seasoned expert in air service development and a savvy world traveler. His travel column will appear monthly in Outword to share news on new destinations from Sacramento International Airport, peppered with some of his own personal stories and travel recommendations.



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PFLAG's Ice Cream Social Was a Throwback to Simpler Times

photos by Joan Cusick

Friends and families gathered on Sunday July 15th at the Sacramento Elks Lodge on Riverside Blvd. for an old fashioned Ice Cream Social hosted by PFLAG Sacramento. The 9th annual social featured all the ice cream and root beer floats your tummy desired, and for the first time featured live entertainment.



Nick Fedoroff



Money raised at the event will be used for the Follensby/Hansen Scholarship Fund, named after the founders of the Sacramento PFLAG chapter, and will be used to help students continue their education.

Sponsors for the Social included *Outword*, Taylor's Market, who donated the ice cream and other treats, Lasher Dealerships, CCAF, Stephanie Slagel and all the *Outword* and PFLAG friends who came out to support this worthy cause.

Engaging the audience from the start to finish was Nick Fedoroff, who amazed everyone with his magical expertise, brilliant improvisation and clever comic dialogue. His dynamic mix of skill and style took everyone on a wondrous trip into the astonishing and the mysterious. A master of elegant old-school magic enhanced with a contemporary spin, Fedoroff has a style that appears effortless and graceful. His deft manipulation of cards and coins is nothing short of mesmerizing, and he consistently dazzles audiences with his talent and skill.

An impeccable sense of timing and a delightful dash of humor round out his performances and elevate them to extraordinary heights. Always motivational and occasionally emotional, he taps into the core of what makes magic great. His amazing sleight of hand and mind-boggling illusions are tailored to deliver a message that hits home with everyone and continues to influence and positively affect both heart and mind.

And best yet, he is available for your next function, just contact him at TheMagicianIsIn.com.

For more information about Sacramento PFLAG and the important work they do, visit PFLAGSacramento.org.

Joan Cusick is a professional photographer in Sacramento specializing in portrait, wedding, sport and special event photography. She can be reached at www.joancusick.com or [facebook.com/joancusickphoto](https://www.facebook.com/joancusickphoto)

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We have been conducting our Best Of survey for a couple of years now and it has always been just-for-fun. While this year is no different, this is the first year that we drew the attention of a hater. (There is a certain part of me that is proud that they noticed and took the time out of their busy day to answer our questions, with hate filled answers...) Regardless, those answers were tossed out and what we have left is the list below. We would like to thank (almost) everyone that added their voice to this year's survey. Here is what you told us you like...

Food

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In-N-Out Burger

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Shoki Ramen House

Best Vegetarian Food
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Best Breakfast
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Kyoto on Broadway

Best Italian Food
Paesanos

Best Pizza
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Best Meal for Two Under \$50
Coconut

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Three Way Tie:
Lucca, Ruth Chris', Paesanos

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Midtown

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Bark Dog Park

Best Place to Get Home Furnishings
Tie:
IKEA and Scout Living

Best Place to Get Yard Items
Tie:
Green Acres and Lowes

Best Place for DIY Supplies
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Out & About

Best Place to Meet a Hot LGBT Person
Badlands

Best Place to Take a Date
Mulvaney's B&L

Best Place to Get a Cheap Cocktail
Tie:
The Depot and the Merc

Best Place to Get a Cocktail (any price)
The Depot

Best Place to Get a Glass of Wine
58 Degrees and Holding

Best Place to Get a Martini
Empress

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Eric @ The Depot

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DoMe More and Taryn Thru U

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The River City Chronicles Shows Us Who We Are

Just as *Lady Bird* was a love letter to Sacramento, so is J. Scott Coatsworth's *The River City Chronicles*, but with a grittier edge and an emphasis on the comings and goings of Sacramento's LGBT Community.

"Everyone in the River City has a secret, and sooner or later secrets always come out," says Scott about his newest book.

"This is an intensely local book, written in similar style to *Tales of the City*, but for our city," said Scott. "It begins with a group of strangers meeting at Ragazzi, an Italian restaurant, for a cooking lesson that will change them all. They quickly become intertwined in each other's lives, and a bit of magic touches each of them."

Some of characters you will meet include Dave, the consultant who lost his partner; Matteo and Diego, the couple who run the restaurant; recently-widowed Carmelina; Marcos, a web designer getting too old for hook-ups; Ben, a trans author writing the Great American Novel; teenager Marissa, kicked out for being bi; and Sam and Brad, a May-September couple who would never have gotten together without a little magic of their own."

Scott lives with his husband Mark in a little yellow bungalow in East Sacramento, with two pink flamingos by the front porch, spending his time between the here and now and the what could be. Indoctrinated into fantasy and sci-fi by his mother at the tender age of nine, he devoured her library.

But as he grew up, he wondered where the



people like him were. He decided it was time to create the kinds of stories he couldn't find at Waldenbooks. If there weren't gay characters in his favorite genres, he would remake them to his own ends.

He seeks to transform traditional sci-fi, fantasy, and contemporary worlds into something unexpected. He gets inspiration from two online sites he runs with Mark, Queer Sci Fi and QueerRomance Ink that bring queer people together to promote and celebrate fiction that reflects their own reality.

The River City Chronicles is available in print from your favorite retailers and eBook versions and is also available at www.jscottcoatsworth.com/book/the-river-city-chronicles/

What's Your Best of?

We took advantage of *Outword's* Happy Hour at Badlands to ask for a shout-out to your Best Of in Sacramento.



Brittany Hoxie-Wiley

My best of brunch is Mimosa House on J St. I like the quality of the food, I'm a big fan of anything they have with Chorizo in it and the prices are amazing.



Peter Colussy

I would say the best breakfast place is Orphan Breakfast House in East Sacramento. The food and atmosphere are amazing.



Juan Correa

Broderick in Midtown. The Broderick Cubano Sandwich is my favorite.



Hillary Glueck-Pratali

The 28 Blades Salon – it's the best, most inclusive salon in Sacramento for every walk of life.



Katherine Landrum

The best cheeseburgers are at Burger Town at Mangos, with bacon, avocado and curly fries – you have to have curly fries.



Willie Recht

The Broadway Donut shop, they make the best sprinkle donuts in Sacramento – chocolate is my favorite.

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Eating and Drinking with Cavegrl

by Kristy Harris

Hello, my name is Kristy Harris, and I am very excited to be sharing my food and wine stories as well as some of my recipes in *Outword Magazine!*

The food I enjoy and make most lends itself to be paired with wine, so I promise to recommend a wine each time I share a recipe. I'll start with one of my favorite things to make, Pesto and Blue Cheese Potatoes. It's a great appetizer, and also works as a side dish.

Speaking of side dishes...summer in Sacramento was made for potlucks and BYOB. Sometimes it's OK to bring the vegetables and hummus. Other times, the hosts have made it clear if you bring chips and dip again, you won't be asked back.

Not to worry, here's a snack that will only take a bit of your time to prepare and can be enjoyed warm or at room temperature. Or at midnight, right out of the refrigerator.

Pesto and Blue Cheese Potatoes

Ingredients:

2 pounds red, blue, & yellow mini potatoes
1 small jar Pesto Sauce (or you can make your own)
1/4 cup Greek Yogurt (Plain)
1/2 cup Crumbled blue cheese
1/4 cup olive oil
salt/cracked pepper to taste



Preheat the oven to 400°F and slice the potatoes into bite sized pieces. Generously oil a baking sheet and place the chopped potatoes on it. Drizzle some oil over the potatoes. Bake the potatoes until they are golden and crispy. Set aside while you prepare the pesto and blue cheese mixture.

Combine the pesto and the blue cheese in a bowl large enough to eventually hold the potatoes, too and mix together with the back of a spoon, add the Greek yogurt to thin the mixture so that you can easily spread it on the potatoes.

Then add the baked potatoes in the bowl with the pesto/blue cheese mixture, and fold them in until the potatoes are well covered. Then place the potatoes back on to their original baking sheet and turn the oven on to the broil setting.

Broil the potatoes until the pesto and blue cheese mixture forms a crust and they look browned.



Pesto and Blue Cheese Potatoes. Photo by Kristy Harris.

What's the Wine Pairing?

You'll find me chugging rosé all day with this one! One of my current favorites is Revolution Wine's Rosé of Mourvedre, which conveniently comes in a can for easy party-toting. A can not your thing? Bottle it up with a different rosé from Decoy: 2017 Decoy California Rosé, a rosé made from Syrah, Vermentino, Carignan, and Pinot Noir. Cheers!

I will be at the California State Fair on Friday, July 27th from 2-3pm and you'll be able to watch me make as well as taste test this recipe!

Kristy Harris is author of the food, wine, and travel blog cavegrl.com. She has been writing about food since 2005 and currently has a cookbook in the works. She is happily married and lives in Curtis Park, Sacramento. You can follow her food and wine adventures on Twitter and Instagram @cavegrl.

Summer Sippers

by Diana Kienle

We have rolled into summer with a rush of heat. The temperature is rising and Sacramento, in the next two weeks, has six days forecast over 100 degrees and nothing less than a high of 95 degrees! Want to beat the heat? Refreshing white wines are on the list of items to buy to help cool off and lighten the spirit.



Situated on Germany's Mosel River among some of the world's most treasured vineyards, the Dr. Loosen estate has been in the same family for more than 200 years.

The right wine can speak to you like a welcome friend of summer and leave you with a cool respite from the heat. Bright, crisp, and clean with floral and fruit notes that rise up from your glass and beckon you in for a sip, the wine hits your palate and washes over it with refreshing, bright, stone fruit notes and mouthwatering acidity.

What are some of those great varietals that fit the bill of being light, fruity, and refreshing? What should you choose? Here are some of my favorites to consider for your summer companions.

Chardonnay, of course, comes to mind, yet not the oaked and heavy buttery kind. Just recently I drank a Chateau Montelena, 2015, that was really refreshing and very flavorful. Another option in the unoaked category is Stony Hill, which gives you a leaner, purer Chardonnay flavor profile.

Sauvignon Blanc also comes to mind. One of my favorites is Spottswoode. It's an iconic Napa Valley winery that delivers a crisp clean wine to enjoy. Here are the winemaker's notes on what to expect: "lime zest, lemon pith, and citrus blossom. It then opens to white peach, nectarine, mandarin, cream, with hints of vanilla and lime curd, both on the nose and on the palate. Rich and texturally enticing, with great balance and length."

Other excellent Sauvignon Blanc choices are from New Zealand. Two of my favorite producers are Cloudy Bay and Greywacke.

Want to try something light on alcohol and big on refreshment? Consider Riesling as an option. These are wines that typically present with ripe peach, apricot, nectarine, and citrus flavors along with minerality.

Kabinett represents a style that is low in residual sugar and as low as eight percent alcohol. That is refreshing and easy drinking in my world. My favorite area to choose from is Mosel, Germany. One of the wineries to look for is Dr. Loosen. Riesling has five levels of residual sugar, so you can choose to go sweeter with a Spatlese or Auslese.

Another cool crisp white that also offers a creamy texture is Albariño. This is a grape native to Spain and finding a home here in California as well. Some of the most regarded Albariños come from Rias Baixas in Spain, yet many California producers are doing a great job with this varietal. A great example is from Gallica Wines made by Rosemary Cakebread.

Enjoy!

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www.dianaswineblog.com. She can be reached at diana@dianaswineblog.com.

From Fortissimo to Fabulous, It's Time for SGMG Spaghetti

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will be singing for their dinner at their annual *From Fork to Fabulous!* Spaghetti Feed, with as much spaghetti and accoutrements that you can eat, and some jaunty singing to go along with it!

From Fork to Fabulous! will be held Saturday, August 18th and there will be salad, pasta, bread, dessert, wine, music, raffle prizes, friends and fun. Wine will be available for \$6 per glass and \$20 per bottle.

Individual tickets are only \$25, or you can dine family style with a table for 10 that

includes two bottles of wine for only \$200.

From Fork to Fabulous! will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L St. from 6 - 9 p.m. Get tickets online at sacgaymenschorus.networkforgood.com/events/7348-from-fork-to-fabulous-sgmc-s-annual-spaghetti-feed

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Mondavi Adds Twisted Pine & Paula Poundstone to Season

With smart, observational humor and a legendary spontaneous interaction with the crowd, Paula Poundstone is one of our country's preeminent comedians, and she, along with Twisted Pine, has just been added to Mondavi Center's 2018-19 Season.



A frequent panelist on NPR's weekly news quiz show *Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me*, Poundstone improvises like a jazz musician, swinging in unexpected directions without a plan, without a net. There's a disarming ease in her craft, an immediate sense that she's so quick on her feet you need never worry about the possibility of something going wrong.

Moving beyond the standard verse-chorus-solo structure of traditional string bands, Twisted Pine is a multilayered ensemble that brings the enveloping sound and pop hooks of indie music to an acoustic, instrumental setting. In its early

days, Twisted Pine hewed close to its bluegrass origins, but over time the quartet developed a unique, infectious style without limits.

Full of energy and surprise, wit and subtlety, Twisted Pine has quickly become one of the most acclaimed young string bands in the Northeast, drawing audiences into their forthright songwriting, lush harmonies, musical daring and charismatic appeal.

Tickets are now available for all Mondavi Center events. The full schedule for the Mondavi Center's 2018-19 season can be found at www.mondaviarts.org.

The Boys in the Band & Bette on Broadway

by Chris Narloch

One of the gayest Broadway seasons in recent memory continues to pull in the New York City crowds thanks to the star power of gay fave Bette Midler and openly gay actors Zachary Quinto, Matt Bomer, Andrew Rannells and Jim Parsons.



Those last four actors form part of the cast of *The Boys in the Band*, a landmark 1968 play by Mart Crowley that is currently receiving its first Broadway production, through Aug. 11 only.

Bette Midler is also wowing audiences on Broadway, returning to the lead in *Hello, Dolly!* for six weeks (along with David Hyde Pierce) to close out the record-breaking New York run of the musical before it begins its national tour, which will star Betty Buckley.

Midler and Pierce had left *Dolly* in the

capable hands of Bernadette Peters and Victor Garber but were wooed back to the Shubert Theatre by producers to finish out the show, which will play its final performance on Aug. 25.

The Tony-winning Broadway revival of playwright Tony Kushner's queer classic *Angels in America*, which starred Andrew Garfield and Nathan Lane (another openly gay actor), recently closed, on July 15.

For tickets to *Hello, Dolly!* and/or *The Boys in the Band*, visit www.telecharge.com.

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Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

by Chris Narloch

Stop the presses, and alert the authorities! Cher is back on the big screen. The ageless superstar, now 72, will never retire, and we are all better for it. How many times has she announced her final tour only to announce a new one?

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN

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Cher must have enjoyed making *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*, currently in theaters, because I just read she is planning an entire album of ABBA songs. After hearing her lovely cover of “Fernando” in the film, you’ll be as excited as I am for the singer’s next CD.

But back to the movie – is it any good? Well, I could tell you that Cher doesn’t even show up until 90 minutes into the film, and that Meryl Streep (as Donna) only has one scene and song this time.

I could talk about the corny jokes and the klunky dance numbers and the fact that some of the actors can’t sing at all. (When Pierce Brosnan croaks out his song, that’s a good time to go out and get some more popcorn.)

Who cares about all that though? Cher looks and sounds fantastic, Julie Walters and especially Christine Baranski are hilarious as Donna’s friends, the actors who play Donna’s three beaus as young men are super-cute, and the locations where the movie was filmed are fab-u-lous. Isn’t that all you really need to know?

The soundtrack for the *Mamma Mia!* sequel came out a week before the film and features eighteen tasty tracks, including “Dancing Queen,” “I Have A Dream,” “One Of Us,” “Waterloo,” “The Name of the Game,” “Knowing Me, Knowing You,” “Super Trouper,” and the aforementioned, show-stopping remake of “Fernando” by the unstoppable, undeniable, one-and-only Cher.

Put A Little *Gypsy* In Your Soul

by Chris Narloch

One of my favorite musicals – and many critics consider it to be the finest American musical ever written – will grace the Broadway At Music Circus stage this month when *Gypsy* takes over the Wells Fargo Pavilion, but only through July 29.

Broadway veteran and multiple Tony Award-nominee Carolee Carmello will take on the plum role of the indomitable Mama Rose, the ultimate ‘stage mother,’ who encourages (bullies?) her daughter to “sing out, Louise!”

Carmello is a three-time Tony nominee who has performed in 14 Broadway musicals. She originated roles in the Broadway casts of *Finding Neverland*, *Scandalous* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk nomination), *The Addams Family* (Drama Desk nomination, Outer Critics Circle

nomination), *Lestat* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk nomination), *Parade* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award), and *Falsettos*.

Carmello also starred in the Broadway productions of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *1776*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Urinetown*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Sister Act*. Her off-Broadway credits include *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, *Hello Again* (Obie Award), *A Class Act*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Elegies* and most recently, the critically acclaimed, immersive production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Grace Jones Doc Will Screen At Verge Center

by Chris Narloch

Before Beyonce, before Lady Gaga, even before Madonna – if you go back that far – there was Grace Jones, the original hipster diva, who really has no equivalent in the music world, except for David Bowie, and, sadly, he is gone now.

Like Bowie, Grace Jones combines music, fashion, and video, and turns it all into rock-and-roll performance art. I have had the good fortune to see Jones live three times, and any appearance by the singer is the definition of a spectacle.

Jones’ angular, androgynous look was ahead of its time in the 70s and 80s, and yet the model-turned-singer-turned-actress became enormously popular on stages, movie screens, and the catwalk.

The performer’s artistry will be celebrated on August 9 when Sacramento’s Verge Center For The Arts screens the recent,

highly acclaimed documentary about Jones’ life and career, *Bloodlight and Bami*.

Released earlier this year, the New York Times Critic’s Pick is an electrifying journey through the public and private worlds of a pop culture icon. Jones worked closely with director Sophie Fiennes on the film, and it captures the singer’s bold aesthetic, juxtaposing intimate personal footage with thrilling musical sequences.

Don’t miss the Sacramento premiere of *Bloodlight and Bami*, at Verge Center For The Arts. Visit their website at www.vergeart.com.



Grace Jones



Carolee Carmello plays
Mama Rose in *Gypsy*

Gypsy is a landmark musical (based on the life of burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee) in which a singularly focused mother takes her daughters on a cross-country adventure in pursuit of fame and fortune on the dying Vaudeville circuit.

The show’s superb score by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim includes such classics as “You

Gotta Get A Gimmick,” “Let Me Entertain You,” “Rose’s Turn,” and the show-stopping “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.”

Do not miss Carolee Carmello in *Gypsy*, now playing through July 29 courtesy of Broadway At Music Circus. For more information, visit www.broadwaysacramento.com.

Photos courtesy of Thunder Valley Casino Resort

Four Chambers Mixed and Mingled at Multi Chamber Event

On Tuesday, July 17th Thunder Valley Casino Resort hosted a multi-chamber mixer inside Illusions bar. The event was supported by the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of

Commerce, the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - in no particular order. The mixer featured hand-passed hors d'oeuvres as well as a manned carving

station, and was free to members and guests of participating chambers, who also had a chance to win complimentary use of a meeting space. Not only that, but Thunder Valley Casino Resort provided complimentary round-trip shuttle service

from, and to, Midtown Sacramento. For more information about Thunder Valley Casino Resort, visit thundervalleyresort.com and for more information about the Rainbow Chamber, visit www.rainbowchamber.com





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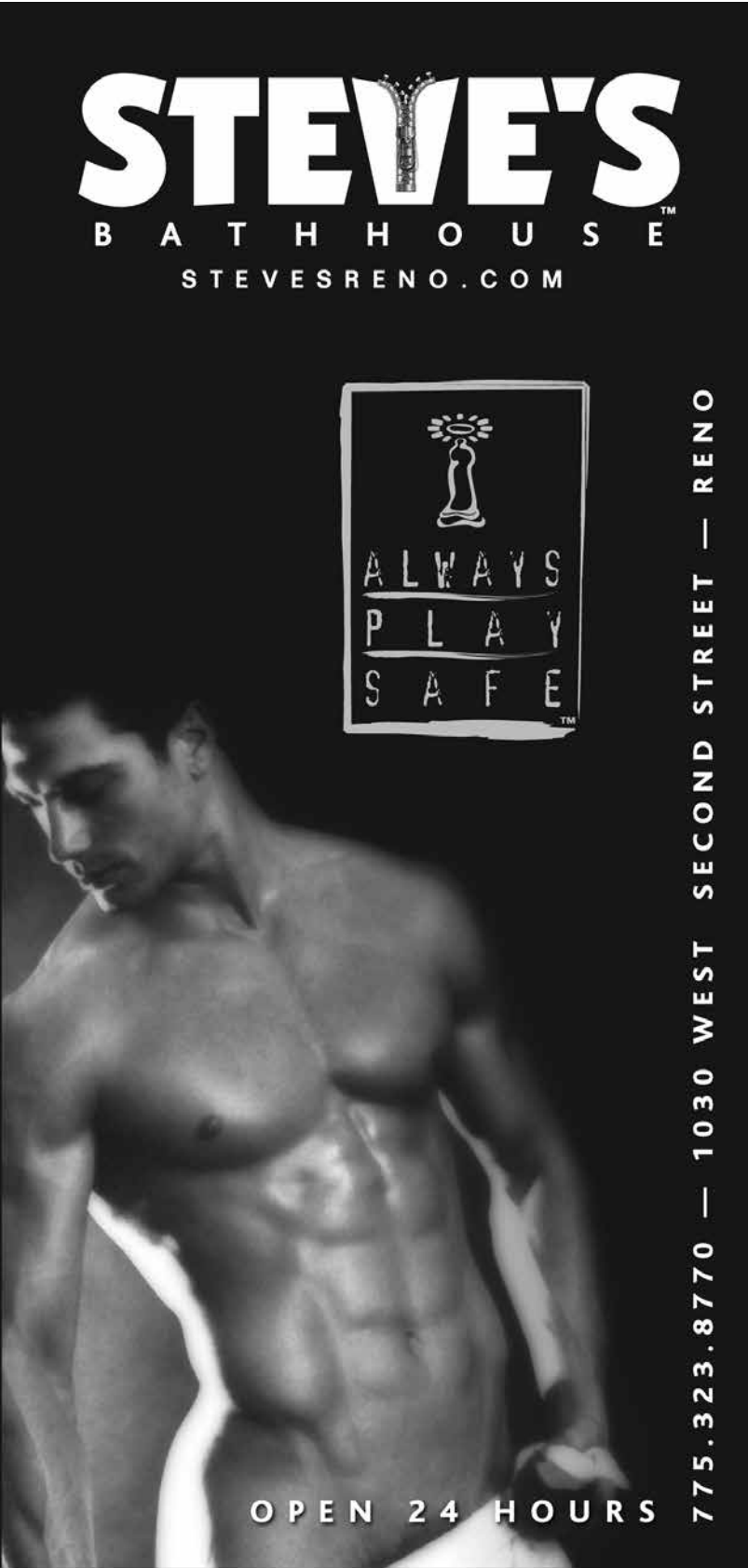
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Brotherly Love Asks “Which Call Do You Answer?”

The one you feel from God or the one you feel about your authentic self? This is the dilemma at hand for Brother Vito (played by writer/director Anthony J. Caruso) as he must decide between becoming a Brother or declaring his love for Gabe (Derek Babb). Shot entirely in Austin, TX and with a local cast and crew, *Brotherly Love* is a fresh take on the traditional gay love story. Available Aug. 7 from www.bgpics.com/2018/brotherly-love/ and DVD/VOD. You can watch the trailer at youtu.be/k1rZIY9DTks



Suicide At The Cineplex

Plus Cool Black Movies

by Chris Narloch

In addition to the requisite sequels and superheroes, this particular cinematic summer has brought two new mini-trends to theaters: films about suicide (*Whitney* and *McQueen*) and wild and wonderful examples of what I am calling “new black cinema” (*Sorry To Bother You* and *Blindspotting*).



The late, great fashion designer Alexander McQueen walks the runway

Suicide At The Cineplex

The recent deaths of Anthony Bourdain and Kate Spade and before that the singers Chris Cornell and Chester Bennington – all suicides by hanging – have again put the spotlight on depression and mental illness in America.

On the heels of those tragic ends, the compelling new documentary *McQueen* charts the life and career of the late, great British fashion designer Alexander McQueen, who also committed suicide by hanging on the eve of his mother’s funeral, in 2010.

McQueen’s incredibly beautiful clothes were worn by some of the biggest stars in the world, and he actually deserved to be called a visionary and a genius, adjectives that get thrown around far too often in the arts world (and especially in the fashion world).

McQueen is a fascinating (if painful to watch) tribute to a gay man who came from nothing and created a fashion empire that succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. As they say, be careful what you wish for because fame can be a killer.

The best thing about *McQueen* is getting to see so many of the designer’s bizarrely

beautiful creations, and you can check them out when the movie opens in Bay Area theaters beginning July 27.

The same afternoon I watched *McQueen*, I also saw *Whitney*, the recent documentary about the late singer Whitney Houston, and let me tell you, I was pretty bummed out after that depressing double feature.

Whitney will probably be gone from theaters by the time you read this, but her fans may want to see the film when it becomes available for home viewing – or maybe not, since her descent into self-destruction is very hard to watch.

The official cause of Houston’s death was coronary artery disease, but we all know that she essentially committed slow suicide as a result of drug abuse. That’s not a revelation, but the claim, by two of the documentary’s interview subjects, that Houston was a victim of molestation as a child by the lesbian sister of singer Dionne Warwick is shocking.

I can’t say that I enjoyed watching all of *Whitney*, but it was nice to see the early footage of the singer – before fame and drugs tore her up – and be reminded of Houston’s superhuman vocal talent.

Cool Black Movies At The Multiplex

The success of *Black Panther* and especially *Get Out* will allow cool black movies that might never have been made or released in mainstream theaters to make it to the local multiplex.

Two such films got a wide release this month, and the even better news is that both of them are terrific. *Sorry To Bother You* and *Blindspotting* are audacious, funny, moving, and original, and I hope that audiences turn out to see both movies.

Sorry To Bother You takes place in an alternate reality of present-day Oakland, where black telemarketer Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) finds himself in a surreal universe after he discovers a magical key that leads to material glory.

As Green’s career begins to take off, his friends and co-workers organize a protest against corporate oppression that forces

Cassius to choose between his conscience and a white, cocaine-snorting CEO (Armie Hammer) who offers him a salary beyond his wildest dreams.

In *Blindspotting*, Daveed Diggs (of *Hamilton* fame) plays Collin, a young, recently incarcerated African-American man who must make it through his final three days of probation for a chance at a new beginning.

The hero’s bond with his volatile best friend – a white guy – gets tested after Collin sees a police officer shoot a suspect in the back during a chase through the streets of Oakland.

Both movies are so crazy good, especially *Sorry To Bother You*, that the less I say about them the better. Don’t let me spoil the fun. Just go, and experience them for yourself.

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