

outword

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22 years.



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NLGJA Announces 2017 Journalism Award Winners

The Association of LGBTQ Journalists has announced the recipients of its Excellence in Journalism Awards, recognizing exemplary work produced in 2016.

The highest individual awards, NLGJA Journalist of the Year and Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBTQ Journalist of the Year, are awarded to Katie Barnes, writing for ESPNW, and Erik Hall, writing for Outsports.com, respectively.

“We are thrilled each year by the work that is nominated for NLGJA’s Excellence in Journalism Awards,” said NLGJA President Jen Christensen, “and this year was no different. All of the award recipients are doing their fair share to advance NLGJA’s mission of promoting fair and accurate LGBTQ coverage, and it is our privilege to recognize their outstanding work.”

NLGJA’s Excellence in Journalism Awards were established in 1995 to foster, recognize and reward excellence in journalism on issues related to the LGBTQ community. Last

year the awards were expanded to 30 categories and this year included the creation of the Excellence in Religion Coverage Award.

With generous support from the Gannett Foundation, the Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism is presented to Meredith Talusan with Matthew Rodriguez, Anna Swartz, Brianna Provenzano and Marie Solis for “Unerased: Counting Transgender Lives.” The award includes a \$5,000 grant. “Innovative presentation, brilliantly researched,” said one judge, “this should be emulated elsewhere.”

The awards will be presented throughout the NLGJA National Convention September 7-10 in Philadelphia. For a complete list of the award winners and more information on the convention visit www.nlgja.org.

Cunard Welcomes Same-Sex Marriages on its Iconic Ships

Luxury cruise brand Cunard has welcomed its first booking by a same-sex couple following a recent Supreme Court ruling enabling same-sex marriages in Bermuda, where Cunard’s fleet of ships is registered.

The ruling means that Cunard, which has offered weddings on its ships for the past five years and has married over 250 couples, is one of the first British cruise lines to be able to conduct same-sex wedding ceremonies at sea.

“Cunard is proud to become among the first cruise lines to offer same-sex marriages at sea,” said Josh Leibowitz, senior vice president, Cunard North America. “Cunard has brought people together through travel for over 175 years, and we’re proud to mark another milestone in our company’s history as we welcome our first gay marriage booking and many other marriages to come.”

Wedding ceremonies will be performed by the ship’s Captain and the marriage license will be issued by Bermuda. If the Captain is unable to conduct the ceremony, the Deputy Captain will be asked to

conduct on their behalf.

Same-sex couples can now purchase a Cunard Wedding at Sea package, which includes:

A romantic ceremony at sea conducted by the Captain: Wedding ceremony venue with floral arrangements: Traditional wedding music: Services of the on-board Wedding Coordinator: Attendance of a professional photographer at the ceremony: Commemorative wedding certificate: An official copy of the marriage certificate: The cost of the license fees: A bottle of Champagne in the cabin on arrival: Champagne for a toast after the ceremony: Invitations and thank you notes: and Wedding outfit pressing service:

For more information about Cunard, or to book a voyage, contact your Travel Consultant, call Cunard Line at 1-800-728-6273 or visit www.cunard.com.



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Report Finds Transgender Ban Would Cost \$960 Million

A new report co-authored by current and retired professors at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey has projected the cost of discharging the military's transgender troops at \$960 million.

The report was released in response to the recent announcement by President Trump, on Twitter, that the military would no longer "allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military," citing what the president called the "tremendous medical costs" of providing adequate care.

But the new report shows that discharging and replacing the estimated 12,800 transgender service members who are already serving would cost over 100 times more than providing medically necessary health care to the military's transgender troops.

"Fully implementing President Trump's ban would cost \$960 million in pursuit of saving \$8.4 million per year," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center and a co-author of the report. "If President Trump is truly concerned about the financial costs of transgender service his announced ban has it exactly backwards. American taxpayers should ask the president, who is proud of his business savvy, why he's

spending a dollar to buy a dime."

Lawyers from GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have filed a federal lawsuit in Washington, D.C. challenging President Trump's directive to reinstate a ban on transgender soldiers. The suit, *Doe v. Trump*, alleges that Trump's directive contradicts the judgment of military experts and serves no legitimate purpose.

The new report uses a "replacement-cost method" to calculate the overall cost of ousting transgender troops. Since the military has to recruit and train a replacement for each service member discharged, the authors explain, the total price of a ban was derived by multiplying the number of service members who will be discharged by the cost of recruiting and training a replacement.

Read the report at www.palmcenter.org/publication/discharging-transgender-troops-cost-960-million/

Free Screening of *Political Animals* Coming to the Crest

Political Animals tells the story of the civil rights struggle of this century – the gay rights movement – through the eyes of the first four woman members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus: Jackie Goldberg, Christine Kehoe, Sheila Kuehl, and Carole Migden.



WHEN WOMEN LEAD LEADERS FOLLOW

Emotionally charged like its subjects, the film follows these four ground-breaking lesbians who took the fight for the causes most personal to them and their communities off the streets and into the halls of government.

Equality California, in partnership with the California LGBT Legislative Caucus will be hosting a free community screening of

Political Animals on Thursday, September 5, at the Crest Theatre (1013 K St, Sacramento). The movie screening will be from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. followed by a Q & A: from 9:00 - 9:30 p.m.

To attend the screening, please register at action.eqca.org/page/s/political-animals-screening

Gavin Newsom Addresses Placer Stonewall Town Hall

The Placer Stonewall Democrats club hosted the first ever town hall event with Gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom in Placer County. The event was held on August 2, 2017 at the Maidu Center in Roseville and the standing room crowd was in excess of 350.



Gavin Newsom as pictured on a campaign flyer.

The event was one of a series of meet and greets the Lt. Governor is hosting with voters across the state to discuss critical issues related to California and how the state can continue to serve as a model for the nation.

Newsom spoke and then ably answered questions on a breadth of topics including LGBTQ rights, immigration, education, environment, health care, transportation, water and national politics for over two hours.

Placer Stonewall Democrat Club president, Jacalyn Smith, opened the event noting Newsom's significant importance to the LGBTQ community when in 2004, as San Francisco's mayor, he pushed the city to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

"It was a rebellious gesture and opened a turbulent period of unions celebrated and blocked, anti-marriage campaigns and court battles, and public opposition that slowly then swiftly turned into public acceptance," said

Smith. "It led to the landmark Supreme court ruling on Gay Marriage in 2015 and a change in the hearts and minds of Americans."

Placer County is among the state's most conservative counties, and a part of Congressional District 4, which voted 51 percent for Donald Trump in the 2016 election.

Newsom's appearance shows the growing electoral strength of the Sierra Foothill communities and the Placer Stonewall Democrat Club, formed in 2017, is focused on making Placer County a leader in equality.

"Bringing Newsom to this community is a true capstone of our club's efforts to highlight progressive candidates", said Smith. The club is planning additional candidate events leading into the 2018 mid-term elections.

Expanding membership is also a primary goal of the club. For more information about Placer Stonewall Democrats, visit www.placerstonewalldemocrats.com.

Why I Walk to Stop Suicide

commentary by Andre Sillas

I am walking as a reminder of my past experiences, for what I have gone through and how it has forged me into the person that I am today.

In our society, especially in the LGBTQIA+ community, we are more likely to be exposed to injustice and ignorant backlash for being who we are. It is from my experience and struggle with mental illness that my passion and desire to create an open and safe space for not only students but the community as well originates.

We as a community are able to do so much when we come together and support those around us. Those whose lives we touch and those who touch ours are important and every single one significant. No matter race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and/or non-binary confirmation, suicide is not discriminatory and everyone from all walks of life are affected.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in this country. It touches millions of lives – people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds – but the research is clear: suicide is preventable, and the more people who stand up for suicide prevention and

mental health, the more lives we can save.

If you've lost someone to suicide, or you or someone you know suffers from a mental health condition like depression or anxiety, please join us for the Sacramento Out of the Darkness Community Walk to fight suicide on September 30, 2017 at the State Capitol.

Funds raised support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its bold goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in the United States 20 percent by 2025 through research, education, advocacy, and support. These walks are truly uplifting experiences, and they grow every year. Hope to see you there.

Details about the event can be found at www.afsp.org/sacramentowalk

For more information about AFSP's work with the LGBTQ+ community, please visit www.afsp.org/lgbt

Andre Sillas is the president of the UC Davis Students Against Suicide, Greater Sacramento Area Chapter, AFSP



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Briefly Put



Transgender "Bathroom Ban" Legislation Again Dies in Texas Legislature

A month long special session of the Texas legislature came to a close without passing a proposed "bathroom ban" law restricting access to restrooms and other school facilities by transgender people.

The bill was one of several contentious pieces of legislation that provoked Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to call the special session after the regular legislative session ended in May.

"GLSEN and our allies are relieved to see anti-trans legislation fail once again in Texas, but this was not an easy fight. And it is far from over," said Nathan Smith, Director of Public Policy, GLSEN. "While transgender youth remain at risk and the target of discrimination and bullying, the failure of this bill shows progress is

being made and we must continue to educate not only elected officials, but everyone about the lives of transgender people."

ACLU Files Legal Action Moving Gavin Grimm Case Forward in District Court

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed papers ending Gavin Grimm's request for an immediate halt to the Gloucester County School Board's policy prohibiting him and other transgender students from using the common restrooms at school. The new filings clear the way for the ACLU to proceed with litigating Grimm's case in district court.

"We believe that today's filing represents the most efficient path forward to ensuring that justice is served for Gavin," said Josh Block, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project. "Gavin graduated from high school before his simple request to his school board to treat him like every other boy could be validated, but this case is far from over. We'll continue to move forward so that Gavin's rights are vindicated and so that we can ensure that no other transgender students in Gloucester County have to go through what Gavin went through."

The landmark transgender rights case briefly made its way to the Supreme Court earlier this year before eventually being sent back down to lower courts for reconsideration following the Trump administration's withdrawal of a Title IX guidance clarifying protections for transgender students.

Survey Finds Over Half of American Adults Would Support Their Teenager's Request to Transition to Another Gender

In a sign of growing acceptance for transgender children, a new survey conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association finds 53 percent of American adults would support their teenage child's request to transition to another gender.

Early intervention and family support are shown to improve mental, physical and emotional outcomes for children with gender dysphoria, broadly defined as a conflict between a person's anatomy and the gender with which they identify.

"Parents have a significant role in raising transgender kids," says Laura Arrowsmith, DO, who practices at a transgender clinic in Oklahoma. "Once they get on board – often after stages of denial, rejection, condemnation and grief – they become powerful advocates at school and with extended family. This is crucial to the child's well-being."

Multi-Billion Dollar Company Refuses To Recognize CA Employee's Same-Sex Marriage In Violation Of Federal Law

An LA County lesbian couple is taking legal action against a Colorado-based company and its health insurance administrator for refusing to provide them spousal health insurance coverage on an equal basis to heterosexual employees.

They argue the employer's conduct violates federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on sex including Title VII and the Affordable Care Act.

Colorado-based Cherry Creek Mortgage Company told their employee Judith Dominguez that they would no longer offer spousal health care benefits to Dominguez's wife Patricia Martinez. Even worse, Cherry Creek told Dominguez that the company was retroactively retracting the health benefits they had provided to her wife for the prior year – leaving the couple facing tens of thousands of dollars in unexpected charges for care after Martinez's 2015 heart attack. When the couple stood up for their rights, Cherry Creek retaliated by firing Dominguez.



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Fall Sports Ready to Swing Into Action

by Cameron Yee

Now that the summer temperatures are starting to cool down, it's time to start heating things up with the LGBT sports leagues. With everything from bowling to volleyball, it's a great opportunity to get some exercise, meet new friends and have some fun.

Here, in no particular order, are some of the leagues you can join.

Kickball. Yes kickball, remember that game when you were in elementary school? The Sacramento Kickball league is a co-ed league for players of all skills. Games are played at Roosevelt Park on Saturdays from 4 to 6 p.m. It is an eight week league starting Sept. 16th and there will be pick-up games on Aug. 27th and Sept. 9th. varsitygayleague.com/sacramento-kickball/

Volleyball players can get their spikes in

whatever speed you are comfortable with. Besides walking/running, the group has a monthly breakfast and dinner meeting, after one of the runs. During the summer months, they also have a monthly barbecue. For more information, write Michael Bunuan at bunuan1973@yahoo.com.

The Sacramento G&L Tennis League will have just gotten underway when this issue comes out, but they often need substitute players or fill in for partners that can't finish the season. They play Tuesdays starting at 6



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with the Capitol City Volley Ball Club. They currently have open gym on Monday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m., cost is \$7. The fall league starts on Sept 11, register now at www.sacvball.com or at the open gym. And stay tuned for the Captial City Classic Volleyball Tournament on Nov. 11 & 12.

Bowlers have two leagues to choose from, and they are both on Sunday evenings. River City Bowlers, now in its 40th year, meets at Land Park Bowl at 6 p.m. and the strikes start on Sept 10. If you are interested in joining, contact Tom Lane at tommy5647@aol.com, and you can find more information at www.rivercitybowlers.com

The new kid on the block is the Go-Bo League at Country Club Lanes on Watt Avenue. They also bowl at 6 p.m. For starting dates, check out their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/1439574529604387/

The walking/running group Frontrunners meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at McKinley Park and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. at the Guy West bridge on University Ave. Each meet-up is informal with a quick meet and greet, before walking/running whatever distance you feel like at

p.m. with both doubles and singles matches through Nov 7th. For more info, visit www.sgltennis.org or www.facebook.com/groups/125646214186250/

If you want to take it to the hoop, the 916ers are Sac's LGBT co-ed recreational league, that remains competitive for fun, health and friendship and all levels of play are welcome. Check out www.916ers.org for the details on open gym play and the upcoming fall season.

The Sacramento Valley Gay and Lesbian Softball (SVGLS) league will start swinging for the fences on Sept 18. Prior to that there are workshops to teach some basics and rate the prospective players. Games are played at the Sacramento Softball complex, on Monday evenings. For more info visit svgls.org

And finally a short blurb on Gay Games 2018. The next Gay Games will be in Paris, France from Aug 4 thru Aug 12, 2018. While that's a year away, registration has been open for six months and many of the events are filling up. There will be over 36 sports offered and over 14 cultural events. The website is Paris2018.com.

Couple Chosen as Rainbow Chamber Business Leaders of the Year

Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has announced the selection of the 2017 Business Leader of the Year, and for the first time they are presenting a joint award because of the recipients' combined efforts to professionalize and modernize the Chamber in its formative years – and because of their unique Rainbow Chamber story.

The award is being presented to Steven Walker, founder and CEO of computer managed services company Fast Break Tech and Jason Russell of Russell, CPAs.

businesses and have shared their expertise in professional workshops for Chamber members, on topics such as cyber security and changes in tax laws impacting LGBT



Steven Walker and Jason Russell.

Walker created the Chamber's first website and brought it into the modern communications era by installing and maintaining for several years their first membership and event database. Walker served on the board for several years, including in the office of vice president.

"Rainbow Chamber, you opened my path to become the openly gay business owner I am today," said Walker. "Mixing with incredible and fun professionals in my 20's built my confidence both personally and professionally. AND bonus – you found me a fantastic husband of 12 years – I love you Rainbow Chamber for everything you provide!"

Russell served as board treasurer and Chamber accountant for a number of years-and continues to keep the Chamber legal with the IRS and State of California. "The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber allowed me to grow my professional career nurtured by LGBT professionals and allies," said Russell. "The Chamber has provided long term clients as well as friends. We've gotten so much from the Chamber and we are forever indebted to its members."

Both have built highly successful

couples, particularly critical during the turbulent years before same-sex marriage became federal law.

"Long story short, they have been mainstays of the Chamber and our community for many years, as dedicated board members and volunteers," said Chamber President Richard Hernandez in a released statement.

But there is more to Steven and Jason's story. The two met for the first time at a Chamber meeting in 2005 and have been together as a couple since. They married in October 2015.

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber allowed me to grow my professional career nurtured by LGBT professionals and allies. The Chamber has provided long term clients as well as friends. We've gotten so much from the Chamber we are forever indebted its members.

Presentation of the 2017 Business Leader of the Year Award will be at the Chambers 15th Anniversary Crystal Gala awards and scholarship dinner on September 14 at the Dante Club.

For more information, visit RainbowChamber.com

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Sacramento Pride Awards Recognize Our Finest

commentary by Natalie Bustamante

As Sacramento residents, we are fortunate to live in a city and region that supports the LGBTQ community and proudly champions the values of equality and justice. Particularly now, when the nation appears increasingly divided, Sacramento lends a united voice to LGBTQ causes and provides ongoing opportunities for our community to thrive.

SACRAMENTO LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER

SACRAMENTO PRIDE AWARDS

Co-host Cambi Brown, Reporter/Weekend Co-Anchor Good Day Sacramento

featuring **Scott Nevins** of Bravo TV's "The People's Couch"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30 | 5:30 - 9:00PM

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PURCHASE TICKETS AT SACCENTER.ORG/PRIDEAWARDS

To show our gratitude to the community, the Sacramento LGBT Center cordially invites you to the annual Pride Awards hosted by the Center on Wednesday, August 30, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in Downtown Sacramento.

This year's event will feature several of the many outstanding individuals and organizations within our community who go above and beyond to improve the lives of LGBT people, and we are excited to both host the Pride Awards and extend this invitation to you and yours.

Pride Awards recipients are tireless leaders in the LGBTQ movement and everyday heroes in our community. We award those who are hard at work to create a safer, healthier, more welcoming, and more just community for all of Sacramento. They demonstrate their pride in the way they live their lives, and they work from within their respective organizations to affect change and build a brighter future for us all.

Our Pride Awards recipients are the epitome of those who lead by example and foster equity throughout the region, and we are delighted to spend an evening celebrating them.

This year, we will honor a distinguished group of awardees, including:

- Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Wayne Panepento, for his 30+ year commitment to the LGBTQ community and over 15 years of volunteer service at the Center;
- Youth Award recipient Maya Steinhart, for serving as an advocate and campus leader in the CKM Rainbow Coalition, a club dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment at McClatchy High School;
- Ally Award recipient Eleni Kounalakis, for using her platform as the former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary to champion equal rights throughout Eastern Europe and the world;
- Partner Award recipient, the Consulate

General of Mexico, Sacramento, for their continued and unwavering support of the Center and all of its activities and services; and

• Community Award recipient, Nic Caballero, a Bilingual Counselor and LGBTQ Specialist at WEAVE who has dedicated countless hours volunteering to promote the health and well-being of the LGBTQ community

In addition to recognizing the above honorees, the Pride Awards serves as the Sacramento LGBT Center's largest annual fundraiser. More than 30 years ago, bold visionaries created a haven where LGBTQ people could build community, find safety, affirmation, and lead healthy lives.

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center continues its critical role as one of the largest driving forces creating a region where LGBTQ people thrive. By supporting the Pride Awards, you can help ensure the Center continues to offer a multitude of services to our community, all while cultivating equality both in Sacramento and beyond.

We look forward to our two charismatic co-hosts this year: Scott Nevins of Bravo TV's *The People's Couch* and Cambi Brown, Reporter/Weekend Co-Anchor of *Good Day Sacramento*.

Tickets are \$125 for dinner and entertainment, and \$150 for our VIP package. Table sponsorships are also available. There are many exciting events planned for the evening, including both live and silent auctions, each with a variety of unique items up for bids.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at www.saccenter.org/prideawards. Be sure to buy yours before they sell out!

Finally, thank you to our corporate sponsors: DiMare, Brown, Hicks & Kessler, LLC, Deloitte, PG&E, SMUD, Vitek Mortgage, Kevin Sloat, *Outword*, Comstock Magazine and the Rainbow Pages. We would not be able to host this fabulous event without your support!

Natalie Bustamante is the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Board Vice-President.

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Not Your Grandma's Square Dancing!

by *Karen Schmidt*

What do you think when you hear the words “square dancing”? Many people envision old folks, moving around in their crinolines and bolo ties to dated country music – or back to their grade school dance classes.



Capital City Squares members **Leslie Lasnik, Scott Sheffield, James Martin and Jessica Dutra** play dress-up with a collection of crinolines. Photo by **Larry Lauszus**.

But that's nothing like what you will find at Sacramento's Capital City Squares, a gay modern square dance club that has been offering dances and classes since 1981.

Modern square dancing is a fun game of quick memory recall of movements for a group of eight people, all set to music. Dancers learn a series of simple movements, each with its own given name. These are the “calls”.

There is a live “caller”, who strings the calls together with music, and you are given just a few beats of music to do each pattern before the next one is called. The group starts in the shape of a square, but the caller takes the dancers through all kinds of geometric shapes and changing patterns with his directions.

The fun part of the game is to help each other keep the square going without breaking down.

What's so different about gay-style square dancing? First, no dance partner is needed, ever. Everyone can choose to dance the “boy” part or the “girl” part. The dress is comfortable street wear and you don't have to wear the traditional square dance outfits – unless you really want to! You don't need any dancing ability, as the steps are mostly just walking.

Gay square dancing is fast and lively, with the addition of some whooping and hollering, and lots of different kinds of music. It's actually a great aerobic workout. A dancer with a monitor clocked nearly 12

miles recently at a day-long gay square dance festival. In addition, square dancing is said to be the absolutely best thing you can do to stave off Alzheimer's, because of the constant memory work tied in with a motor activity.

Square dancing is also a pleasant time out from the daily grind. Because responding to the calls takes constant attention, it can have the same effect as video games, television, or even alcohol and drugs, when you really want something to take your attention away from your troubles and cares for a while.

As one member explains it, “It makes the noise in my head and the pain in my heart just go away. I always feel so much better afterward.” And because it takes so much attention, the activity is strictly alcohol-free.

But ask any member of the club and they will tell you the best part of gay square dancing is the fun and the friendship. There is just something about square dancing that creates camaraderie, laughter, and good times for all.

Capital City Squares' next session begins on September 13th. The club meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at the Fruitridge Community Center, 4000, Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, just a few blocks off Highway 99.

Gay or straight, everyone is welcome to join us and try it at no cost on September 13th and 20th. Call 530-601-6057 or go to www.capitalcitysquares.org.

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A Night Under the Big Top Is a Paws to Party

Every year for the last four years, The Front Street Animal Shelter has thrown a fundraiser lovingly known as Paws to Party. Paws to Party is the largest fundraising event for the shelter and is quickly becoming a not to miss event in Sacramento.

Every dollar raised for the event is donated to the shelter in order to continue to the lifesaving work they do. This year, plans are for event to be even bigger and more exciting than ever. This year the theme is A Night Under the Big Top, and Front Street is bringing the best parts of the shelter circus to you with a memorable night of food, wine, beer, music, rare and one of a kind auction items, and best of all you will meet the shelter family and revel with them in the success of the shelter – all while supporting a great cause.

Over 40 local restaurants will be serving their amazing cuisine and over 20 local wineries and breweries will entice you with their liquid libations. The Wall of Wine will keep you in suspense until the last drop, as musical act Hipper than Hip dazzles your ears and moves your feet and the exclusive live and silent auction items will interest even the most exclusive collector.

The Front Street Animal shelter has been working to save the lives of Sacramento's homeless and abused animals for over 100 years. The Shelter is the first, and in many cases, the only line of protection and hope for thousands of dogs, cats, rabbits and wildlife of all shapes and sizes.

Front Street is more than just a refuge for lost and abandoned animals, it is the center of a community that values life and promotes education. The animal control officers that save and transport sick or injured animals, saving animals from hot cars or investigating animal abuse and attacks work with veterinarians that heal, vaccinate and spay/neuter animals that comes to the shelter.

Helping to make it all come together are Sacramento city staff members who work tirelessly to do whatever is needed to save lives and

volunteers who foster, care for, clean, train and love animals in hopes of helping them find their forever home.

Every single one of these groups and individuals is a hero to the shelter and Front Street needs each one of them to continue to be successful. However, there is one more hero that the shelter desperately depends on to save their animal friends and that is YOU! Each and every donation of money, food, blankets, supplies and medicine saves a life. We cannot do what we do without your generosity.

Every year the shelter is seeing the number of animals needing help increasing. In 2016, the shelter took in over 10,000 dogs and cats. This number does not include all of the other types of animals and wildlife they help.

"We are proud of our success and we want to share with you, our supporters, the celebration of every life at the shelter," said Bobby Mann. "The more support you give to the shelter, the more lives you save, so come one, come all to the greatest show in Sac Town." Paws to Party will be on October 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the California

Automobile Museum. For tickets and more information, visit PawsToParty.com.



Purdy, photographed for Front Street by Robin Hagy.

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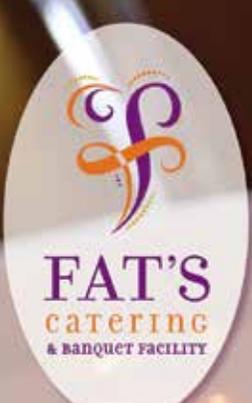


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The Depot Video Bar Celebrates 20 Years!

by Ron Scharffer

Labor Day Weekend 1997 TJ Bruce and company opened up The Depot Video Bar in the old Western location at 2001 K St in Midtown Sacramento, and it quickly became a favorite for meeting friends and having a cold one and helping to cement the corner of 20th & K as the center of Lavender Heights.

Modeled after San Francisco's Midnight Sun and The Detour, two of Bruce's favorite bars since the age of 18, The Depot has seen many transformations since the days Fred Palmer and several of TJs good friends all pitched in to help open for business on August 29th, 1997.

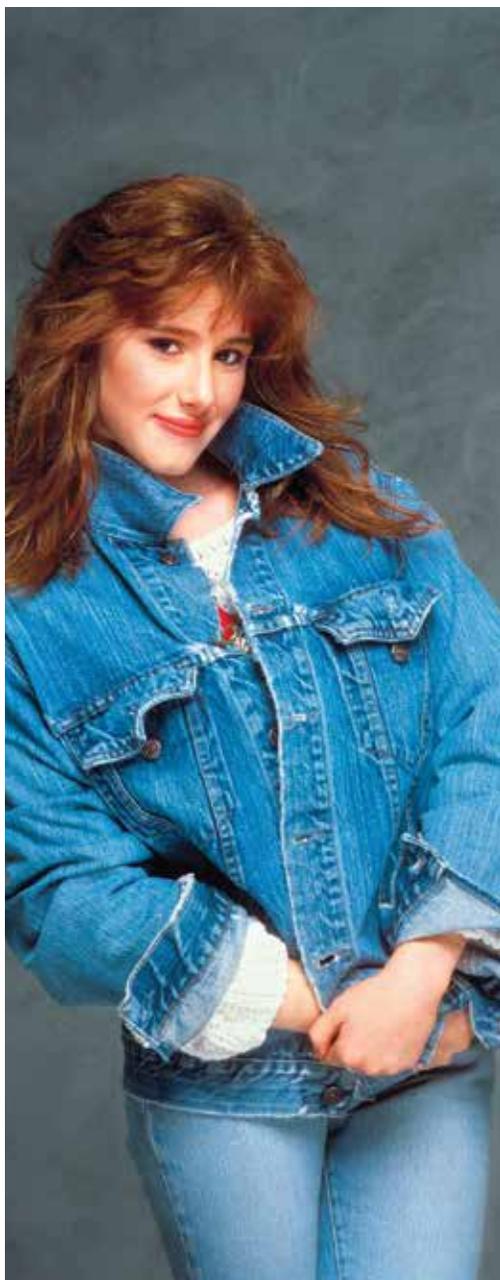
Bruce's opening of The Depot Video Bar in time for the Rainbow Festival came as a surprise to the Sacramento LGBT community, including its competitor FACES Nightclub.

Bruce reflected on some of his memories from over the years at The Depot Video Bar, including opening the business on the same night as the tragic loss of Princess Diana, The 1998 Smoking Ban in Bars, Legalization of Gay Marriage, Being voted "Best Bathroom" in Sacramento, and even Large Marge's wig catching fire when new patio heaters were installed.

Since The Depot's Grand Opening, Bruce has opened Badlands Sacramento in 2007, Splash San Jose in 2011, Sidetrax Sacramento in 2012 and is currently working on projects in Reno and Fresno.

The Depot Family invites you to Celebrate their 20th Anniversary with a live concert from 80's Pop Star Tiffany on Saturday, September 2nd at 9 p.m. over at The Badlands Stage. Best known for her hit singles "I Think We're Alone Now" and "Hold an Old Friend's Hand." She has two successful CD's, *Color of Silence* and *Dust Off And Dance* was even featured in Playboy magazine. Currently she is on tour, making cameo appearances on television, appearing in commercials, and headlining LGBT rights events.

The Depot, Badlands and Sidetrax are all located at 20th & K in Midtown Sacramento



80's Pop Star Tiffany will help celebrate the Depot's 20th Anniversary with a concert at Badlands on Sept. 2nd. For a fun flashback of "I Think We're Alone Now" visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6Q3mHyzn78

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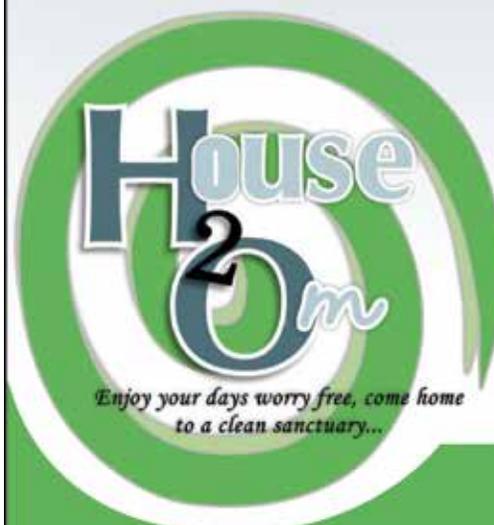
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by Chris Narloch

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You'll enjoy hit performances from Rachel Platten ("Fight Song," "Stand by You"), Shawn Hook ("Sound of Your Heart"), and All Time Low ("Dirty Laundry").

In addition to the concert under the stars, this all-ages show will feature vendors, food trucks, beer, wine, cocktails, and activities for the entire family.

General admission tickets purchased in advance are only \$20, with VIP passes available for \$55. A portion of each ticket benefits www.curebreastcancer.org.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Dimple Records locations and at www.eventbrite.com/e/breast-concert-ever-tickets-36416358308.



Shawn Hook will perform at *Breast Concert Ever*

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Don't Miss Leonard Pelkey, Sister Act & Shrew!

by Chris Narloch

This month on local stages, you can enjoy singing nuns, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and a very moving play about the murder of a gay teen.

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey

I urge every LGBT person in Sacramento – and surrounding areas – to see this intensely moving play about an investigation into the murder of a (fictional) gay teen named Leonard Pelkey.

We see a hazy photo of Leonard during the show, but other than that, he is never depicted other than in the vivid memories of those who knew him while he was alive. And yet you will feel like you know Leonard at the end of this fascinating, 90-minute, one-person play.

That familiarity is due, of course, to the smart script by James Lecesne, which has great affection for its fourteen-year-old subject, a young man who refused to tone down his 'absolute brightness.'

In other words, Leonard was one of those fabulously flaming teens who refuse to hide their queerness to make other people comfortable and who, as a result, pay the ultimate price for being different.

A good deal of this production's success is due to the sole performer on stage, Rich Hebert. The actor fully inhabits each character that offers their recollections of Leonard, as well as the sympathetic detective who cracks the case – as much as it can be cracked.

Hebert gives a superb performance – many

performances, really – in the type of dream role that actors love. He commands the stage, and successfully sells the play's very timely message that simply being 'different' should never be a crime.

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey plays through September 9th at B Street Theatre.



Rich Hebert in a scene from *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*. Photo by Rudy Meyers Photography

Don't miss it.

For more information, visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

Sister Act

This crowd-pleasing musical seems like the perfect show to receive the theater-in-the-round treatment and close out this summer's Music Circus season.

A stage adaptation of the popular Whoopi Goldberg film, *Sister Act* is an uplifting musical comedy and a sparkling tribute to the universal power of sisterhood.

With a score by Tony and

Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken, *Sister Act* features such divine songs as "Take Me To Heaven" and "Raise Your Voice."

Sister Act plays through August 27th at the Wells Fargo Pavilion.

For more information, visit www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com.

Shrew!

Another show I am looking forward to seeing is this original, musical version of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which has been retooled as a Jazz Age romp.

Set in Paris during the 1930s,

against a backdrop of competing fashion houses and swinging jazz melodies, *Shrew!* is the realization of a dream project begun by the beloved local director Bob Irvin before he died last year.

Shrew! was completed by Fair Oaks Theatre Festival alumnus and published author Jennifer Longo, and it will play through September 17th, under the stars in Old Fair Oaks.

For more information, visit www.FairOaksTheatreFestival.com.

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Sacramento's California Museum Opens Unity Center

by Chris Narloch

If ever there was a perfect time to open a center promoting unity in the community, this is it. After the horrific recent violence in Charlottesville, and with racial politics at a boiling point around the country, the brand new Unity Center opening on Saturday, August 26th inside Sacramento's California Museum could not be more essential.



Courage to Act exhibit in the Unity Center at California Museum. Photo by Robert Durell, courtesy of California Museum.

With Donald Trump's anti-Muslim, anti-Mexican, and anti-LGBT politics emboldening bigots all across the land, the hope is that a Unity Center will inspire visitors to take a stand against bigotry, as Unity Activists.

The new, long-term exhibition has in fact been in the works for more than 15 years – long before President Trump entered the political arena – and was initiated in response to a series of Northern California hate crimes by a pair of white supremacists during the 1999 "Summer of Hate."

A long-term installation that includes a

4,000-sq. ft. gallery and adjoining classroom, the Unity Center is intended to celebrate our state's civil rights history and diverse people, customs & cultures by creating a permanent commitment to fight hate and intolerance.

Among topics covered in the exhibition are many current issues facing Californians and Americans today, including hate crimes, racial profiling and religious freedom, immigration, civil rights, equality and gender identity.

In the *Facing Assumptions* exhibit, for example, visitors are immersed in conversations between members of marginalized groups

including African Americans, Latino immigrants and transgender individuals, who share deeply personal experiences facing common stereotypes and misconceptions.

In another section titled *Courage to Act*, visitors explore animated situations and recognize the bystander's role in standing up to harassment and bullying.

The core of the Unity Center offers examples of past and present Californians who have successfully stood up for their rights and for the rights of others using a variety of tools, from artistic expression to peaceful civil disobedience.

On Saturday, August 26th, the Museum will host the Unity Center Block Party to commemorate the Unity Center's opening through a daylong celebration of unity and diversity.

Highlights include free admission for all visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; a civil rights panel with Dolores Huerta, Stuart Milk of the Harvey Milk Foundation and California State Sen. Holly Mitchell (D, 30th) moderated by CNN's Lisa Ling from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and an address by Mayor Darrell Steinberg at 12:00 p.m.

Additional festivities at the Unity Center Block Party include free light rail transportation; hands-on activities for kids; dance and music performances by a wide variety of cultural organizations; food trucks; a beer garden; and more activities designed to promote unity in the community.

For more information on the Unity Center exhibition and the Unity Center Block Party, visit www.californiamuseum.org/unity.

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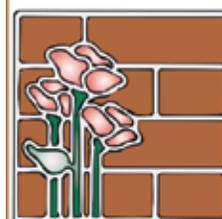
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