

Volume 25 • Issue 19 • No. 466 • October 11, 2012 • outwordmagazine.com

Outword

magazine

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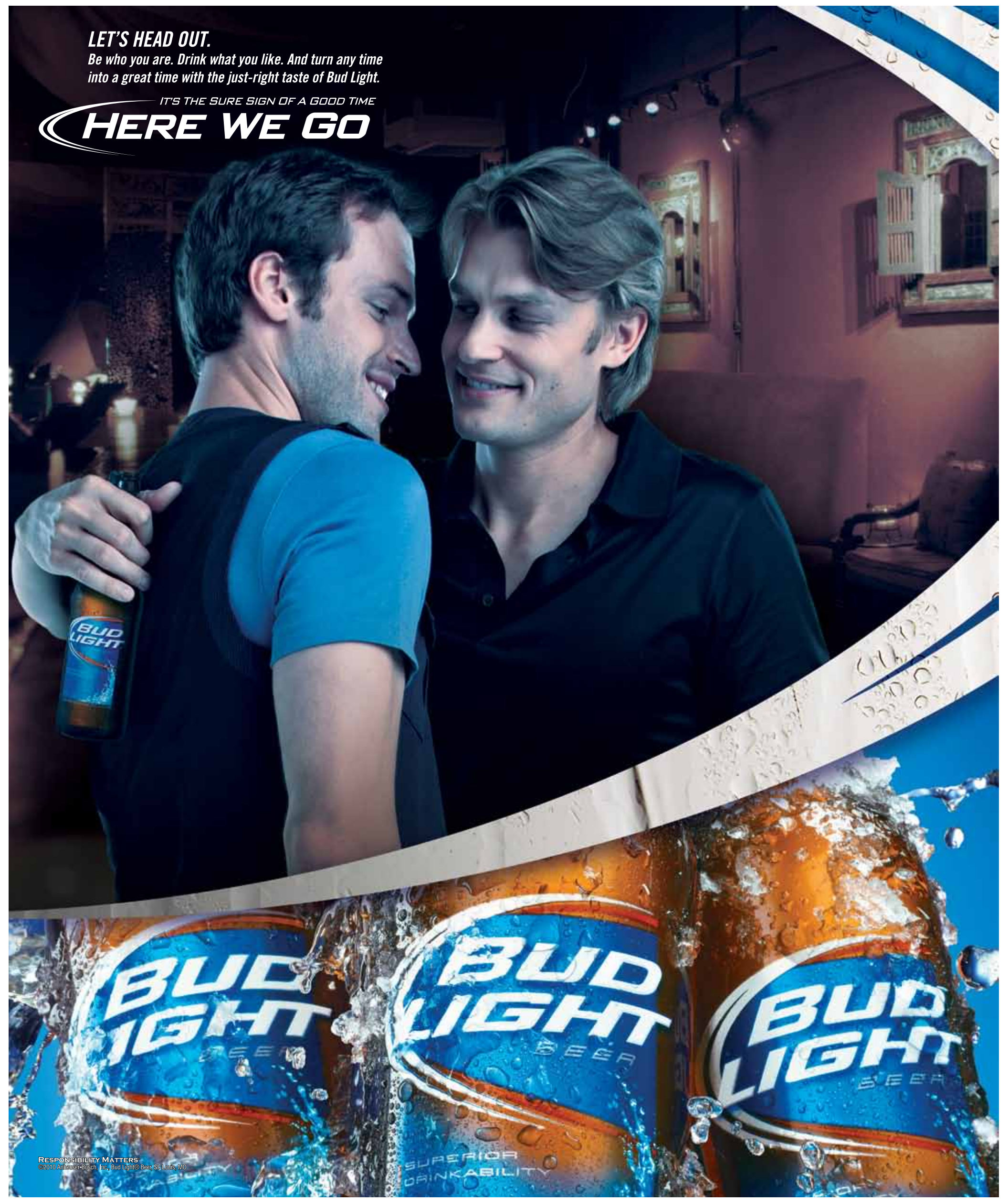


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Letters

Free Mammograms

Sutter Diagnostic Imaging centers throughout the region are offering free mammograms to uninsured women on Saturdays in October in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness month.

The free screening mamograms are from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at varying locations. An appointment is required and space is limited.

To find the location nearest you, visit www.CheckSutterFirst.org/imaging.

Sac. G&L Center Seeks New Board Members

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center has announced its annual request for board member applications.

The Board of Directors is currently looking to expand its membership with specific skill sets. Individuals who will compliment the current board have experience in the faith community, medical/mental health profession, senior services, youth development, accountancy, law and/or experience in corporate management.

Competitive applicants acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. They pledge themselves to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages,

and experiences.

The Center is creating long-term financial sustainability, addressing changing community needs, and ensuring there is always a safe, welcoming place for members of the LGBTQ community to find information, gather and access services.

Board applicants should be willing to be an active participant in community engagement, fundraising and mission actualization.

For more information, contact the Board President at David.Heitstuman@saccenter.org or download the application www.SacCenter.org.

Application deadline is October 31, 2012.

Help Kids with HIV/AIDS Have A Happy Holiday

Dear Outword Readers,

The holiday season is just around the corner and Sunburst Projects is busy preparing for our annual "Adopt-a-Child Project" for the holidays.

This wonderful project serves hundreds of children living with HIV/AIDS each holiday season.

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LETTERS

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Freedom to Marry on Ballot in Four Key States

Marriage for same-sex couples is on the ballot in four states this November, and it will be a pivotal moment for the LGBT movement. In Maine, Maryland and Washington voters have the opportunity to expand the freedom to marry to same-sex couples; and Minnesota voters could make that state the first ever to defeat a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Even a single ballot box win would change the national debate and would reinforce the polls showing growing majorities across the country that support marriage for committed same-sex couples.

In each of these states, ACLU affiliates are actively engaged in local coalitions committed to defending the freedom to marry. With less than 40 days until the election, there is still time to make financial contributions and other opportunities to help win these key battles.

Maine

A diverse and growing coalition of over 100 partners has been working together, under the umbrella organization Mainers United for Marriage since February to demonstrate broad support for marriage for same-sex couples in Maine. The ACLU of Maine is proud to serve as a coalition partner. Executive Director Shenna Bellows and Legal Director Zach Heiden serve on the Executive Committee for the campaign, helping to guide important strategic decisions for a win in November.

For more information about the campaign in general, please visit www.mainersunited.org.

Maryland

Marylanders for Marriage Equality is a coalition of more than 130 groups across the state working to defend the Civil Marriage Protection Act of 2012 from referendum challenge this November, and are recruiting volunteers for phone banks and canvassing, hosting house parties across the state, and supporting efforts to secure the TV and radio ads needed to reach voters.

For more information, visit marylandersformarriageequality.org.

Minnesota

On November 6, Minnesota has a chance to become the first state ever to defeat a freedom-limiting marriage amendment. A strong and vibrant coalition, with over 650 partner organizations ranging from religious organizations, to businesses to non-profits, is standing together to defeat the amendment.

MARRY

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Needle Stick Points Out the Importance of the SVARW

by Joyce Mitchell

HIV/AIDS impacts everyone, just ask Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna who got the scare of his life during the Great American River Clean Up event at Discovery Park on September 15, when he was stuck in the hand with a dirty syringe buried in a pile of rubbish. He was taken to the hospital and has chosen to undergo a drug protocol that reduces the risk of contracting HIV and hepatitis.

What happened to Serna has heightened concerns about HIV/AIDS infections, and the importance of the Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk, which is scheduled for October 13, on the West Steps of the State Capitol at 8 a.m. This year, the fight against HIV/AIDS is more personal than ever for Serna and he will be on hand to kick off the ceremonies with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A needle stick like what happened to Serna is not a common occurrence and he doesn't want to dissuade people from joining in future Sacramento clean-up efforts. Also, the chances reportedly are slim that he will contract HIV or hepatitis. Still, Serna is undergoing the drug protocol. It's not without side-effects that include flu-like symptoms. Serna will be tested throughout the next six months to make sure he has not contracted a disease.

Nonetheless, the problem with syringes is serious. Syringes left scattered in streets and parks most likely were used and probably shared by drug users. When new sterile syringes are not readily available, drug users are more likely to share needles with each other and that leads to the spread of infection with HIV and hepatitis. That's why a needle stick is potentially dangerous.

Though highly controversial, because some argue that syringe exchange encourages drug use, scientific evidence today suggests that is not true. Research also shows that syringe exchange programs are successful in getting dirty needles off the streets when they are turned in for clean ones.

"Dire economic times will result in a growing homeless population, mental health issues and drug addiction," said Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Azizza Davis-Goines. "Desperate people do desperate things and as a result, we are left with syringes scattering our streets and parks where children play." Davis-Goines has also served on the Board of Directors of Capital City AIDS Fund and is well-versed in issues pertaining to public safety

and HIV.

In Sacramento, Harm Reduction Services (HRS) and Oak Park Outreach are non-profits that work with drug users helping them to obtain clean syringes while collecting dirty ones. "Finding the money to support these programs is a challenge," said Davis-Goines. "But it's critical that we do in the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases."

That's just one of the reasons that funds raised by this year Sacramento Valley AIDS/RunWalk are so important. Both HRS and Oak Park Outreach will receive funds from this year's event.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), needle exchange programs are cost effective in reducing the spread of HIV among injection drug users. The WHO's findings are also supported by the American Medical Association.

Syringes are about 10 cents each. The average annual cost of HIV care per person in the United States is \$15,745. Drug users are high risk. "Studies show that syringe exchange has reduced the HIV infection rate in that population by as much as 80 percent in some cities," said Davis-Goines.

"Granted, we don't always hear a lot about it these days. Just the same, HIV/AIDS is not gone," said Davis-Goines. "Syringe exchange can reduce risks of needle sticks for firefighters crawling through dark houses to save lives or quell flames, police officers as they go out on calls, children playing, or Phil Serna performing a good-will public service parkway cleanup."

To help save lives and better protect the community, support the Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk at SacValleyAidsRunWalk.org. There is still time to register for the event, or you can just go online and make a donation. But why not join the fun? It all starts at 7:30 a.m. for on site registration on the West Steps of the State Capitol. Opening ceremonies, with live entertainment and a health fair, start at 8 p.m. and runners take their mark at 8:30 a.m.

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Suit Filed Over Anti-Gay Group's Use of Photo

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and co-counsel have filed a federal lawsuit against an anti-gay hate group that took a gay couple's engagement photo and misappropriated it for a political ad that attacked a Colorado lawmaker's support for same-sex civil unions.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court for the District of Colorado, charges that Virginia-based Public Advocate of the United States misappropriated the likeness and personalities of the couple, Brian Edwards and Tom Privitere.

It also charges that as a result, the couple suffered harm, including mental distress and anguish. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the couple and photographer Kristina Hill of Kristina Hill Photography.

Public Advocate, an organization designated as a hate group by the SPLC, used the engagement photo without permission and digitally altered it to include anti-gay propaganda. That image was used in an ad that attacked Colorado state Sen. Jean White. White lost in the primary.

"We are heartbroken that our images may have been seen by gay and lesbian youth in Colorado and were left feeling ashamed of their sexual orientation because of it," Privitere said. "We hope that this group is held accountable for its reprehensible and hateful anti-gay attacks."

The lawsuit also charges that Public Advocate infringed on Hill's exclusive right to the photo, which is registered with the



U.S. Copyright Office. Unauthorized use of Hill's work jeopardizes her livelihood as a professional photographer and the satisfaction she receives knowing her clients are pleased and will enjoy her work for years.

"It fuels me as a photographer to know that my photographs will be cherished, that they will hang on walls, be passed around at gatherings, put in albums, and that someday maybe children and grandchildren will display these moments in their own homes," Hill said. "To see the photo used as an attack ad is heartbreaking for me."

For more information, see www.splcenter.org.

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Governor Signs – and Vetoes – LGBT Legislation

As a looming deadline approached, Governor Jerry Brown has signed into several laws that effect the LGBT community, while vetoing one.

Among the bills that the governor signed are:

Senate Bill 1140: reaffirms the separation of church and state and clarifies under state law that no member of the clergy will be required to perform a marriage that is contrary to his or her faith. SB 1140 also protects churches from losing their tax-exempt status if they refuse to perform a marriage that is contrary to their faith.

SB 1140 was authored by Senator Mark Leno (D-SF) and sponsored by Equality California and California Council of Churches IMPACT.

AB 1960: directs the California Department of General Services to collect voluntarily submitted information on gay-owned businesses contracting with the

VETOS

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Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

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 Cathleen Galgiani - State Senate District 5
 Mariko Yamada - Assembly District 4
 Roger Dickinson - Assembly District 7
 Ken Cooley - Assembly District 8
 Dr. Richard Pan - Assembly District 9
 Susan Eggman - Assembly District 13
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 Steve Hansen - Sacramento City Council District 4
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 Donald Terry - Rancho Cordova City Council
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 Proposition 29 - Vote Yes
 Proposition 32 - Vote No

**During this election season, Stonewall has contributed more than \$20,000 to these candidates. Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento is a chapter of the National Stonewall Democrats and supports politicians that support equal rights for the LGBT community. Stonewall is a member-based organization – join us today! www.sacstonewall.org
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First Gay Newsmagazine To Air Final Episode

After 20 years in production, In The Life Media (ITLM) has announced that December 2012 will mark the last broadcast of *IN THE LIFE*. At a time when LGBT people were virtually invisible in media, ITLM became the first to bring real stories, struggles and issues about the LGBT experience into living rooms across the country through its public television show, aired locally on KVIE 6.

Beginning as a variety show in 1992, *IN THE LIFE* evolved into its current newsmagazine format throughout the years, becoming the most honored and respected source for LGBT journalism along the way.

In addressing difficult, critical issues, the show regularly gives voice to marginalized individuals, profiles unsung heroes of the LGBT movement and documents its most historic moments. It was the first major, national media outlet to expose the alarmingly high rates of homelessness among LGBT youth, epidemic rates of suicide among LGBT children who are bullied and the discrimination of transgender individuals in the workplace.

"ITLM has had the extraordinary privilege and responsibility of being the only newsmagazine to reflect the diversity of the LGBT communities, daring to tell stories other media outlets - both mainstream and LGBT - did not touch," said ITLM Interim Executive Director Ellen Carton.

Much has changed since *IN THE LIFE* first premiered. LGBT people now figure prominently in television news and media. A majority of Americans, including the President, now support marriage equality. Studies show that visibility is

the driving force behind this rapid shift in cultural attitudes toward the LGBT community. "As the media organization that pioneered LGBT visibility on television," says ITLM Co-Chair Jayne Sherman, "we believe ITLM played a significant role in this historic progress."

The organization will pass the baton onto communities, networks and individuals in the form of an online hub featuring thousands of hours of incomparable and never-before seen ITLM footage. Users can view, share and build on the archive with their own stories, using the power of open source, interactive technology to create a new wave of compelling LGBT media.

"Creating high quality, in-depth journalism is expensive, but digital technologies provide a new way forward," said ITLM Board Co-Chair Henry van Ameringen. "I am immeasurably proud of our legacy and the critical role we've played in the movement. We are committed to preserving our invaluable archive chronicling the evolution of LGBT rights in America with an online product that will continue to advance equality in new and innovative ways."

For more information, visit www.ITLMedia.org

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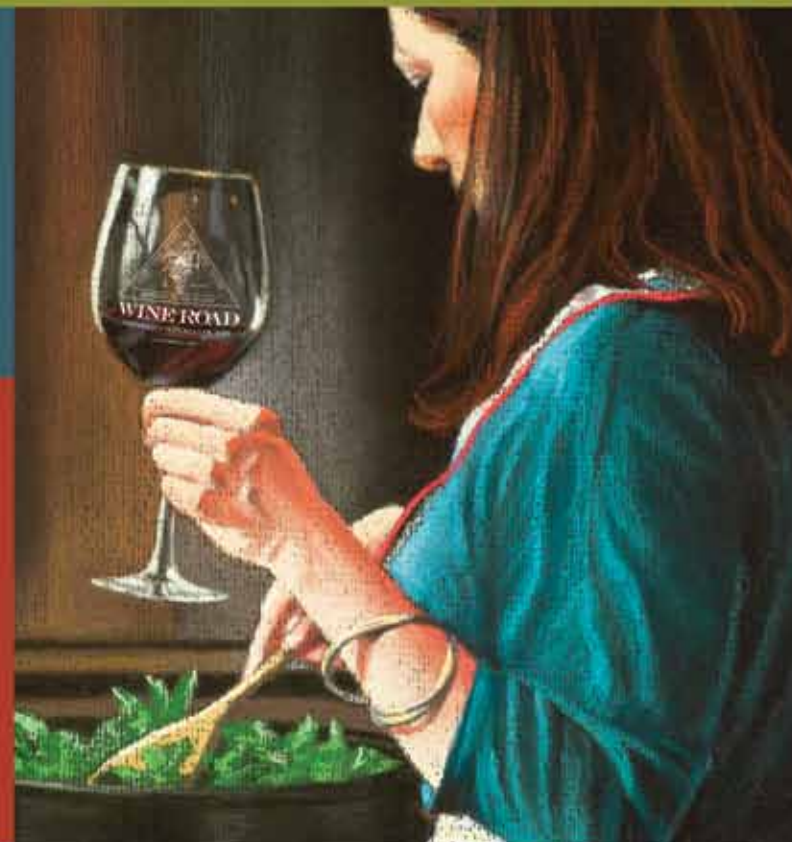
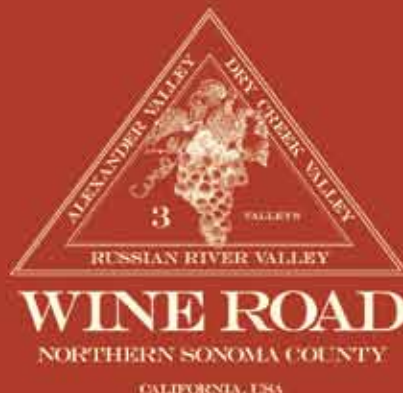
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RuPaul Returns with All-star Version of Drag Race

Get ready for a battle where one false move – or eyelash – could spell doom when the best of the best from seasons one through four assemble for *RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race*, premiering Monday, October 22 on Logo.



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Two Perfect Days In Napa!

Soaring Over the Napa Valley

by Fred Palmer

Want to see the sunrise two times in one morning with a sunset in-between? That's how our pilot on our hot air balloon said he proposed to his wife, and he made it happen for us too. Want to find out how? Then take a hot air balloon ride across the Napa Valley with Balloons Over the Valley.

It all started in the dark early morning, marking the beginning of another perfect day in Napa. At 5:30 in the morning we met the balloon staff at a hotel in Napa, where we were warmly welcomed and served a champagne breakfast.

Meanwhile, other Balloons Over the Valley staffers had already arrived at the flight location in the middle of an open Napa field to blow up and prep the balloon while performing the pre-flight set up.

Once we were all accounted for at the hotel, we were ushered into a large van and taken to the launch site. All we had to do was climb in and watch as we were lifted gently into the cool morning Napa air.

The gondola that they used was quite large and had several compartments of people, about 13 in all on our ride, and we were told it could accommodate up to 16.

The sound of the burner blast was intense at first as our pilot fired up the balloon, but then it became a calming sound as the pilot increased the temperature to increase the speed of our ascent. Once the balloon was in the air, the team that set up the balloon now became the chase team as they followed the balloon in a van, not

knowing really just when, or where, it would come back down.

Our pilot was extremely educated on the subject of ballooning and funny too. He told us a brief history of hot air ballooning, stories of the first trials by two French men, but that the first actual manned flight used condemned criminals in case it went badly. He had fun-filled facts not only about ballooning, but about the Napa region, and even about some of the residents that we flew over.

When he was not talking, the adventure was almost silent as we soared over vineyards and wineries, and at one point, all we heard was a dog barking as he chased the big ball in the sky that was our balloon. The silence was intoxicating as was the scenery.

We were able to fly at low levels to get fantastic views of the Napa valley, then soar up much higher. It is impossible to describe in words all that we were able to see, but honestly, my favorite was being able to see into everyone's backyard and get some cool landscaping ideas. The residents in this area are used to seeing balloons in the air and peaking into their lives, and some actually waved up to us.



Our pilot prepares to land our balloon in a grassy field.

As our time ran out, our pilot spied a few good places to land and gently took us past some tree tops, actually scraping them, as he said, to clean the bottom of the gondola, and then landed us in a large park.

After some photos we were back in the van for a ride our final stop for our Champagne Brunch at the hotel, with all the guests. This truly was an amazing morning and a few glasses of champagne made it all that much more of a

gentle celebration.

If you're thinking that you might be scared, don't be, as the person I went with is afraid of both flying and of heights and he did just fine. I would recommend this as an item to put on your Bucket List, and maybe even check it off more than once.

To book your trip, contact Balloons Over the Valley at 1-800-Go Hot Air 800-464-6824 or www.balloonrides.com.

Sipping Through the Napa Valley on the Wine Train

by Fred Palmer

“Can I get a ticket to San Francisco?” Silly, I know, but on our mid-September trip on the Napa Valley Wine Train a small film company was shooting what looked to be a TV show, and the host actually asked that question as her opening line.



The Wine Train does not go to San Francisco, of course, but you can take a ferry across the Bay, if you like. The train does have 25 miles of track that cross the heart of the Napa Valley, though, where you can ride in nostalgic comfort on a 20th Century railcar.

All the rail cars are expertly refinished, some with Honduran mahogany paneling, etched glass

partitions and period brass accents. Different cars tempt you with everything from white linen service in the Gourmet Car to the relaxed western atmosphere and sliding windows of the Silverado Car.

Your Wine Train adventure starts at the station located in the Oxbow district of downtown Napa, just step away from convenient, luxury hotels. When you book your trip there are several packages to choose from, offering different types of lunches, dinners, several winery tour add-ons and other special events.

They even have one package that serves you in a glass domed observation car to increase your views from a higher vantage point. No matter which one you choose, all meals are prepared on the train using environmentally responsible ingredients, such as humanely raised, hormone free meats and fresh, line-caught fish.

Our excursion was a lunch ride that included a multiple course prix fixe gourmet meal on a 1915 Pullman railcar. Our first course was appetizers and optional wine in the lounge car as the train headed north toward St. Helena. We sat and sipped wine in the luxuriously soft velvet chairs, and watched the Napa Valley go by through the car's picture windows.

I am sort of a train freak and

wanted the opportunity to explore the train, which was perfectly OK with the staff, and I found my way up to the kitchen to watch the chefs in action. I also really enjoyed taking a glass of Champagne to the back of the rear car and standing out on the rear platform, waving at people and channeling Barack and Michelle on their victory tour after his election.

The staff was very knowledgeable on the various types of wines and the wineries that we passed by, but heck, I don't think you can work in this region without being some sort of an expert.

After a couple glasses of wine for me, the train stopped so that the engine could relocate to the opposite end of the train to head back to the station, and we were then off to the main dining car for the second half of our experience. The train continued its slow ride back as we enjoyed the lunch menu – a wonderful selection that featured Grilled Pork Tenderloin, Grilled Salmon or Coriander Seared Chicken, all prepared with fantastic, local, flavorful side dishes. Of course, you can also add wine pairing, and as I said, the staff is well versed on the local offerings and made some wonderful and tasty suggestions for us.

As part of our two wonderfully perfect days in the Napa Valley, we very much enjoyed all that it had to offer and the Napa Valley Wine Train lunch was a great finale to our itinerary.

You can find out more, or book your trip, at www.winetrain.com or call 1-800-427-4124.



Enjoying Culinary Excellence in Napa

by Ron Tackitt

Working for *Outword Magazine* has afforded me many an opportunity to try out new eateries all around Sacramento, and now Northern California. I have eaten amazing food in equally amazing restaurants, but don't know that I have ever been as impressed as I was recently in Napa, at the restaurant Cuvée.

Cuvée is just across the parking lot from the River Terrace Inn, where Fred Palmer and I stayed while we were in Napa (see below) so it was incredibly convenient for us to get to.

Just inside the front door of Cuvée is a large open air seating area with a fire pit in the center. There is a bar to the left, the kitchen to the right and additional dining room seating along the back of the restaurant. Each section had a slightly different feel and decor, without feeling disconnected from the other. The furnishings were modern, yet comfortable and stylish, without being too trendy. Very nice.

The menu at Cuvée provided plenty of choices without being overwhelming and it was well laid-out and easy to understand. They separate their menu into five different sections labeled, First Tastes, Larger Plates, Lounge, Potions and Sugar.

From First Tastes we sampled the Shrimp and Grits and Roasted Golden Beets. The grilled Mexican prawns were cooked perfectly, not a hint of rubberiness, and they were complimented with the grits and other toppings. This could have been a meal in itself.

The beets were amazing and they were laid on top of greens and a whole strip of bacon, which made for a very different presentation than if the bacon were sprinkled on top.

We were also treated to a "Charcuterie Board," a meat and cheese plate. We giggled because at first we had no idea what charcuterie was. However, calling what came out of the kitchen a meat and cheese plate, just wouldn't be fair. It was a brilliant mix of tastes and textures.

For dinner, I enjoyed Short Rib "Pot Roast" over a bed of white corn grits with an amazing Mustard Ale Gravy. It was rich and delicious and the beef practically melted in my mouth. Fred had the Slow Cooked New Zealand King Salmon garnished and cooked with grilled lemon, mushrooms, asparagus and chili oil. Suffice to say that at this time we are running out of superlatives to describe the food we were eating.

Even though we were pretty full by then, it was time to try some of the in-house-made desserts. Sugar, as they call it. So we twisted each other's arms and ordered up Blueberry Cheesecake Crème Brulee and the Farmhouse Cobbler with some vanilla ice cream. The



Pear in a Blanket

manager convinced us that we needed to try the Pear in a Blanket, so we asked that they bring one of those out too!

The crème brulee was simply brilliant, mixing two different deserts in one was a stroke of genius. The cobbler was delicious and we were also treated to a visit from the pastry chef, Sally Pereira-Cox, who brought out her specialty, the Pear in a Blanket. She was sweet, and her dessert creations were some of the best I have ever indulged in. Her family owns the local pear farm from where the fruit was sourced. (See sidebar written by Sally).

Fred and I spent several hours at Cuvée drinking, sampling, eating and eating some more. The staff was courteous and friendly, and seemed genuinely so. They certainly ensured that every aspect of the evening came together beautifully. It was a wonderful experience. Not only did we leave with (overly) full bellies, we left wishing Cuvée Napa wasn't quite so far away.

So the next time you plan a getaway, consider taking a trip to the Napa Valley and enjoying the many treats you can find at Cuvée Napa. They are located at 1650 Soscal Ave. in Napa. You can reach them at 707-224-2330 or online at www.cuveenapa.com.

Handsome Charm on the River's Edge

by Ron Tackitt and Fred Palmer

A lot of hotels, all over the world, have upped their game by offering amazing accommodations for the weary traveler. I would say that the River Terrace Inn Napa fits nicely into that mold, offering a boutique hotel feel with lots of handsome charm and world-class hotel service at the same time.

The River Terrace Inn is located in an older part of downtown Napa known as the Oxbow District. This area is seeing a renaissance, with new businesses opening up, like the Oxbow Market and Cuvée restaurant, and just steps away is where the Napa Valley Wine Train starts and ends its tour.

The River Terrace Inn is a pretty imposing building, but it is styled in a very traditional manner with stone walls, soft grey paint and classic white trimmed balconies with French doors. Inside is traditional, but also updated. Leather seating, soft velour and dark woods abound.

First impression of a hotel always begins with the staff at check in, and The River Terrace Inn staff was amazing, making us feel not only welcome, but that we were special guests. Not only that, but they, as well as the concierge, were very knowledgeable about all that the Napa area has to offer, and even

gave us some great suggestions for wine tasting, breakfast and dinner, (although we had plans at Cuvée just outside the hotel) and other activities to make our stay in Napa memorable.

Just outside the back of the lobby and past the wine bar, where they feature local tastings, is the Napa River, with a wonderful outdoor sitting area and firepit, as well as the private and quiet poolside looking out onto the river. Also along the Riverfront the property has some wonderful seating benches along a walking path that let you enjoy the quiet and stillness of this rustic area in the middle of a bustling city, just what the doctor ordered.

Oh yeah, in midst of all these wonderful settings there is a hotel and my room. LOL. Upon entering my room I was more than impressed, first step the bathroom, not just because I had to use it, but I love seeing what a hotel bathroom looks like, doesn't everyone?

Granite countertops, fluffy white towels, bamboo soaps, yep this works just fine! The shower was fantastic with a double headed shower head for a nice long hot shower later after a fun filled day, as well as a huge jetted soaking tub which I planned to use with a nightcap later in the evening.

My room had a lovely outdoor balcony with teak wood chairs to sit in and enjoy the river view. The only problem with the room is that there are too many perfect spots to enjoy a glass of wine or a cocktail!

My stay was, I was already regretting, a short one with just one night at The River Terrace Inn, but as I melted into the comfy king sized bed I knew this was going to be a perfect night, capping off two perfect days in the Napa Valley.

I highly recommend a visit to the River Terrace Inn, as it is not only wonderful but also convenient to all things Napa. It is now my go to place for a short getaway or anytime I have out of town visitors that I want to whisk away for an easy escape from Sacramento. This trip really reminded me how lucky we are to live in this region and have tons to do right in our own backyard.

River Terrace Inn Napa is located at 1600 Soscal Ave. in the heart of Napa. Reach them at 1-866-Napa-Fun or 707-320-9000 and on line at www.riverterraceinn.com

Farm Fresh Pears Make Deserts at Cuvée True Treats

by Sally Pereira-Cox

One of my favorite parts of being the Pastry Chef at Cuvée Napa is being able to use fresh fruits grown on my family's farm as key ingredients in my pastry creations. Especially in pear harvest season when the freshest and sweetest pears can be used in so many tempting ways, my favorite of which is Pear in a Blanket.

My family's farm is called Alhambra Valley Beef and Pears, and we sell grass-fed beef, pears and walnuts. The farm is located in Martinez and we have had it since 1907, and that is a sweet story in itself. The farm is now 600 acres and is my grandfather's farm and my grandmother's farm combined, as were their lives, as they were neighbors who grew up to fall in love and get married.

Our pear orchard is made up of over 500 trees; Mostly Bartlett, but we also have French Butter Pears and Seckles. Some of our trees are more than 80 years old. We tend to them using organic and dry land farming methods, which gives our pears a super intense flavor unlike any fruit you will taste.

Originally we sold to Del Monte but that



Sally Pereira-Cox showing off her specialty dish, the Pear in a Blanket.

ended when we became too small of a farm for them to deal with. This was the best thing to ever happen to us though, and we took to selling to

local markets and restaurants. Not only did we make a better profit, but we got to sell on a one-on-one basis, meeting the many wonderful people that are our neighbors.

We quickly became known as the "pear people" and people lined up to get them. We only go to ten farmers' markets in Contra Costa County, the most we can handle because ours is a completely family-run business. My aunts, uncles, cousins, mom, dad, husband, kids, family friends and myself are our sole team in raising, growing and selling all of what we produce.

I grew up on the farm and now live only a few minutes from it. I absolutely love everything about it and I am involved with it and my family every day.

A lot of my inspiration for desserts and pastry came from my 92 year old great aunt Luzaire who still helps on the farm. Come to Cuvée Napa in the fall for Luzaire's famous Petal Bread that I put on the menu every year. It is a simple recipe, coated dough pieces that stick together like a rose and you dip in different sauces, but their cinnamon-sugary-buttery goodness is best described in one word - Yum!



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Nadia G Offers Tips for a Knock-Out Holiday Party

She's cooking up a storm on Nadia G's Bitchin' Kitchen (Cooking Channel), setting new style trends for television chefs, turning out cutting-edge cookbooks and rockin' new music videos. Now she is turning her unconventional eye to the holiday party season to help you throw the perfect bash.

Any way you look at it, Nadia G's spicing things up to make your holiday party the hottest event of the year. Here's her advice to make your party the talk of the town, and one of her favorite cocktail recipes to help you become an entertainer extraordinaire:

choose from at the end of the night. • Send the guests home with something you've created in your kitchen. "Everyone loves my Homemade Hot Cocoa mix. I add a little cayenne and some cinnamon to step it up," says Nadia. "Gifted in a glass jar or a tin with a bright ribbon, it's my personal way to



Nadia making a bowl of her Pomagrenade Punch, a great way to punch up your holiday parties.

hostess should enjoy her holiday party every bit as much as the guests," says Nadia. "The best way to get yourself out of the kitchen is to prepare foods ahead that will taste great at room temperature. By letting guests serve themselves, everyone can eat on their own time giving the hostess time to kick back and relax with her own cocktail and spend quality time with friends."

• Let the guests be their own bartenders. Nadia G recommends a vodka punch like her Pomagrenade Punch (recipe below) or a DIY mixers bar: stock a table with bowls of bite sized fresh fruit and herbs that have been soaking in liquor and simple syrup. Serve these gourmet mixers with chilled bottles of unflavored - and flavored-vodkas (Hint: flavored vodkas from Van Gogh Vodka make everyone an instant expert bartender with their smooth, authentic taste and vibrant colors), carbonated water, rum and white wine. Guests will have a blast mixing and matching cocktails and experimenting with new combinations!

• Give them something sweet - and don't forget the coffee. Topping off the evening with coffee is always a good idea; have regular and decaf on hand for guests to

say Happy Holidays at the end of the night."

• And of course the most important part of a party is the music; as Nadia says, music can make or break a party. If the host or hostess doesn't have any musical taste, get a friend to make a playlist for the party.

For more information, interested chefs and party planners can find Nadia's bitchin' party guide included in her latest cookbook, *Cookin' for Trouble*.

Nadia's Pomagrenade Punch

- 1 cup Van Gogh Pomegranate Vodka
1 fresh red hot chili, seeded and sliced paper thin
2 large pomegranates, seeded
1/2 cup pomegranate juice
1 bottle chilled champagne or sparkling wine
4 mandarins, finely sliced
1/4 cup maple syrup (optional - depending on desired sweetness)
Ice

Directions: In a large bowl combine pomegranate vodka, chili, and pomegranate seeds. Cover and marinate in fridge for 30 minutes. Add the rest of ingredients when ready to serve.

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Taylor's Market Tops *Sunset's* "Local Food Shops"

Taylor's Market - Sacramento's iconic butcher and grocer for more than 50 years - took the top spot on *Sunset* magazine's list of "The New Grocers" - neighborhood grocery stores that are becoming popular again as eaters look to fill their pantries with all things local.

The list includes nine grocers from California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah and Washington, with details about their "cool factor" and "popular local brands" that each store carries.

Taylor's Market's "popular local brands" include "Wintun Ranch grass-fed beef" and "local legend Pasta Dave's fresh noodles." What makes them so cool? *Sunset* says it is their combo of old-fashioned service with up-to-date sourcing and their thick cut, crunchy sauerkraut, made with whole spices.

You can get an insider's look at both of these local brands, starting with a trip to Wintun Ranch on Sunday, October 21, from noon to 6 p.m. when Taylor's Market presents Butchering 101 ~ Wintun Ranch Field Day and Dinner at the Ranch.

The event includes: guided tours of Wintun Ranch; discussion about Wintun Grass-fed Beef; a Butchering 101 class with Taylor's head butcher and co-owner Danny Johnson, as he breaks down a whole side of Wintun Ranch beef; and an early evening Ranch-style Dinner prepared by the chefs of Taylor's Kitchen.

Tickets are \$75 (not including wine or gratuity) and can be purchased at Taylor's Market, or online (with a \$5.12 EventBrite surcharge) at www.taylorismarket.com.

For those wanting a less adventurous peek into what makes Taylor's Market special, you can learn the secrets of making delicious fresh pasta with local legend Pasta Dave Brochier when he teaches a Pasta Making Class at Taylor's Kitchen on Monday, October 15 at 6 p.m.

Pasta Dave will share his secrets for making fresh pasta using time honored recipes and methods, focusing on making orecchiette, a rustic pasta from Southern Italy.

"This class will give people the skill set that they need to make fresh, really good pasta, using just their hands and a knife," said Brochier. "Home cooks and food lovers will learn how to make dough, the different characteristics of dough, and take home basic pasta recipes they can customize."

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at Taylor's Market online (with a \$3.19 EventBrite surcharge) at www.taylorismarket.com.

Taylor's Market recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary on August 12 with an Anniversary Gala that raised \$3,500 for Sacramento Children's Home. *Sunset's* top New Grocer is located at 2900 Freeport Blvd. and Taylor's Kitchen is located next door.



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Entertainment by Chris Narloch

New Streisand, Heart CDs Plus Cher Lloyd

From Lady Gaga to Katy Perry and Rihanna, female artists have dominated the charts over the last year or two. This month, Cher Lloyd, a young singer from the U.K. enters the fray on the U.S. charts with her new CD.

I also review the latest releases from two of the most popular female acts in the history of pop music, Barbra Streisand and Heart.

Barbra Streisand Release Me - Columbia

When I first heard about this CD - a collection of 11 previously unreleased tracks from the singer's private music vault - I was skeptical that the disc would contain anything worthwhile. After all, if these songs were any good, why were they unreleased?

Now that I have actually heard the results, I've changed my mind. Barbra Streisand is such a perfectionist that even her "failures" are fascinating, and let's face it - even when she has an off day, she is a more interesting singer than most other artists at their peak.

Three of the best tracks on the new disc are, not surprisingly, Broadway show tunes. (Streisand became a star on Broadway in the '60s and has returned to it vocally, although not in person, often and with great success.)

"Being Good Isn't Good Enough" (from *Hallelujah, Baby!*) kicks off the CD in style, and Streisand closes the disc with a powerful version of "Home," a beautiful ballad from *The Wiz*. In between, she offers a lovely pairing of "How Are Things In Glocca Morra?" (from *Finian's Rainbow*) with "Heather On The Hill" (*Brigadoon*).

Not everything here works. A couple of the tracks suffer from imperfect production and/or are wrong for Streisand's voice. Even so, it's fascinating to hear her experiments with jazz ("Lost in Wonderland") and quasi-country (on "Try To Win A Friend").

Release Me also boasts



compelling covers of the standard "Willow Weep For Me" and of Randy Newman's great lyric, "I Think It's Going To Rain Today." Yet the capper for diehard fans will no doubt be the singer's duet with herself on the sweet song "Mother and Child." Barbra Streisand singing with Barbra Streisand? That's "like buttah."

Heart Fanatic - Legacy

The Wilson sisters are back with a kick-ass rock-and-roll CD that banishes all memories of mellow, middle of the road music like

"These Dreams" and "Alone."

Ann and Nancy give *Fanatic* a raw and real sound, reminding listeners that the pair started out as teenagers performing in Seattle, home of Pearl Jam and Nirvana. Key tracks: "Dear Old America," "Million Miles" and the tasty title track.

Cher Lloyd Sticks & Stones - Epic

Bubblegum music has never been hotter on the charts than it is currently. From Carly Rae Jepsen and Justin Bieber to Owl City and



Karmin, killer hooks that stick to your brain like cotton candy are all the rage in pop music.

The kings and queens of bubblegum will have to make way for this upstart from the U.K., who has the personality and the sass to distinguish her self from the crowd. Key tracks: "Want U Back," "Grow Up" and "Swagger Jagger."

Sac Ballet Does Shakespeare

Sacramento Ballet kicks off its 58th Season with the greatest love story of all time, "Romeo & Juliet," with choreography by Ron Cunningham, who is celebrating his Silver Anniversary as Artistic Director of Sac Ballet.

Twenty-five years is a long time in "dance years," and Sacramento Ballet will be celebrating Cunningham's achievement all season with special events and parties. One such event is "Romeo & Juliet's Renaissance Party" on October 13, which will allow fans to step back in time inside a recreation of an authentic Renaissance Ballroom of the 15th Century.

The evening will include entertainment by Sac Ballet dancers in period costumes, as well

as Renaissance music, food and libations. That should have you

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Calendar

compiled by Charles Peer

Oct

Thursday, 11

the festivities at 8 a.m. West Steps, State Capitol Info: sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

SIGLFF - SHORT FILMS NIGHT

The Sacramento International G&L Film Festival short film night features 13 short films from around the world, including *Prowler*, winner of the SIGLFF 2012 Completion Grant by Dawn Deason. \$10. 7:30 p.m. The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Info: SIGLFF.Org

AN AMETHYST AFFAIR

River City Sparkle 2012 celebrates transgender unity and experience with an elegant evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment for the whole transgender community. 6 p.m. Martinique Ballroom, Red Lion Hotel, 1401 Arden Way. Info: rivercitysparkle.org

SACRED CITY DERBY GIRLS

The women of flat track roller derby are strapping on their skates for two bouts, the first pits the Sacred Sacrificers against the B.ay A.rea D.erby Girls and in the second the Sacred Disciples roll against the Resurrection Roller Girls. 7 p.m. Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J St. Info: SacredCityDerbyGirls.com

ARTFUL ANIMALS

The Kennedy Gallery celebrates the opening of their new, expanded space with a special show of whimsical objects and paintings inspired by domestic and untamed animals, to benefit the Sacramento Zoo. Kennedy Gallery, 20th & L St. Info: kennedygalleriesac.com

JAMMIN' JO GOLF

Jo's hitting the links and wants you to join the fun, with golf, prizes, food and fun. \$50. Bradshaw Ranch Golf Course. Info: JamminJo.com

HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT

The American singer-songwriter, actor, teacher, out lesbian and activist for social change has a strong folk tradition reminiscent of Woody Guthrie and the Weavers. 8 p.m. Main Stage Theatre, Center for the Arts, 314 W. Main St., Grass Valley. Info: 530-274-8384 TheCenterForTheArts.org

PRODIGES - BEETHOVEN & BEYOND!

Michael Morgan conducts the Sac. Philharmonic with guest artist Conrad Tao, piano and the U.S. Premiere of *Páng*, an orchestral work by Tao. 7:30 p.m. Community Center Theatre, 1301 L St. Info: 916-808-5181 SacPhil.org

SIGLFF - WOMEN'S FEATURE

The Sacramento International G&L Film Festival kicks off its 21st year with *Cloudburst*, starring Olympia Dukakis & Brenda Fricker, plus the short *quiet de luxe*. \$10. 7:30 p.m. The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Info: SIGLFF.Org

Friday, 12

OUTWORD'S HAPPY HOUR

It's been a long week, so come and unwind with a very special Happy Hour at The Depot. We will have some great raffle prizes and, of course, TJ has some great drink specials. 5:30 - 7 p.m. The Depot, 2001 K St. Info: OutwordMagazine.com

SIGLFF - MEN'S FEATURE

The Sacramento International G&L Film Festival men's feature is *Zenne Dancer*, a contemporary story of three unlikely friends filmed in Turkey, plus the short *Shabbat Dinner*. \$10. 7:30 p.m. The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Info: SIGLFF.org

PAPI'S SEXY WHITE PARTY

Club Papi is bringing their *White Party* to Sacramento, with a live performance by *RuPaul's Drag* race alumni Jessica Wild, LA's *Caramelo Latin Strip Show*, and DJ dancing on three caliente dance floors. Wear white and get a free Papi CD. Sponsored by CARES, celebrating National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. 9 p.m. FACES, 2000 K St. Info: ClubPapi.com

HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT

The singer, songwriter, activist and the voice of women's music is releasing a new CD, *Peace Becomes You*, and will be singing from it, as well as many of her hits. \$25. 7:30 p.m. CSA Event Center, 1275 Starboard Dr., West Sacramento, Info: 916-374-9177 csaeventcenter.com

FAIRWAYS TO FAIRYTALES

An 18-hole day on the green competing for the Humpty Dumpty Trophy, plus buffet dinner, raffle, live auction and awards presentation. Empire Ranch Golf Club, Folsom. Info: fairytaletown.org

Saturday, 13

SAC VALLEY AIDS RUN/WALK

It's time for the leather to hit the road as hundreds of runners and walkers step off to raise money for local HIV/AIDS service agencies. You can still join the fun, with late registration starting at 7:30 a.m. and



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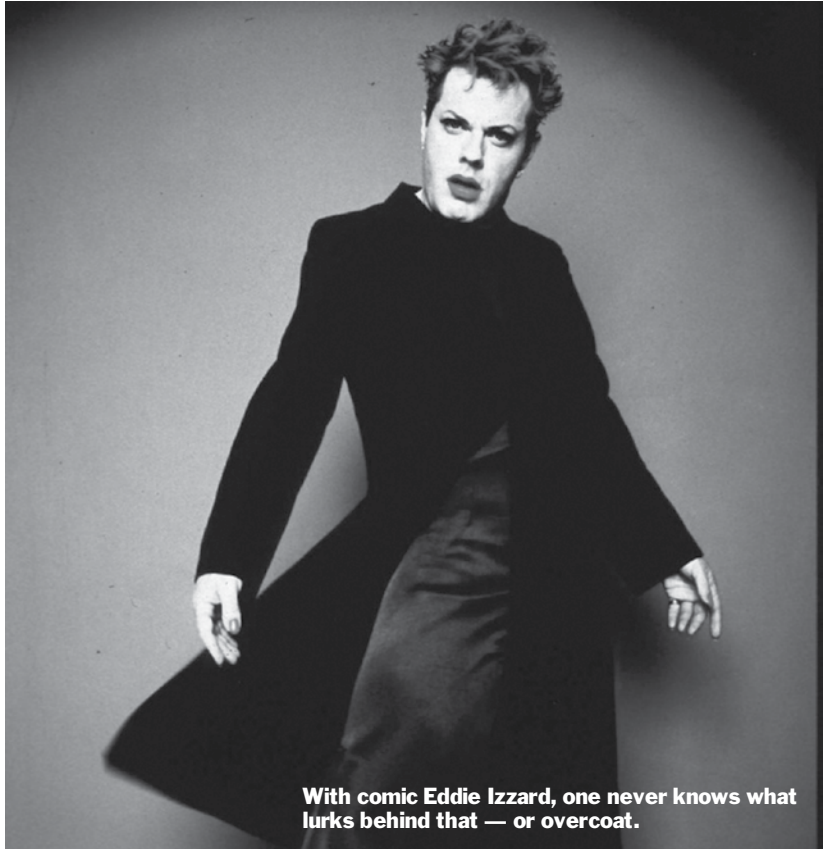
Old Sacramento to Midtown

Eddie Izzard to Appear at the Mondavi

Eddie Izzard has been known to appear on stage in a dress with full makeup. No word yet if he will be clothed as a man or a woman, but either way you can be sure Izzard will have the audience in stitches when he takes the stage of the Mondavi Center in Davis for an evening of standup on Friday, October 26 at 8 p.m.

Izzard has been hailed as one of the foremost stand-ups of his generation; his bizarre, tangential, absurd and surreal comic narratives are lauded for their creativity and wit.

The cross-dressing comic is developing an equally stellar reputation as a film, television and stage actor. For more information, visit www.MondaviArts.org.



With comic Eddie Izzard, one never knows what lurks behind that — or overcoat.

Sacramento's LGBT Community Center

FAMILY & FRIENDS

PICNIC DAY

Sunday, October 14, 2012

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Natomas Racquet Club:
2450 Natomas Park Drive
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Visit www.saccenter.org or (916) 442-0185 for details and tickets.

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The Word is out.

Leather Community Ready to Select Mr. Bolt 2013

All good things must come to an end, and so it is with deep regrets that Mr. Bolt Leather 2012 Miguel Rubio readies for the Mr. Bolt Leather 2013 Contest, which will select his successor.

Rubio has worked tirelessly over the past year, not only representing The Bolt in many leather functions across Northern California and the Bay Area, but also in raising funds for local charities and HIV/AIDS service agencies.

The new Mr. Bolt will be selected on Saturday, Oct. 20, but the festivities begin with a Contestant Meet & Greet at The Bolt at 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 19. This is a great chance to not only meet the contestants, but also some of the judges and leather dignitaries that will be participating.

For the main event, which begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday, October 20 at The Bolt, Rubio has gathered an impressive array of leather stalwarts. Mr. Michigan Leather 2004 Bob Rose will be the Master of Ceremonies and International Mr. Leather 2012 Woody

Woodruff will serve as Head Judge.

Additional judges include Woman of the Year of the SF Leather Alliance Leland Carina, Black Leather Chazz, Mr. Bolt Leather 2008 Jake Anderson and Northern California Leather Sir Thomas Pupp. Also bringing their leather expertise to the event will be special guests Nick Elliot, International Mr. Bootblack 2012; Lenny Broberg, International Mr. Leather 1992; Gabe Simms, Mr. Texas 2012; Michael Zane, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2012; and Jessie Vancel, Mr. SF Leather 2012.

On Sunday, October 21 the new Mr. Bolt Leather will celebrate his win with a Victory BBQ starting at 4 p.m.

"This event plays a significant role in spreading a positive message about our



Miguel Rubio is surrounded by former Mr. Bolt Leathers following his selection as Mr. Bolt Leather 2012 last October. Who will the new Mr. Bolt Leather be? Find out at The Bolt Bar on Saturday, October 20.

Leather Community," Rubio says, and he hopes you will join him.

All events will take place at The Bolt Bar,

located at 2560 Boxwood St. and there is no cover. For more information call 916-649-8420 or visit SacBolt.com.



Let's Hear it for the Undies

Harry Andrew writes about what's new in the world of underwear in *Compete Magazine's* First Annual Underwear issue, along with some great photos, like this one sporting a pair of Stud Carlson Briefs. The history of undergarments goes as far back as early man wearing a loin cloth — but oh my, how far we've come since loin cloths! In addition to a comfortable fit, today's man wants his underwear to reflect his personal style and to be appropriate for both his day and night activities. Enjoy more photos of the latest styles at www.CompeteNetwork.com.



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2013 Calendars Feature Great Photography and Hot Models



One of the best parts about October is the lineup of the new year's calendars start coming out. Village Lighthouse, Inc. celebrates the release of its largest collection of wall calendars ever with 32 titles published under the brands 10%, PROVOCATEUR and BIG Daddy. Find your favorite "fridge art" at www.villagelighthouse.com/calendars.

Calendar

continued from page 20

Sunday, 14

FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC DAY
LGBT families and allies gather for a picnic day with games, relays, live entertainment, swimming and great picnic fare. 1 - 6 p.m. Hosted by Sac G&L Center. Natomas Racquet Club, 2450 Natomas Park Dr. Info: 916-442-0185
SacCenter.org

The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Visit sacbolt.com/mbl2013contest.html for a list of the impressive judges and leather dignitaries.

OLD CITY CEMETERY LANTERN TOUR
Costumed docents and some lost souls share the stories of the untimely deaths by murder, mayhem or the unusual of our historic and notable cemetery residents by lantern light. \$30. 7, 7:45, 8:30 & 9:15 p.m. Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Info: 916.264-7839 OldCityCemetery.com

Monday, 15

SAC VALLEY VETS MEETING
Join this LGBT veterans and active duty group for their monthly meeting and get together. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-436-7676
www.sacvalleyvets.com

BLOOD MOON REGALE
The best fire show of the year with Vulcan Crew coming from the Bay area, Controlled Burn from Reno, Obsidian Butterfly from River City, the Unmata fire people and more. \$10. 7:30 p.m. ignition. Hot Italian, 1627 16th St. Info: BloodMoonRegale.com

CAPITAL CITY VOLLEYBALL
Come cheer on your favorites, six games to choose from in two divisions, starting at 7, 8 & 9 p.m. Jackson Sports Academy, 5237 Walnut Ave. Info: SacVBall.com

MAKING PASTA WITH PASTA DAVE
Dave Brochier shares his secrets for making fresh pasta using time honored recipes and methods, focusing on making orecchiette, a rustic pasta from Southern Italy. 6 p.m. Taylor's Kitchen, 2900 Freport Blvd. Info: 916-443-6881
www.TaylorsMarket.com

MIDTOWN ARTS FESTIVAL
Performance programs on two stages, artist and craft vendor booths, a Kid's Arts Area and interactive arts activities for all ages. Free. 20th & J Sts. Noon - 6 p.m. Info: ExploreMidtown.org

BURN THE RIVER
Sacramento Valley Spark hosts their annual post-Burning Man arts festival, with fire arts, live performances, interactive sculptures, an effigy burn, mutant vehicles, dance spaces, sound and light shows. 4 p.m. \$30. Rio Ramaza Event Center, 10000 Garden Hwy. Info: SacValleySpark.org

Tuesday, 16

PFLAG SACRAMENTO
Support group for parents and friends of LGBT. 7:30 p.m. St. Marks UMC, 2391 St. Marks Way. Info: pflagsacramento.org

Friday, 19

MR. BOLT LEATHER 2013
The search for Mr. Bolt Leather 2013 begins with Mr. Bolt Leather 2012 Miguel Rubio hosting a meet and greet for contestants and judges. 9 p.m. No cover.

WINTUN RANCH FIELD DAY
Join Taylor's Market for a field day at Wintun Ranch in Roseville, with a tour of the ranch, a Butchering 101 Class and a Ranch Style Dinner. \$75. Info: TaylorsMarket.com

Scare Up Some Theater this Halloween

by Chris Narloch

Those looking for a scary good time this Halloween month have a number of theater options guaranteed to send a shiver down their spine. Read on for five local offerings of theatrical thrills and chills.

Sweeney Todd

What could be more perfect this Halloween than a dose of Stephen Sondheim's chilling musical masterpiece, a brilliant tale filled with revenge, pitch black comedy and spellbinding drama. Accompanied by a 16-piece orchestra, *Sweeney Todd* will be performed at the American River College Theatre October 12-28. Visit www.ARCtheatre.org.

The K of D: An Urban Legend

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "creepy and chilling," this spooky rural yarn by Laura Schellhardt should raise some audience goose bumps.

Two actors will play multiple roles in the tale of dangerous driver Jonny, who runs into Charlotte's twin brother Jaime. Revenge ensues in the form of a potentially deadly kiss.

The K of D plays at B Street Theatre through November 11. Visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

The Rocky Horror Show

Break out the corsets and the black fishnet stockings. Dr. Frank-N-Furter and company are all back for several weeks of live performances.

Richard O'Brien's cult classic *The Rocky Horror Show* will do the time warp from October 12 through Halloween courtesy of Green Valley Theatre Company, the talented new local troupe who scored a success with their recent production of *Cabaret*. Visit www.greenvalleytheatre.com.

The Haunt at Wright Hall

The UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance brings Halloween thrills and chills to life with *The Haunt at Wright Hall*, a new

performance-based haunted house and costume dance party.

A visitor's journey through the haunted environments at Wright Hall will culminate in "A Twisted Fairy Tale" wedding celebration where guests can dance the night away in the Arena Theatre.

Although dressing up is optional, costumes can be rented in advance or through 7 p.m. on performance nights at The Enchanted



"Can I help you find your coffin, er, seat?" asks one of the frightfully helpful ushers at DMTC's Haunted House.

Cellar in Wright Hall. *The Haunt at Wright Hall* runs October 25-31. Visit www.theatredance.ucdavis.edu.

DMTC's Haunted House BOO!!!

Davis Musical Theatre Company is also getting into the scary Halloween mood, with a guided Haunted House. Two groups of visitors will brave the House at any one time (as others are getting spooked in the lobby).

Prepare to be scared from Friday, October 26 through Halloween, Wednesday, October 31. Times are varied, and there's also a scaled back show meant for kids and their parents. Visit DMTC.org.

For the Love of Salsa Containers

by Ron Tackitt

Eat a lot of fresh salsa. It's fat free, for the most part, low in sodium, and it adds a lot of flavor to anything you desire. Beside the flavor and nutritional value, it comes with an added benefit - the plastic container. Some of you might be reading this and saying, "Duh," but I have come to really appreciate these helpful keepers of food.



For instance, they are the perfect size for half an onion or half an avocado, which will stay just as fresh in this container as it will with cling wrap pressed against it. I also roughly chop up bell peppers and store the half I don't use, in a salsa container. Side dishes left over from dinner work well in one too.

Some of the containers come without stickers on the lids, so you can see just exactly what is stored in your fridge, and they stack on each other nicely. Obviously companies make a living selling you plastic containers that will do all that, and more, but I have found, for my cooking leftovers, these work great. And, of course, the best part is they are free. If you need to take something over to a friend's, who cares if you get the container back? And if you break one, or lose the lid, recycle it. Then next time you are at the store, buy some more fresh salsa.

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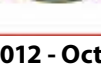
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Letters

continued from page 6

you adopt a child or children, you will receive the first names, ages and knowledge of any special wishes.

We are asking the community to provide three gifts for each child. Arrange to drop off your gifts no later than December 13.

Gift certificates to a local grocery store for the family are always welcome. If you prefer, a cash donation can be made to Sunburst Projects and one of our elves will do the shopping for you.

Donations do not need to be large, every dollar counts!

Please help us bring joy to the lives of children living with HIV/AIDS. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please call Jennifer at 916-440-0889 ext. 301 or email Jennifer@sunburstprojects.org.

Happy Holidays,

**Jennifer Novak, Events Coordinator
Sunburst Projects**

Marry

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For more information, visit Minnesotans United for All Families.

Washington

The Governance Committee for Washington United for Marriage (WUM), a coalition of more than 600 organizations, congregations, unions and businesses is working together in coalition to defend civil marriage for loving, committed same-sex couples.

WUM is working to approve Referendum 74 which will uphold SB 6239 - a bill signed into law by Washington Governor Chris Gregoire in February of 2012.

For more information, visit washingtonunitedformarriage.org

Jill Barkley, ACLU of Maine; Meredith Curtis, ACLU of Maryland; Dean Jackson, ACLU of Washington; and Jana Kooren, ACLU of Minnesota contributed to this article.

Vetos

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state of California.

AB 1960 was introduced by Assemblymember Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento) and co-authored by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce,

Senate Bill 1172: bans non-scientific 'therapies' and protects LGBT youth from dangerous practices by mental health professionals who falsely claim to be able to change their sexual orientation or gender expression.

Senate Bill 1172 was authored by Senator Ted Lieu and co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Equality California, Gaylesta, Courage Campaign, Lambda Legal, and Mental Health America of Northern California, and supported by dozens of organizations including Truth Wins Out.

AB 2356: ensures that women in same-sex relationships and single women can access fertility services on the same terms as women in different-sex relationships and allows women using known donors to access certain fertility procedures that are less expensive and more effective.

AB 2356 was authored by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner and co-sponsored by Equality California and the National Center for Lesbian Rights,

The Governor vetoed SB 1476, written to ensure that courts have the ability to recognize that a child has more than two legal parents when doing so is required to protect the child's best interests, giving children the right to additional emotional and financial support from their parents, while giving the courts a legally satisfying alternative to the trauma of severing a valid parent-child relationship.

SB 1476 was authored by Mark Leno (D-SF) and co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the University of San Diego School of Law Children's Advocacy Institute.

for when "gay friendly"
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