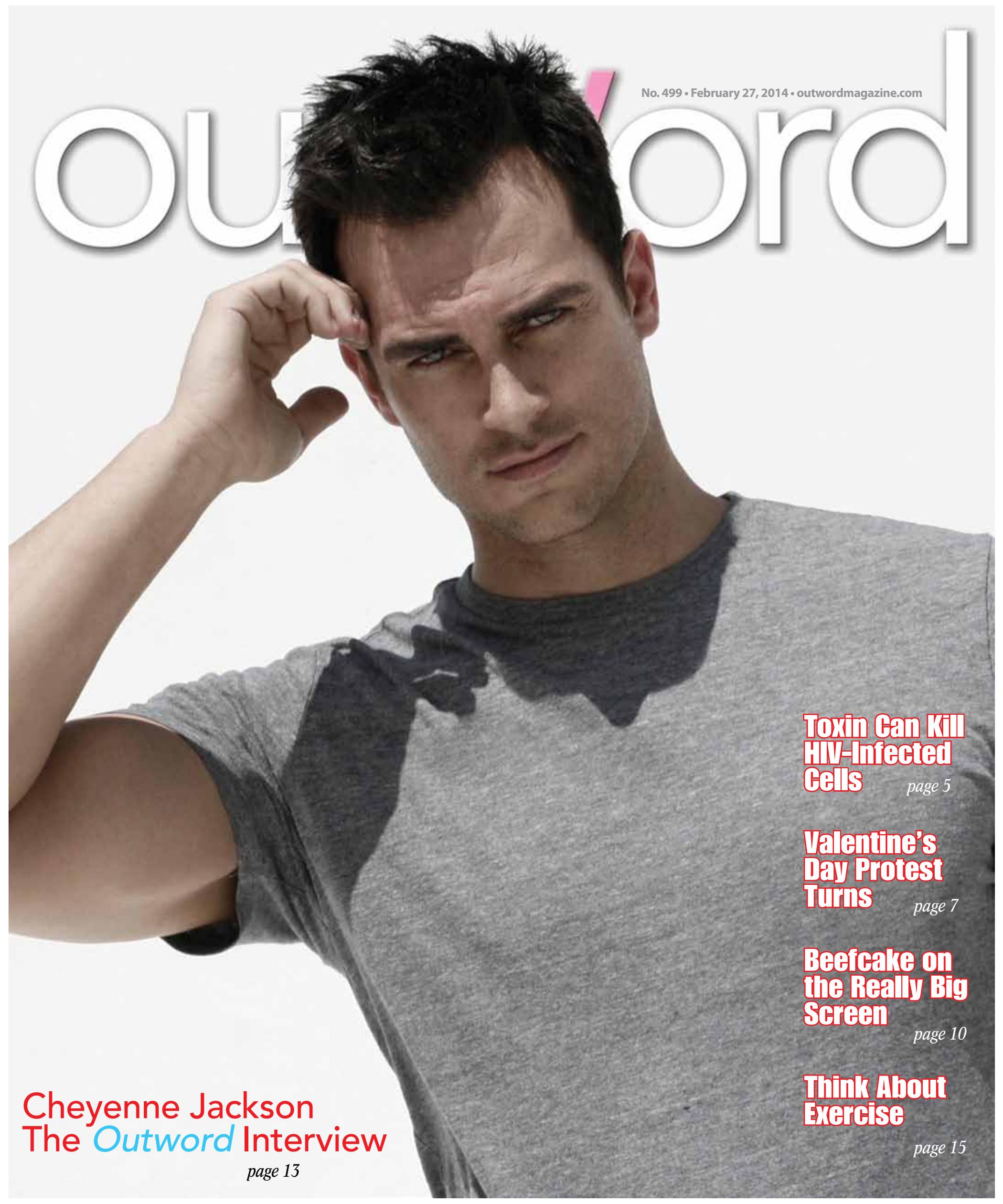


outword

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Letters

GRS SEEKS Board Members

Golden Rule Services, a Sacramento nonprofit organization that provides a variety of free HIV, STD and Hepatitis C prevention services to the community, is seeking new board members that can help it continue its mission to resolve health, education, employment, and criminal justice disparities in people of color communities.

Professionals with backgrounds in law, advocacy, marketing, fundraising, medicine, accounting and corporate management are sought.

Please call Clarmundo Sullivan, Executive Director, at 916-308-1522.

Free Training For Nonprofits & Small Businesses Offered

Uptown Studios is teaming up with the Society for the Blind to provide FREE monthly trainings to nonprofits, small businesses and community members.

The trainings will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Society for the Blind, located at 1238 S Street.

Future trainings include: March 18, How to set up and manage a Facebook Ad – and WHY!; April 15, Twitter Tips and Tricks – Hashtags and Lists; and May 20, Is Your Website Working? Quick ways to check your site.

Donations for the Society for the Blind will be accepted at each training.

Remember to RSVP early, as space is limited! Join the conversation and see what others are saying using the hashtag #UptownTips.

Armed Forces Group Forming at LGBT Center

Sacramento's LGBT Center has begun an Armed Forces group, a social discussion-

oriented group welcoming both former and current LGBTQ-identified service members and their dependents

The aim of the group is to build and solidify a community of LGBTQ armed forces members and to establish its presence in Sacramento.

Group discussions will cover a broad range of topics such as PTSD, the intersection of LGBTQ and military identities, and experiences and struggles stemming from being LGBTQ in the military, among others.

The group will also hold social events after group meetings to give members the opportunity to get to know their fellow group members and make the group more cohesive.

Join the group for a meeting every third Friday of the month from 8 to 9 p.m., at the LGBT Center, 1927 L St. Info: SacCenter.org.

Sacramento G&L Tennis League Signups Begin

The Spring 2014 Season of the Sacramento G&L Tennis League sign-ups are March 4 and 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the McKinley Park Tennis Courts.

Please come with a \$75 check or cash for registration fees. Court costs have doubled so the League had to raise the prices for the season.

Matches begin on March 18, and end on June 10, with an Easter break on April 15, and Memorial Day break on May 27.

The hour long matches are from 6 to 10 p.m. and are eight game pro sets. All matches are doubles.

The tournament will be on June 21 and June 22.

All skill levels are welcome.

For more information, contact Kent Fritz at kentefritz@yahoo.com or Facebook.com/pages/SGLT-Sacramento-Gay-Lesbian-Tennis/225099684190016.

Thank you Edie Windsor



When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision last June in *Windsor*, the case that led to the ultimate repeal of sections of DOMA, President Obama called Edie Windsor from Air Force One to congratulate her on her victory, and later invited her to the France State Dinner and the Oval Office to thank her in person on Feb. 12. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza).

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Outword Staff

PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER
Charles Peer
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Chris Narloch
Colt McGraw
Bonnie Osborn
Ken Pierce
Charles Peer

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charles Peer

ON THE COVER
Cheyenne Jackson
Photo by Karl Simone

DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES

Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer
Charles Peer

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
(212) 242-6863

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

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Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
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Midtown Business Association



New Adult LGBT Softball League Forms in Midtown

A new LGBT Softball league, Sacramento Rainbow Softball (SRS), has been formed and is encouraging healthy and active lifestyles while having fun, socializing and building friendships – all at a popular Midtown Park.

Formed by local gay and lesbian softball enthusiasts, SRS will play an eight week-game schedule, with games on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning April 6 at Grant Park, 205 21st St.

Player registration fee is \$25, which includes a game shirt, and covers the costs for game day access to the park and umpires.

Registration forms and entry fees must be returned to Sacramento Rainbow Softball League at their open registration days on March 2 from noon to 3 p.m., or on March 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days at Grant Park.

The league is also seeking sponsors.

To download registration forms and for more information, contact Rian Troth at www.scsclassic.com

Briefly Put

Suit Challenges Alabama's Marriage Amendment

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has filed a federal lawsuit challenging Alabama laws that refuse to recognize lawful same-sex marriages – unconstitutional laws that are creating legal obstacles for a man whose husband was killed in a car wreck.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on behalf of Paul Hard. It seeks to overturn the state's Marriage Protection Act, a 1998 law that bans the recognition of same-sex marriages from other states, and the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment, which enshrined the ban in the constitution in 2005.

The suit also demands that Hard receive his rightful share of the proceeds from a pending wrongful death suit, and that Alabama issue a corrected death certificate for his deceased husband, David Fancher, listing Hard as the surviving spouse.

Texas Federal Court Holds First-Ever Marriage Hearing

Judge Sam Sparks, of the Western District of Texas, held the first-ever hearing on marriage for same-sex couples in Texas. The lawsuit, filed by two same-sex couples, seeks to overturn a constitutional amendment banning marriage for same-sex couples in Texas.

"Two of the plaintiffs, Cleopatra De Leon and Vic Holmes, served their country in the military and protected our freedoms; it is wrong that the government in Texas denies them the freedom to marry the person they love, part of every American's liberty and pursuit of happiness," said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry. "With one of the many cases across the country potentially making it to the Supreme Court as soon as 2015, we must continue to make the case, Texan to Texan, American to American, that America – all of America – is ready for the freedom to marry."

NM Concludes Session Upholding the Freedom to Marry

In a historic victory for the freedom to marry in New Mexico, the state's legislative session has ended and, by its inaction, resoundingly rejected a proposal that sought to strike down the state Supreme Court's unanimous ruling for marriage.

The Senate bill, which threatened the Court's December 2013 ruling, failed to garner any support from either party. In fact, the bill was never heard by any legislative committee and never received a single vote. Even Republican Gov. Susana Martinez refused to be drawn into any debate, saying at the beginning of the session that the freedom to marry was now "the law of the land."

"In the end, as we're finding in so many other states, the freedom to marry was protected by bipartisan support," said Thalia Zepatos, Freedom to Marry's director of public engagement and a key member of the NMUM senior strategy team.

Oregon Attorney General Calls Measure 36 Indefensible

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has announced in a legal filing that Measure 36 "cannot withstand a federal constitutional challenge under any standard of review," and that the State defendants in *Rummell v. Kitzhaber* will not defend the ban that excludes same-sex couples from marriage.

"This is tremendous news. The Attorney General has taken a close look at the facts, and came to the same conclusion that courts around the country and freedom-minded Oregonians have: there is no reasonable or legal justification to exclude committed gay and lesbian couples from marriage," said Oregon United for Marriage campaign manager Mike Marshall. "The dramatic increase in Oregonians' support for the freedom to marry – from 42 percent support in May 2010 to 55 percent support today – mirrors the movement we're seeing nationally."

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NIH-Created Toxin Can Kill HIV-Infected Cells

NIH scientists have demonstrated in a mouse model that an HIV-specific poison can kill cells in which the virus is actively reproducing despite antiretroviral therapy.

The genetically modified bacterial toxin targets HIV-infected cells and becomes internalized by them, shutting down protein synthesis and triggering cell death.

According to a team of researchers, including scientists from the NIH and the University of North Carolina, such a targeted poison could complement antiretroviral therapy, which dramatically reduces the replication of HIV in infected cells but does not eliminate them.

The 40 mice in the experiment were bioengineered to have a human immune system. They were infected with HIV for several months and then given a combination of antiretroviral drugs for four weeks.

Half of the animals subsequently received a two-week dose of a genetically designed, HIV-specific poison, or immunotoxin, to complement the antiretrovirals, while the other half continued receiving antiretrovirals alone.

The scientists found that, compared to antiretrovirals alone, the addition of the immunotoxin significantly reduced both the number of HIV-infected cells producing the virus in multiple organs and the level of HIV in the blood.

According to the researchers, these findings, coupled with results from previous studies, suggest that treating certain HIV-infected people with a combination of antiretrovirals and an immunotoxin might

help achieve sustained disease remission, in which HIV can be controlled or eliminated without a lifetime of antiretroviral therapy.

However, further study is required, the scientists write.

The immunotoxin, known as 3B3-PE38, was created in 1998 in the laboratories of Edward A. Berger, Ph.D., of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Ira Pastan, Ph.D., of the National Cancer Institute, both part of NIH.

The study was designed by Drs. Berger and Pastan in collaboration with J. Victor Garcia, Ph.D., and colleagues at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, where the experiments were performed.

EQCA Endorses Speaker John A. Pérez for State Controller

Equality California, the largest statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organization in California, has announced its endorsement of Speaker of the Assembly John A. Pérez for State Controller.



California Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez addressing the Democratic National Convention on Sept. 5, 2012.

Pérez would be the first openly LGBT person elected to serve in one of California's eight Constitutional Offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Controller, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction).

That would follow Pérez's historic term as

the first openly gay person in California and in the United States to be elected as speaker of a state legislative assembly.

"Speaker Pérez's career has been one of leadership and landmarks – not only has he achieved momentous firsts as an out gay man, but he's been a powerful and effective advocate for the LGBT community, and for

Californians broadly," said John O'Connor, EQCA executive director. "California is at the forefront of LGBT equality, and we owe that in large part to the efforts of Speaker Pérez. We know that his election as Controller would break a glass ceiling for openly LGBT candidates for elected office. It would be both symbolic and impactful for LGBT people in California and across the country."

Among the highlights of Pérez's service in the Assembly are working to sustain funding in the state budget for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, increasing fiscal support for domestic violence programs that provide competent care to LGBT individuals, requiring the Office of Multicultural Health to include programming for the LGBT community, and leading the effort to ensure that all managed care plans in the state provide the full range of health care coverage needed by transgender individuals.

"I'm extremely proud of the legislation I've championed to protect and create opportunity for the LGBT community," said Speaker Pérez. "I am honored to have the support and endorsement of Equality California in my campaign for Controller. I look forward to ensuring LGBT Californians have equal rights and the tools to succeed in school, worksites and communities."

M. Jane Pearce

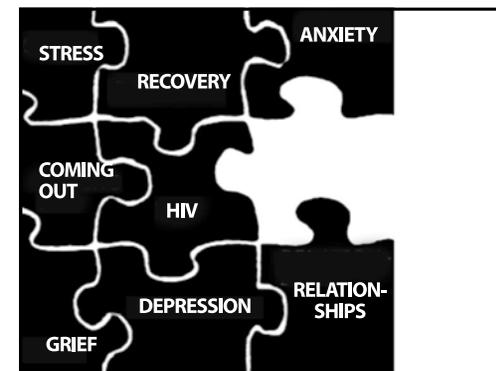
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Discrimination Elevates Risk of Suicide for Transgenders

New analysis of responses to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS) shows that transgender respondents who experienced rejection by family and friends, discrimination, victimization, or violence have a higher risk of attempting suicide.

Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents who suffered physical or sexual violence at school reported suicide attempts, as did 65 percent of respondents who experienced violence at work. The analysis is part of a new study conducted by Ann P. Haas and Philip L. Rodgers of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Jody L. Herman of UCLA Law School's Williams Institute.

"This study outlines the potential links between minority stressors and suicidal behavior among transgender and gender non-conforming individuals," said Herman. "More research is needed, but this is a critical first step in efforts to address the negative mental health impacts of anti-transgender discrimination."

The study suggests that several minority stressors - negative experiences related to anti-transgender bias - may contribute to elevated prevalence of suicide attempts among transgender people, such as experiences of harassment, family rejection, housing instability and discrimination in health care.

Over half of those who experienced harassment or bullying in schools reported

lifetime suicide attempts, as did 57 percent of those who reported that their family chose not to speak/spend time with them. High prevalence of suicide attempts was also found among those who had ever experienced homelessness (69 percent) and those who reported a doctor or healthcare provider refused to treat them (60 percent).

Respondents who experienced discrimination or violence by law enforcement had elevated prevalence of suicide attempts, with those disrespected or harassed by law enforcement officers at 57-61 percent and those who suffered physical or sexual violence by law enforcement officers at 60-70 percent.

The study utilized data collected through the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS), which was conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: 6,456 transgender and gender non-conforming people in the U.S. reported on their experiences of discrimination and abuse at work, at home, in school and in the public sphere, amassing the largest transgender survey sample to date.

Sac LGBT Center Plans Q-Spot Youth Drop-In Center

An estimated 25 to 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT, both nationwide and here in Sacramento. To help address that problem, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center is expanding its services offered to youth by developing a youth drop-in center.

The drop-in center, which will be known as the Q-Spot, will supplement the Center's three existing youth peer support groups that have been offered since the 1980s, and is being made possible with the generous help of IKEA, Western Health Advantage and generous community members like Jeffrey R.A. Edwards.

Q-Spot is being designed to help Sacramento's LGBT homeless youth find a place where they can feel safe, welcome and affirmed, while accessing services and learning the life skills that will help them make positive choices for their health and well-being.

IKEA designed, refurbished, and provided furnishings for Q-Spot in the lower level of the Center, Western Health Advantage donated computers and Edwards donated a washer and dryer.

"We envision an LGBT focused youth drop-in center using evidence based models where youth might be able to get a free simple meal, fresh clothes, shower, do laundry, nap or hang out free from the stress of the street," said the Center's Interim Executive Director David Heitstuman. "They could use the new computers to check email, get help looking for a job, search for housing and access social and health services."

Full implementation cost of the program is

projected at nearly \$75,000, which includes facility upgrades, a program coordinator, volunteer training, materials and incentives for youth participation in educational workshops.

"Youth could also engage in peer support groups or educational life skills workshops on a variety of topics including cooking, laundry, money management, resume writing, art, fitness, scholarships and financial aid, etc.," said Heitstuman.

The Center's board has allocated \$12,000 in the Center's 2014 budget to begin development of the program and is seeking grant opportunities, corporate partnerships and individual contributions to phase in additional elements.

On the Q-Spot's immediate wish list is assistance with plumbing needed to install the washer and dryer, a new television and game system, computer monitors, small electronics, DVDs and gift cards for the incentive program.

"Additionally, we are looking for a few more youth mentors and youth specialist volunteers for the program," said Mandy Taylor, Director of Programs at the Center. Anyone who wants to help should call the Center at 916-442-0185.

To learn more about Sacramento's LGBT Center, visit SacCenter.org.

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Valentine's Day Protests Turn into Freedom to Marry Day

by Ken Pierce

Valentine's Day 2014 was celebrated for the first time by thousands of same-sex couples throughout California without a law forbidding them to legally marry. For many it was a day of joy and celebration.

In Sacramento, an estimated dozen same-sex couples went to the Sacramento County Clerk's Office to obtain their marriage licenses, and some to marry that very day, and to celebrate what was being touted as the "1st Annual Freedom to Marry Day for Same-Sex Couples."

Several gay activists, recently married same-sex couples, and the dozens of straight couples, who were there to share their commitment with their families and friends, joined them.

According to Sacramento County Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder Donna Allred,

nothing more, and nothing less. But today my heart goes out to couples stranded in states where they don't enjoy the same rights as we do here in California. This fight is not over. Not until every person has full equality in every state in this nation. Personally it means everything to be able to introduce Diana as my wife."

Shelly Bailes and Ellen Pontac, Yolo County's first same-sex married couple, brought a cake to share with the clerks who have always been so respectful and supportive in years past during the Valentine's Day protests. The couple



Lisa and Mary Sargent-Lyle



Ellen Pontac and Shelly Bailes

this year's Valentine's Day seemed much more crowded than usual and by far the happiest it's been in many years.

Getting a great deal of attention was Mary and Lisa Sargent-Lyle. Earlier that morning, Lisa drove from her residence in Manteca and picked Mary up at the airport where she just arrived from her home in Austin, Texas. The couple met online two months ago and they both agree that they knew from the beginning that they were perfect for each other.

"I'm just really thankful. I couldn't be happier," said Lisa.

For Diana Luiz and Nicola Simmersbach, who helped organize the Valentine's Day celebration at the Clerk's Office, Friday was very special. "It was an absolute thrill to watch same-sex couples walk through the county clerk's doors and be welcomed and served along with everyone else today," beamed Simmersbach.

"This is what we fought for - equality,



Sacramento's marriage equality warriors Jerry Sloan, Ellen Pontac, Shelly Bailes, Diana Luiz, Nicola Simmersbach, Jovi Radtke and Ken Pierce celebrate the first Valentine's Day in which gay and lesbian couples were not turned away when asking for marriage licenses.

couldn't stop smiling.

"This year feels so different. It feels wonderful," said Bailes.

"I am so glad, at least for us here in California, that those years of frustration of having to be made to feel like second

class citizens are gone and I can stop waking up on Valentine's Day feeling depressed," said Pontac.

Ken Pierce is a community activist and freelance writer in Sacramento. He can be reached at kpierce8272@yahoo.com.

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The Marriage Battle - It's Not Just For Lesbians And Gays

by Boyce Hinman

Phyllis Frye, an Associate Judge for the City of Houston Municipal Courts who is transgender, recently talked about how the battle for same-sex marriage matters to transgender and bisexual people, as well as to lesbians and gays.

Frye's comments were made in regards to a case in which Nikki Araguz, a transgender woman, was denied the benefits and rights that would extend to any other married couple after the death of her husband Thomas Trevino Araguz III, a volunteer firefighter, died in the line of duty. That case, which may be appealed, and Judge Frye's comments made me think, again, about how same-sex marriage laws also effect transgenders.

Consider the following. A transgender male to female is someone who was born physically male, but who identifies as female. Often that person, since identifying as female, will want to marry someone who is physically male. The opposite could be true for female to male transgender people.

Without sex reassignment surgery, in most states, the transgender person would be banned from marrying someone of the same physical sex. He or she could have sex reassignment surgery, but that is expensive.

For example, at The Philadelphia Center for Transgender Surgery, basic male-to-female surgery that includes testicle removal, genital surgery and breast augmentation costs a little over \$30,000 while basic female-to-male surgery that includes mastectomy, areolar reduction and genital surgery, costs between \$12,000 and \$25,000 depending on the type of genital surgery chosen.

In most places, health insurance does not cover the cost of the surgery. Many transgender people

can't afford to pay for it on their own.

Also, the best surgeons follow what is called the Benjamin Standards which call for a prolonged period of hormone therapy and counseling prior to the surgery.

In some states, even sex reassignment surgery won't enable transgender people to marry someone of his or her original physical sex. As Frye notes, in 1999 a Texas state court ruled that transgender people may not marry someone of their original physical gender, even if the transgender person undergoes sex reassignment surgery.

That decision, in the challenge brought by Nikki Araguz, has just been overturned by the 13th Texas Court of Appeals, but it took 14 years to get it overturned.

According to the National Center For Transgender Equality, transgender people can legally marry an opposite gender partner in almost every state, but these marriages are not always respected. People in same-sex relationships continue to face legal barriers to marriage in almost every part of the country.

So the fight for marriage equality includes the fight for the right of transgender people to marry the person of their choice. The same holds for bisexual people.

Boyce Hinman is the founder of the California Communities United Institute. He can be reached at b.hinman@calcomui.org or [calcomui.org](http://bit.ly/yZbxKC). Join their mailing list at <http://bit.ly/yZbxKC>

Verdi's *Il Trovatore* Sings in Sacramento Opera

A curse, a duel, a passionate love duet – and that's just the first act! The Sacramento Opera is scheduled to perform Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore* for two performances only, at the Community Center Theater, on February 28 and March 2.



Arnold Rawls in a production of *Turandot*.

Conducted by Michael Morgan and directed by Robert Tannenbaum, the production will feature a stellar international cast that includes soprano Kristen Lewis, mezzo-soprano Tichina Vaughn and tenor Arnold Rawls. (Rawls is the guy who stepped into the role of Manrico for an indisposed Marcello Alvarez mid-performance at the Met and brought the house down with a star-making performance.)

A powerful spectacle of vocal fireworks, including the famous Anvil Chorus, Verdi's bold and twisted tale of love and vengeance never fails to excite the senses.

Il Trovatore will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage. To purchase tickets, please visit www.tickets.com.

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Meet Thor in Person at Sac Comic Con

If you see hundreds of people in superhero costumes and spacesuits running around downtown the second weekend in March, don't be alarmed. They didn't move Halloween.



It's just the enormous, geeked-out party known as Wizard World Sacramento Comic Con, where horror, sci-fi, and fantasy fans are free to let their freak flags fly.

None other than Chris Hemsworth, the hunky Aussie actor who has played Thor twice onscreen, is currently scheduled to appear at Sacramento Comic Con 2014, on Sunday, March 9.

Hemsworth tops a star-studded list of actors from the big and small screens scheduled to appear at the inaugural Sacramento convention that weekend, including William Shatner (*Star Trek*), Bruce Campbell (*The Evil Dead*), Norman Reedus (*The Walking Dead*), and Billy Dee Williams (*The Empire Strikes Back*).

For more information about the three-day convention (March 7-9), visit www.wizardworld.com.

300: Rise of an Empire at IMAX Is Beefcake on the Really Big Screen

There must be gay men giving the green light at the movie studios these days. How else to explain the recent upswing in gladiator-friendly action films starring hot men with big muscles and little clothing?



"300: Rise of an Empire"

The year is young, but movie screens have already been awash in blood and swordplay – not to mention pecs, abs and biceps – during both *Hercules* and *Pompeii*.

And it's not over yet. Get ready for *300: Rise of an Empire*.

Gerard Butler and his leather hot pants are taking time off, but several of the other key cast and crewmembers return for the new sequel to *300*, the surprise hit action flick from 2007.

300: Rise of an Empire stars Australian actor Sullivan Stapleton, who will take over hunk duties from Butler, starring in the new movie as the Greek leader Themistocles.

Zack Snyder, who directed and co-wrote the original film, acts as writer and producer this time out, and the cast includes Lena Headey, Rodrigo Santoro, and David Wenham, reprising their roles from the first film.

Rise of an Empire takes place before, during, and after the events of *300*, as the Greek general played by Stapleton attempts to unite all of Greece.

The story pits Themistocles against the massive invading Persian forces led by

mortal-turned-god Xerxes, and Artemisia, vengeful commander of the Persian navy.

The 3D blockbuster opens on March 6 at the Esquire IMAX on K Street in Sacramento.

For more information and to purchase tickets for *300: Rise of an Empire*, please visit www.imax.com/sacramento.

For reviews of other movies currently in theaters, go to www.outwordmagazine.com.



Rodrigo Santoro as Xerxes in *300: Rise of an Empire*.

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Putting On The Ritz With Rita Moreno Live at the Castro

by Chris Narloch

San Francisco might as well declare March 15 “Rita Moreno Day” given all of the Rita-riffic events planned for that date at the Castro Theatre.



Not only will the historic movie palace present a special matinee sing-along screening of *West Side Story*, but it will be introduced by Moreno, who plays Anita in the classic movie musical.

The multi-talented star of stage and screen will also be interviewed that same evening before a rare screening of *The Ritz*, Terrence McNally’s wild 1976 comedy in which Moreno recreates her Tony-winning performance as Googie Gomez, the semi-talented queen of the baths.

Moreno, an Emmy, Tony, Grammy and Oscar winner, will take center stage at the Castro for this all-day celebration of her amazing career.

The Castro will be turned into a beautiful bathhouse, complete with ushers in towels, a career-spanning clip reel of Moreno, and a tappy tribute by Matthew Martin, followed by an onstage interview featuring the lady herself.

The matinee screening of *West Side Story* is to be hosted by Marga Gomez, while D’Arcy Drollinger takes over those duties for the evening presentation of *The Ritz*.

VIP ticketholders are also invited to attend a preshow book signing with Moreno in the Castro Mezzanine.

Tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime event are available at www.ticketfly.com. For more information, please call 415-863-0611.

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Cheyenne Jackson – The *Outword* Interview

by Chris Narloch

Is Cheyenne Jackson the most beautiful gay man on Earth? Opinions like those are subjective, of course, but that thought popped into my head the last time I saw the multi-talented Broadway leading man on stage in New York.

Jackson was playing a porn star in a wild comedy entitled *The Performers*, and in one especially memorable scene, he arrived on stage in a very revealing caveman getup.

The female theatergoers around me – as well as the gay men – gasped at the sight of Jackson's beautiful, half-naked body. Professional journalist that I am, I resisted such vocal display and instead reached for my opera glasses in order to get a better look.

who has carved out a successful career on stage and screen, starring in such classic musicals as *Finian's Rainbow*, *Damn Yankees* and *West Side Story*.

On the small screen, Jackson has been featured in such popular shows as *Glee*, *Ugly Betty* and *30 Rock*.

The 38-year-old actor has also graced the big screen, playing the gay American hero and 9/11 victim Mark Bingham in *United 93*. This year, he will be seen alongside Gena

where they're living so John Lithgow moves in with Marisa and her character's husband, who is his nephew. And then Alfred Molina moves in with my partner and me, and we're both cops. It's based on real people.

You also have a movie coming out based on the hit play by Richard Alfieri.

Yes. *Six Dance Lessons*...

What was it like working with Jacki Weaver and the legendary Gena Rowlands?

Unbelievable. Originally, Sean Hayes was cast, and then I got a call asking if I could go to Budapest in two days for two months to film. It was amazing. I believe Gena is one of our finest actresses. It's basically a two-person movie, and it's hate at first sight in the beginning between our characters. But, ultimately, it's a love story between these two very different people.

You are half Native-American, and Cheyenne is not a stage name, right?

Correct. My dad is Native American, and I was named after the old Western television show.

So you are returning to Feinstein's already after just playing there in January. Tell me about that.

The first engagement sold out very quickly which I was so thankful for, and luckily I had a hole in my schedule. The love I got from San Francisco and the people there was so great, and they asked me back. Last time I did two nights, so they've added another night. It's such a lovely, small room. It only holds 140. But this is the most personal, intimate show I've ever done so it's perfect.

You usually do big symphonic shows.

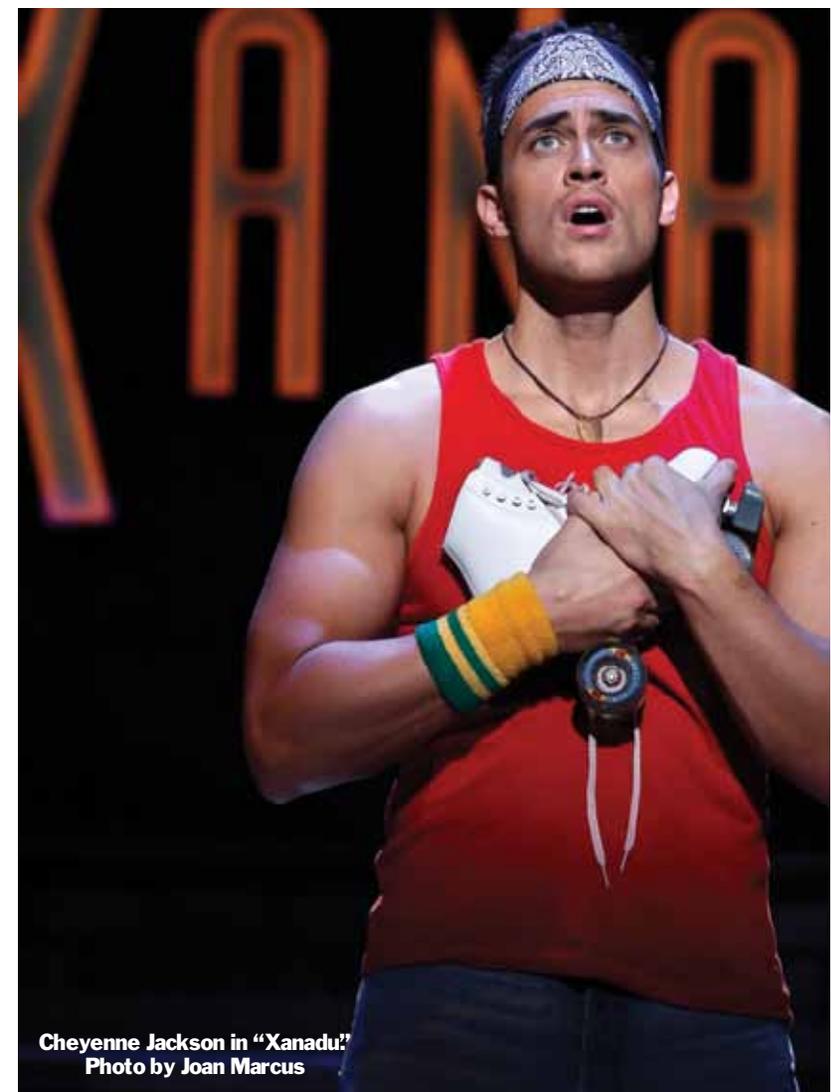
Right. You relate to the audience but you're a little removed just because of logistics. But in these small venues, you're literally in people's laps. So it's great just to be able to share your heart, share your story. I've been through a lot this last year and a half. It's definitely a very transitional and very raw show. I definitely go there.

So you'll be performing music from your recent solo CD at Feinstein's and also I assume numbers from your Broadway career?

This show in San Francisco is an amalgam of several different things. Songs from the album just because that's what is out and what I'm promoting and sharing, also some songs from my *Music of the Mad Men Era* show, some brand new songs that I've written that have never been heard, and a couple of covers. But really, it's a very personal night. It's

CHEYENNE

continues on page 18



Cheyenne Jackson in "Xanadu!"
Photo by Joan Marcus

My other favorite Cheyenne Jackson story occurred the first time I saw the musical theater star, in the original Broadway cast of *Xanadu*, playing the male lead, Sonny, who roller-skates around the stage in cut-off jean shorts and a tank top.

I had taken two straight women to see the show who had never been to New York City before. *Xanadu* was their first experience with a Broadway musical, and Jackson was their first exposure to a Broadway leading man.

They absolutely refused to believe that Jackson was gay, and I had to listen to every lame, whispered stereotype about how masculine and handsome and "straight looking" he is, until at intermission I pulled up his Wikipedia page on my phone and shut them up.

Far more than just a pretty face, Jackson is an accomplished performer

Rowlands in the movie version of *Six Dance Lessons* in *Six Weeks*.

I spoke to Jackson recently by phone to talk about his busy career and his upcoming cabaret performances at Feinstein's in San Francisco. Here are excerpts from our conversation.

Where in the world is Cheyenne Jackson?

I'm at home in Los Angeles. I just got back from Sundance. I had a movie there with Marisa Tomei, John Lithgow and Alfred Molina called *Love Is Strange*.

How was that received?

It got a standing ovation. Yeah, Ira Sachs has made a beautiful, beautiful movie about an older gay couple and what they go through after one of them loses his job. John and Alfred are just over-the-top amazing in it. They have to split-up just in terms of

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Ellen Is Back as Oscars Host

by Chris Narloch

The 86th Academy Awards is shaping up to be quite a show, beginning with the decision to bring back Ellen DeGeneres as host for 2014.

One of the best Oscar hosts of recent times – Billy Crystal and Whoopi Goldberg are my other favorites – DeGeneres is witty rather than snarky.

As I write this, confirmed presenters include last year's Best Actor and Best Actress, Daniel Day-Lewis and Jennifer Lawrence, plus Anne Hathaway, who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress last year.

Additionally, the performers announced for this year's show represent some of the coolest artists ever nominated for Best Original Song.

U2 will perform their nominated song "Ordinary Love" from *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*.

Pharrell Williams will perform his



Ellen DeGeneres

nominated song "Happy" from *Despicable Me 2*. (We can only hope that he will again be sporting that wacky hat he wore to the Grammy's.)

Karen O will perform her nominated "The Moon Song" from *Her*, and Idina Menzel will perform her nominated song "Let It Go" from *Frozen*.

For a complete list of this year's nominees, visit www.oscars.org.

The Grapes of Wrath with Folk Music and Spirituals at UCD



UC Davis Granada Artist-in-Residence Miles Anderson directs John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," the story of tenant farmers fleeing the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression in pursuit of jobs, dignity and a future, with both original and traditional American music. Plays March 6 - 16 at Main Theatre, Wright Hall, UC Davis. Tickets at TheatreDance.ucdavis.edu.



New Video Offers a Provocative Look at Women in Love

Everything is not all "sugar and spice" in Avicii's new video "Addicted to You," featuring the talents of Audra Mae in a lyrical spin on *Thelma and Louise*. Check it out at vevo.ly/dfjpK6.

Ani DiFranco at the Crest

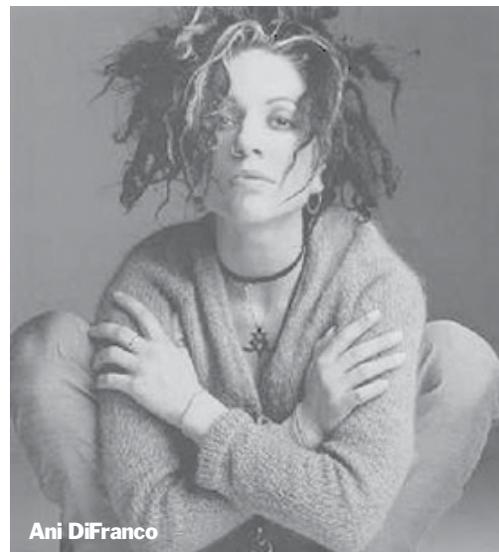
She was one of the first independent musicians to create her own record label (Righteous Babe), and she will bring her current tour to Sacramento's Crest Theatre this March.

Ani DiFranco, whose musical influences include folk, alternative rock, jazz, funk, punk, and hip-hop, is not easily categorized.

With more than 20 albums to her name, the singer-songwriter, guitarist and poet is also considered a feminist icon and a social activist.

Through the Righteous Babe Foundation, DiFranco has backed various grassroots cultural and political organizations, supporting causes ranging from abortion rights to gay visibility. Ani DiFranco will play one show only at the Crest, on Tuesday, March 4.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. show, and tickets can be purchased at the Crest Box Office, by phone at 1-800-225-2277, or through www.tickets.com.



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Babylon Turns 40 with Special Show at SF City Hall



Paying tribute to the city they love, and love to roast, *Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon* will commemorate its 40th anniversary with a special public celebration to take place at San Francisco's City Hall on Friday, June 6. Pictured here, in their infamous chapeaus are Caitlin McGinty, Renée Lubin, Tammy Nelson, Curt Branom and Jacqui Heck. Photo Rick Markovich. www.beachblanketbabylon.com.

Where the Bears Are Preps for Season Three

Where the Bears Are, a gay comedy mystery web series often described as *The Golden Girls* meets *Murder, She Wrote* with big, hairy, gay men in the leading roles, is in the final stages of its fundraising efforts for season three.



"Where the Bears Are"

The creators paid for the hugely successful Season 1 out of their own pockets. The risk paid off and they were able to break even and produce an even more successful Season 2 from DVD and merchandise sales.

For Season 3, they've decided to turn to Kickstarter to finance the show. The campaign is offering unique and fun donor rewards, including original paintings by creator Joe Dietl, a chance to be cast in a role in the series, and an opportunity for some donors to have their Growlr profile actually appear on screen for the world to see.

Where the Bears Are follows the exploits of three gay bear roommates living together in Los Angeles as they stumble upon a murder mystery each season, and struggle to solve it.

The script for a possible Season 3 is complete, and will thrust Reggie, Wood, Nelson and Todd into yet another thrilling murder mystery surrounding the deaths of "Chunk Studio" models!

With beefy, bulky hunks dropping like flies, it's up to our amateur sleuths to find the killer. Season 3 will also feature the usual parade of hot, sexy, hairy men that fans adore, the hilarious comedy everyone expects from the show and will end in a nail-biting climax that is bigger in scope and more thrilling than anything they've attempted before.

You can still stream Season 2 at WhereTheBearsAre.tv, where you will also find information about helping to fund the show.

Think About Exercise and Healthy Eating to Get Fit

In our world of high calorie foods and sedentary lifestyles, getting and staying fit, however you want to describe it for yourself, is a challenge. There are thousands of diet and exercise books out there that all proclaim to have the answer, but maybe they are over thinking the solution.

Julie Fray and Darnell Stephenson of Urban Fitness think that may be the case.

"Try to make your food choices healthier and step up your exercise routine to get lifelong results," they say. "There are many simple things you can do everyday that can make a difference and help you reach your goal."

Here are some of their recommendations:

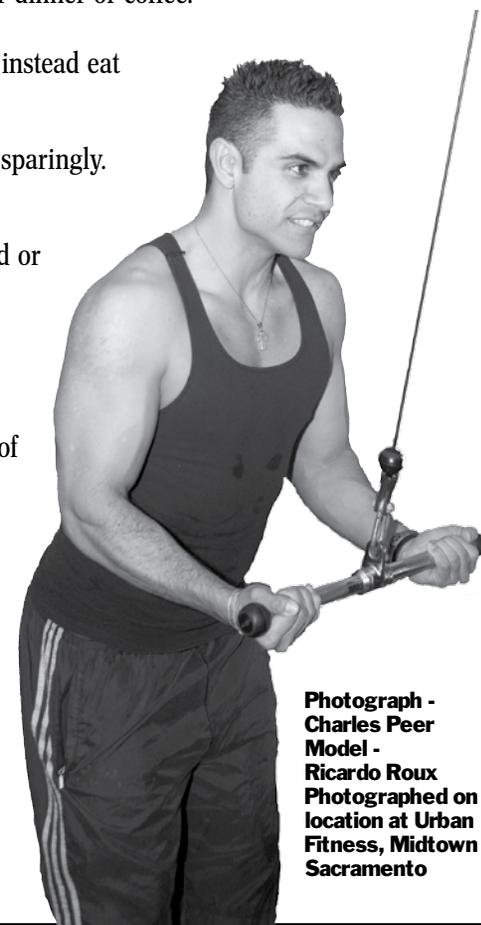
Tips to keep you active and healthy:

1. Take a 25-45 postprandial walk after dinner or lunch.
2. Walk during your lunch break instead of going out to eat.
3. Park a block or two away from your destination each time you park.
4. Ride your bike to meet friends for coffee or dinner, instead of driving.
5. Plan a picnic lunch/dog walk with friends instead of a large meal out.
6. Sit less! (TV, computer, work, driving).
7. Use Facebook or your iPhone while using the elliptical or stationery bike at the gym to burn calories while being social.
8. Walk the dog whenever you have time – even 10 min helps you both.
9. Walk or ride your bike to meet friends for dinner or coffee.

Food Tips to slim down your waistline:

1. Skip the AM croissant at the coffee shop, instead eat oatmeal and berries.
2. Try nonfat milk in your coffee drink.
3. Order salad dressing on the side and use sparingly.
4. Skip the cheese on your order out.
5. Order a side salad instead of fries.
6. Skip the mayonnaise, use natural mustard or salsa instead.
7. Use whole grain breads without the first ingredient being flour.
8. Bring your own lunch to work most days instead of going out.
9. Snack on cut up veggies & fruits instead of grabbing the chocolate candy.
10. Decrease your alcohol drinks by at least one a day.
11. Eat slower and enjoy your meals; most likely you will eat less also.

If you want additional guidance or motivation, call the professionals at Urban Fitness to set you up on a fitness/nutrition program. Julie Fray (PA-C,CES, LWMC-ACE certified) and Darnell Stephenson (Certified personal trainer, Nutrition consultant-IET) are there to help, and you can reach them at 916-492-2525, or at Urban Fitness, located at 2525 J St. in Sacramento.



Photograph - Charles Peer
Model - Ricardo Roux
Photographed on location at Urban Fitness, Midtown Sacramento

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Out & About

LGBT Wedding Expo

Coming just days after Valentine's Day, this year's LGBT Wedding Expo was held Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the Red Lion Hotel, and attracted hundreds of LGBT couples and singles with a marriage sparkle in their eyes. Over 80 vendors were on hand, from caterers to photographers, to help them plan their perfect wedding. The event was hosted by Outword Media Marketing & Events Inc. and Details Details Events & Conference Planning, in partnership with the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, and included an LGBT Bridal Fashion Show, presented by House Of Fashion featuring models from our local LGBT community. Stay tuned for more information about our next expo in February 2015 - date to be determined! www.saclgbtweddingexpo.com



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20 Feet From Stardom & Muscle Shoals On DVD

by Chris Narloch

Although I don't need an excuse to share my love of soul music, Black History Month seemed an especially appropriate time to spotlight the recent release of two must-see documentaries aimed at fans of soul and R&B music like me.



20 Feet from Stardom

20 Feet From Stardom

This fascinating film was released theatrically in 2013 but didn't receive the publicity it should have, although it did win ecstatic reviews from movie critics and music fans that saw it.

The title refers to the "so close and yet so far" distance between recording stars and the backup singers who are sometimes far more talented than the folks they back up but who, for various reasons, never attain stardom.

Featuring compelling interviews with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Mick Jagger, Bette Midler and others, *20 Feet From Stardom* traces the careers of a number of superb session singers who are well respected within the music industry but nowhere near as well known as the famous folks they sang behind.

The movie poses the question of why enormously talented singers such as Lisa Fischer, Judith Hill, Claudia Lennear, and others fail to "make it" while less gifted singers clutter the charts.

Hearing the great Darlene Love talk about cleaning houses for a living during one down period in her career, after having sung on many of crazy Phil Spector's biggest hits, had me shaking my head in disbelief.

Musically and emotionally compelling, *20 Feet From Stardom* is both a powerful portrait of women who are true soul survivors and also a testament to their undeniable contributions to popular music.

If the film fails to win the Oscar for Best Documentary this year, I will be throwing things at my television.

Muscle Shoals

This documentary celebrates Rick Hall, the founder of FAME studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and the signature sound he helped develop in songs such as "I'll Take You There," "Brown Sugar," and "When A Man Loves A Woman."

Mick Jagger is again interviewed in *Muscle Shoals*, along with the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, Bono and others, to discuss the influence that the Muscle Shoals sound had on their music.

Like *20 Feet From Stardom*, this richly rewarding documentary both enlightens and entertains with its combination of fascinating interviews and musical performances that will make you want to get up and dance.

Muscle Shoals would make a great companion piece to *20 Feet From Stardom* if you wanted to have a soulful DVD double feature.

Cheyenne *continued from page 13*

something I've never done before. I've just decided with my sobriety and with this new direction in my life, I'm just telling the truth.

That sounds therapeutic.

It's been very freeing and sometimes scary because I talk about a lot of personal things. I really wanted to open my guts and share the human experience so people could get to know me, in addition to listening to a lot of beautiful music. It's cathartic for me, and people have really responded to it so I'm looking forward to coming back there in March.

Tell me what exactly is *Music of the Mad Men Era*?

Sure. I decided to call it that because there was so much great music from that era in the late '50s and '60s, from Bossa Nova to Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. It's varied. I sing "Besame Mucho." I do the great Tom Jones

arrangement of "I Who Have Nothing." I sing "Something Stupid." I do a version of "Feeling Good." I do a great Diana Krall arrangement of a Joni Mitchell song. I do an Amy Winehouse song, but it still fits within the world that we've created in the show.

Finally, I have to ask if you still have the roller skates from *Xanadu*? Have you ever laced them up since the show closed?

(Laughs) No, but I still have them. They're in the closet - unlike me. Now that I'm living in Southern California though, I should bring them out and go down to Venice Beach.

Cheyenne Jackson will appear at Feinstein's in San Francisco March 14-16. For more information, please visit www.hotelnikkosf.com/feinsteins.

Chris Narloch is *Outward's* Arts and Entertainment Editor. You can reach him at Chris@OutwardMagazine.com.

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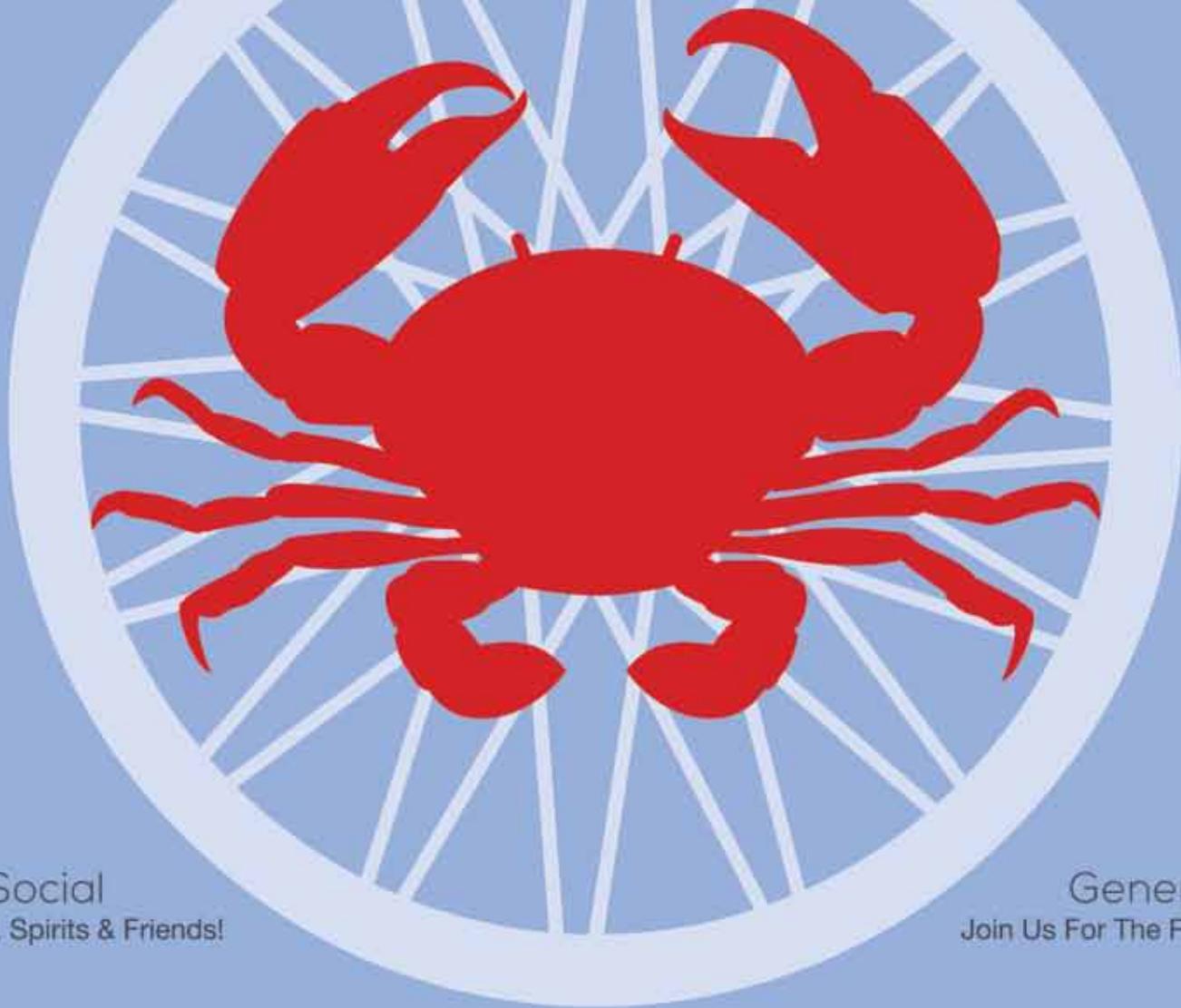
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