



outword

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DRAG OUT THE VOTE

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with

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Ricardo Lara, Evan Low

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FACES Presents *Drag Out the Vote* with Cleve Jones

On September 6th, FACES is hosting *Drag Out the Vote, Girlfriend*, a fundraiser for Jackie Smith, a Democratic candidate for Assembly District 6.

"FACES is honored and excited to host this fantastic event for Jackie Smith for State Assembly," said FACES owner Terry Sidie. "We at FACES believe it's more important than ever to get out and elect LGBT candidates like Jackie Smith."

This campaign rally will be a fun-filled evening for a great purpose. The list of guests includes Cleve Jones, author of *Together We Rise* and co-founder of the Names Project and the SF AIDS Foundation; Fiona Ma, member of the California Board of Equalization, Assemblymember Evan Low, member of the LGBT Legislative Caucus, and Lt. Governor candidate Eleni Kounalakis will also be on hand.

Entertainment includes a drag show featuring an all-star political line-up.

Tickets are available at \$25 for General Admission and \$100 for VIP and can be purchased on-line at secure.actblue.com/

donate/dragout or at the door. All proceeds go to Jackie Smith for Assembly.



Jackie Smith

Sac LGBT Center Welcomes New Director of Programs

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center has announced after an exhaustive national search, Koby Rodríguez has been selected as its next Director of Programs.



Koby Rodríguez has been selected Director of Programs at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.

Rodríguez was chosen to fill this pivotal leadership role at the Center and will oversee all direct service programs at the Center.

"We believe Koby's embodiment of social justice, programming vision, and staff development experience will elevate the Center's program capacity and we are very excited to have him join the team," said Executive Director David Heitstuman.

Rodríguez has 14 years of experience in higher education and currently serves as the Associate Director of the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center, working with scholars and student staff to advance social justice and intersectionality programming in one of California's largest university cultural centers.

Before coming to UC Davis, he led campus diversity, inclusion, residence life, and housing programs at the University of

Redlands.

Rodríguez's social justice philosophies are informed by his Mixed-Latinx Queer identities. He also has experience as an instructor, conference presenter, and trainer and currently serves as President of the California Council Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE), a network of social justice educators and practitioners in California.

Previously he served as the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Men and Masculinities Knowledge Community Region VI Representative.

Rodríguez holds a Master of Arts in Higher Education and Bachelor of Arts in Race and Ethnic Studies from the University of Redlands. He is an active member of the Capital City Volleyball Club and lives with his partner in Natomas.

Over the next two months, Rodríguez will familiarizing himself with the organization and meet with staff before starting the position full-time at the end of August.

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Outword Says Farewell To Charlie Peer

by Chris Narloch

No, he isn't dead – just retired. After nearly 18 years on staff, our beloved editor, photographer and really the beating heart of *Outword*, Charles Peer, is leaving us.

It will take awhile to sink in, but we want to wish him well and thank him for all his years of hard work and dedication to *Outword* – and really to the entire local gay community – over the last several decades.

Charlie says he wants to “do nothing” for awhile, although I have a hard time believing that will be the case after his many years of selfless sacrifice on behalf of Sacramento's LGBTQ family.

Originally from Salinas, he moved to Sacramento in 1981 and almost immediately became involved in the queer community. Charlie was a regular Hand-to-Hand volunteer with Sacramento AIDS Foundation, helped out in the early years of SIGLFF (now called the Bent Sacramento LGBTQ Film Festival), and did every job imaginable for over ten years at Lambda Players (Sacramento's former queer theatre company).

But wait – there's more. Charlie also provided support to Sacramento's Lavender Library, was made an honorary member for all of his service to our Imperial Court (CGNIE), and was a cornerstone of both of Sacramento's gay veterans groups: Twin Spirits and also The Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Veterans.

When he wasn't busy working and volunteering for gay causes, Charlie could be found relaxing with the local gay softball or volleyball groups, and you can find him at McKinley Park most Tuesday evenings this fall sending fuzzy balls over a net with Sacramento's gay tennis group.

But back to his impressive career in journalism and the “small matter” of Charlie's 20+ years working for Sacramento's queer publications, first (for three years) at the now-defunct *Mom Guess What* (MGW) and then with *Outword* (continuously since 2000).

You rarely, if ever, saw a picture of Charlie in print, and he was never one to take any credit for his amazing achievements. Yet it's no stretch to say that Charlie documented and photographed virtually every significant event involving the local LGBTQ community over the last two decades, from Halloween at Faces to marches at the Capitol for marriage equality.

If you've read *Outword* for any length of time, you have enjoyed looking at hundreds of Charlie's fabulous photographs and reading his excellent articles for years without even knowing it. (Unlike me, who loves having my name in print, Charlie rarely put a byline on his work.)

Charlie has agreed to post an occasional article to *Outword's* website (www.outwordmagazine.com), but his day-to-day duties at *Outword* end with this edition.

So if you run into Charlie around town – on the tennis court or at an event – thank him for all he's done for gay Sacramento. He will probably blush and get embarrassed, but that's the price you pay for being such a great guy.

From Fred, Ron and myself, we love you Charlie, we miss you already, and we wish you the happiest of retirements.

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This photo by Larry Lauszus.



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Travis Legault Wins 2018 CSUS McBride Scholarship

In collaboration with California State University, Sacramento, the Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento has selected Travis Legault as the 2018 recipient of its McBride scholarship, named for early champion of LGBTQ rights, Laurie McBride.



2018 McBride Scholarship winner Travis Legault with Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento Board Chair Charlene Jones.

The McBride Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship aimed at Sacramento State students seeking to increase LGBTQ equity.

As a student Legault has served as the legislative affairs coordinator for the campus' Associated Students, Inc., the governing body of Sacramento State students, and as a board member of the California State Student Association.

During Equality California's Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, he led a group to visit California Assembly members urging support for legislation to prevent bullying in K-12 schools. He has also participated in local electoral politics by assisting an LGBTQ candidate run for a school board seat in Roseville, California.

"I know how important local offices are," Legault explained, "and an LGBTQ voice on a local school board is invaluable at a time when school boards are on the front lines of the struggle for inclusionary curriculum and dignity for LGBTQ students."

With intentions to work in public policy in

the future, Legault is adding to his experience by completing a legislative fellowship this summer with Equality California. The Foundation looks ahead to working closely with the new McBride scholar to continue educating the community about LGBTQ rights and advancing LGBTQ civic and political leadership.

McBride, as prominent activist in California, pushed for statutory protections long before many considered doing so. She worked in local, statewide and national movements for civil rights and political access for LGBTQ individuals.

As executive director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, she led California legislative efforts for employment protections, domestic partnerships, and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. McBride went on to work as a policy advisor and chief of staff in the legislature, and as Assistant Secretary of State.

For more information, visit sacstonewallfoundation.org.

Law to Ban Use of Gay Panic Defense Introduced

Aiming to end the use of so-called “gay panic” and “trans panic” defenses in federal court, U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris joined democratic lawmakers in the Senate and House to introduce the Gay and Trans Panic Defense Prohibition Act of 2018.

“Gay panic” and “trans panic” defenses seek to excuse crimes such as murder and assault by arguing that the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity provoked the defendant’s violent reaction, blaming victims for the violence committed against them. The legislation would curtail the availability and effectiveness of the gay and trans panic defenses, a step that many in the legal community have been urging for years. Nearly 20 years ago, Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. One of Shepard’s killers raised the gay panic defense, arguing that Shepard’s unwanted sexual advances excused his violent acts.

“There is no place for prejudice against people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender in our country,” said Sen. Harris. “The so-called gay and trans ‘panic’ defense allows people carry out hate crimes and denies justice to the victims of those crimes. I was proud to be part of the effort to outlaw it in California and am committed to banning it nationwide.”

As San Francisco District Attorney, Harris established an LGBTQ hate crimes unit and led efforts to ban LGBTQ “panic defenses” in criminal trials. Harris sponsored legislation as Attorney General of California which

made it clear that a defendant’s discovery of a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity is not sufficient provocation to reduce a charge. The bill was signed by Governor Jerry Brown in September 2014 and California became the first state to ban the “gay panic” defense.

Several states have already taken legislative action to limit or prohibit the use of gay panic and trans panic defenses, including Illinois. Similar legislation has been introduced in New Jersey, Washington, Rhode Island, New York, Georgia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

The Senate legislation is led by Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and co-sponsored by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Tim Kaine (D-Va.). The House bill is led by Representative Joseph Kennedy III (MA-04) and co-sponsored by Representatives Alan Lowenthal (CA-47), Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-01), Raul Grijalva (AZ-03), Brian Higgins (NY-26), and David N. Cicilline (RI-01).

The legislation is endorsed by the American Bar Association, the National LGBT Bar Association, the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Equality California, and the American Unity Fund.

Male Couples Report As Much Domestic Violence As Straight Couples

Nearly half of all men in a new study from the University of Michigan about intimate partner violence in male couples, report being victims of abuse.

The study shows that in addition to universal stressors – finances, unemployment, drug abuse – that both heterosexual and male couples share, experiences of homophobia and other factors unique to male couples also predict abuse among them.

The study is one of the few that looks at violence from the perspective of both members of male couples (abuser and victim), said Rob Stephenson, U-M professor of nursing and director of the Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities.

Most studies examining domestic violence look at female victims in heterosexual couples or have only asked questions of one member of a male couple.

Nearly half (46 percent) of the 320 men (160 couples) in the study reported experiencing some form of intimate partner violence in the last year – physical and sexual violence, emotional abuse and controlling behavior.

“If you just looked at physical and sexual violence in male couples, it’s about 25 to 30 percent, roughly the same as women,” he said. “We’re stuck in this mental representation of domestic violence as a female victim and a male perpetrator, and while that is very important, there are other forms of domestic violence in all types of relationships.”

The research is important because it debunks that stereotype, and accounts for controlling and isolating behaviors as well as physical abuse, Stephenson said.

Ultimately, violence links back to HIV prevention because men in abusive relationships may find it hard to negotiate for condom use or even when and how they have sex, Stephenson said. Nor is there good communication about HIV status and HIV prevention in abusive relationships.

His study makes a strong connection between internalized homophobia and violence, Stephenson said. A gay man who’s struggling with his identity might lash out at his partner with physical or emotional abuse as a stress response behavior – similar to heterosexual couples, where an unemployed man lashes out at his female partner because he feels inadequate, he said.

Stephenson wants clinicians to start asking male couples about violence. Right now, the majority do not, he said. The study appears in the July edition of *American Journal of Men’s Health*.

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Dine Out, Fight AIDS! At Dining Out For Life Sacramento

Mark your calendars and make your reservations: Sunburst Projects is gearing up to host its 4th annual Dining Out For Life fundraiser event on October 11.

Dining Out For Life is an international event that takes place in more than 60 cities across North America each year, generating more than \$7 million dollars for HIV/AIDS agencies.

Across the nation, more than 3,000 restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds from this one special day of dining to the licensed AIDS service agency in their city. Local restaurants will once again partner with Sunburst Projects, a Sacramento-based AIDS service organization, to host the Sacramento DOFL event, raising a combined total of almost \$20,000 dollars in years past.

While the messaging is not as ubiquitous as it once was, the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS is very present. Many people are still affected by HIV on a daily basis and rely on support service agencies in their communities to help them thrive. Since

Dining Out For Life just by sharing their enthusiasm with their friends, answering diner questions, passing out contribution envelopes, and collecting donations.

• Sign up as a participating restaurant.

Donate a percentage of your restaurant's sales on October 11th to benefit Sunburst Projects' life-saving work in the community. In exchange for their financial support, restaurants are listed in a citywide marketing campaign in an effort to increase customer traffic.

• Become a sponsor.

Support Sunburst Projects' fight against HIV/AIDS by becoming a corporate sponsor. Available sponsorship opportunities offer a great depth and breadth of exposure across a wide range of media platforms throughout the Greater Sacramento area. Your company's support is not only a brilliant branding opportunity, it's an investment in the health and well-being



1982, Sunburst Projects has done just that.

The local agency works to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS while providing children and families with the necessary services to further their quality of life, such as medical case management, therapeutic and educational programming, and mental health services.

To make the 2018 event a huge success,

of our community.

• **Dine out.** Eat at a participating restaurant on October 11th. Invite people to dine with you, it is a great excuse not to cook all day. Just by having a meal or two out on October 11th you are supporting local businesses and also helping provide services for individuals impacted by HIV. Don't forget to share on social media!

Participating restaurant lists and more



SUNBURST
PROJECTS

the help of the Sacramento community is needed. Sunburst Projects is looking for people to get involved in the following ways:

• **Be an ambassador.** Volunteer at a participating restaurant on October 11th, invite friends and family to dine out, and welcome guests. Ambassadors help raise 40 percent of all the funds generated by

exciting news will be coming out soon. Stay up to date by visiting www.diningoutforlife.com/sacramento. To get involved in any of the above mentioned ways please call, or email; Zoe at 916-440-0889 Ext.301 zoe@sunburstprojects.org.

For more information about Sunburst Projects please visit www.sunburstprojects.org.



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Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

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What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
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What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

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Federal Court Says Child Welfare Agencies Can't Discriminate

A federal district court has ruled that the city of Philadelphia can require foster care agencies with city contracts to abide by its nondiscrimination policies, the first time a federal court has said that government-contracted child welfare agencies do not have a right to exclude same-sex couples or others who don't meet an agency's religious test from fostering children.

Catholic Social Services (CSS) asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction ordering Philadelphia to resume referrals of cases to CSS despite its unwillingness to comply with city nondiscrimination requirements that apply to potential same-sex foster parents.

The court denied CSS's request, rejecting its argument that the Constitution requires the city to permit government-contracted agencies performing public child welfare services to turn away prospective foster and adoptive families based on religious objections to same-sex couples.

"First and foremost, this is a victory for children in Philadelphia who need a loving home and can't afford to have good families turned away for failing to meet a religious litmus test," said Reggie Shuford, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania. "We're proud that the city is committed to ensuring that no

qualified family that comes forward to care for a child in need is turned away because of their sexual orientation or other reasons unrelated to the ability to care for a child. And we're thrilled that the court rejected the claimed constitutional right to discriminate against loving families."

In June, the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Pennsylvania, and volunteer counsel from Dechert LLP asked the court for permission to intervene in the lawsuit on behalf of the Support Center for Child Advocates, a nonprofit organization that provides legal representation and services to children in the foster care system, and Philadelphia Family Pride (PFP), a membership organization of LGBTQ parents and prospective parents. Although that motion has not been decided yet, the court allowed the prospective intervenors to submit a brief in support of the city's position and to present argument in court.

According to the ACLU, this may have repercussions for states that have passed laws permitting agencies to use such religious tests.

"When faith-based agencies choose to receive taxpayer dollars to provide public child welfare services, their religious beliefs cannot trump the best interests of the children in their care," said Leslie Cooper, deputy director of the ACLU's LGBT and HIV Project. "The court saw it was not only permissible for the city of Philadelphia to prohibit discrimination by its contract agencies, but that allowing the use of religious screening requirements in the public child welfare system would likely violate the Constitution."

More information is available at aclupa.org/Phillyfosterparents



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New Study Could Improve Diagnosis for Trans Patients

The fact that many medical protocols do not account for sex/gender incongruence is a significant barrier for transgender individuals seeking healthcare, according to findings unveiled at the 70th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo.

In particular, for the nearly 50 percent of transgender individuals on hormone therapy, the medical field has yet to define reference intervals, which are the ranges of test result values observed in a healthy population that are used to determine whether individual lab results are normal or concerning.

Without tailored reference intervals, test results for transgender patients on hormone therapy could indicate an underlying condition but go unrecognized if they are considered normal for cisgender individuals (those whose gender matches their assigned-at-birth sex). Conversely, if lab results for transgender patients fall outside of cisgender reference intervals, they could trigger unnecessary follow-up work even if the results are actually normal.

To help build the case for developing transgender reference intervals, a research team led by Jeff SoRelle, MD, of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, investigated whether transgender patients on hormone therapy exhibit altered results for laboratory tests ordered during yearly check-ups.

The study authors recorded lab values for a complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, and lipid tests in 264 healthy transgender patients undergoing hormone therapy in transgender clinics from 2007 to

2017. Of these patients, 133 were taking estradiol to transition from male to female, and 89 were taking testosterone to transition from female to male. The scientists also gathered lab results for 149 transgender patients not undergoing hormone therapy to serve as a point of comparison.

From this, the researchers determined that both transgender women and men taking hormones displayed altered values for measures of red blood cell, kidney, and liver health. Transgender women taking hormones also had altered sodium, calcium, total protein, glucose, and platelet levels, while transgender men taking hormones displayed altered lipid values.

Interpretation of these altered test results in the context of cisgender reference intervals could have serious consequences, from preventing diagnosis of anemia or kidney disease to affecting assessment of cardiovascular disease risk.

“Transgender patients will need their own reference ranges for several important parameters such as hemoglobin and creatinine,” said SoRelle. “It will also be important to determine whether proteins from cardiac muscle or the prostate, such as troponins or prostate specific antigen, are altered, too, which could affect diagnosis of heart attacks and prostate cancer.”

Legislation Introduced to Count LGBTQs in Census

The Census Equality Act, legislation to require the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure the approximately 10 million Americans who identify as LGBTQ are properly counted for and represented in Census data collection efforts, has been introduced in the Senate.

U.S. Senators Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) and Tom Carper (D-DE), both members of the Senate Homeland and Governmental Affairs Committee, introduced the legislation on July 31.

The Census Equality Act requires the Census Bureau to begin the process of adding questions related to sexual orientation and gender identity to the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS).

LGBTQ communities face many challenges related to this undercounting, chief among them underrepresentation, lack of resources, and discrimination. Despite the fact that millions of Americans identify as LGBTQ, only an estimated .1 percent of elected officials are LGBTQ. LGBTQ undercounting in the Decennial Census and the ACS result in an inadequate distribution of resources and social services including Medicaid, Section 8 housing vouchers, and

the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“The spirit of the census is that no one should go uncounted and no one should be invisible,” said Senator Harris. “We must expand data collections efforts to ensure the LGBTQ community is not only seen, but fully accounted for in terms of government resources provided. This information can also provide us with better tools to enforce civil rights protections for a community that is too often discriminated against.”

Despite the fact that roughly 10 million Americans identify as LGBTQ, the community is left unrepresented on the census.

“We have a responsibility to ensure the information collected by the census accurately reflects who we are as a society and that everyone is counted fairly,” said Senator Carper. “In order for our government

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The Festival That Put Sacramento on the Map

by Patrick Harbison

David Sobon wanted the world to know that his city had talent, heart and culture – and he got more than he ever bargained for.

“Native American” was part of the 2017 festival.

“Everyone thinks that Sacramento is a town centered on government – but like everyone else who lives here, I knew there was more that we needed to share,” says Sobon, the well-known benefit auctioneer and longtime Sacramento resident. “I wanted to show the city in a different light – one that went beyond political parties and the legislature.”

Though politics is the cornerstone of its economic engine, this California city by the river has quietly been building a strong culture of art appreciation through the years – traditionally highlighted by events such as Second Saturday and one-off showings at the Crocker Art Museum.

Though for Sobon, he knew that if the art community in Sacramento was going to gain real traction, it needed a catalyst. So he set out to go big with art – starting small with an intimate mural festival in the summer of 2016.

Artists clamored up scaffolding and went to work, splashing vivid colors around a few key areas of Midtown – soon people were looking skyward and paying attention to historically sterile buildings. A few media mentions and a bit of fanfare ensued; Sobon knew he was on to something and doubled down.

With laser focus, more support and larger aspirations, Sobon and team went to work, rebranded and officially founded Wide Open Walls (WOW).

When the 2017 event was announced, artist bookings from talent both domestically and internationally poured in, ending up with more than 40 artists descending on Sacramento for 10 warm days in August.

To accommodate its popularity, the event spread beyond the standard Downtown and Midtown grids, reaching areas such as Natomas, Del Paso, the River District, Broadway, Oak Park, South Sacramento, and Power Inn Road. The crowds came in droves and unprecedented media attention soon followed, even taking Sobon by surprise.

“We were getting media calls from all over the country,” says Sobon. “It was the moment that we finally felt like Sacramento was on the map for something special – not just a city that kids memorize in social studies class.”

With a strong momentum in place, the 2018 WOW, slated for August 9 through the 19, is shaping up to be the social event of Sacramento’s summer – even receiving key recognition and support from Mayor Darryl Steinberg and Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

This year’s highlights include the artistic talents of Shepard Fairey, arguably the most influential and well-known contributor to the street art movement. The pinnacle of the week will be marked by a street party and concert on August 17th featuring DJ Christian Martin and live music by Christian Martin – Fairey will also be on hand for a DJ set.

Information including artist sign ups, sponsorship opportunities and mural locations can be found at www.wideopenwalls.org.

Patrick Harbison is the owner of Patrick Harbison Public Relations (PHPR), a full-service public relations firm in Sacramento. He is a dedicated advocate for Sacramento non-profits and regularly donates his time and PR expertise to area organizations including WEAVE, the Make a Wish Foundation, the Sacramento Theater Company and the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.



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LGBT Bar Launches *Commit To Inclusion* Campaign

The National LGBT Bar Association has announced a new campaign that asks attorneys across the nation to *COMMIT to INCLUSION* by repudiating anti-LGBT legal groups like Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and Liberty Counsel and pledging never to support them through pro bono services.

“For more than 25 years, groups like Alliance Defending Freedom and Liberty Counsel have overseen an army of litigators and waged a systematic, insidious, and well-funded crusade to strip protections from LGBT people,” said LGBT Bar Association Executive Director D’Arcy Kemnitz. “With the recent Supreme Court decision in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case, the announced retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, and more and more court victories for those seeking a license to discriminate, fair-minded attorneys committed to diversity must push back. If we don’t take these threats seriously and act accordingly, we could face long term legal setbacks for LGBT people.”

The *Commit To Inclusion* campaign includes a fact sheet detailing the history of these anti-LGBT legal groups, their enormous budgets, and a sample list of cases in which they have sought to harm LGBT people. It also includes a one-minute video featuring: National LGBT Bar Executive Director, D’Arcy Kemnitz; Chief Counsel,

Freedom for All Americans Education Fund, Jon Davidson; and Cathy Sakimura, Family Law Director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. That video can be viewed and shared here.

The *Commit To Inclusion* pledge reads in part: “We commit to inclusion by ensuring that our personal pro bono and volunteer capacity and personal financial resources will not be used to support the work of ADF and Liberty Counsel.”

“This campaign is a call to action to warn attorneys about anti-LGBT legal groups and their dangerous and strategic efforts to chip away at legal protections for LGBT people,” said Kemnitz. “We are imploring the legal profession to hold back pro bono resources that would help these groups advance their discriminatory agenda. When you help anti-LGBT legal groups - even on matters not relating to LGBT issues - you hurt LGBT people. Join us today. *Commit To Inclusion*.”

Commit To Inclusion runs through September 27.

Out and About with Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

Every year California is hit by multiple wildfires and in recent years they seem to be more devastating than ever. Particularly when they effect so many people close to home. Everyone at *Outword* sends their hope and support to those affected by the Carr fire in Redding, and all the fire victims up and down the the state.

Please take a moment to help fire victims by donating to the Shasta Regional Community Foundation’s Community Disaster Relief Fund. Shastarcf.org The furry victims need our help, too. Please consider a donation to the Haven Humane Society to house animals displaced by the fires. Havenhumane.org

I want to take a moment to recognize our editor Charlie Peer, who for over 20 years at *Outword* is retiring after this issue hits the streets. From Lambda Players to Sacramento Valley Veterans, the Film Festival to the LGBT Tennis League, Charlie has been an unsung pillar of the Sacramento community. We wish him all the best and he will be greatly missed.

Join us in giving Charlie a send-off he deserves on August 10 and come get your drink on at the *Outword* and Badlands monthly happy hour. To celebrate Charlie, the first 100 people get a free drink!

It’s time to get your children ready for the school year. One Community Health’s Arden-Arcade Campus Open House on August 13 will offer information about immunizations, developmental screenings, nutrition, dental care and free IDs for

1414 21st St. Sign ups are at 1 p.m. and the show 7:30 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Joan Jett & The Blackhearts on August 19 at Jackson Rancheria, as well as Alice Cooper on August 15. Jacksoncasino.com

If rock and roll isn’t your thing Rodney Strong Vineyards is hosting The Temptations and The Four Tops as part of their summer concert series. Rodneystrong.com

Some believe it’s time San Francisco/ Sacramento had its own LGBT Night at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. Starting Saturday, August 18 that’s exactly what we get! Enjoy *Out at the Kingdom* night all to ourselves in DC Plaza from 8 p.m. to midnight. Rides are likely to include The Joker, Superman Ultimate Flight, Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth, Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster and more. Entertainers include Morgan McMichaels, Sister Roma and DJ Ray Rhodes.

Congratulations to Jordan Hill whose art piece *The Greatest Show On Earth* got into the California State Fair and won a jury award of excellence and moon shadows are definitely working for Jolanne Tierney as her *A Silver of Hope* took 3rd place in



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Who’s seen *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*? Could the timing be more perfect? Not only can we go see the new movie, but through August 12 we can see the first musical *Mamma Mia!* at Broadway At Music Circus!

I love the Hyatt Regency Sacramento and on Tuesday, August 21 they are hosting the August Rainbow Chamber Mixer and board of directors election. The Rainbow Chamber has become such an amazing organization for not only LGBTQ and friendly businesses in Sacramento, but for the community as a whole. Rainbowchamber.com

Looking for a place to hear original and diverse voices? “The Other Mic” on second Wednesdays is a comedy open mic night prioritizing queer and trans folk, women and people of color. Held at the Lavender Library,

photography at the State Fair.

Condolences to Paul “DoMe Moore” Crouch on the loss of his sweet pup.

Huge happy birthday to all the late summer babies, including *Outword* editor Charlie Peer, Jolanne Hugs Tierney, Ben Clinton, Chase Tinsley, Josh Varner, Nate Feldman, Marc Koenigsberg, Bethany Hidden, Kyle House, Brandon Herbert, Dawn Deason, David Kwong, Bradley Moats, Gayle Pitman, Jason Phillips, Khimberly Marshall, Ann Tracy, Robert Long, Stephan White, Richard Hallmarq, Kevan Forbes, Jerry Sloan, John Hancock, Tom Swanner, Sam Catalano, Phil Luckscheider, Richard Pike, Jake Bradley-Rowe, Sandra Phillips, and Daniel Roth.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. And check out his writing at JustKissTheGuy.com.

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LGBT Night at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom Arrives

This August 18 Morgan McMichaels from RuPaul's Drag Race and Sister Roma are discovering a Northern California traditon – the annual LGBT night at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo (just north of San Francisco).



Wonder Woman - Lasso of Truth thrill ride at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom.

Out at the Kingdom is on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 8 p.m. to midnight. It will be a night of fun rides and games, performances including Morgan McMichaels from RuPaul's Drag Race, host Sister Roma from the infamous Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, dance party music from Ray Rhodes, bar for those 21+, and more.

The Out at the Kingdom ticket includes the ability to enjoy the full day with the general public from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the entire park and then enjoy special LGBT night all to ourselves in DC Plaza from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Special Out at the Kingdom rides are scheduled to include: The Joker; Superman Ultimate Flight; Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth; Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster; The Penguin; and Thunder Road Speedway Go-Karts (extra cost).

From the producers of Out on the Mountain (Gay Night at Six Flags Magic

Mountain in Southern California), Out at the Kingdom is an event not to be missed. Community sponsors include the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, PFLAG Northern California chapters, The Spahr Center, and Our Family Coalition, among others.

"We're excited to bring this inclusive community event to Northern California," said David Fong, one of the event producers. "We've heard from a number of people who have been craving an LGBT amusement park event the last few years, especially those who have experienced Out on the Mountain in the Los Angeles area which is about to have its 11th year in September."

Tickets, which include free parking, are on sale in advance for \$45 at OutattheKingdom.com, with gate price of \$60. Six Flags annual passes holders receive an additional discount. For more information, visit www.OutattheKingdom.com.

Sacramento Student Artists Will Be *Tearing Walls Apart*

by Chris Narloch

If you've been to the Music Circus lately, you've probably seen the sad decrepit shell that the once-beautiful Mansion Inn at 16th and H Streets has become. That's about to change when a team of local high school students add their artistic touch to the currently empty building before its highly-anticipated renovation.

TEARING WALLS APART

STUDENTS BREAKING BOUNDARIES WITH THE POWER OF ART

In a similar spirit to Sacramento's Art Hotel project – which transformed a midtown building slated for demolition into a multi-floor art installation a couple years ago – *Tearing Walls Apart*, led by hotel developers The Grupe Company and SKK Developments, is an upcoming immersive art exhibit and festival that seeks to find innovative way to engage the community's rising artists and encourage thoughtful expression.

"From visual art installations in the hotel rooms, to live music, dance and theatrical performances at the outdoor festival, to a communal art piece that will be a centerpiece of the new hotel, we invite the Sacramento community to explore the answers to humanity's most pressing

questions in a public celebration of the power of art to bridge the divide," said Marisa Kolokotronis, creator of *Tearing Walls Apart*.

Student artist registration is now open through Sept. 5, and all local high school artists in the Greater Sacramento area (grades 9-12) are invited to apply, including all artistic levels and mediums.

Students can enter as an individual or with a group of up to six artists and will be asked to share their concept for the space. They are required to fill out a short application online and must obtain parental permission.

The art exhibit and festival will be held Sunday, September 23. For more details, please visit www.tearingwallsapart.org.

Oceans Alive Is Full of Fantastical Mermaids & Sea Creatures



Visit the Coral Reefs of Hawaii to the shores of California and beyond in a multimedia show featuring regional award winning artists at the *Oceans Alive* exhibit at the Kennedy Gallery, showcasing works from Bartolomeo, Davidson, Harp, Johnson, Kennedy, Loder, Matranga, Peasenell, Raines, Riedell, Tieseler and Voldstedt. August 9 - Sept. 10. kennedygallery.net

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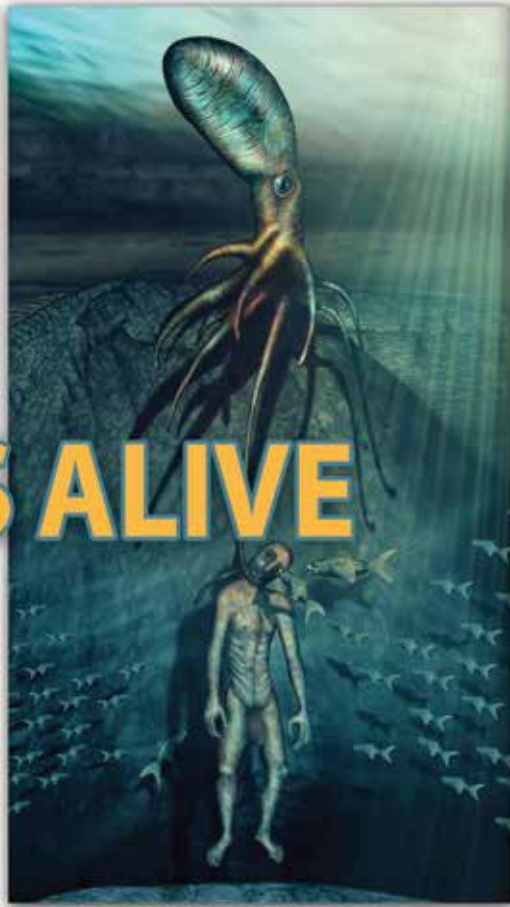
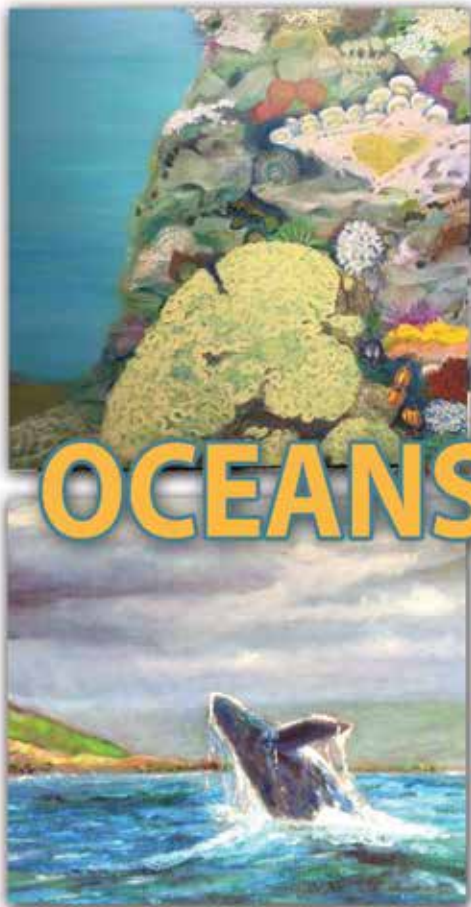
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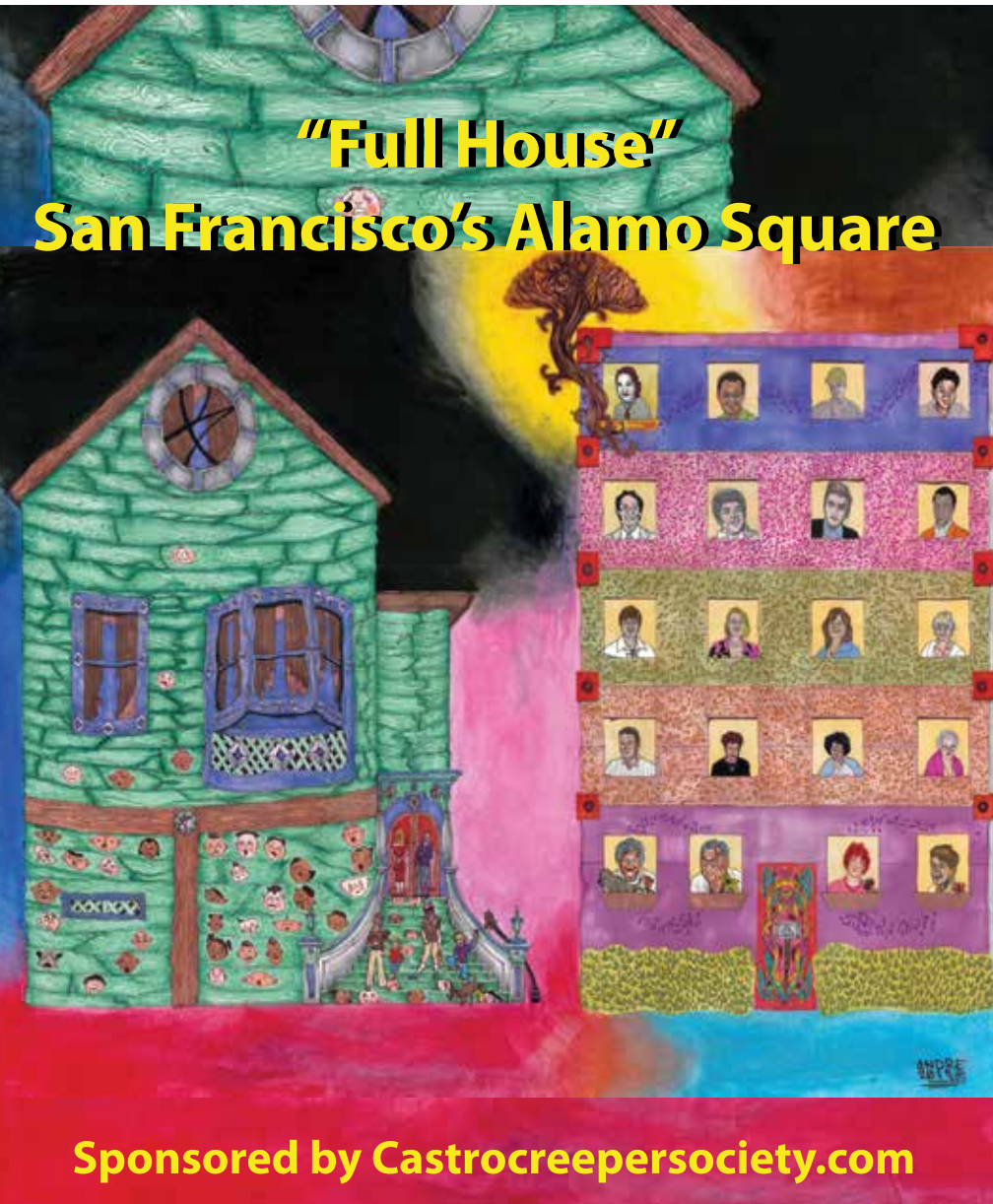


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Don't Miss *Shades Of Bublé* At Harris Center

With a trio of male voices singing incredible songs like "Feeling Good," "Moondance," "Come Fly With Me," "Home," "Everything," "Fever," "Save the Last Dance for Me" and many more, *Shades Of Bublé: A Three-Man Tribute to Michael Bublé* brings the swinging standards and pop hits of crooner Michael Bublé to the stage in an unforgettable high-energy concert event.



The three hot guys in *Shades Of Bublé*

Beginning with their amazing sold-out debut, this act has been wowing audiences around the country with exciting harmonies, smooth choreography, and charming good looks.

Delivering a set-list comprised only of songs recorded or performed live by Michael Bublé, this world-class tribute act honors (but doesn't imitate) the sophistication, retro style, and high-energy fun that Bublé himself brings to his concerts, while engaging diehard fans with thrilling new three-part vocal arrangements.

Don't miss *Shades Of Bublé*, performing at Harris Center in Folsom for two shows only, on Sunday, Aug. 26. Visit www.harriscenter.net.

Hairy Heroes Return for Final Season of "Where The Bears Are"



The award-winning gay Web series, "Where The Bears Are," is returning for its seventh and final season. Promising to be one of the campiest and most outrageous seasons yet, the episodes feature a bear beauty contest in Palm Springs and a crazed stalker targeting all of the bears! In addition to the hot, sexy, hairy men that fans have come to expect, Peter Paige from "Queer as Folk" will also guest star. The unbearable suspense begins September 10. wherethebearsare.tv



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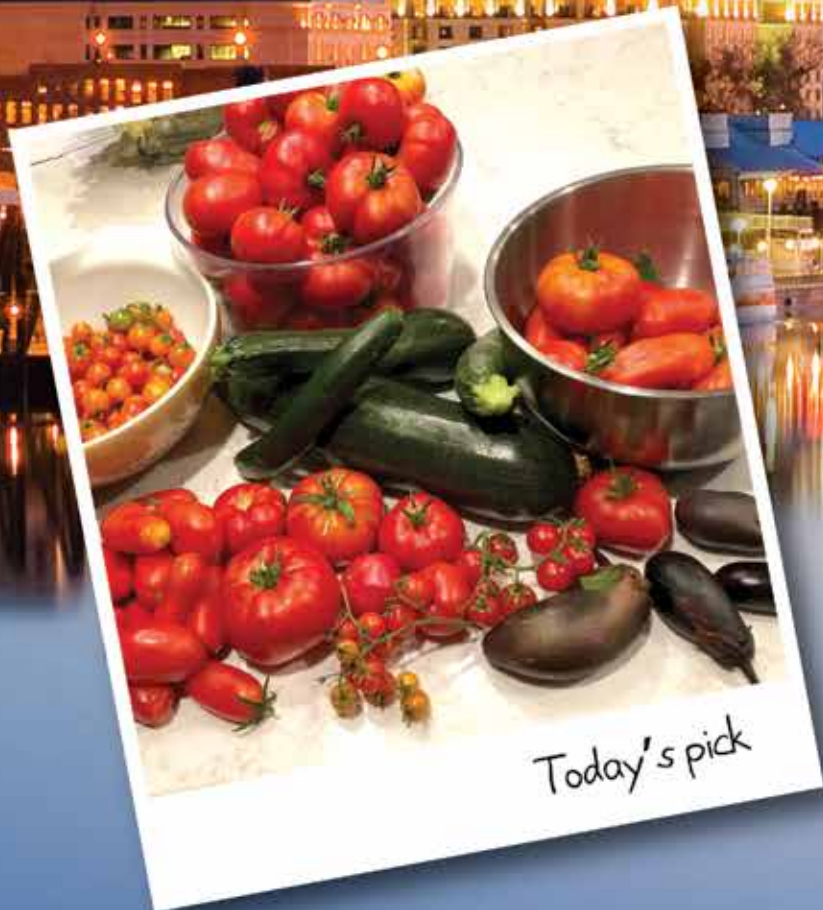
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Interactive Underground Tours Now 7-Days-A-Week

The Sacramento History Museum & Alliance is presenting a fun-filled schedule of intriguing and interpretive tour offerings in Old Sacramento this summer. In fact, Old Sacramento Underground Tours are now offered seven-days-a-week through Labor Day Weekend.



With such a variety of tour offerings ranging from family-friendly to adult-only, there's something new for everyone to experience and enjoy in Old Sacramento.

Gold Fever! Tours

Guests to Old Sacramento can experience what it was like to catch gold fever while getting actively involved in the intriguing *Gold Fever!* guided tours available every weekend this summer (and through the end of the year).

Tour guests take on personas of characters in history – or “real-life rascals” – who scratched and clawed their way to make this area the center of the Gold Rush. *Gold Fever!* tours relive Sacramento's early days when gold fever ruled amid horrible disasters that threatened fates and fortunes.

To spice things up even more, elements of chance are introduced that could change the fate of tour guests. Through the course of the lively tours that meander through Old Sacramento, visitors discover if they successfully escaped the many floods, if they managed to keep their gold dust (or lose it all at the gambling tables) and if they survived the fires, disease and occasional steamboat explosion.

Gold Fever! tours last approximately one hour and cost \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6 to 17 and are free for children five and under.

Old Sacramento Underground Tours

Now in its 9th season and offered seven-days-a-week through Labor Day Weekend, *Old Sacramento Underground Tours* give guests the unique opportunity to explore what's been hidden beneath the city for more than 150 years, while uncovering the facts and legends that lie below historic buildings and sidewalks.

Tour guests explore excavated foundations, enclosed pathways and interesting archaeology exhibits while hearing sounds of 1860 street life. Entertaining and knowledgeable tour guides lead the way while recounting tales of the devastation,

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perseverance, and determination that led to California's only successful street-raising project.

Tours of the underground last approximately one hour and cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for youths (ages 6-17) and are free for children five and under (however these tours are not recommended for this age group).

Underground After Hours

While they tend to sell out quickly, a new season of adult-only *Underground After Hours* are underway and offered on most Thursday through Saturday evenings through September.

For the adult-only evening tours, guides will share some of the alluring dark secrets and racy tales lurking in Old Sacramento's underground history. The adult-only *Underground After Hours* evening tours last approximately an hour and a half and cost \$20 per person (only guests ages 21 and older will be admitted).

All underground tours depart from the Sacramento History Museum (101 I Street) whereas the *Gold Fever!* tours depart from the Sacramento Visitors Center (1002 Second Street). As an incentive to experience both tours, guests who “bundle” the tours (purchase tickets to both a *Gold Fever!* and a regular *Underground Tour*, not necessarily on the same day) can enjoy a reduced cost of \$20 per adult for the two tours, and \$13 for youth for the two tours plus receive a one-time free admission to the Sacramento History Museum.

Tour dates and times fluctuate with the seasons and during holiday weekends; please visit the website for the most updated schedule. For more information or to purchase advance tickets for *Gold Fever!*, *Old Sacramento Underground* or *Underground After Hours* tours, please visit www.sachistorymuseum.org.

Proceeds from the tours benefit the Sacramento History Alliance programs and the Sacramento History Museum.

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SF Mime Troupe to Offer Free Local Shows

by Chris Narloch

Both Davis and Sacramento will be the recipients of free shows this month by the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe, whose 59th Season continues in to August with *Seeing Red: A Time-Traveling Musical*, by the gay, African-American playwright and actor, Rotimi Agbabiaka.

Founded in 1959 by R.G. Davis, as an experimental project of the Actors' workshop, the SF Mime Troupe's early works were silent (but not pantomime) avant-garde pieces that today would be called performance art.

By the early sixties, the SF Mime Troupe began performing spoken plays with character archetypes drawn directly from the Commedia dell'Arte. Continuing in the broad styles of popular theater, the SFMT's productions became overtly political.

In 1965, the city's Recreation and Park Commission revoked the troupe's performance permit, on grounds of "obscenity".

Refusing to allow his company to be censored, on August 7, 1965, R.G. Davis attempted to perform *Il Candelaio* in Lafayette Park, loudly announcing to his audience: "Today for your appreciation, we perform an arrest," as Davis was swept up by the police for performing without a permit.

(Future rock impresario Bill Graham, then the company's business manager, organized his first rock dance/light show at the

Fillmore Auditorium as a bail benefit for the SFMT.)

The ensuing court case, argued by Marvin Stender, established the right of artists to perform uncensored in the city's parks. The SFMT has opened a new show in the parks every summer since.

This summer's SFMT show – as political as ever – follows a disillusioned Trump voter who travels back in time to 1912, when her town was a hotbed of the American Socialist party, and realizes that she may have more in common with those blue-state progressives than she previously thought.

It's important to note that SFMT does not practice the type of silent mime popularized by the late Marcel Marceau – their work includes dialogue and singing.

You can catch *Seeing Red: A Time-Traveling Musical* locally when SFMT appears in the Davis Community Park on Saturday evening, Aug. 18, and at Sacramento's Southside Park on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19.

Please check their website at www.sfmt.org for more information.



Actor/Playwright Rotimi Agbabiaka - photo by Cody Williams

Mamma Mia! is Coming to Broadway At Music Circus

by Chris Narloch

With its sequel currently a hit in movie theaters, a happy coincidence finds Sacramento's Broadway At Music Circus revisiting the popular musical that started the ABBA theatrical franchise, the original *Mamma Mia!*

Lead characters Donna and her daughter Sophie (plus Donna's girlfriends) provide the musical comedy with a large dose of girl power, but there is also equal time for the men in *Mamma Mia!*

Several handsome devils will grace the Music Circus stage during this show, including the multi-talented Eric Kunze (as Sam), a regular at Wells Fargo Pavilion who has performed on Broadway in *Miss Saigon*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Les Miserables*.

The sexy Michael Campayno also costars in *Mamma Mia!* (as Sky), after making his Broadway debut in *Wicked* and his television debut in NBC's live telecast of *The Sound of Music*. Campayno more recently appeared in the pre-Broadway premiere of *The Cher Show* in Chicago.

The roles of Donna and Sophie Sheridan will be played by Michelle Dawson, who is new to the Wells Fargo Pavilion, and by Broadway At Music Circus veteran Francesca Arostegui, respectively.

Featuring over 20 ABBA songs, including the hits "Dancing Queen" and "Take A Chance On Me," this is a fast-paced, feel-good, audience pleasing musical that will put a smile on your face.

Mamma Mia! plays through August 12 at Sacramento's Wells Fargo Pavilion. For more information, visit www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com.

A shirtless Michael Campayno, who plays Sky in the Broadway At Music Circus production of *Mamma Mia!*



Disco Queens Past & Present

by Chris Narloch

My two favorite dance artists of all time – one living and one dead – have new music available for their fans, so I decided to package them together in to one big fabulous disco ball of an article.

Read on for my reviews of Robyn's new single "Missing U" and the recently released Broadway cast recording for *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*.

Robyn – Missing U

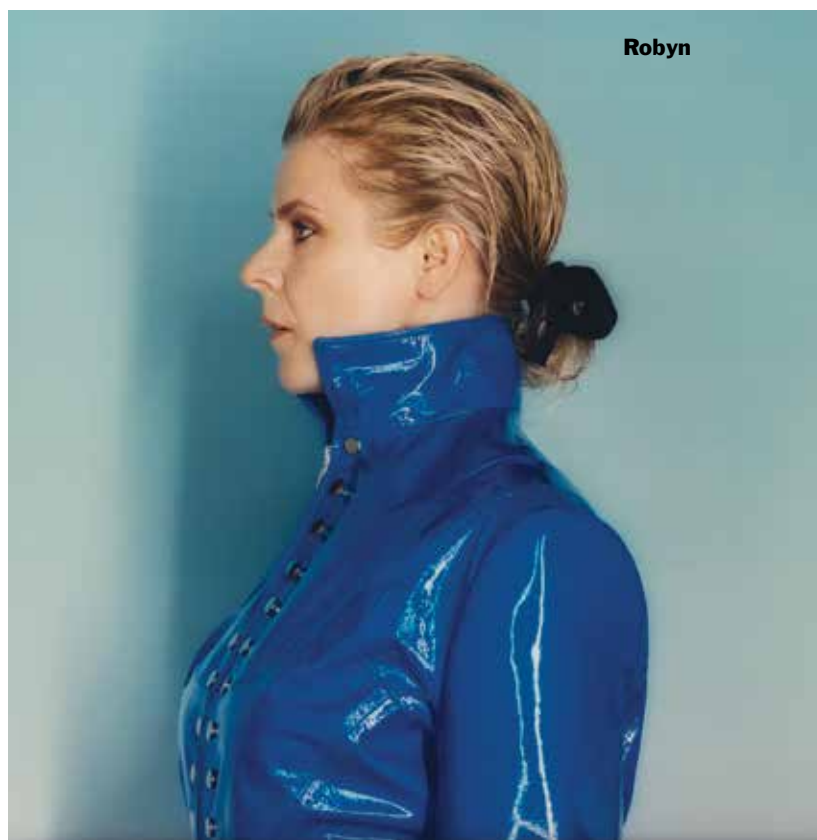
This 39-year-old, pint-sized pixie isn't as well known in the U.S. as she should be, but the Swedish singer-songwriter has a devoted, cult-like fan base, of which I am a member.

If you listen to club music, you already know Robyn's work, which includes such brilliant songs as "Dancing on my Own," "Hang With Me," and "Call Your Girlfriend."

After collaborations with Royksopp and others, Robyn has returned to the dance floor with a terrific new solo single, "Missing U," that brings her back to the throbbing Euro-disco sound pioneered in the '70s by the great Italian music producer Giorgio Moroder and his muse, singer Donna Summer.

"Missing U" reminds me of some of the finest cuts on the classic 1977 dance album *Once Upon A Time*, my favorite collaboration between Summer, Moroder and Pete Bellotte, who essentially were the architects of the electronic dance music that was heard everywhere in the late '70s.

Robyn must be a fan of the Munich sound that trio brought to



Robyn

the U.S. from Germany because "Missing U" definitely has a classic disco feel. There's nothing rock or hip-hop about the new single, and no attempt to modernize its sound with a rap break.

"Missing U" is a song about this trippy thing that happens when people disappear, it's like they become even more clear and you see them everywhere," says Robyn.

If classic-sounding dance music floats your boat, you'll want to check out the song, and we can only hope that an entire CD of new music from Robyn will be forthcoming.

Summer: The Donna Summer Musical Original Broadway Cast Recording

This release features music from the Tony Award-nominated Broadway blockbuster as performed by its original cast. The biographical jukebox musical has been a hit since it opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on W. 46th Street in New York City.

Summer is a musical tribute to the late, great "Queen of Disco" that contains no vocals from Donna but instead offers three multi-talented singing actresses the opportunity to perform the artist's hits during a show that tells her life story in song.

The musical's cast recording features Tony Award-winner LaChanze as "Diva Donna," Tony Award-nominee Ariana DeBose as "Disco Donna," and Storm Lever as "Duckling Donna."

Nobody can sing Donna like Donna, but all three women have lovely, big voices, and they do *Summer* proud, belting out the show's two-dozen tracks with power and passion.





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Green Valley Theatre Presents *The Black Rider*

by Chris Narloch

Who else in Sacramento but Green Valley Theatre Company would be gutsy enough to bring *The Black Rider* to town? Don't miss the area premiere of this dark musical collaboration between the late, great literary bad boy William S. Burroughs (book) and the genius musician Tom Waits (music and lyrics).

The musical was inspired by a classic German fairy-tale about a deal with the devil in which a file clerk falls in love with a huntsman's daughter and must prove his ability to hunt before her father will give the couple his blessing. Things do not go well after that.

Some of the finest community theater productions I have seen in Sacramento during the last decade have been courtesy of Green Valley Theatre, and I have no doubt that *The Black Rider* will be another winner.

The Black Rider runs through August 25th at Westminster Presbyterian Church Hall at 1300 N Street in Sacramento. Parking is available in the church lot at 13th and O Streets. For more information, visit greenvalleytheatre.com.



The Black Rider. Photo by Christopher Cook

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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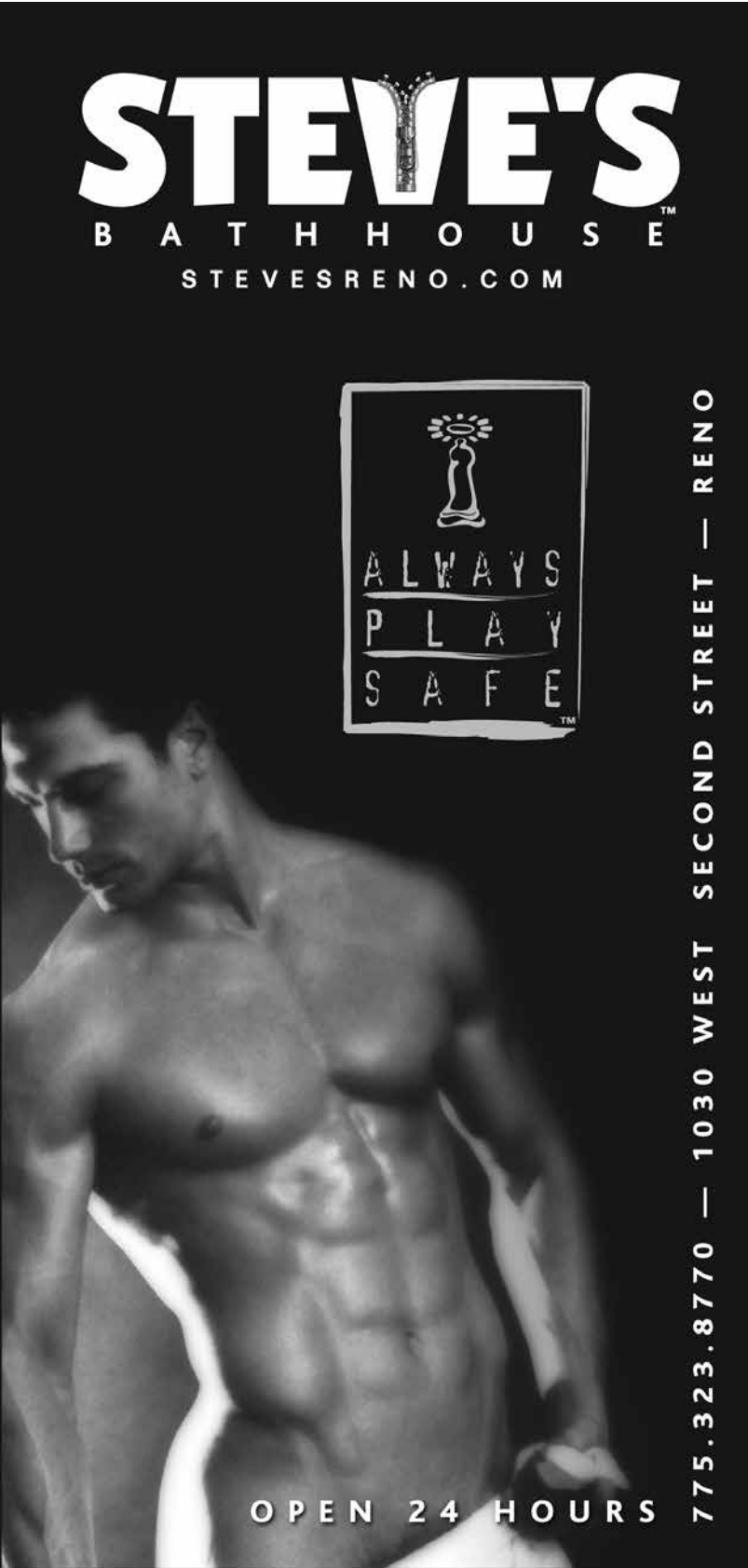
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UPCOMINGEVENTS

tue
AUG 7 ◀

fri
AUG 10 ◀

wed
AUG 15 ◀

AUGUST

- 2 Drag Queen Bingo presented by Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ 7 *Mamma Mia!* opening night Broadway at Music Circus
- ▶ 10 Outword Happy Hour
- ▶ 15 SIGLFF / Bent Launch Party
- 18 Out at the Kingdom - LGBT night
- 21 *Little Shop of Horrors* opening night Broadway at Music Circus
- 21 Rainbow Chamber Mixer at Hyatt
- 29 Art From the Heart

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Rainbow Festival
- 3 Labor Day
- 6 Drag Queen Bingo presented by Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
- 14 Outword Happy Hour
- 19 Yom Kippur
- 20 Boas & Bowties, Rainbow Chamber Annual Dinner
- 29-30 Farm To Fork Festival

OCTOBER

- 4 Drag Queen Bingo presented by Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
- 6 Pineapple Classic Golf
- 12-14 SIGLFF presents BENT
- 16 Rainbow Chamber Mixer
- 20 Decades Party

NOVEMBER

- 1 Drag Queen Bingo presented by Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
- 6 VOTE VOTE VOTE
- 9 Outword Happy Hour

2019 EVENTS FOR YOUR PLANNING

- Jan 26 Rainbow PAC Annual Crab Feed
- March 10 7th Annual LGBT Wedding Expo
- May 16 Farm to Scholar Dinner - Rainbow Chamber
- May 19 Davis Pride

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