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Outword Staff

PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Chris Allan
Matthew Burlingame
Emily Desanto
Diana Kienle
Chris Narloch

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charles Peer
Ron Tackitt

ON THE COVER
Cake Designer Charles Laurent
Photo courtesy of laurentxiv.com

DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford
Michael Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES
Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
(212) 242-6863

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Outword Magazine Inc.

Office
372 Florin Road, #133
Sacramento, CA 95831

PHONE: (916) 329-9280
FAX: (916) 498-8445

www.outwordmagazine.com
sales@outwordmagazine.com

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Playing Politics with Transgender Troops

The Trump Administration says transgender individuals aren't excluded from military service. However, those who answer the call to duty must do so ...on its new terms. According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) website, "...all persons, whether or not they are transgender, must meet all military standards, including the standards associated with their biological sex. Waivers or exceptions to these standards may be granted on a case-by-case basis." So, in essence, a person could reveal they are transgender but would have to serve under standards of their biological sex.

The new policy allows troops to personally consider themselves transgender, making up the basis for the administration's argument. Yet, it will require the military to discharge service members who appear transgender or act transgender by failing to meet grooming, uniform, and other military standards for their birth sex. Additionally, it will prohibit people from enlisting if they have transitioned. The military will be forced to eventually discharge transgender individuals who need hormone treatments or surgery, and can't or won't serve in their birth gender.

In June 2016, the Obama administration lifted a decades-long ban after finding



transgender troops didn't harm the military. Trump reversed that decision in 2017, saying that transgender people would render the military "burdened with

medical costs and

disruption." The policy will

be implemented April 12, however, the legal battle is far from over: there are four lawsuits that are currently pending. Nearly 15,000 transgender individuals serve in our armed forces.

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Neomi Rao Did Not Deserve Confirmation to the D.C. Circuit Court

commentary from Democratic National Committee



Neomi Rao

Today, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Donald Trump’s appointment to replace Brett Kavanaugh on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, Neomi Rao. DNC Women’s Media Director Elizabeth Renda and LGBTQ Media Director Lucas Acosta released the following joint statement in response:

“A vote for Neomi Rao is a vote for a judge who blamed survivors of sexual assaults for being attacked. It is a vote for a judge who claimed sexual orientation is a ‘behavior’ that can be changed. It is a vote for someone who worked to allow health care providers to deny care to patients seeking reproductive care or HIV treatment based on ‘conscientious objections.’ It is a vote for someone who called affirmative action the ‘anointed dragon of liberal excess’ and welfare a program ‘for the indigent and lazy.’

“Neomi Rao does not belong on the federal bench. The Republican Senators who voted in favor of her confirmation to the court today willfully turned their back on women, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, low-income families, and countless others. Our party will never stop fighting to defend our Democratic values against Trump’s dangerous appointees to the courts, like Rao.”

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Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

Grab the ice cream and prepare to ugly sob because “Queer Eye” has returned for another season. Four minutes into the first episode and I’m already misting up. Much like the Fab Five, this issue seems to have a little something for everyone.

Join the party on April 12 at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. as Outword gets together for our monthly Happy Hour & Liquid Therapy. Such a great way to blow off steam after a long work week!

This month’s Drag Queen Bingo will benefit NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC). Since its founding in 2005, NCAC has raised nearly three million dollars to support Sacramento Valley and Northern California nonprofit agencies. Come to Mango’s Sacramento, 1930 K St. on April 4 at 7 p.m. to get your cards. Come earlier and enjoy a fabulous dinner! Rainbowchamber.com

The new Sacramento Pride website is up and this year’s theme is “A Legacy of Stonewall.” Registrations are now open for non-profits, local businesses, talent, food vendors, marchers and others interested in participating in the event. The organizers also want to hear from you via a web survey to help them make Sacramento Pride even better this year.

Capital City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Uptown Studios have joined forces for the 2019 Sisters Social kick-off at 2415 23rd St. on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Expect an engaging evening of performance, fun, food and drink. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Contact Sister Oddrey at kipbridges@yahoo.com for more information.

An exhibit portraying the early history of the LGBT community of West Sacramento during the 1940s-1980s is on display April 3 at 5 p.m., and is a must for those who love local culture. The event will be at the History Gallery at the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. westsachistorysociety.org

Want some Scandi candy? Head to the 36th Annual Sacramento Scandinavian Festival on March 30 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street. The festival will feature Scandinavian food, baked goods, and Viking reenactors. A perfect place to learn about Nordic countries, music and entertainment.

The 19th Annual Cesar Chavez march in Sacramento will be held on March 30 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Expect some of the best food and music Sacramento has to offer. lclaa.org

It would be a cat-astrophy if you didn’t catch the winner of seven Tony Awards® including Best Musical running April 2 - 7 at Community Center Theater, 1301 L St. It promises to be a PURR-fect evening! The show features new sound design, direction and choreography for a new generation. Broadwaysacramento.com

After you see “Cats,” spend some time with Bruiser the Chihuahua at The Harris Center’s presentation of “Legally Blonde - The Musical” on April 5 - 7. Smarter than she appears, Elle Woods busts down the doors of stereotypes with memorable songs and

explosive dance numbers. harriscenter.net

Congratulations to model Kellen Willhite for becoming the face of the new Golden Rule Services (GRS) people of color focused ad campaign launched as part of the national “Getting to Zero” plan. The plan promotes



Golden Rule Services (GRS) people of color focused ad campaign, featuring Kellen Willhite, launched. Photo courtesy of GRS.

reaching the point of zero HIV infections, zero AIDS deaths and zero HIV/AIDS stigma. Willhite is a past GRS client turned Project Coordinator, PrEP Navigator and college student. The campaign can be seen online and at local establishments.

Heartfelt condolences to Sacramento LGBT Center’s Executive Director David Heitstuman on the tragic loss of his brother-in-law. We also honor the memories of Camille Wojtasiak, Laura Wills and Adam Todd Howard.

Happy birthday to Joseph Lodato, Shane Burrows, Ron Grantz, Raquela Singer, Tom Erickson, Mia Ho Moore, Shawnie Wallace, Kristara Chastain, Luca Lucchesi Powell, Randy Cobb, Joe Engle, and TJ Bruce.

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

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Drag Queens Stand Up With LOLGBT



Punch Line Sacramento gets its queer on in early April when LOLGBT returns with “An Evening of Queens and Comedy,” an exciting night of drag queens and some of Sacramento’s finest comics. Suzette Veneti hosts this evening of laughs at Sacramento’s Punch Line on Sunday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to punchlinesac.com.



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Federal Court Rules Twins Born to Gay Dads Have Equal Citizenship Rights

by Rich Vaughn

For more than a year, we have followed the strange story of twin boys, born via IVF and surrogacy just a minute apart: one granted U.S. citizenship, the other denied, thanks to bizarre and antiquated State Department rules. Late last month, a federal judge overturned the original State Department ruling. (See our January 2018 article at <https://www.iflg.net/art-siblings-denied-citizenship-genetics/>.)

The twins' parents, Elad and Andrew Dvash-Banks, met 10 years ago in Israel, where Elad had grown up. Unable to legally marry either in the U.S. or Israel at that time, the gay couple moved to Canada, where they were legally married in 2010. Their sons were born via egg donation and surrogacy in 2016, and both fathers' names were listed on both the babies' birth certificates. Although both dads contributed sperm during the process, and they knew each was genetically related to one of the twin boys, they didn't want or need to know the specifics.

However, when the family decided to move to Los Angeles, closer to Andrew's family, they ran into what most would consider a shocking and discriminatory obstacle at the U.S. Consulate. Since Elad was not a U.S. citizen, in order to claim U.S. citizenship, the boys would have to undergo DNA testing. One twin, Aiden, who turned out to be genetically related to U.S. citizen Andrew Dvash-Banks, was granted citizenship; twin Ethan, genetically related to

marriage, were possible. Until formal rules are adopted altering the State Department's Family Affairs Manual, allowing new interpretations for these new medical and societal advancements, the old rules still apply. As a result, the State Department applied different rules for same-sex married couples and their children via assisted reproduction, making citizenship contingent on the child's biological relationship with a parent who is a citizen.

That discrepancy between the treatment of married heterosexual parents and LGBT parents was the basis of last month's federal court ruling.

District Judge John F. Walter ruled that now two-year-old Ethan Dvash-Banks has been an American citizen from birth. As the "New York Times" reported, "the judge ruled that federal law does not require a child born to married parents to prove a biological relationship with both parents."

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage in 2015,



Israeli citizen Elad Dvash-Banks, was forced to emigrate on a temporary, tourist visa. Twin boys, born just a minute apart, from the same egg donor and surrogate, were viewed and treated very differently by the U.S. government.

The most concerning thing about the denial of Ethan's U.S. citizenship is that children of same-sex parents, even when legally married, were treated differently than children of heterosexual married parents.

Historically, for purposes of immigration and citizenship, State Department policy has been to presume married heterosexual people are the legal parents of any child born during their union, with no proof of a genetic relationship between parents and child required. These policies are decades old and written long before assisted reproduction through surrogacy, or legalized same-sex

thousands of state and federal laws, rules and regulations have been changed to reflect the intent of that decision, all hammered out law by law, case by case. This happy story of twin boys of gay fathers who won equal citizenship rights is a significant milestone on the path to equal protection under the law for LGBTQ parents and families.

Attorney Rich Vaughn is founder and principal of International Fertility Law Group, one of the world's largest and best-known law firms focused exclusively on assisted reproductive technology, a highly regarded speaker and writer, and an activist for reproductive freedom and LGBTQ equality. He and husband Tommy Woelfel reside in Southern California with their twin sons conceived via assisted reproduction. For more articles about assisted reproduction and LGBTQ parenting, visit IFLG.net.

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Sweet Dandy! Cake Designer Charles Laurent is a Master Baker

by Matthew Blanco

From an early age, fashion model turned master baker Charles Laurent knew he wanted to create experience, art and fantasy.

Charles Laurent was born in a small town in the north of France. The rich culture of his country and historic environment of Nord served as the perfect canvas for him to paint out his imagination. Every chateau had a king and queen of his own making, every stone had a storied history of magic and enchantment, and every pastry was a piece of art.

He eventually made his way to the USA where he built his body into a piece of art. It led to modeling and Charles Laurent walking the runways for top fashion designers. He also taught himself English and became a social media star. But these days, he's creating a new form of art – the edible kind – and embarking on a new adventure as a pastry chef.

We spoke with Charles Laurent from his home in New York.

When did you discover your love of baking?

When I was a child, I would bake with my grandmother all the time. It was a way for me to express my creativity and impress my friends and family.

Did you always have a sweet tooth?

Unfortunately, I have always had the worst sweet tooth! No little bag of candy will last a day with me.

Did you have to give up the desserts when you began runway modeling?

I could never skip desserts. But I also could never skip the gym.

What made you decide to walk away from the runway and pursue a career in pastry?

I knew modeling wouldn't last forever so I had to make the jump at some time.

Did you attend culinary school?

I attended the International Culinary Center in Soho, New York. Getting that acceptance letter was one of the proudest moments of my life. But then I had to pay for it!

Culinary school is expensive!

I put all of my savings toward my education for the hope of a major life change.

And here you are now! So what are some of your favorite desserts to make?

I love to make cupcakes. You can always add a personal touch to them with different designs. Maybe even most importantly, you can easily make them healthy!

How do you make them healthy but still delicious?

I tend to add lots of fruit to my desserts. They're beautiful, full of flavor and naturally sweet so I can get my sugar fix without too much guilt.

You're also known for your unique cake designs.

My goal is to create a fantasy with my pastries. They should be whimsical, beautiful, and, of course, delicious.

The Purse cake is a particular standout.

weeks ago. It has a really user-friendly platform that allows anyone interested to order a cake or design one of their own.

You make custom cakes?

Oh yes! I love creating new cakes with customers. We start by discussing initial details over email, then follow it with an in-person or over the phone consultation to plan out and create the cake of their dreams!

What is the best pastry for spring?

Spring is all about new beginnings. It's about leaving the cold and heavy food



Master baker Charles Laurent displays his playful side with a "Friend!" Photo courtesy of laurentxiv.com

I will always remember the reaction the Purse Cake received when I first unveiled it. Most didn't believe it was a real cake and, for me, that was so important. It's all edible. I realized the decor entirely with fondant.

What inspired the design?

It was directly inspired by a bag from Gucci's last collection.

How can we buy one?

I launched my new website a couple of

behind and getting our bodies ready for the summer sun. Fruit desserts are my spring go-to.

Are you working on new designs now?

Yes, I'm beginning to sketch out my spring collection. They will all be on my website soon. [www.laurentxiv.com]

If we order a cake, are you willing to jump out of it?

Cakes are my favorite things to jump out of!



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Julianne Moore & Jordan Peele Are Back On the Big Screen

by Chris Narloch

As we inch closer to summer blockbuster season, the movies are hit-and-miss, and they include a sweet sleeper starring Julianne Moore, plus the latest horror hit directed by Jordan Peele, the acclaimed director of “Get Out.”

Gloria Bell



Julianne Moore stars in “Gloria Bell.”

If, like me, you are a fan of the red-hot redhead Julianne Moore, I urge you to see this terrific new film which gives her another great role to add to an already stunning cast of characters.

The actress plays a free-spirited divorcee who loves to go out dancing and likes to sing along with the radio in her car (very humorously and very badly). In short, Gloria is an endearing woman whom we fall in love with and root for immediately.

Gloria is also somewhat unlucky in love, as evidenced by her rollercoaster romance with a fellow divorcee -- who may or may not actually be divorced -- played by John Turturro.

Turturro's character doesn't treat our heroine very well, but Gloria gets her revenge thanks to a paint ball gun, in a classic scene that is alone worth the price of admission.

This is one of those little sleeper movies that doesn't have much action, but is filled with lovely observational moments about love and life.

“Gloria Bell” is an unusually good remake by the same South American director, Sebastian Lelio, who made the original, very fine foreign version, entitled “Gloria.”

I recommend that you see the new movie at Sacramento's Tower Theatre and then rent or stream the first one.

US

I wish I could report that Jordan Peele, the talented writer-director of “Get Out” fame, had hit another home run with his latest movie. Sadly, lightning does not always strike twice for novice filmmakers.

Hopefully, “US,” his muddled new slasher flick, is just a case of sophomore slump, and he will be back on top with his third picture, but his second one is a disappointing dud.

The truly great Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke star as an African-American couple whose family is terrorized by homicidal versions of themselves. This is a fantastic premise for a thriller that Peele completely squanders.

The script's set-up involving a more affluent white family never pays off or goes anywhere really, and the ultimate explanation for the deadly doppelgangers -- which involves rabbits and tunnels and an evil version of Hands Across America -- is totally, head-scratchingly unsatisfying. Better luck next time, Jordan.



Lupita Nyong'o stars in “US”

Dumbo

I wasn't able to see it before our deadline, but I have high hopes for Tim Burton's new live-action version of “Dumbo,” the classic Disney animated movie from 1941 about a sweet baby elephant with oversized ears who learns that he can fly.

Burton has assembled a wonderful cast that includes Colin Farrell, Eva Green, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, and Alan Arkin. You can see the film beginning March 28 at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre.

For tickets, go to <https://www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo>.

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William Theophilus Brown (American, 1919–2012), *Standing Bathers*, 1993. Acrylic on paper. Crocker Art Museum, from the Estate of Paul Wonner and William Theophilus Brown.

Paul Wonner & Bill Brown Support Local LGBTQI Arts

The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is pleased to announce a gift of more than 1,800 works of art by Paul Wonner and William Theophilus “Bill” Brown and the establishment of the Paul Wonner and William Theophilus Brown Endowment Fund.

Per the artists’ wishes, the fund will support museum projects relating to emerging artists or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning and intersex (LGBTQI) artists.

The Crocker will realize the artists’ goals through the acquisition, care, exhibition, scholarship, and publication of art by emerging and LGBTQI artists, as well as through an array of public programs including lectures, films, community

festivals, educational and social convenings, and artists-in-residency programs.

By 2023, the Crocker Art Museum will use the fund to mount an exhibition of the work of Wonner and Brown – the most comprehensive show of the artists’ body of work ever presented – and produce an accompanying catalogue.

For more information about current and upcoming exhibitions, classes, programs and more, visit crockerartmuseum.org.

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Get Closer to Fine with the Indigo Girls

The Mondavi Center just added the Indigo Girls to its summer lineup. Performing for more than three decades, these best friends since elementary school have released 14 albums (three platinum and three gold), won a Grammy for “Best Contemporary Folk Recording,” and received six Grammy nominations for their work, including a nomination for “Best New Artist,” which they lost, rather memorably,

to Milli Vanilli. The duo has balanced their long, successful musical career by supporting numerous social causes as well. The folk rock singers will dazzle the audience with their vocal harmony weaving through well-written, sincere songs when they take Jackson Hall stage on the summer solstice, Friday, June 21, at 8.p.m. Tickets are \$35 - \$90 and go on sale for the public Friday, March 22. For more information, visit mondaviarts.org.



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Zumanity Re-worked, Did Not Disappoint

words by Fred Palmer, photograph courtesy of Cirque du Soleil

My husband and I fell in love with Zumanity the first time we saw it years ago in Vegas, and we had a chance to see the newest version of the show last month. The re-worked show did not disappoint: it is a naughty, seductive, sensual, erotic, and inclusive celebration of humanity, sexuality and the differences among us all. Be warned (or enticed): this is not a Disney show and is for 18 and over only. The adult-themed, 90-minute production blends playful innuendo with daring eroticism in the intimate Zumanity Theatre at New York-New York Hotel & Casino.



Cirque du Soleil's Zumanity 2Men. Photo by Pierre Manning

The fun and frolic begin with the pre-show, which loosens up arriving audience members as characters engage in playful, teasing, and flirtatious banter, hitting on men and women alike. Sex toys are brandished, and the bodacious twin Botero Sisters, Li and Lu playfully shimmy up to audience members while feeding them strawberries.

The show is emceed by Zumanity's "Mistress of Sensuality" Edie (famed drag diva Christopher Kenney), and features an international cast of 46 performers. According to the producers, the artists of Zumanity are more identifiable as individual characters than in any previous Cirque du Soleil production. The show's seductive theme is highlighted by such traditional circus arts as contortion, acrobatics, aerial stunts, while sensuality comes alive through a multicultural variety of dance genres.

The highlights included sensual female contortionists swimming and playing together in a large glass vessel of water, a muscled, tattooed and mohawked motorcycle-punk breath-taking aerialist hanging from chains and swinging over the audience, as well as the 007-esque square-jawed performer called "Magnum," who slowly revealed his deliciously chiseled physique with a striptease.

Each scene had something for everyone, including two shirtless men engaged in an MMA style, sexy sparring fight-dance that

ends with the two men in a full-mouth kissing embrace. Another favorite of ours was "Midnight Bath," in which a ridiculously handsome and built man plays with a topless woman in a bathtub with champagne in an especially erotic routine. The most provocative act, called "Lazy Susan" was saved for last, and featured a rotating stage with a crowd of comely performers engaged in portraying a "gentle orgy" that, incredibly enough, included on-stage audience participation!

Overall, the refreshed Zumanity is contemporary and inclusive, is still fun and sexy, and is a must-see for your next trip to Las Vegas.

Show Schedule:

Zumanity performs Friday through Tuesday at 7 pm and 9:30 pm.

There are no performances on Wednesday or Thursday.

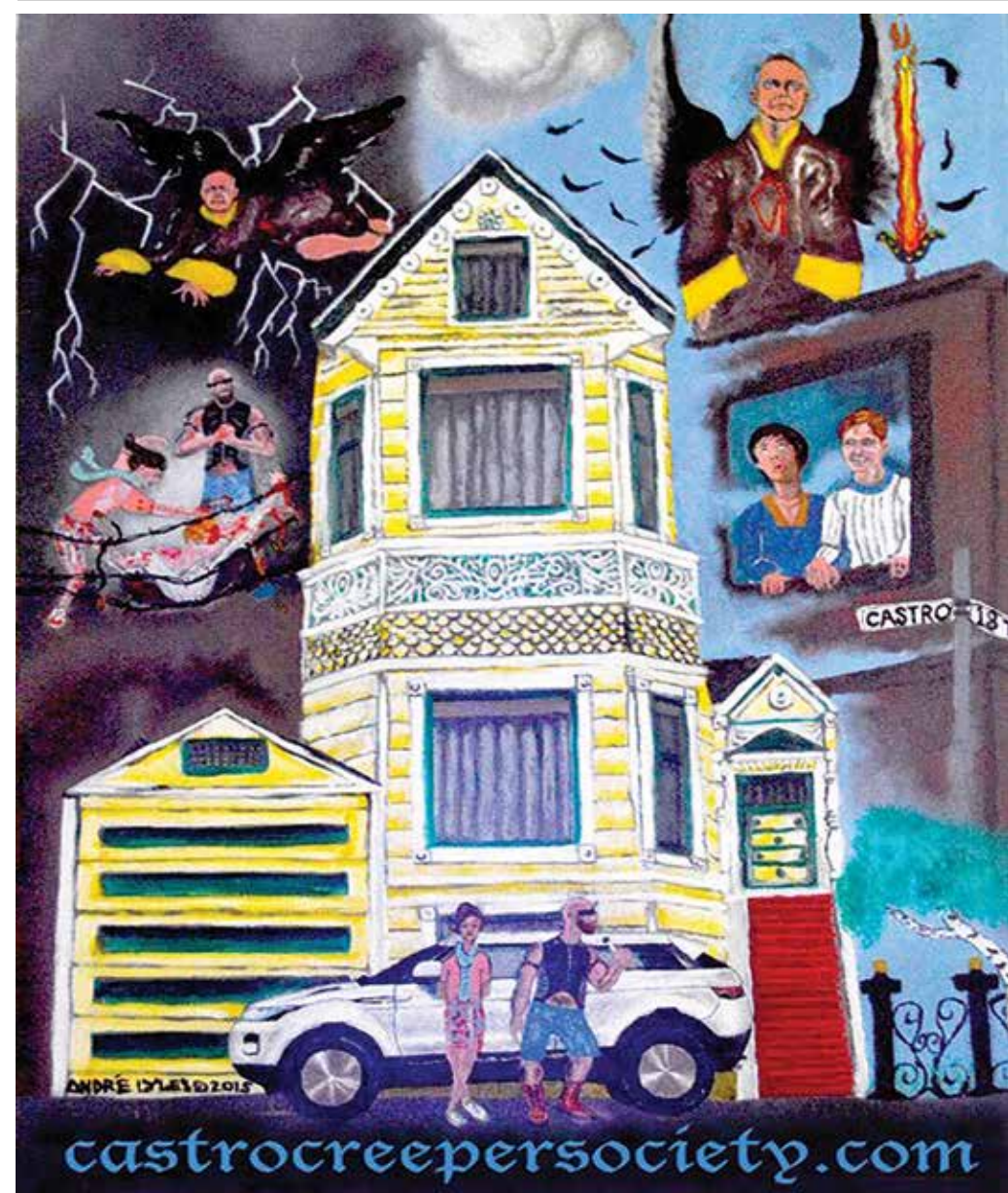
TO RESERVE TICKETS:

Call 866-606-7111 or 702-740-6815.

Go to www.Zumanity.com or www.nynyhotelcasino.com.

Visit the Zumanity ticket office at New York-New York or any of the MGM Resorts International box offices.

Zumanity was created for adults, 18 and over.



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KindRED Pride Foundation Announces RED Shirt Pride Day Around the World – June 1, 2019

The KindRED Pride Foundation announced a new global vision building on the tradition of “gay day” at Magic Kingdom®, which is always held on the first Saturday of June to Kick Off Pride Month.

The KindRED Pride Foundation was inspired by the desire to expand the magic created by the 28-year tradition of the original “Gay Day at Magic Kingdom” in Orlando. The event started with just a handful of people who decided they would meet socially on the first Saturday in June in front of the castle. They would all wear RED t-shirts to identify each other since most had only met on a computer bulletin board service and never all in person.

The event quickly grew to one of the largest LGBT+ annual gatherings in the world. The growth was in part a result of the national media exposure brought on by the protests by far-right groups threatening to boycott. The original attendees unwittingly pioneered one of the first gay travel “destination” weekends. Who could have known the tremendous impact of the original gathering would have on the social fabric of our community as hundreds of thousands of guests from around the world experienced the magic of RED Shirt Pride Day each year and took the stories and images back to their communities.

The KindRED Pride Foundation’s mission is to honor the kindred spirit, bravery, and courage of the original attendees back in 1991 by expanding the “grass roots” desire to bring the community together to celebrate and to support endeavors by like-minded charities within the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Ally (LGBTQIA) community by producing sporting, music, and other special events. The organization is aligning with national, regional, and local non-profits who provide valuable resources to fight bullying, teen homelessness, HIV services, and legal/business/housing services to the LGBT+ community.

Just as on St. Patrick’s Day everyone inclined to express connection to what that day represents by wearing green on March 17th - whether they are Irish or not. So the first Saturday of June will continue to be the day that kindred spirits around the world



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RED on June 1, 2019 no matter where you are in the world.

This builds on the 28-year tradition of people traveling from all over the world to the Magic Kingdom® on the first Saturday of June. At one time, it grew to over 40,000 people but the original mission worked as you can now express yourself every day at Disney. However, that is not true everywhere. “In 1991 the thought of wearing a red shirt with other Compu-Whosers at the Magic Kingdom as scary as it was exciting,” said Michael Jungen. “I am delighted that today, LGBT individuals and kindred spirits celebrate openly and without fear. Hopefully RSPD will be a part of the journey for that same sort of transition in other parts of the world.”

The red in the pride flag represents LIFE. The original organizers chose this color in order to recognize other “kindred spirits” at that first gathering.

What better way to kick off Pride Month than people around the world wearing RED as a celebration of life in all of its different colors, shapes, sizes, genders, orientations, nationalities, ages, abilities, and status.

The first Saturday of June will now be RED Shirt Pride Day Around the World!

Become a #bekindchampion and learn more at www.kindredpride.org.

Chaka Khan & India.Arie Bring the Soul

by Chris Narloch

If you enjoyed the fantastic neo-soul artist H.E.R. on the Grammy’s telecast earlier this year, check out the new discs by two classic soul queens who no doubt inspired the new generation of female R&B performers.

Chaka Khan - Hello Happiness

Apparently, a stint in rehab for addiction to painkillers did Chaka Khan a world of good, because the queen of funky dance music is back with her best new album in years, if not decades.

Khan’s voice is as clear and strong as it was during her peak in the ‘70s and ‘80s on “Hello Happiness,” her indispensable new mini-disc of seven scintillating songs. Rather than padding the release with boring filler, Khan and company keep it short and sweet – pretty much every song is a winner.

I love the way Khan sings the last syllable in the word happiness on the CD’s title track, taking it to a higher place and giving the song a joyous and addictive soulfulness.

Just as good as “Hello Happiness” is the disc’s other single, “Like Sugar,” which has a killer groove that all but dares you to get up and dance.



Chaka Khan



India.Arie – Worthy


I had all but forgotten about this serenely soulful singer, who hasn’t had new music out since she released an EP in 2017. Welcome back to the singer/songwriter of such classic tracks as “Brown Skin,” “Video,” and “I Am Not My Hair.”

The first full-length song on India.Arie’s new release (after the intro) is her superb new single, “What If,” which name checks everyone from Oprah to Malcolm X and imagines a world without such African-American heroes as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

It’s exactly the sort of magnificently melodic message song that made this artist famous in the first place, and I applaud India.Arie for staying true to her vision and her talent.

The singer never sells out or tries to sound “current” on “Worthy.” Rather, she gives her fans 15 or so smoothly soulful songs that stand up to her very best music from back in the day.

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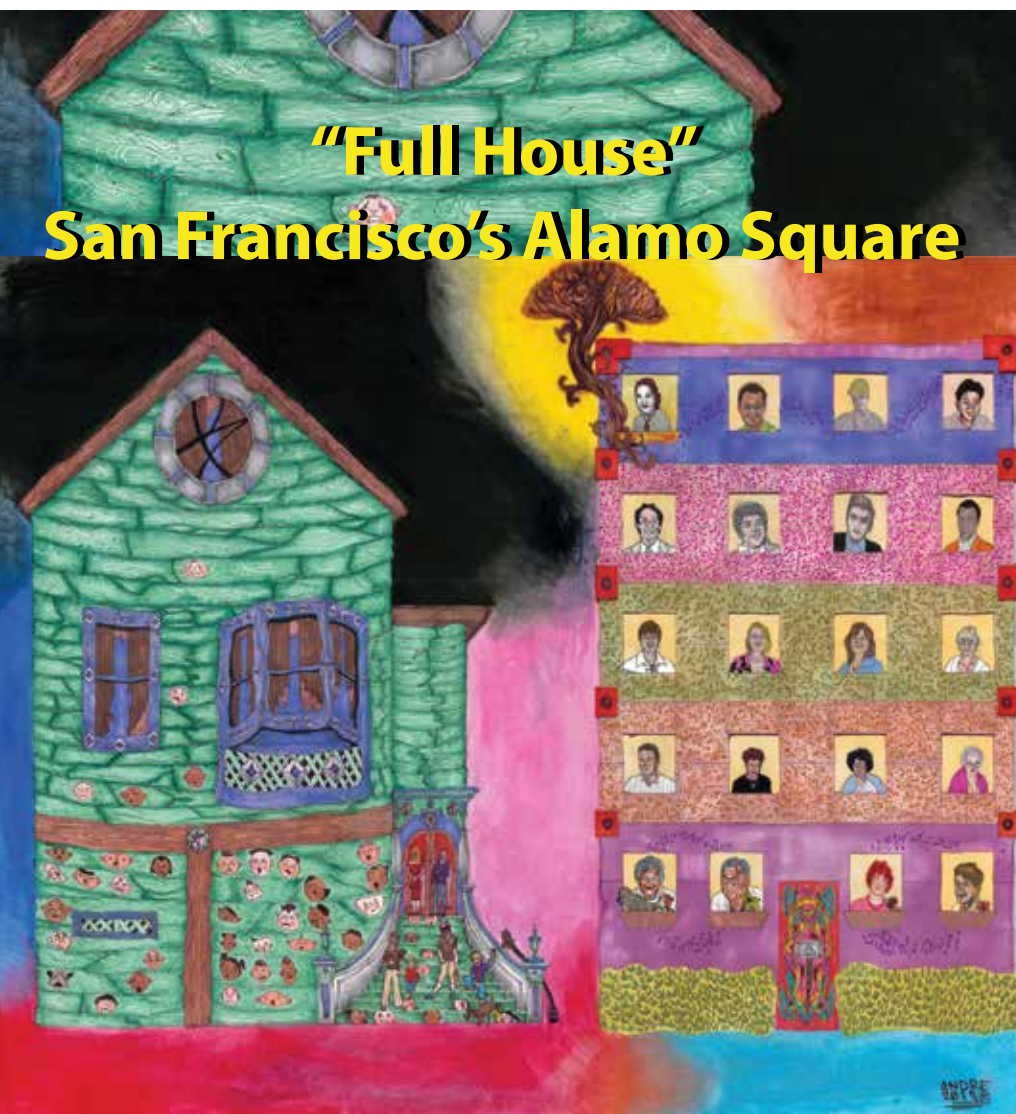


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Edgy and Raw, and Sometimes Cotroversial Art

by Mike Hamlet

John Thiessen's art has been described as raw, edgy, and sometimes controversial. Definitely within the realm of homoeroticism, there is an emotional honesty to his work that elevates the genre into a true art form.



He was attracted to art from an early age, achieving success before leaving high school. But the real inspiration for his work came from the years he walked away from drawing. In 1996, at age 14, Thiessen was diagnosed with HIV. The following years brought other major shocks to his life including the loss of his first partner. This led to a lengthy struggle with drug addiction. In 2016, he began winning his battle with addiction and that's when he returned to his passion, creating artistic expressions gleaned from his life.

At one point, Thiessen worked for the Eagle in Chicago where he saw all sides of the leather scene. He became an instructor, teaching Masters how to work with submissives while keeping their health and safety in mind. Much of this period of his life is reflected in his work, expressing both the pleasure and pain, fear, guilt, joy and remorse he witnessed in both Master and sub.

Much of Thiessen's work is of faceless figures, which he feels draws the viewer into the work and brings them closer to their own experiences, fantasies and sometimes raw emotions. This was the inspiration for the name of his business RawDraw Art.

Artists such as Tom of Finland and M.C.

Escher are cited by Thiessen as influencers of his work. "Tom of Finland's eroticism and expression of men before the AIDS epidemic was incredible and groundbreaking for his time" says Thiessen. "Escher's use of 3D in his works, and how he uses depth to draw viewers into his work is a feeling I try to capture in some of my work, if not in image then by emotion".

Thiessen says his style and ability to capture the viewer's emotions are reflected in his work "We Are All Human", which can be seen on his website www.rawdrawart.com. "Most people are told from an early age that they're angels, but the reality is everyone has dark thoughts, desires, and skeletons in their closet". He says this work reflects the struggle with one's acceptance of being human and the feelings in that first moment after falling into human desire. Other of his works reflect the realization that "we are all entitled to make mistakes, because we are human" and show an almost joyful self-acceptance of learning and growing within ourselves.

Thiessen feels that his art is continuing to develop and that his best works are yet to come. His current works are available for purchase on his website, www.rawdrawart.com.



Exhibit Opening - LGBT community of West Sacramento

When: Wednesday April 3rd 5pm-7pm
Location: History Gallery in side the West Sacramento Community Center - 1075 West Capitol Ave. West Sacramento, Ca. 95691

Neighbors won't you join us for our upcoming exhibit reveal of the early history of the LGBT community of West Sacramento during the 1940s-1980s.

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FB event link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1507191529414512/>

SACBEN Spotlight

Olivia Garcia – Communications Liaison and Quality Management Analyst, River Bend Medical Associates – Vice Chair of the Rainbow PAC

Ogarcia@rbmafamilydocs.com 916-392-4086

What I do: I am an outspoken ally and friend to Sacramento's LGBTQ Community. I have been the Communications Liaison for River Bend Medical Associates since 2015 but began working for the practice ten years ago. River Bend Medical Associate's mission has encouraged my active participation in the Rainbow Chamber as an Ambassador and Sac BEN Member. River Bend Medical Associates is a culturally diverse team that values honesty, integrity, and loyalty in our delivery of compassionate family health care. We are committed to promote and inspire the growth and well being of our employees and the communities we serve. River Bend is Listed as an LGBTQ friendly family practice, and we hope to set an example of explicit, rather than implied support.

How I do it: I am proud to represent the Family Practice that my father helped found in 1992. You can find me networking,volunteering and generally out in our communities educating and informing patients and neighbors alike of all the resources around them. In our offices in West Sacramento and South Land Park, I spend my time managing our patient portal messages, and providing each of our patients with a specialized human experience to managing their healthcare. I treat our patients like they are friends and family simply because they are!

Why I do it: I do what I do because I have always been taught to do what you can for others with what you have. I love my job and feel very privileged to have earned the confidence and trust. My goal is to extend the service capabilities of our caring and talented Physicians and Clinicians so that my neighbors have access to quality medical care with an emphasis on the care of the whole person.

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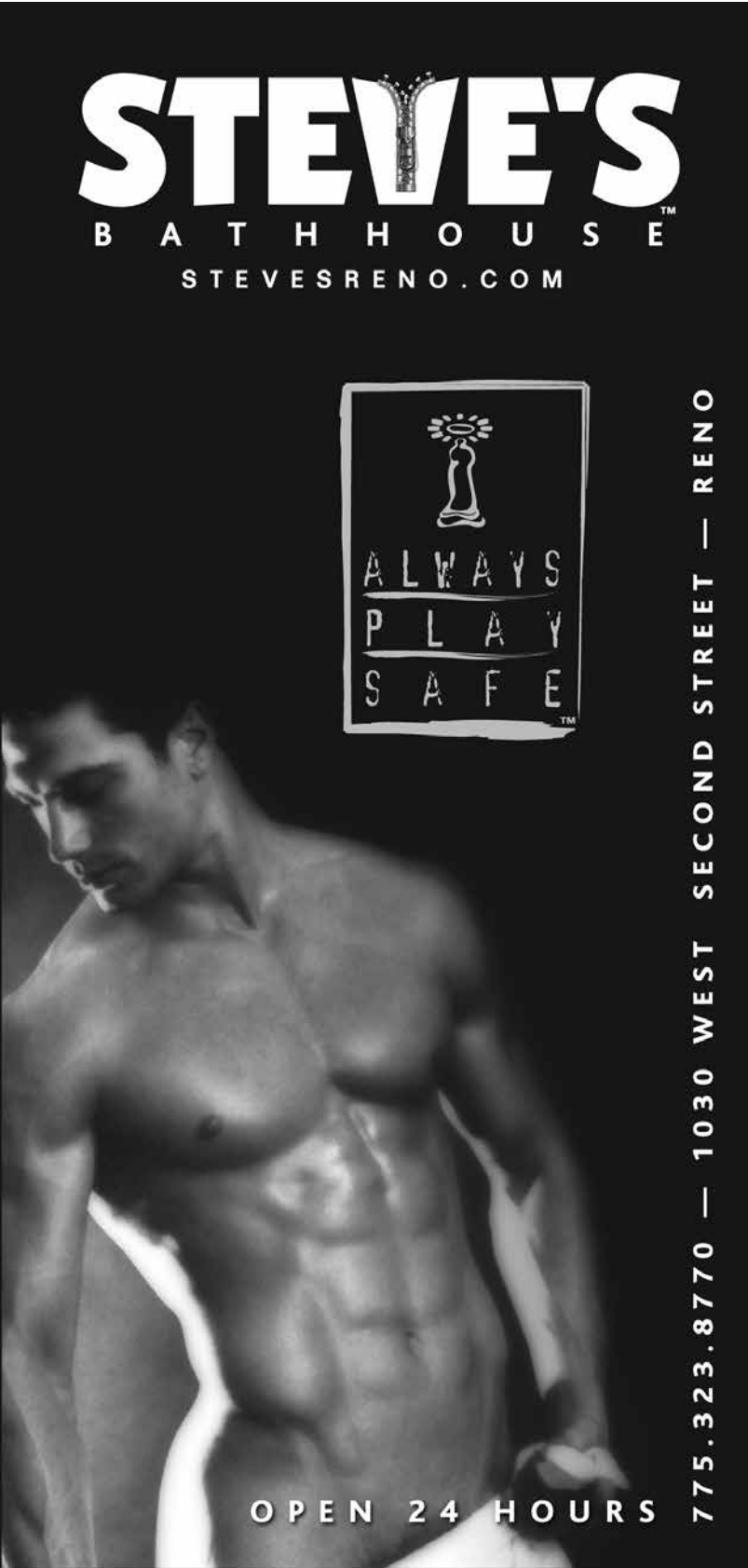
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Sacramento, CA 95819
916-921-9902
www.msautogroup.com

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BADLANDS
2003 K St., 916-441-6823 SacBadlands.com

THE DEPOT
2001 K St., Sac, 916-441-6823 TheDepot.net

SIDETRAX
2007 K St., 916-441-6823
facebook.com/sidetraxsac

CATERING

FAT'S CATERING
916-441-7966
www.fatscatering.com

CHIROPRACTORS

HEALING TOUCH CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Darrick Lawson, 1919 21st St, Ste. 101,
916-447-3344 www.FixMyBack.com

CLEANING SERVICES

HOUSE 2 OM
916-833-8510
www.house-2-om.com

HOUSE CLEANING
916-507-5375
www.saccleanliving.com

COSMETIC SURGERY

SAPOORA MANSHAI MD INC.
2045 Hurley Way #415
916-696-2022

COUNSELING

WEAVE
916-920-2952 (24/7)
www.weaveinc.org

DENTISTRY

ERIC GROVE, DDS
KENDALL HOMER, DMD
9216 Kiefer Blvd., STE 5
916-363-9171
grovehomerdentists.com

SMILE ART DENTAL
3171 Riverside Blvd.
916-446-0203
www.smileartdental.com

DINING/BEVERAGES

ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD
1901 16th St. 916-441-5850
ernestosmexicanfood.com

IL FORNAIO
400 CAPITOL MALL, 916-446-4100
www.ilfornaio.com/sacramento

LA COSECHA - THE HARVEST
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lacosechasacramento.com

LUCCA RESTAURANT & BAR
1615 J St., 916-669-5300
www.LuccaRestaurant.com

MAYAHUEL
Corner of 12th and K St.
916-441-7200

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MIDTOWN FINANCIAL
Al Roche, 1330 21st St., Ste. 201,
916-447-9220 MidtownFinancial.net

HEARING

UNIVERSITY AUDIOLOGIC, INC.
Deborah Powell, M.S., 1325 Howe Ave., Ste.
101, 916-927-3137

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PERFECTION HOME SYSTEMS
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www.HotCold.com

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CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND
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ONE COMMUNITY HEALTH
1500 21st St., 916-443-3299
oncommunityhealth.com

INSURANCE

LELAND INSURANCE
Bill Skinner, 916-428-1309
bill@lelandins.com

STATE FARM INSURANCE
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StephanieSlagel.com

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DEMETRE LANDSCAPES
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LavenderLibrary.com

FRIENDS OF THE SAC. PUBLIC LIBRARY
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916-731-8493

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AMAZING LIMOUSINES
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MyAmazingLimo.com

MEN'S CLUBS

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1030 W. 2nd St., Reno 775-323-8770
www.StevesReno.com

MORTGAGE

MICHAEL POLAND
Movement Mortgage
916-936-3710
michael.poland@movement.com

JEREMY WILLIAMS
Positive Lending
707-592-1732 cell
jeremy@mrhomeloans.com

OPTOMETRY

CAMERON YEE, O.D.
6407 Riverside Blvd., 916-395-0673
DrCameronYee@aol.com

PEST MANAGEMENT

EARTH GUARD PEST SERVICES
916-457-7605
contact@earthguardpest.com

PET SITTING/CARE

GRATEFUL DOG
430 17th Street, Sacramento
916-446-2501
gratefuldogdaycare.com

LUCKY BUDDY PET CARE
916-505-4375
LuckyBuddyPetCare.com

PHARMACY

PUCCI'S PHARMACY
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www.puccirx.com

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www.TimMiguel.com

MCMARTIN REALTY
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brian@brianmcmartin.com
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THEATERS & MOVIES

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO
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West Sacramento Historical Society

Our Journey:

Gay and Lesbian
Bars and Night
Clubs in early
West Sacramento



March 2019 to April 1, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 2019

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

West Sacramento Community Center-History Gallery
1075 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Community Calendar **2019**



MARCH

Mar 27-31 • Cirque du Soleil "Crystal" @ Golden 1 Center
March 28th • RCC & SMUD "Meet the Buyers"

APRIL

April 16th • RCC Mixer at Sac State Pride week
April 30th • SGME Mixer

NCAC
NORCAL AIDS CYCLE

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This year we ride over the Golden Gate Bridge, through beautiful Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Yolo Counties. Join us for a fully supported 4 day ride. SIGN UP NOW AND TRAIN WITH US!

WE RIDE MAY 16-19
Visit: norcalaidscycle.org All levels welcome!
AND SIGN UP TODAY!

2019 EVENTS FOR YOUR PLANNING

May 10 • Outword's Happy Hour - Davis Pride Kickoff
May 16 • Farm to Scholar Dinner - Rainbow Chamber
May 19 • Davis Pride
June 1 • Pride Awards
June 9 • Sacramento Pride
June 1-9 • Pride Week

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Second Friday of the Month
5:30 - 7 pm

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