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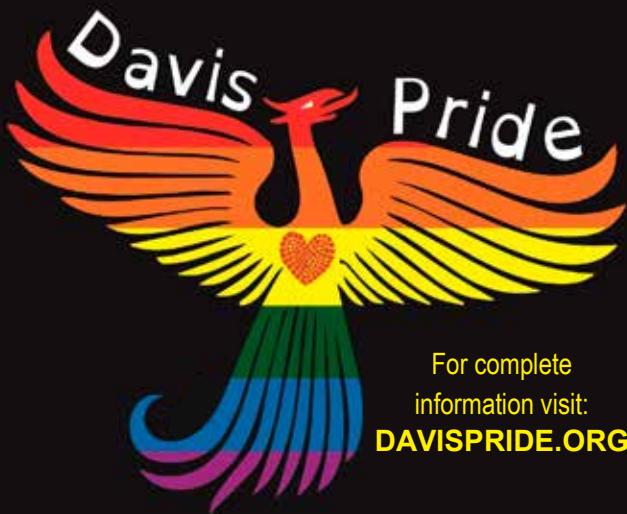
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Army COS Contradicts Report on Transgender Troops

Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley on April 12th called into question a key claim of the Defense Department's recent report on transgender military service: that allowing transgender service risks undermining cohesion, privacy, fairness and safety.

Asked by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand during congressional testimony if he had heard of any problems with unit cohesion arising from open transgender service, Gen. Milley responded, "I have received precisely zero reports of issues of cohesion, discipline,

morale and all those sorts of things."

Palm Center Director Aaron Belkin called Gen. Milley's remarks significant. "It is telling for the Army Chief of Staff to acknowledge there have been 'zero' problems with cohesion, discipline or morale just weeks

after a DoD report, ostensibly based on months of research, insisted that transgender troops pose a risk to cohesion, discipline and morale."

The Defense Department report called into question the medical fitness of transgender troops, but the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association and retired U.S. Surgeons General have stated that the Pentagon's medical data and reasoning are misleading and unpersuasive.

CA Assembly Passes Bill to Ban "Conversion Therapy"

Legislation to ban efforts to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, sometimes called "conversion therapy" or "reparative therapy," passed in the California Assembly on April 19th, with a bipartisan vote of 50-14

Assemblymember Evan Low's AB 2943, cosponsored by Equality California and the Trevor Project, would make California the first state in the nation to ban these widely discredited practices from being performed

on both children and adults.

"So-called conversion therapy is a dangerous, ineffective solution in search of a nonexistent problem, and there's no place for it in the State of California," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur. "Once again, California legislators sent a clear, bipartisan message to the LGBTQ community across our state and around the world: You belong. We look forward to the day when all LGBTQ Californians are protected from these dangerous, fraudulent practices."

AB 2943 would make clear in California law that claiming to be able to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is a fraudulent business

practice that misleads consumers and exposes LGBTQ people to damaging psychological abuse. The bill previously passed the Assembly Privacy Committee 8-2 and the Assembly Judiciary Committee 8-1, each time with bipartisan support.

"The pain and fear suffered by those who have been subjected to conversion therapy is something that I can personally identify with," said Assemblymember Evan Low (D-San Jose), author of AB 2943. "This legislation finally created accountability for those who claim to provide therapy but are in fact peddling an unfounded and destructive practice."

AB 2943 now heads to the Senate..

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WEAVE Rape Crisis Center Marks 30 Years of Service

In 1988, WEAVE became Sacramento County's sole Rape Crisis Center and has provided 24/7 response to survivors undergoing evidentiary examinations throughout this time and provides accompaniment and advocacy services during interviews with law enforcement, follow up medical appointments and support.



One of the biggest fundraisers for WEAVE is Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, where supporters, both men and women, don high heel shoes with while and walk a mile - or even run - in them to raise funds with their own pledges and pledges from their friends and families.

The goal this year is to raise \$320,000 that will go directly to providing services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking here in the

Sacramento community. The impact that YOU can make on this event is HUGE.

The Walk and Festival will be held on Sunday, May 20, at its new location at Crocker Park, 211 O Street. The Festival Opens at 11:30 a.m. and the Walk Begins at 1 p.m. The Festival closes at 3 p.m.

You can register for Walk a Mile online at www.weaveinc.org or at the Festival.

Why walk? Watch this powerful video at www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=Pci_fQlZxY

New Beyond I Do Campaign to Fight LGBT Discrimination

A new campaign aims to raise awareness about the prevalence of discrimination against LGBT people in the United States, despite the widespread misconception they have basic protections.

The public service campaign from the Ad Council, in partnership with the Gill Foundation, promotes acceptance, empathy and understanding for the millions of LGBT Americans who can be kicked out of their homes, fired from their jobs or denied services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Created by ad agency CP+B with research and strategy from Redscout, the *Beyond I Do* campaign will confront the common misconception that LGBT Americans received full equality along with the right to marry.

They speak for the 55 percent of LGBT people who have reported being discriminated against due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. And while public opinion research shows 79 percent of non-LGBT Americans support equality for LGBT people, 80 percent mistakenly believe it's illegal under federal law to fire, evict or refuse service to someone because they are LGBT.

In reality, 31 states lack comprehensive protections and allow these acts of discrimination against LGBT Americans.⁴

"Everyone should have the ability to live in



Krista and Jami of Michigan share their story of a pediatrician who refused to provide medical care for their six-day-old newborn because of the couple's sexual orientation. It was, and still is, legal in Michigan for a doctor to refuse service to a child based on the sexual orientation of the child's parents.

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SD Pride to Host Binational LGBTQ Summit In Tijuana

San Diego Pride has announced that through a grant received from the American Consulate General in Tijuana it will take part in hosting an LGBTQ binational summit in Tijuana, Mexico entitled *Orgullo Sin Fronteras (Pride Without Borders)*.



Members of the Binational Task Force

Barriers to funding and capacity building resources for the LGBTQ community in Tijuana prevent LGBTQ individuals from accessing services and care. These limitations diminish the LGBTQ Tijuana community's ability to live full, healthy lives and to engage in the full spectrum of the civic, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the region.

"Being born with talent, brilliance, or being born LGBTQ is as equally spread throughout the world as human life. What is not equally distributed is opportunity," said Fernando Z. López, Executive Director, San Diego Pride. "We may be two cities in two nations, but we are one global LGBTQ community, and while some may wish to focus on building walls, we at Pride are looking to build bridges with our LGBTQ

community wherever they live."

For the past 10 months, SD Pride has been working in a coalition consisting of LGBTQ organizations and individuals on both sides of the border including The San Diego LGBT Community Center and ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

"The conference promises to be a great opportunity to bring together LGBTQ communities on both sides of the border line," said Ricardo Gallego, Director of Latino Services at the San Diego LGBT Community Center. "We are going to learn from each other, support each other, and help new leaders and LGBTQ role models emerge on both sides of the border."

The one-day educational summit will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and to register, visit sdpride.org/binacional.

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2018 Sacramento Equality Awards

Photos by Chris Allan, imagesbychrisa.com

The Equality Awards help fuel Equality California's first-in-the-nation work to achieve and maintain full and lasting equality for LGBTQ communities throughout our state and across the country.



The Sacramento Equality Awards, presented by Equality California, were held Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Crest Theatre, honoring some of Sacramento's biggest champions for LGBTQ equality.

This year's honorees include:

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Nancy McFadden Ally Leadership Award, one of the LGBTQ community's strongest and earliest allies, who has led California's legal resistance to the Trump Administration's harmful policies – including the transgender military ban;

"We Said Enough" Co-Founder Adama Iwu, Equality Activist Award, who was recognized as one of *Time Magazine's*

"Silence Breakers" for her efforts to end sexual harassment in the Capitol and throughout California politics;

Cathy Schwamberger, Equality Leadership Award, the former board president of Equality California Institute and a leader of diversity and inclusion efforts within California's insurance industry and business community; and

The Capitol LGBTQ Association, Community Empowerment Award, our cutting-edge state-level association facilitating the professional development of LGBTQ individuals in the California Capitol community.

For more information, visit eqca.org.

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Laugh Your Head Off With Kathy Griffin

an exclusive interview by Chris Narloch

Anybody else might have disappeared until the coast was clear – and the Democrats were back in power – but Kathy Griffin isn't that kind of gal.

Her diehard fans knew better than to count the controversial comic out. Griffin is nothing if not a survivor, and she's one smart cookie.

When an ill-advised photo Griffin released of her holding President Trump's bloody, severed head went viral last year and nearly derailed her career, she brilliantly bounced back by announcing a world tour of the countries where our current President is despised – just about all of them, as it turns out.

Before the laughter returned, however, Griffin endured a bizarre odyssey that included desertion by celebrity friends, a two-month investigation by the feds, having her U.S. shows cancelled, and being put on the no-fly list.

Griffin is still on the Interpol list, which means that she is detained at every overseas airport during her appropriately titled *Laugh Your Head Off World Tour*.

In addition to receiving her own death threats after the photo incident, Griffin's famous, 97-year-old mother, Maggie, got death threats, as did her late sister, Joyce, who was dying of cancer



Comedian Kathy Griffin returns.
Photo by Tyler Shields

The comic initially apologized – in a tearful video, sans makeup – but later retracted her apology, and Griffin is defiant now in her belief that she is an edgy comic whose speech (including that infamous photo) is protected under the First Amendment.

Now that venues in the U.S. are starting to book her again, she has even lined up dates at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

I had the opportunity to speak with Griffin by phone recently, as she prepared for the North American leg of her tour. As always, the comic had much to say, and she didn't pull any punches.

Hi, Kathy. I am so excited that you are doing standup again, after everything you've been through. How is the tour going?

Great. One of my goals with this tour was to clear up one thing, that whether you liked that picture or hated it, it wasn't illegal. So when the far-right started their "lock her up" and shit ... look, I don't want some teenager – if they had done the same picture – to be under a fucking two-month investigation from the Justice Department, led by Mr. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions. Oh my lord, somebody give him a mint julep and fan him on a porch.

You are in good company if you've felt the wrath of Donald Trump, right? Robert Mueller, James Comey, the list is long...

Well, when the Trump family comes after you, it's not exactly like a scene from *The Crown*. I mean I know they think that they're royalty but holy shit-balls.

I want to ask how your mom is doing with all that's happened. I imagine that many boxes of wine have been consumed?

God bless her, Maggie will be 98 this June, and I don't know if you saw my Instagram, but she hit the BevMo! this weekend. She watches Fox News with the sound off, while drinking boxed wine, and then blames me for everything. She is so vain that she won't wear her hearing aids because she thinks she's in show business and needs to look good. They rerun the Trump photo like everyday on Fox, and then she calls me and asks me if I've rejoined ISIS.

After sort of a Kathy Griffin blackout, you have been turning up on my TV again.

Yes, last week I finally got my first

comedy TV gig. I got to play Kellyanne Conway on *The President Show* on Comedy Central. It was so much fun. The only thing is, to prepare for the role they wouldn't give me any meth. They were really strict about it, but I don't mean to imply that Kellyanne does meth, at all.

Did you wear that scary bicentennial getup that she had at the Inauguration, Kathy, that hideous red, white and blue Gucci outfit that cost \$3,600.00?

I love you! I demanded it. It was so nice after a year of being called a terrorist and shit, to go to a work environment where people were actually nice. They asked me what I wanted to wear, and with Kellyanne there are so many looks to choose from. But yeah, if I was her I wouldn't really have gone for the whole double-breasted Civil War look at the Inauguration, with all the racial tensions we have in the country currently.

So you feel like you've turned the corner it sounds like, with regards to getting your career back on track?

That photo has really been a double-edge sword. The death threats still come. People still actually mail them to my house. It's all kinds of crazy shit, but thank God for getting back on the road. I'm so excited to be coming to my beloved Masonic in San Francisco, and I'm going to get corny here. Listen, last May 30th, my life changed forever, and I understand that I'm going to be associated with that picture in some way the rest of my career regardless of all my body of work, which kind of like disappeared overnight. So I'm happy to be biting and scratching my way back. I added a second night at the Masonic, which is a miracle because the promoters didn't even think I could do one night. I'm like little Ms. Gratitude.

Have you already played Mexico?

Not yet, but I can't wait. They really hate Trump down there. We have to find the right theater, probably in Mexico City. I wish I was bilingual because I bet I could do like twenty fucking shows down there.

So what can people expect on this tour, Kathy? I imagine your act is a lot more political now?

Well, I do take you into the room for the interrogation, but then there's also all my usual fun stuff too. I don't know if you already knew this, but my actual neighbors through all this were Kim Kardashian West and Kanye Kardashian West ... I'm really proud of this show because every word of it is true, and parts of it are jaw dropping. Did you know that I'm invited to the White House Correspondents' Dinner on April 28, as a guest of *The Washington Blade*?

You're kidding! Is Trump going to be there?

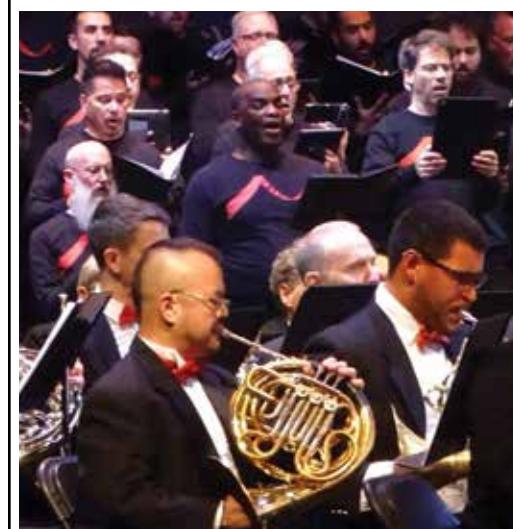
Now supposedly Trump isn't coming, but Sarah Huckabee Sanders is. Although I think Trump can't resist, and I believe that he's gonna pull a *Silence of the Lambs* and show up in a Sarah Huckabee Sanders skin suit.

For information about Kathy Griffin's *Laugh Your Head Off World Tour* dates, visit www.kathygriffin.net.

Don't Miss Harmony For The Homeless

by Chris Narloch

Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 5th and you can donate to a great cause while also enjoying some great music, courtesy of a host of talented classical artists.



The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band in one of their 40th Anniversary Season shows. Photo by Paul Margolis.

Harmony for the Homeless is a joint concert of the UC Davis Concert Band, San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (SFLGFB) and Camerata California Chamber Choir to benefit Joshua's House -- California's first homeless hospice.

Currently, one to three people die on the streets in Sacramento each week, many due to advanced illnesses. Joshua's House is dedicated to providing comfort and care to our community members who are most in need.

The *Harmony for the Homeless* benefit concert will raise funds for the establishment of Joshua's House, as well as promote awareness of the various issues surrounding homelessness and healthcare.

On May 5 and 6, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band will be coming to Sacramento for two concerts.

On Saturday evening, May 5, SFLGFB will share a concert with the Roseville Community Band at American River College. Concert proceeds from this show will benefit the Gender Health Center in midtown Sacramento.

On Sunday afternoon, May 6, SFLGFB will join forces with the UCD Concert Band and Camerata California Chamber Chorus plus pianist extraordinaire Richard Glazier for *Harmony for the Homeless*, which will take place inside the McClatchy High School Auditorium.

This two-day benefit tour is part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of SFLGFB and will include timeless music from *Candide*, *West Side Story* and *An American in Paris*, plus "Rhapsody in Blue" (featuring Richard Glazier on piano).

To purchase tickets, please visit: harmonyforthehomeless.bpt.me/

To make an online donation to Joshua's House, please visit www.thehcri.org

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Broadway Sac Announces Exciting 2018-19 Season

by Chris Narloch

Disney's newest musical juggernaut *Aladdin* will anchor Broadway Sacramento's next series of shows, and that's only the beginning of the theatrical riches in store for musical theater lovers who attend the 2018-19 Season.



That tuneful, entertaining Disney blockbuster is one of two musicals coming to Sacramento next season that are still playing on Broadway. (The other one is the delightful feminist musical comedy *Waitress*.)

Waitress, which opened in early 2016, became the first Broadway musical in history with an all-female creative team, including director Diane Paulus, songwriter Sara Bareilles, book writer Jessie Nelson, and choreographer Lorin Latarro.

Based on the 2007 movie of the same name, which was also written and directed by a woman, *Waitress* is my favorite among next season's shows. (I have seen it twice on Broadway and will catch it again when it plays Sacramento.)

On Your Feet, another feel-good musical that was a surprising success on Broadway, is also coming to town. Chock-full of her radio hits from back in the day, and featuring dazzling choreography, the show charts the ups and downs of singer Gloria Estefan's life and career.

For many LGBTQ theater fans, the most-anticipated show next season will be *Falsettos*, which premiered on Broadway in 1992 and was revived, to great acclaim, in 2016.

Falsettos, which hasn't been seen in the Community Center since its second national tour in 1994, centers on a gay male couple

during the early days of the AIDS crisis. The work also included the first openly lesbian couple to appear as featured characters in a major Broadway musical.

Rounding out the 2018-19 Broadway Sacramento Season are two returning audience favorites that should pull in the crowds: those singing, dancing *Cats* and an optional show, *Stomp*.

(The 2018-19 season will also include another optional title, the family show *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, which will play a brief run here next April.)

2018-19 will be the final season in the Community Center before the \$84 million renovation is begun that will provide Broadway Sacramento and the other tenants of the Center with a more spacious lobby, better acoustics and improved restroom facilities.

The Memorial Auditorium will host the 2019-20 series, and then the renovation of the Community Center is currently scheduled to be complete in time for the 2020-21 Broadway Sac season, which – fingers crossed, and you didn't hear it here – will (hopefully) include *Hamilton*, the biggest phenomenon in Broadway history.

For more information about Broadway Sacramento visit www.BroadwaySacramento.com.

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CA Musical Theatre Changes Name to Broadway Sacramento

Broadway Sacramento President/C.E.O. Richard Lewis has announced that the name of the nonprofit arts organization he heads, formerly known as California Musical Theatre, has been changed to Broadway Sacramento.

Lewis said the summer series of shows that take place in the Wells Fargo Pavilion, formerly known as Sacramento Music Circus, will now be called Broadway At Music Circus; and the series of touring Broadway productions that take place in the Community Center Theater, formerly known as Broadway Sacramento, will now be called Broadway On Tour.

"We believe these names better articulate what we do as a company, which is to bring top Broadway talent to Sacramento – at Music Circus during the summer, at the Community Center Theater during the fall, winter and spring, and with our arts education programs throughout the year," Lewis says.

"We found that, despite its 67-year history, there are many people in the Sacramento region who are unfamiliar with Music Circus, likely because they're confused by the word 'circus,' mistakenly believing it has something to do with a circus in the traditional sense," Lewis adds. "And the former company name didn't properly convey the esteemed status Music Circus

enjoys throughout the theatre industry, or the incredible Broadway talent involved in creating our shows, both onstage and behind the scenes, for both the Broadway At Music Circus and Broadway On Tour series."

"I hope the theatre community will join us in embracing these changes," Lewis says. "One thing that will not change is the superb quality of our musical theatre productions. With Broadway At Music Circus, we'll continue to create the spectacular shows our patrons have come to expect. And with Broadway On Tour, we'll continue to present some of the most popular nationally touring Broadway shows available."

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—David Sedaris,
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An Evening with David Sedaris > MAY 9

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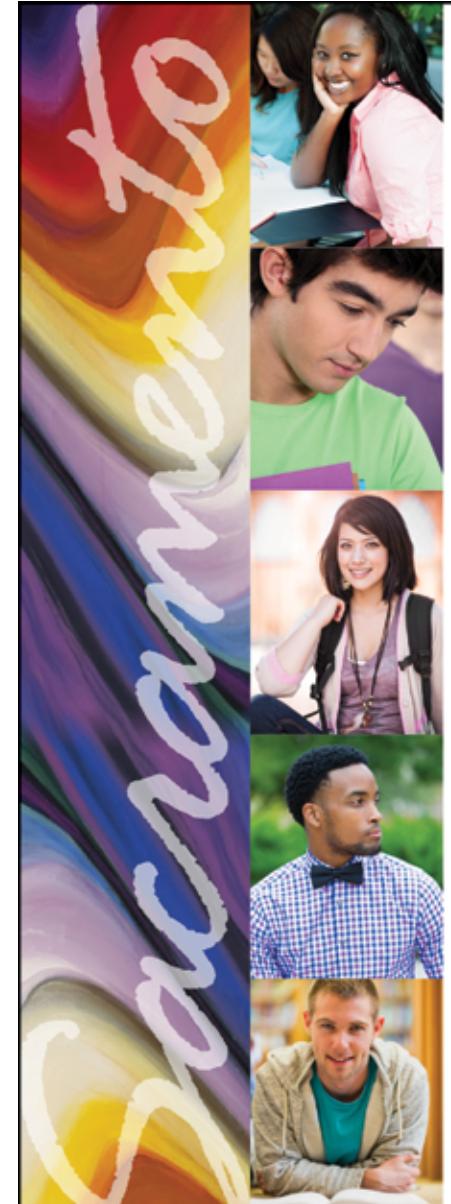
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Me'Shell NdegeOcello Set To Sing At The Sofia

by Chris Narloch

The great singer-songwriter, rapper and bassist Me'Shell NdegeOcello will give a rare Sacramento performance on Saturday evening, May 5, at the brand new Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts on Capitol Avenue in midtown.



Me'Shell NdegeOcello

The intimacy of "The Sofia" should be the perfect space for NdegeOcello's chameleon-like music, which is adventurous in all the best ways and encompasses a wide variety of influences, including funk, jazz, hip hop, reggae and rock.

The artist is famous for, among other things, her duet with John Mellencamp on his hit cover version of Van Morrison's "Wild Night," the controversial song "Levitcus: Faggot," and a No. 1 dance record entitled "Who Is He (And What Is He To You)?"

The singer is currently on tour in support of her just-released, 12th studio release, *Ventriloquism*, a terrific collection of eleven cover songs that includes tunes by Prince ("Sometimes It Snows in April"), TLC ("Waterfalls"), Sade ("Smooth Operator"), Tina Turner ("Private Dancer"), and George Clinton ("Atomic Dog").

Clearly, the CD is a passion project for NdegeOcello, and she will no doubt also play music from throughout her impressive and eclectic thirty-year music career when she graces the stage of the Sofia.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.sblentertainment.com>.

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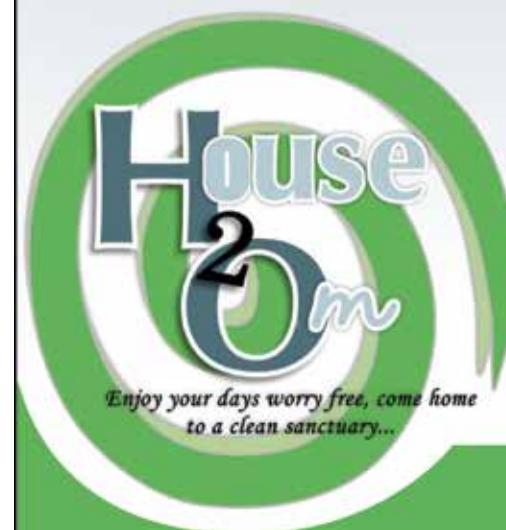
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Meet your favorite *Star Wars* characters without making a trip to a galaxy far, far away when the Sacramento Zoo brings the big screen to life with a visit from characters including Darth Vader, Kylo Ren, Boba Fett, R2-D2, Stormtroopers and other fan favorites. The day's festivities will also focus on conservation and education with *Star Wars*-themed enrichments for the animals and children's crafts. Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with two entry times available: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 12 to 3 p.m. Visit saczoo.org/starwarsday

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Out & About with Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

We had the April showers, bring on the May flowers! It's a good thing this climate stuff is all a hoax. Amiright? Hoax or not, there are so many huge events coming up in the next few weeks that I just had to share them with you.

From the Big Day of Giving (BDOG) on May 3rd to the NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) on May 10th, it's time to break out those pocketbooks and get your tax-deductible donations started for next year!

Over the past twelve years the NCAC has raised over \$2.5 million for HIV/AIDS-related non-profit agencies in the Sacramento and Northern California region. Recent funding cuts make it even more vital that our community supports the riders, crew and most importantly the organizations that will receive NCAC funds at www.norcalaidscycle.org/donate.

Another fundraising event that has grown more popular each year is BDOG. Over 600 Northern California nonprofits are part of this 24-hour event, which encourages community awareness and donations. While larger nonprofits with a wide base of support participate, BDOG is a chance for smaller nonprofits that perform critical services to the community to get the recognition and support they need. Remember to give as generously as possible on May 3rd at www.bigdayofgiving.org.

Speaking of great organizations, Paul Curtis and the California Council of

Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) welcomed Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg at the annual Spring Policy Forum in April. Mayor Steinberg delivered the opening keynote speech and has long been recognized as a leader on mental health issues in California and nationally. CBHA is a statewide association of nonprofit community agencies that provide behavioral health programs and services to the people of California.

Theater folk may be interested in a casting call asking for gender outlaws. Skip Theory is casting for a June production of Kate Bornstein's *Hidden: A Gender*. Auditions will be held at the Gender Health Center Room 103, on April 28th and 29th. Skip Theory is dedicated to diverse and inclusive casting practices. People of color and transgender-identified/gender-nonconforming actors are particularly encouraged to audition. SkipTheoryTheatre@gmail.com.

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus is looking to hire a new administrator to provide administrative and clerical support to the organization. If you have initiative, independence, and professionalism, as well as a love of wonderful music contact the

group on their website www.sacgaymenschorus.org.

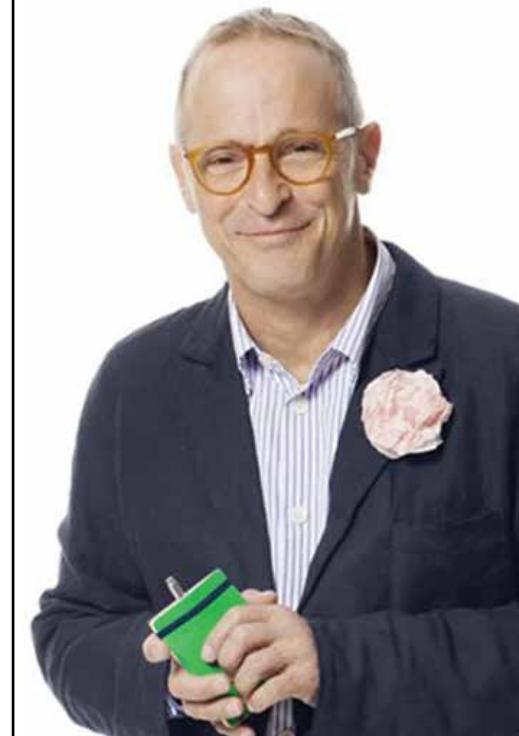
Won't someone think of the children? Sacramento Area Rainbow Families (SARF) is doing just that on May 6th. LGBTQ family organizations from around the world are joining forces to increase the visibility of LGBTQ families. SARF will be hosting a local celebration that will include child-friendly activities such as face painting and a magic show. The event will be at South Natomas Community Park from noon to 2 p.m.

Author Donovan James, who is known for his raw poems and short stories about navigating his biracial and queer identities and mental health, will be sharing work from his latest collection on Saturday, April 28th at 4 p.m. at the Lavender Library. www.lavenderlibrary.com.

Earlier this month the Center participated in the seventh annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk and Resource Fair at Sacramento State University. According to reports 1,519 people registered for the walk to raise over \$16,950. The event and funds raised will help Sacramento State empower students through knowledge and awareness of suicide prevention.

Let Matt know what's Out & About with you and your group. Send him short notes of your accomplishments, funny happenings and upcoming events to mattthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

An Evening with David Sedaris at the Mondavi Center



With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's preeminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. Sedaris will be at the Mondavi on Wednesday, May 9. Visit www.mondaviarts.org/event/2017-18/evening-david-sedaris.

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