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Cirque du Soleil's "Amaluna" aerial hoop performance. Photo Yannick Déry Costumes Mérédith Caron © 2012 Cirque du Soleil

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Federal Court Upholds Injunction Preventing Discharge of HIV-Positive Airmen By Trump Administration

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld a lower court ruling in *Roe & Voe v. Esper* that halted efforts by the Trump administration to discharge members of the Air Force because they are living with HIV. The decision will allow two active-duty Airmen living with HIV, identified pseudonymously as Richard Roe and Victor Voe, to continue serving in the U.S. Air Force as well as preventing the discharge of any other Airmen living with HIV.

The court ruled that the government's justifications "fail to account for current medical literature and expert opinion about current HIV treatment and transmission risks." The opinion, written by Judge Wynn and joined by Judge Diaz and Judge Floyd, stated:

"A ban on deployment may have been justified at a time when HIV treatment was less effective at managing the virus and reducing transmission risks. But any understanding of HIV that could justify this ban is outmoded and at odds with current science. Such obsolete understandings cannot justify a ban, even under a deferential standard of review and even according appropriate deference to the military's professional judgments."

"I am extremely relieved to learn that I can continue to serve this country like any other service member. Serving in the U.S. military has been the greatest honor of my life and I'm thrilled to see this court affirm the lower court ruling in our favor. No one should be discharged or discriminated against because of HIV when it does not interfere whatsoever with our capacity to serve," said plaintiff Victor Voe.

In February, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia granted the plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction halting implementation of the administration's discriminatory discharge policies while the lawsuit proceeded, finding that the Airmen had a likelihood of success on their claims at trial. Today, the Fourth Circuit affirmed that ruling.

"This is the second federal court to find that the Trump administration's attempt to

discharge these individuals is unlikely to pass legal muster," said Scott Schoettes, Counsel and HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal. "At the root of these discharge decisions and other restrictions on the service of people living with HIV are completely outdated and bigoted ideas about HIV. Today's ruling clears the way for us to definitively prove at trial that a person living with HIV can perform the job of soldier or airman as well and as safely as anyone else. We are confident Roe and Voe will succeed because the Government is unable to offer a reasonable justification for their discriminatory treatment of servicemembers living with HIV."

Today's ruling came in the case *Roe & Voe v. Esper* (formerly *Roe & Voe v. Shanahan*), filed in December 2018 by Lambda Legal and Modern Military Association of America (MMAA, formerly OutServe-SLDN) with pro-bono co-counsel Winston & Strawn.

The decision on the preliminary injunction comes approximately four months after a three-judge panel of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments from both sides on September 18, in which Geoffrey Eaton, Partner at Winston & Strawn LLP, argued on behalf of the plaintiffs. In the argument judges questioned the Department of Justice lawyers representing the Trump Administrations for more clear answers as to why the Department of Defense believes its policies are justified.

Read more about the case here: <https://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/cases/roe-and-voe-v-shanahan>

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DNC on Trump's Latest Rollback of Protections for LGBTQ Americans

DNC Chair Tom Perez, DNC LGBTQ Caucus Chair Earl Fowlkes, and DNC Interfaith Council Co-Chair Sarah Levin released the following statement in response to Trump's most recent effort to undermine the equal rights and endorse the discrimination of LGBTQ Americans:

"It is insulting and dangerous to conflate religious freedom with federally-funded discrimination against LGBTQ people. The Trump administration's latest effort to roll back antidiscrimination protections in access to federal funding risks taking vital health, housing, and education services away from Americans just because of who they are. Under President Obama, we protected civil rights for groups that have faced historical discrimination, including the LGBTQ community. The Trump administration has gone in the opposite direction — endorsing discrimination against LGBTQ individuals, single mothers, and religious minorities, and putting their safety at risk. It is long past time for Trump and Republicans to stop using 'religious freedom' as a license to discriminate. Democrats support freedom of faith. We believe no one should face discrimination because of who they are, what they believe, or who they love, and we will keep fighting for the full equality every person deserves."

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Out & About

words and photos by Fred Palmer

The Women's March 2020 was held on Saturday Jan 18 in Sacramento and all over the world, as Women's March Global. The first such march was held the day after the current President's inauguration and drew huge crowds in numerous cities, including Sacramento. The Sacramento March 2020 drew thousands of enthusiastic marchers. They started at Southside Park and ended up at the State Capitol where speakers and local performers entertained and inspired the crowd. My favorite part of the march each year is the signs that people make and carry. Here are some of our favorite pics from this year's event. Hope to see you next year! For more information go to: <https://womensmarchglobal.org/about/>



Power of the Pronoun

by Lauren Pulido • He/Him/His
Instagram: @lauren_pulido • Twitter: @laurenpulido

Whether we are aware of how often we use pronouns or not, there is no escaping the daily frequency in which we use them. But since we use them so often, why not take a moment to at least get them right.

Supportive language and representation within wording is immensely important to be able to completely connect with one another or communicate respectfully. Not using someone's correct gender pronouns could derail your intimate respectability between one another, break focus and concentration from your conversations, and is very disrespectful to the person you are communicating with. If you wouldn't call yourself something you don't prefer, you probably shouldn't do that to someone else.

This brings me to my next major topic when discussing pronouns, which is to never assume what gender pronoun someone uses. Assuming someone's gender identity and pronoun use and being incorrect with your

assumption can be offensive and triggering for folks and puts us in an uncomfortable position of having to correct your error. I prefer someone asking what pronouns I use because it leaves no room for error and shows that you are respecting my experience and wanting to truly connect with me.

Going forward, we should all try to be actively conscious of using gender neutral language so we can provide an all inclusive environment for everyone. We should also normalize asking someone's preferred pronouns, and if you're unsure just use someone's name in place of the pronoun you would use. It comes down to the simplicity of treating others how you wish to be treated, and we all deserve that same respect.

Meaningful Representation Matters

by Faith Colburn, she/her
Twitter: faithcolburn1

Representation matters. I hear that a lot. Probably because it's true. When the Oscar nominees are revealed, we can't help but wince at the painstakingly obvious reality that crucial voices are being left out of the conversation. Affluent men rush to the Academy's defense saying it's not their fault that existing barriers quell diversity. Some agree some don't. Outrage slides into apathy until we forget. Then repeat. Over and over again.

But our most marginalized communities don't forget. This is about so much more than movies or awards. Lack of representation seeps into our daily lives and it is a crucial building block towards comprehensive change. Society's standards, for better or worse, are often settled in the court of public opinion. This influence seeps into our policies, our laws, and the way that we treat one another. It happens like falling asleep, slowly socializing us until our eyes are shut. An unknowing and inescapable apathy that contextualizes how we see the world.

TV and film industry. But so often that is the focus of the Internet's outrage (I use that as a noun), and rightfully so. There is a tremendous lack of comprehensive, meaningful representation. News flash to Hollywood: A character whose only trait is that he's gay (off-screen, I might add) is not good representation. But you already knew that. No more queerbaiting, no more shutting us out. We demand narrative and non-binary gender diversity. We demand non-abled bodied persons and womxn of color and so much more. You get the idea.

Of course, representation goes so much further than this. We are needed in the places that decisions are being made, not at the mercy of those we hope will be good allies in our cause. We need champions for our fight. In the same vein and when we get there, we must be courageous. The intersections of our identities and experiences are widespread. No one person speaks for a whole community. However, I do believe that is it our job to fight for the communities that built us, as well as other communities that intersect with our own. To not speak on behalf of others but work collaboratively to create a multi-racial and diversified coalition of people that rise up and fight together. Representation matters. We need it, desperately. But when we get it, it is on us to use it the right way.

The intersections of our identities and experiences are widespread.

It is more than just a non-male director of color. It is more than just a queer character. It's the display of our values. It's about making sure that there are spaces to tell stories by and for people who do not want to be a token or a marketing ploy. This is true for a multitude of spaces, not just within the

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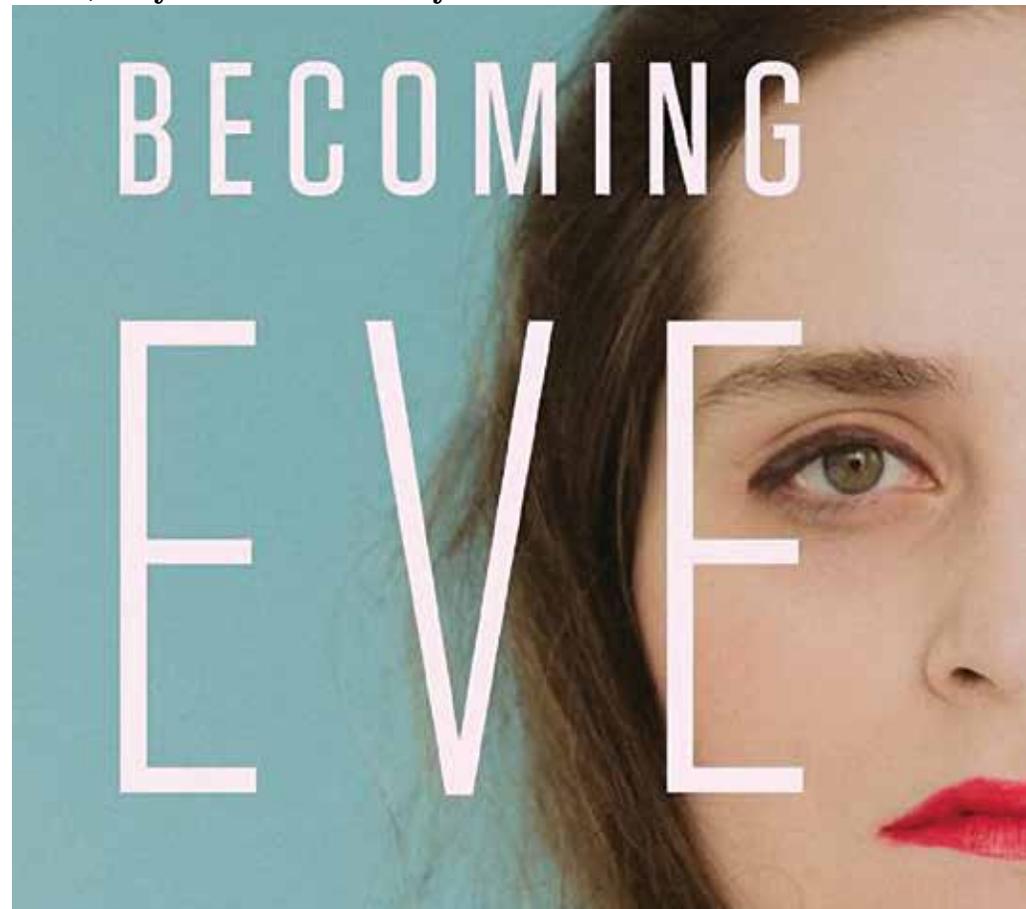
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“Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman” written by Abby Chava Stein

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Who are you? There are many possibilities. You can answer with ethnicity, gender, social strata, or surname, mention your species, family origins, religion, or hobbies. So many things and yet, as in the new book “Becoming Eve” by Abby Chava Stein, only one answer really matters.



Yisroel Avrom Ben Menachem Mendel was born on the 24th of Tishrei in the year 5752 – or, for those who are not Ultra-Orthodox Jews, the first of October, 1991. The sixth child and firstborn son, Yisroel’s birth was the cause of great jubilation: one main forebear was Baal Shem Tov, a holy leader and the founder of Hasidism. In their Brooklyn community, that made Yisroel a member of royalty.

Almost from the moment of birth, the future was set: Yisroel would follow the same path laid out for the males of the family, starting with ritual circumcision and religious observances, then yeshiva to study the Torah and Jewish law, marriage at age 18, and hope for sons to continue the line. There was no alternative. The entire family lived like this, like “eighteenth-century Eastern Europeans,” and had done so for centuries.

The exception came when then-four-year-old Yisroel insisted on having always been a girl.

Later, though other childish things were forgotten, those thoughts never were. They were constant, remembered, boxed up, ignored, or excused. Even when theological questions roared, when religious texts seemed to confirm Yisroel’s suspicions of girlhood, when sex – a subject no Ultra-Orthodox Jew was supposed to know about until days before marriage – made an all-boy yeshiva more bearable, questions of gender were suppressed. At 18, “matched” with and married to a

woman who was nearly a stranger, Yisroel burned with envy that wearing a bridal gown would forever be denied. Naming their firstborn son was devastating.

“Oh, and gender?” says author Abby Chava Stein today. “It started punching me in the face.”

Without a doubt, “Becoming Eve” may be one of the most fascinating books you’ll read this winter. Certainly, it’ll be one of the most unusual.

Set in a community that is meant only for adherents, author Stein’s story is told in rich detail that lets readers imagine everyday life with restrictions that most of us would chafe under, and without the internet, blue jeans, fast food, or English. These day-to-day details are relayed in a matter-of-fact tone that makes the severity of the “laws” seem even more astounding because of the seeming scarcity of emotion associated in their telling.

Stein’s lifelong question of gender almost seems secondary to those astonishments, but as the tale progresses, her demand for answers grows quietly in a way you almost won’t notice until it pounces on you. Whoosh, it’s a relief you never knew you were waiting for.

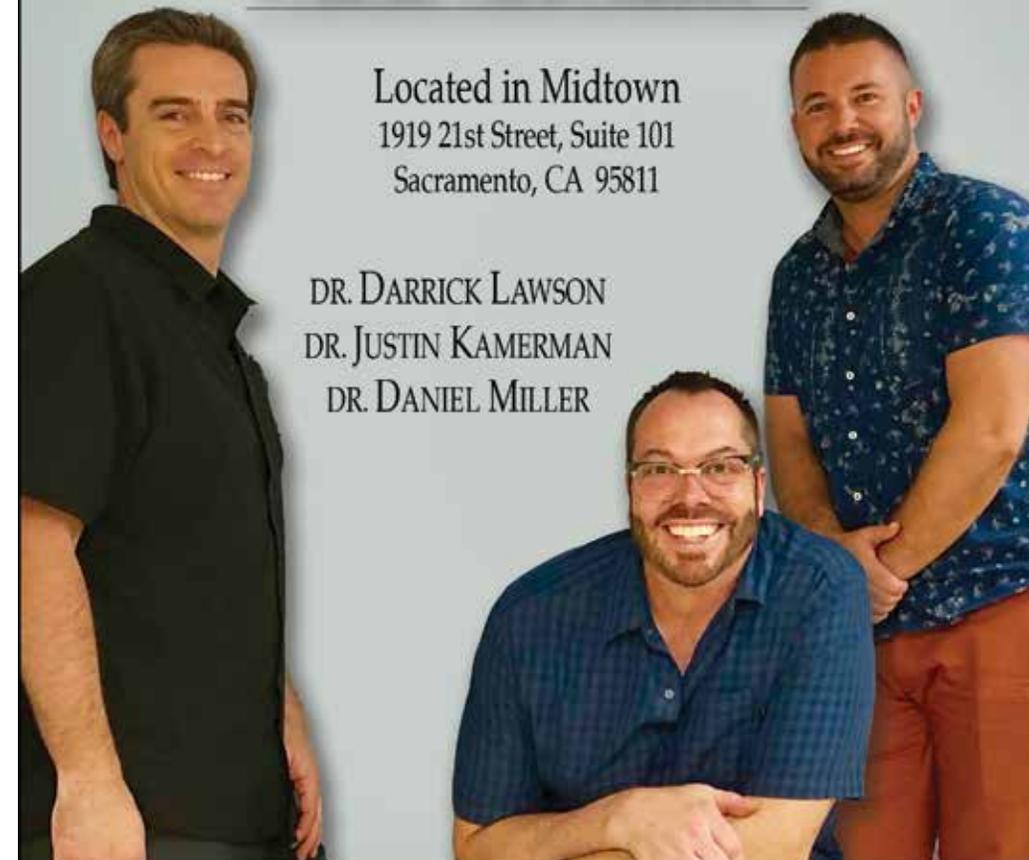
And yet, relief is fleeting: Stein leaves readers hanging by not including an up-to-date which could be frustrating in any other story, but this unusual book’s end still feels just right. For that, “Becoming Eve” is a most satisfyingly unsatisfying book, and you’ll love it no matter who you are.



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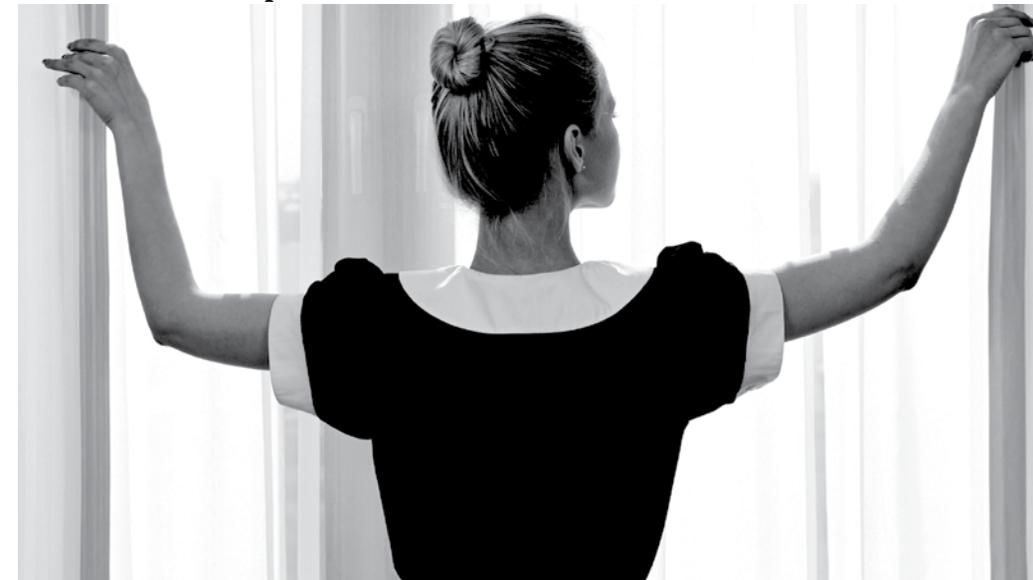
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Vice Mayor Eric Guerra Works With Hotel Industry and Workers to Prevent Sexual Harassment

The Sacramento City Council will be voting on the adoption of an ordinance to protect hotel workers against sexual harassment. The ordinance will require hotel and motel operators to provide panic buttons to employees who clean guest rooms. Panic buttons are devices that an employee can quickly and easily activate to summon hotel staff to the employee's location who are able to provide immediate aid and assistance.



"This ordinance ensures a safe working environment for our hotel employees while providing a welcoming experience for Sacramento visitors," said Vice Mayor Eric Guerra, who has been working with the Sacramento Hotel Association and Unite Here Local 49, a labor union that represents workers in the hospitality industry, on the ordinance.

"Employee safety and security is a top priority at our lodging properties," said Teresa Stephenson, Executive Director of the Sacramento Hotel Association. "The Sacramento Hotel Association has voiced support for the City of Sacramento ordinance relating to Hotel Worker Protection. There are some hotels in the City of Sacramento that already have panic button programs in place. In addition, more than a dozen major hotel chains have committed to providing panic buttons at properties, according to the

American Hotel and Lodging Association."

The hotel industry has been actively taking steps to protect their workers from harassment. Unite Here estimates that many of their members who are housekeepers have faced sexual harassment on the job. While data is currently not available for Sacramento, in Seattle alone, 53 percent of housekeepers surveyed said they had experienced some form of harassment at their workplace.

"Far too many hotel housekeepers have experienced inappropriate guest behavior," said Chris Rak, President of Unite Here Local 49. "No one should have to work in fear, and panic buttons will give an added measure of confidence to our members, just knowing that help will be on the way if a hotel guest makes them feel threatened. We support the Hotel Worker Protection ordinance and applaud Vice Mayor Guerra for bringing this issue forward."

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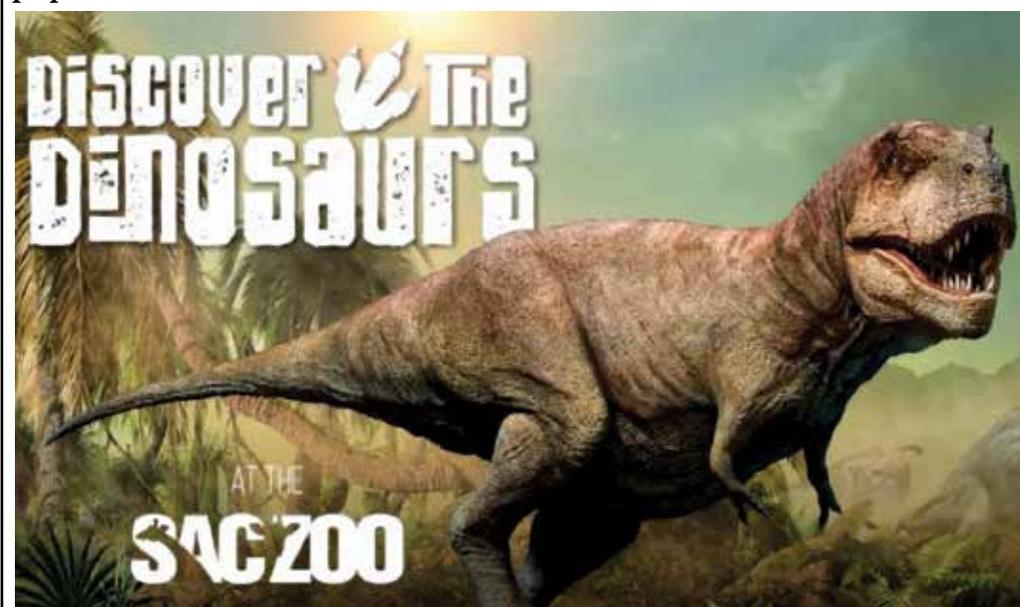
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Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

As we already bid adieu to the first month of the new decade we take time to remember the struggle, and celebrate the history, of our Black community members, allies and family. February is Black History Month and February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. HIV and PrEP education, testing and outreach is imperative as the black community is only 13% of the U.S. population yet accounts for 43% of new HIV infections. For more information visit hiv.gov

Congratulations to Golden Rule Services (GRS) for celebrating 20 years of HIV, STD education and prevention within the People of Color (POC) and LGBTQ communities. GRS was founded in January 2000 by Clarmundo Sullivan in response to a gap in culturally competent services provided to

Opry country and you'll come to a filling station run by L.M. and Jim. So sets the scene for Pumps Boys and Dinettes running through February 16 at Sacramento Theatre Company's Pollock Stage, 1419 H St. If a country musical is what you're hankerin' for come on down and listen to songs like

get a good story read to you. The Queer Sacramento Authors Collective invites you to the first "Milk & Cookies" reading of the new decade on February 7 at the Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Indulge your sweet tooth and listen to the latest works (and works in progress) from local authors. www.qsac.rocks

It's time for "Crabaret!" Join host Patrick Harbison for an evening filled with great food, entertainment and opportunities to help the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus (SGMC) raise funds. The dinner takes place February 8 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L St. where there will be music by members of the SGMC, games, raffles, and a Dessert Dash. And maybe crabs? Sacgaymenchorus.org



The cast of "Pump Boys and Dinettes." Photo by Cindy Lawton.

POC communities in Sacramento County and to resolve disproportionate health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities. Two decades and countless awards and accolades later the organization will celebrate that milestone with a Jubilee to be held in June. Goldenruleservicesacramento.org

Drag Queen Bingo has become a community institution. Come get institutionalized on February 6 from 7-9 p.m. at Mango's Burgertown, 1930 K St. for just \$20 for 8 games. This month's bingo will benefit the Sacramento LGBT Center. RainbowChamber.com

The Rainbow Chamber will present the Business and Community Excellence Awards on February 12. Awards will be given for excellence in business, community leadership and corporate advocacy. The event is hosted by the Sacramento Association of Realtors, 2003 Howe Ave. Rainbowchamber.com

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"Farmer Tan" and "The Night Dolly Parton Was Almost Mine!" Sactheatre.org

For those obsessed with food shows... and food... cookbook author and host of the Netflix series Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat, Samin Nosrat, will be appearing at Jackson Hall in the Mondavi Center, 523 Mrak Hall Dr., Davis on January 29 at 7 p.m. The evening will consist of a 60-minute conversation moderated by Charlotte Biltekoff Associate Professor of American Studies and Food Science and Technology at UC Davis followed by a question and answer session with the audience. Mondaviarts.org

What? You want more theatre? Something edgy? Well pop on down to California Stage, 1723 25th St. and check out Dorothea running through February 23. Drama Desk Award Nominee Janis Stevens will portray Dorothea Puente in a newly commissioned play of Sacramento's infamous boarding house murders. Puente and the Gold Rush have really put us on the map! Calstage.org

You don't have to be in your jammies to

They'll definitely have crabs at the NCAC Annual Crab Feed hosted by NorCal AIDS Cycle on February 15 at Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. Come for the food and fun, but also to raise funds for an amazing cause and one of the biggest HIV/AIDS fundraising organizations in Sacramento County. Get those tickets ahead of time, or become an NCAC volunteer. Norcalaidscycle.org/crabfeed

February 1 is Free Museum Day. Coordinated by Sacramento Area Museums over 25 museums are offering complimentary admission. Sacmuseums.org/museumday

Happy birthday to Augie Garcia, William Niespodzinski, Charlotte Kosa, Sister Indica, Michael D. Williams, Mike Kelly, David Aguirre, Justin Powell and all the other pre-Valentine's Day babies.

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



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Join us at First UMC, 21st & J Streets, on Saturday January 25 at 7:00 p.m. for a benefit concert for Trans Queer Youth Collective featuring the Sac Women's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus and singer/songwriters Jim and Jean Strathdee. Scan here for tickets

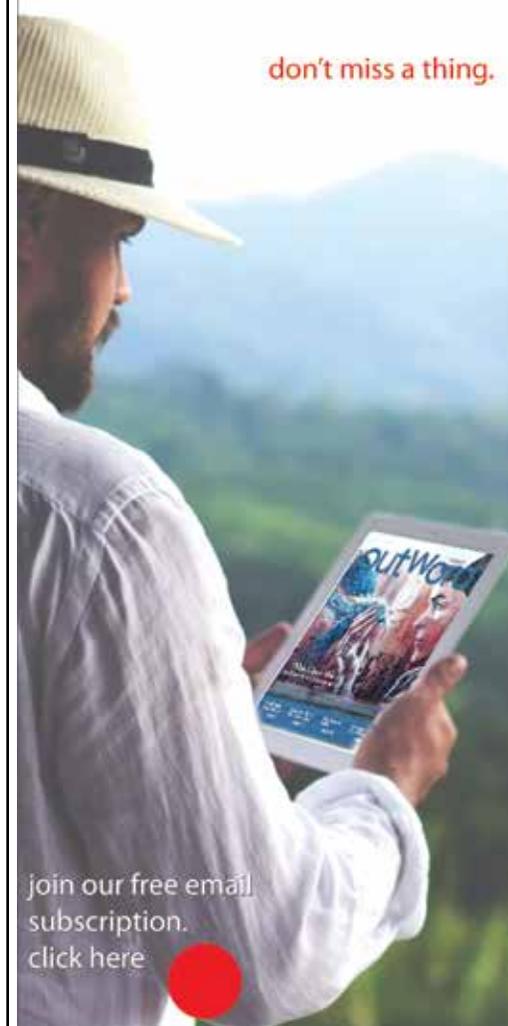


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Don't Miss The Oscars On Feb. 9

by Chris Narloch

I always watch the Academy Awards telecast every year, so I will be glued to my TV on the second Sunday evening in February, but if I'm being honest the Oscars have me a little ticked off, since Sacramento golden girl Greta Gerwig was not nominated as Best Director for her exemplary work helming the new "Little Women."

Sacramento native Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" is nominated for several Oscars this year.



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I realize that there is often a greater number of deserving potential nominees than there are slots to put them in, but Gerwig did a better job with her material (in my opinion) than Todd Phillips did on "Joker."

The directors' branch of the Academy is a notorious boys' club, however, and so Gerwig was shut out, despite the fact that her movie is nominated for Best Picture, and her lead actress (Saoirse Ronan) got a nod for Best Actress.

The Oscar snubs don't end with Gerwig, either, and I was extremely disappointed that more actors of color weren't nominated this year. Cynthia Erivo did get a well-deserved nod for "Harriet," but Awkwafina was robbed of a nomination as Best Actress for "The Farewell," and Jennifer Lopez and Eddie Murphy should have been recognized for their work in "Hustlers" and "Dolemite Is My Name."

I don't believe in nominating actors of color just to nominate actors of color, but, when their work last year was as strong as Lopez's and Awkwafina's and Murphy's was, it seems like a slap in the face that they were ignored while a Caucasian actress (Scarlett Johansson, who I love) received two Oscar nominations, as Best Actress for "Marriage

Story" and Best Supporting Actress for "Jojo Rabbit."

The Academy did a fine job with the nine Best Picture nominees, and that category (and Best Director) will provide some real suspense on Oscar night, since the acting categories look like a done deal this year, with Renee Zellweger ("Judy"), Joaquin Phoenix ("Joker"), Laura Dern ("Marriage Story"), and Brad Pitt ("Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood") the likely winners.

Best Picture will probably go to "1917" or "Once Upon A Time..." but the Best Director category is still wide open and could be won by any of the five (male) nominees.

To see a complete list of all the Oscar nominations this year, go to www.oscars.org, and if you really want to prepare for the awards, you can check out the nominees in the various short film categories, playing at the Crest Theater the first week of February (www.crestsacramento.com).

Tune in to ABC and see for yourself who wins Oscar gold this year and who goes home empty-handed, when the Academy Awards are given out, on Feb. 9. You can also read my reviews of new movies currently in theaters, at www.outwordmagazine.com.

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AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

Winner of four Tony Awards, including best choreography, this loving tribute to the Oscar winning film finds an American soldier and a mysterious French woman in Paris, looking to begin again after World War II. "This gorgeously danced — and just plain gorgeous — production pays loving tribute to the marriage of music and movement" (*New York Times*). The unforgettable music of George and Ira Gershwin songs punctuate the production, with "I Got Rhythm," "Liza," "S Wonderful," "But Not for Me," "Stairway to Paradise."

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Disney on Ice Returns to Golden 1 Center

Create unforgettable memories and become part of the story when "Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party" skates into Stockton and Sacramento. This brand-new immersive ice skating experience brings the magic closer to fans than ever before through engaging elements that take place on the ice, in the air and in the seats.



Disney on Ice returns.

An exciting participatory adventure delivering compelling storytelling through multi-leveled production numbers that immerse fans into the fantastic worlds of Disney-Pixar's "Coco," "Frozen," "Moana," "Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin," "Toy Story" and "The Little Mermaid," this all-new show will be playing at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento from February 13-17, 2020.

Embark on a quest with Mickey Mouse and pals as they follow Captain Hook's treasure map for clues to find Tinker Bell after he attempts to capture her magic. Journey across the Marigold Bridge with Miguel from Disney-Pixar's "Coco" into the magnificent and mystical Land of the Dead and discover a vibrantly colorful performance with skeletons atop sway poles dancing over the audience in a beautiful cultural celebration of family. Travel to the wintry world of Arendelle and sing along with Elsa as video projection creates a kaleidoscope of

crystals to help build her ice palace. Witness Belle lift into the sky as the enchanted chandelier comes to life high over the ice for onlookers seated above and below. Board the Jolly Roger and laugh hysterically as the hilarious pirates flip, tumble, and twist on air tracks, stilts and more in an effort to showcase their talents for Captain Hook. Sail away with Moana on her daring voyage across the ocean and bravely encounter the fiery wrath of Te Ka. And make memories with your whole family during "Aladdin," "Toy Story" and "The Little Mermaid" as the search party becomes an all-out magical celebration!

Tickets are available online at www.DisneyonIce.com or at the Golden 1 Center box office. It will be a magical evening for families to help Mickey search and look for clues to unlock an epic journey when "Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party" delivers an unforgettable experience with your family!

Broadway Composer To Appear At UC Davis Plus "Puffs" Comes To Sutter Street Theatre

by Chris Narloch

On local stages this month, theater fans can enjoy "Peter and the Starcatcher" (an acclaimed prequel to "Peter Pan") and "Puffs," a loving satire of the "Harry Potter" stories.

Peter and the Starcatcher

Wayne Barker, the Tony Award-nominated composer of "Peter and the Starcatcher," will discuss his career and perform his songs and music at UC Davis on Feb. 5. The event takes place in the Arena Theatre, Wright Hall, at 6 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Barker performed for six years with Barry Humphries/Dame Edna Everage including on Broadway in "Dame Edna: Back with a Vengeance," collaborating with Humphries on lyrics.

Barker's UC Davis appearance is presented by the College of Letters and Science's Department of Theatre and Dance, which is producing "Peter and the Starcatcher" Feb. 27-29 and March 5-7.

For information about Barker's event and the production, please visit www.theatredance.ucdavis.edu.



Broadway composer Wayne Barker will perform at UC Davis on Feb. 5.

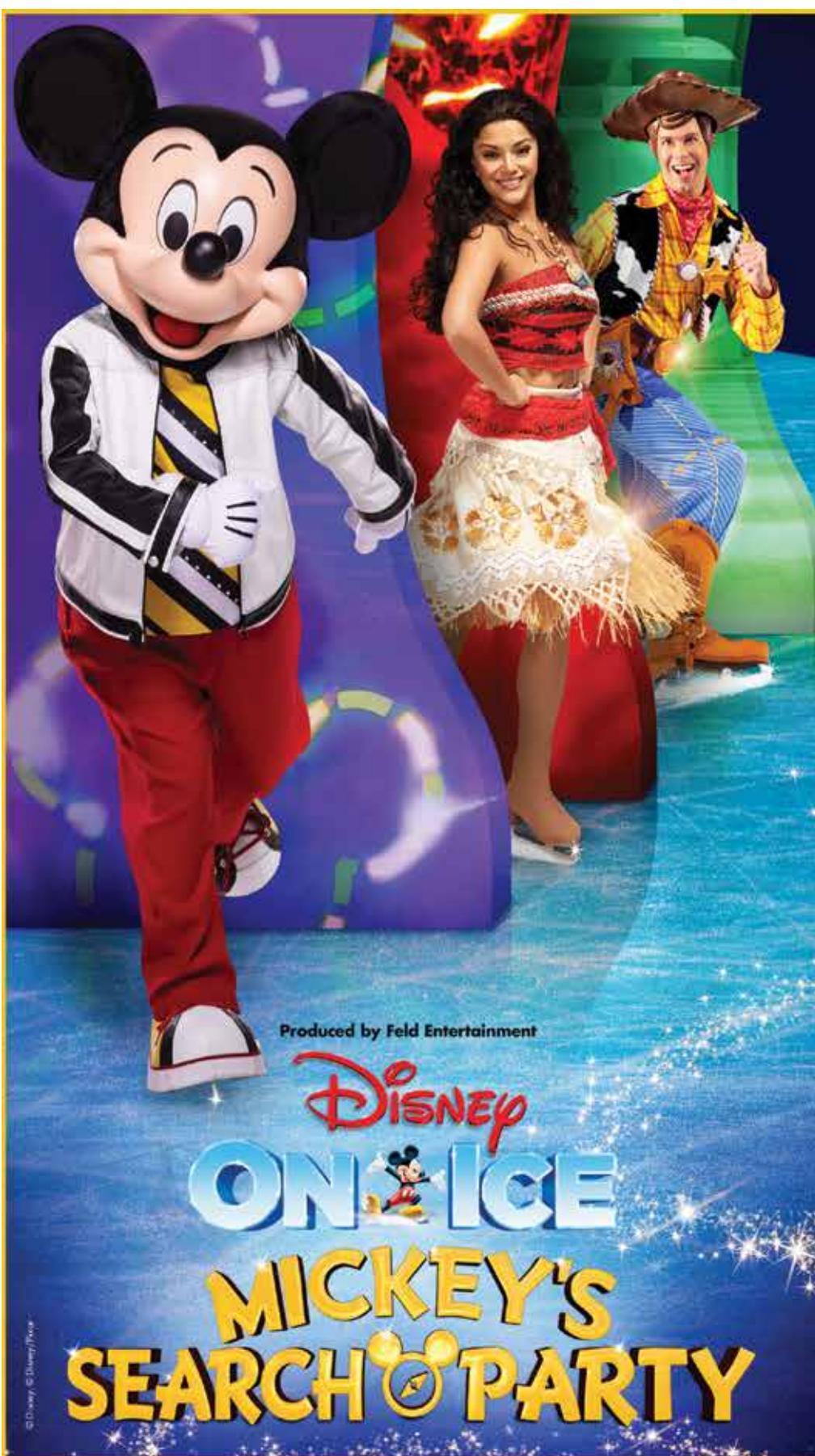
Puffs

This charming Harry Potter spoof gets its area premiere this month, courtesy of Folsom's Sutter Street Theatre, and is described thusly: For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story.

This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there too. Written by Matt Cox, "Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" is a hilarious tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world.

Direct from New World Stages in New York City, "Puffs" is an Off-Broadway comedy that takes its name from the Hufflepuff House of Harry Potter fame and tells the story of some of Harry's forgotten peers.

"Puffs" performs through Feb. 16 in Folsom. For more information, go to www.sutterstreettheatre.com.



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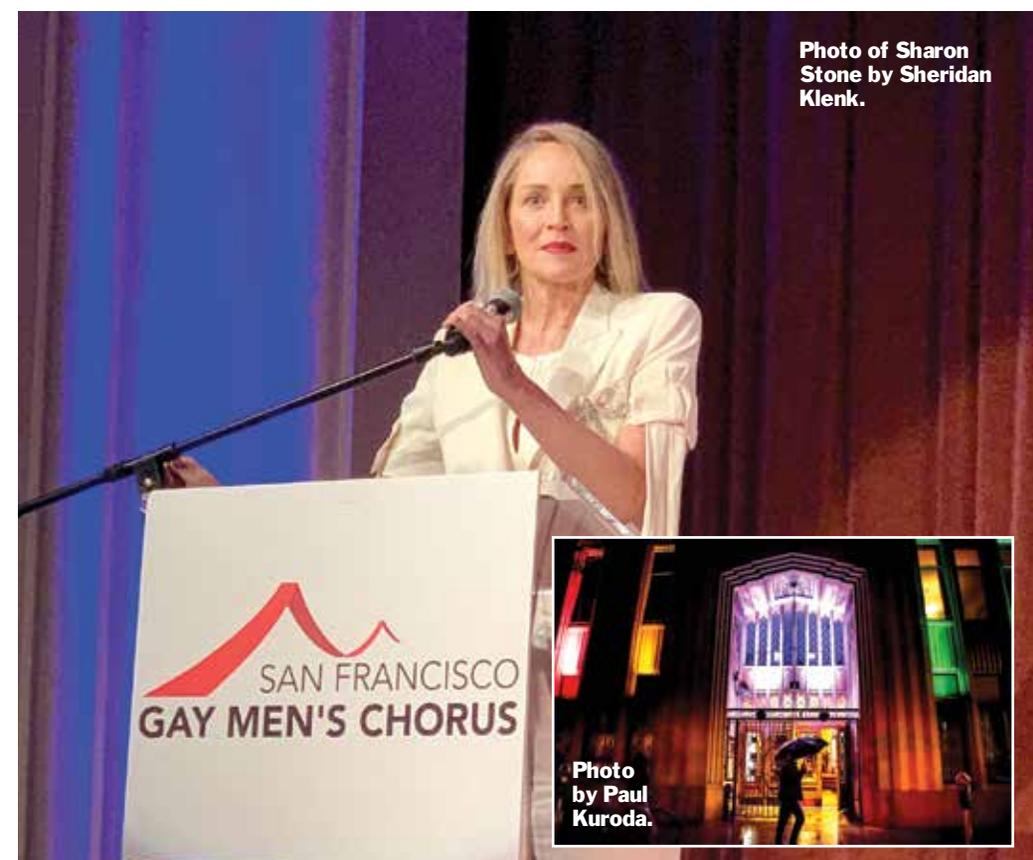


Photo of Sharon Stone by Sheridan Klenk.

Photo by Paul Kuroda.

Actress and activist Sharon Stone helped christen the brand new National LGBTQ Center for the Arts, a beautiful \$9.6 million, four-story, Art Deco building located in the heart of San Francisco that will serve as the new home for SFGMC (San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus). It is also the first-ever LGBTQ arts center in the United States.

Kelsey Custard Clowns Off In “Amaluna”

by Chris Narloch

A professional female clown is a rare bird, even at Cirque du Soleil, but San Francisco resident (and Sacramento native) Kelsey Custard didn't listen when people tried to tell her that clowning was meant for men.

You can see for yourself just how wrong those folks were when Custard appears in Sacramento, along with the rest of the cast of “Amaluna,” Cirque du Soleil's spectacular new show.

Kelsey has been performing with Cirque for almost ten years and has toured with “Amaluna” for the last 3½ years, which has taken her across Europe and to South America.

I spoke with the 35-year-old performer by phone recently, about her Northern California roots, her prophetic last name, and, of course, “Amaluna.”

So Kelsey, I have to start by asking you about your name, which brings up images of custard pies being thrown in people's faces and seems like the perfect name for a clown. Is that your real name?

It is my real name. I've actually gotten a lot of interviews in life just off of my name. It's done me well. I was originally training to be a classical actor, Shakespeare and the like, and that was my passion, but I always got cast in the awkward sort of character roles. And then I took a class in

clowning in college and discovered my home. I just totally fell in love with it.

When performers tour, like you are with Cirque du Soleil, are you ever home, or is your life like a gypsy?

I do now have a home base in San Francisco where I live with my husband, but there have been times in my life when I was on the road constantly and everything I owned was either with me or in a storage unit.

Where were you born?

I was born in Sacramento and lived in Citrus Heights until my parents decided to move to Shingle Springs. But I came back to Sac during my summers in college and worked as a wardrobe technician for Music Circus.

Are women making more progress in the clown world?

Yes, but it has been a journey. I had teachers at my clown school that refused to teach the women because they had the impression that women weren't funny and that we wouldn't make it. Finally, I'm seeing more women clowns popping up, but the majority are still men, even at Cirque du Soleil. There are a few other

women besides me. I hope that changes.

Speaking of The Clown Conservatory, do they really give you a rubber chicken when you graduate?

You do get a certificate of completion, which is lovely, but you also get a rubber chicken, which in clowning is the ultimate clown prop.

What do you love most about your job?

That I get to make people smile and laugh every day, and I know that sounds kind of cheesy and clichéd, but it's so true. Getting to go out on stage and share what I love with other people and entertain them is so nice. When I see a kid falling out of their seat laughing, it just makes everyone around them and me feel good.

Tell me about “Amaluna,” Kelsey. What is different about this Cirque du Soleil show?

The main thing is that this show's cast is 70% female. We have an all-female rock band, and many of the people behind the scenes are women as well so it's pretty unique in that regard.

What is the show about?

It's loosely based on Shakespeare's “The Tempest,” but our show is about an island of women ruled by Prospera and it takes place on Miranda's coronation day, which is interrupted when a boat full of men crashes on to the island. From there, love and comedy and magic ensue after these strong women and men are introduced to each other.

“Amaluna” will bring Cirque du Soleil to West Sacramento's Sutter Health Park, and the show will perform for an entire month, Jan. 23 – Feb. 23. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/amaluna or call 1-877-9CIRQUE (1-877-924-7783).



Kelsey Custard plays one of the clowns in “Amaluna!” Photo by Markus Moellenberg

Burning Man Comes To Oakland

by Chris Narloch

I have yet to attend the annual Burning Man event in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, but it's on my bucket list. If, like me, you've never been, you can get a taste of 'the burn' in the Bay Area, where a fascinating art exhibition devoted to the art of Burning Man is currently on display.

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is the only West Coast venue to show this sensational exhibition, which originated at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in March of 2018.

"No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man" allows patrons to view spectacular artwork and large-scale installations from one of the most widely celebrated cultural events in the world.

The exhibition features many works by Bay Area artists including jewelry, costumes, "mutant" vehicles, sculptures, photography, and paintings.

Don't miss the companion exhibition within the gallery, "City of Dust: The Evolution of Burning Man," organized by the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, which traces Burning Man's origins from its countercultural roots in the San Francisco Bay Area to the world-famous desert gathering it is today.

The immersive and multi-sensory experience also extends beyond the gallery walls into the Museum's public spaces -- including an OMCA-commissioned 40-foot-tall, outdoor temple by internationally acclaimed sculptor David Best.

This is the last stop for "No Spectators: The

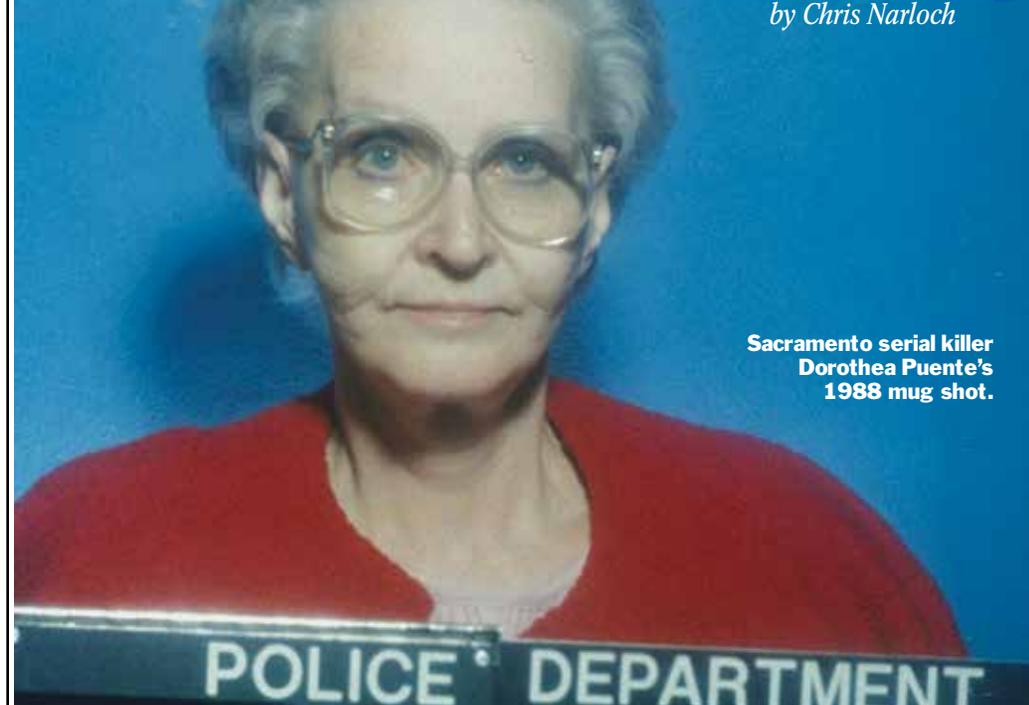


"No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man" is currently on display at the Oakland Museum.

Art of Burning Man" so get to Oakland Museum before Feb. 16 when it closes. Reserved timed tickets are required and can be purchased at <https://museumca.org/exhibit/no-spectators-art-burning-man>.

Dorothea Puente Tells All In New Play

by Chris Narloch



Sacramento serial killer Dorothea Puente's 1988 mug shot.

After you've seen "Dear Evan Hansen," if you're still hungry for more local theater, check out an intriguing new play about one of Sacramento's most shocking crimes, the boarding house murders committed by elderly serial killer Dorothea Puente.

The great actress and director Janis Stevens will play the infamous Puente, after a public reading of the play that reportedly had audiences mesmerized.

Ms. Stevens stars as Puente in the premiere of Mark Loewenstern's newly commissioned play, "Dorothea Puente Tells All! An Evening With the

Magnanimous, Distinguished and Noble Lady of Sacramento."

Witness Janis Stevens' transformation into Sacramento's "Killer Landlady" at California Stage in midtown, beginning Jan. 24 and continuing through Feb. 23.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.calstage.org.

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Nearly 20 Local Restaurants & Eateries Extend Special Offers on Free Museum Day

Coordinated by Sacramento Area Museums (SAM), 25+ museums are participating in Free Museum Day on Saturday, February 1, 2020 by offering complimentary admission. Plus, nearly 20 local restaurants are extending special offers and discounts to those who attend Free Museum Day.

To receive the special restaurant discounts, Museum Day participants will wear "I Love Sac Museums" stickers they receive at the event. The other option is for attendees to show an image of the sticker on their smartphones (should sticker supplies run low at any museum). The following special discounts offered by generous local restaurants and eateries are available on the day/evening of February 1 only:

- Danny's Mini Donuts (900 2nd Street, Old Sacramento) – four free mini donuts with purchase of a dozen;
- Dos Coyotes (two locations – 6450 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento & 2701 Del Paso Road, Natomas) – \$6 two-taco basket;
- The Firehouse (1112 2nd Street, Old Sacramento) – 15 percent off food bill (excluding alcohol; restaurant open for dinner on Saturday);
- Hop Gardens (2904 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento) – free appetizer with purchase of any 12" pizza;
- Insomnia Cookies (DOCO, 414 K St Suite 120, Sacramento) – one free cookie with purchase;

- Hoppy's Railyard Kitchen & Hoggarden (1022 2nd Street, Old Sacramento) – free order of fries or chips with any purchase;
- Marly and Moo (608 Sutter Street, Folsom) – 10 percent off bill (not valid with other discounts or offers);
- MOD Pizza (six locations – 2100 Arden Way, Suite 180, Sacramento; 5400 Crossings Drive, Rocklin; 771 IKEA Court, West Sacramento; 10909 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova; 2501 Bronze Star Drive, Woodland; 2150 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn) – buy one MOD size pizza, get a second for free (BOGO);
- Original Pete's (5005 Foothills Blvd, Roseville) – 20 percent off bill (not valid with other discounts or offers);
- Pizzeria Classico (702 Sutter St., Historic Folsom) – 15 percent off bill (not valid with other discounts or offers);
- Sourdough & Co (5005 Foothills Blvd. #7, Roseville) – 20 percent off bill (not valid with other discounts or offers).

Free Museum Day & Sacramento Museum Week are proudly supported by active and engaged media partners including FOX40 &



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Studio40 Live, KSEG 96.9 FM, 106.5FM The End, Outword Media and Sacramento365.com. More detailed information about museums participating in Free Museum Day, addresses, limitations, suggested parking and

public transit options, participating restaurants and Sacramento Museum Week special activities is available at www.sacmuseums.org/museumday.

Outword's monthly **Happy Hour**

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February 14, 2020
5:30 - 7 pm

BADLANDS

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We will have special date night package prizes to Broadway Sacramento's production of "A Bronx Tale" and "Bandstand"! Each gift prize will include a pair of tickets to the show, a \$50 Melting Pot gift card and a variety of Broadway swag!








The Naked Magicians will take it off in Sacramento on Feb. 6.

The Naked Magicians Will Strip Down In Sacramento

Everyone's got a gimmick, especially Mike Tyler and Christopher Wayne, comedy magicians from Australia who make their own clothing disappear over the course of the duo's act.

Tyler and Wayne believe that "good magicians don't need sleeves and great magicians don't need pants," and so their show is a mix of magic and comedy that finds the sexy illusionists in the buff by the end of their performance.

Hailing from Australia, The Naked Magicians are two hunky guys who first performed together at comedy and

fringe festivals. The pants came off and the act caught on, and before they knew it the men were touring the world, appearing on America's Got Talent, and enjoying a 4-month residency in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand.

For more information about The Naked Magicians' Sacramento show at the Crest Theatre this Feb. 6, visit www.crestsacramento.com.

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SACRAMENTO AREA MUSEUMS

Free Museum Day

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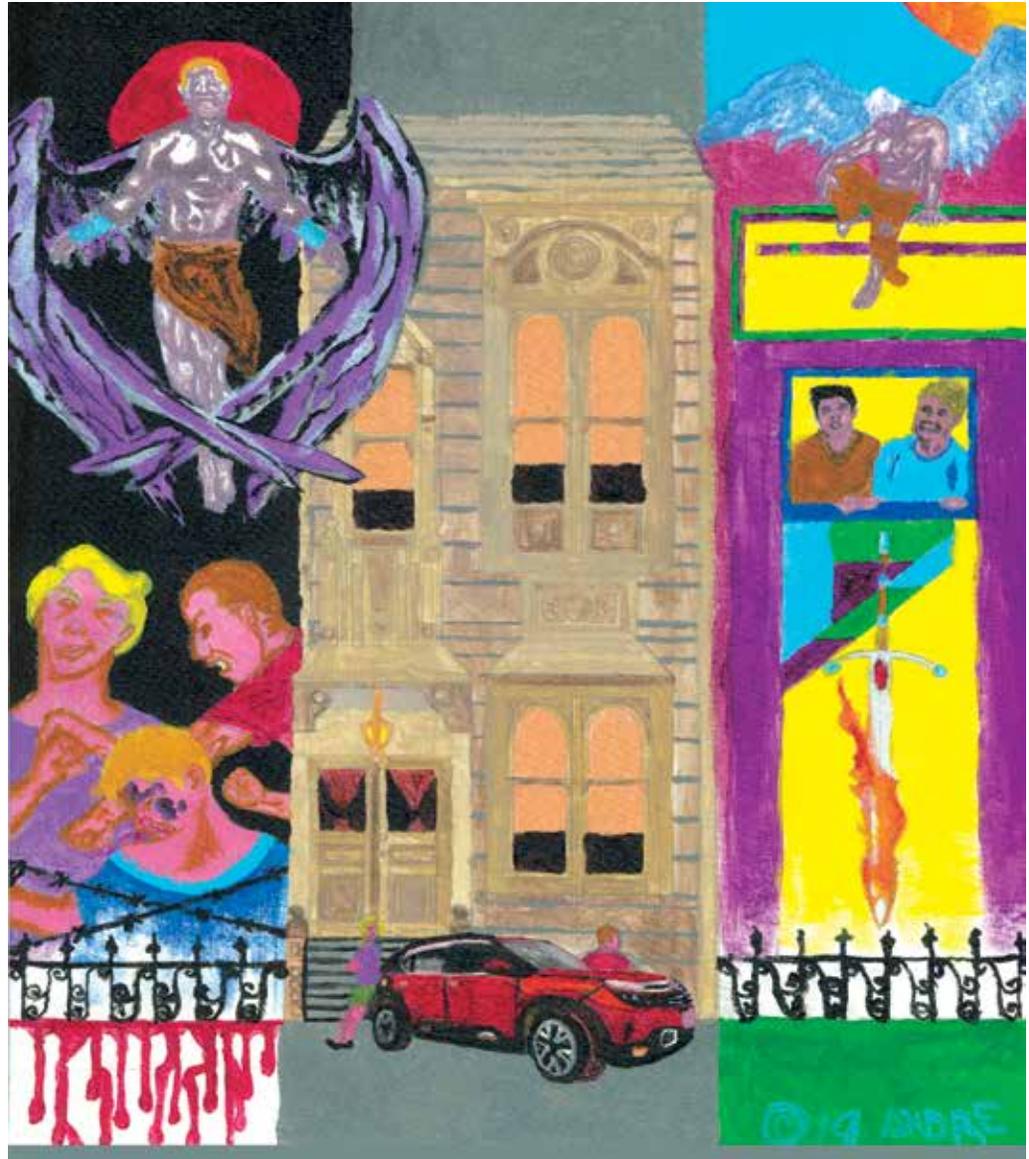
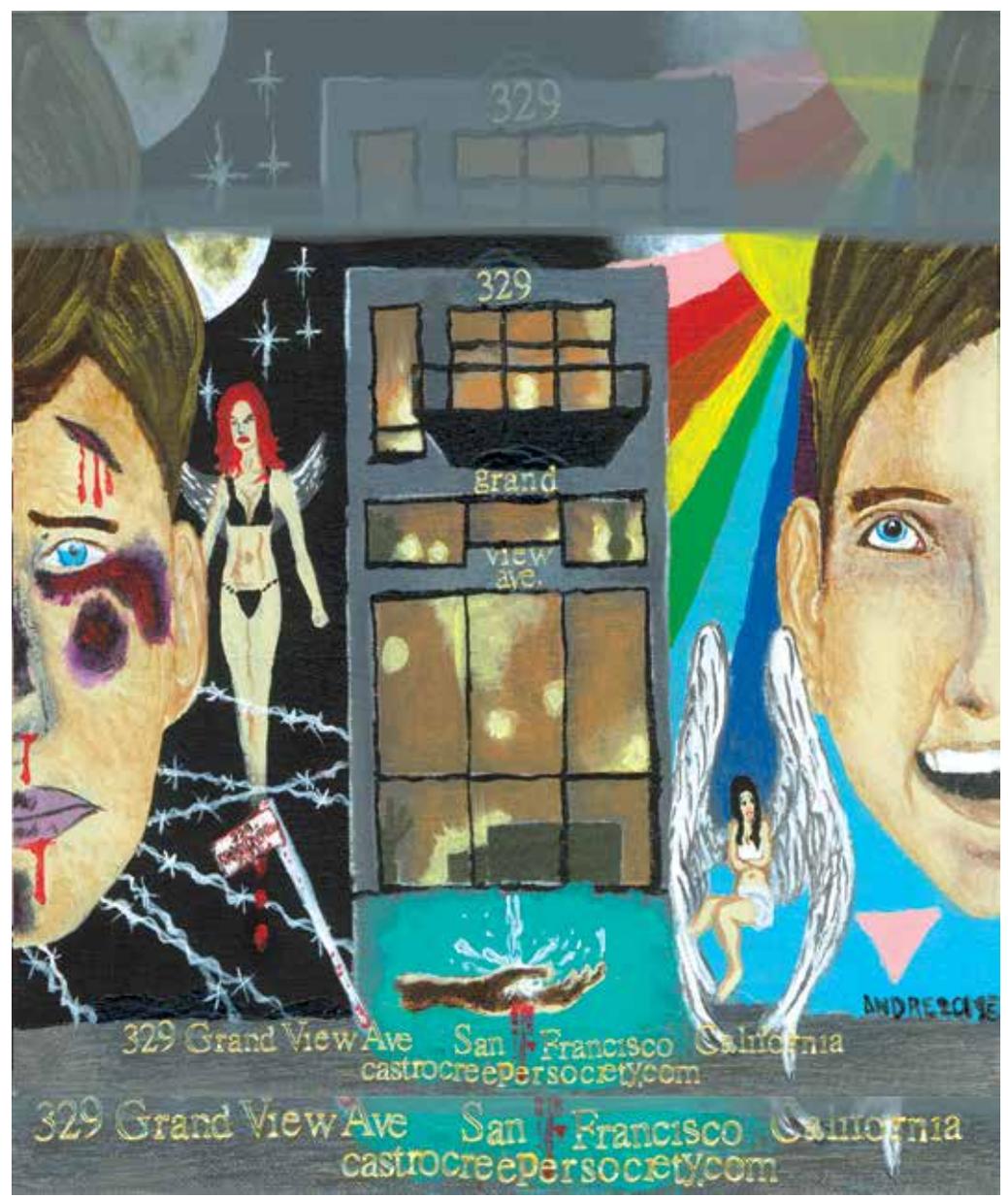


WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020
 3:15pm *Golda*
 5:00pm Reception with filmmaker Dani Menkin and photographer Amos Nachoum
 6:00pm *Picture of His Life*
 8:30pm *Aulcie*
 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
 2:00pm *Love in Suspenders*
 5:30pm *Carl Laemmle*
 8:10pm *Tel Aviv on Fire*
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020
 6:00pm Reception with Joel Westheimer
 7:00pm *Ask Dr. Ruth*
 10:15pm *Leona*
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
 10:30am *There Are No Lions in Tel Aviv*
 12:15pm *Crescendo*
 12:30pm *Abe*
 (© Esquire IMAX, see SJFF website)
 2:30pm Reception with filmmaker Yael Katzir
 3:30pm *The Albanian Code*
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Celebrate Valentine's Day with A New Take on Classic and Contemporary Comfort Food Recipes

What do you get when you combine family roots from the heart of Dixie with a girl born and raised in California? You get some seriously delicious comfort food just like your grandmother used to make. With Lori Rogers (known as Chef Lorious), you also get new and innovative twists on classic recipes we all love, just in time for Valentine's Day. In her first cookbook, *Calibama Cooking*, Lori puts it all together in a delicious collection of classic and contemporary food recipes perfect for any occasion.

"When you're a California native with Alabama influences, you love things like grits and collard greens, and you learn how to make an amazing sweet potato pie," Lori explains. "Calibama is the intersection of where I grew up and where I'm really from. At the end of the day, knowing who I am and where I've come from is the foundation for my classic cooking style. Accepting where I am and embracing my future is the stepping-stone for my contemporary interpretation of what true comfort food is - food that makes you comfortable, brings a smile to your face, and reminds you of all the good in the world around you."

This Valentine's Day serve your family or someone special some of the delicious dishes in *Calibama Cooking*. With each bite of her recipes you are transported to a place that makes you feel loved and cherished, eating,

remiscing and talking about life at the table. Chef Lorious will have you laughing and cooking with stories of her childhood and family while simultaneously handing you a spoon inviting you to "taste this." Some of the mouth-watering recipes in the book include:

- Sautéed Cabbage with Bacon and Garlic
- Mama's Potato Salad
- Bourbon Peach Cobbler
- Sweet Potato Pie
- Pumpkin Brown-Sugar Pound Cake
- Chocolate Bread Pudding with Irish Whiskey Caramel Cream Sauce
- Chipotle Deep-Fried Macaroni-and-Cheese Balls
- Calibama Corn Fritters
- Spicy Sausage Gravy and Biscuits
- Garlic and Brown Sugar Pork Tenderloin
- Smothered Pork Chops
- Lorious Chicken and Waffles
- Country Fried Steak and Gravy
- Lamb Chops in Madeira Wine Sauce
- Rosemary Seared Chicken Thighs
- Lobster and Shrimp Rolls
- Spicy Shrimp and Grits

Each recipe in *Calibama Cooking* has easy-to-follow instructions, full color photos, tips and serving suggestions, and feel-good stories from Lori's life that will make you laugh and want to eat.

"Recipes are what bring to life the endless combinations of both common and unique ingredients in a way that produces your very own signature style for others to enjoy!" Lori says. "The ingredients of my life are my experiences combined with my family traditions that shaped me. For me, embracing who I am translated through the expression of cooking. I want others to experience what it is like to taste the expression of authenticity for their own enjoyment and inspiration!"

Who says cooking can't be easy, fun and delicious? Chef Lorious believes it can be all of that and more with *Calibama Cooking*.

Lori "Chef Lorious" Rogers specializes in both classic and contemporary comfort food. Born in California and raised by a close-knit family anchored in southern tradition from

Alabama, this "Calibama" girl learned very early that food cooked with love has the power to inspire and heal.

Chef Lorious has been cooking for her family and friends in her kitchen for almost two decades. She regularly shares her recipes and meal preparation ideas by conducting cooking demonstrations and sharing her culinary expertise through television programming in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and various social media outlets. She made her national television debut on Home and Family on The Hallmark Channel and can be seen regularly on Washington DC's "Good Morning Washington" (WJLA-ABC), "Good Day DC" (WTTG-FOX).

Lori is a devoted wife and mother of three beautiful children, and she especially enjoys serving her church family. She is grateful for the opportunity to take her message of loving others authentically through food to the masses. Whether cooking with her on screen or following her recipes, you are sure to feel the love that she has for both her community and for cooking! Her goal is to inspire you to embrace your authentic self, and then represent that ... through food!

To learn more about Lori Rogers, visit her website, www.ChefLorious.com. Follow her on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram (@ChefLorious).

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Stockton Hosts The "Ladies of the '80s" Tour

by Chris Narloch

It's time to get those leg warmers out of mothballs and tease your hair up to heaven in honor of the "Ladies of the '80s" tour which will bring three of the finest female singers from that era to Stockton this February.

Soulful sirens Taylor Dayne, Jody Watley, and Lisa Lisa will bring a multitude of hit songs and their timeless talent to the Bob Hope Theatre for one unforgettable evening, on Feb. 21.

Taylor Dayne is a singer, songwriter, and actress who rocketed to international fame thanks to her 1987 smash "Tell it to My Heart," which she followed up with hit after hit, including "Prove Your Love," "I'll Always Love You," "Don't Rush Me," "Love Will Lead You Back," "Heart of Stone," and "With Every Beat of My Heart."

Jody Watley is a singer, songwriter, and producer who won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1987. Her many hits include "Real Love," "Looking For A New Love," "Don't You Want Me," "Some Kind Of Lover," "Still A Thrill," "Everything," and "Most Of All."

Lisa Lisa rode to the top of the charts as one third of the band Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam, an enormously popular hit-making machine whose chart-topping singles include "Lost In Emotion," "All Cried Out," "Head to Toe," and "I Wonder if I Take You Home."

For more information about the "Ladies of the '80s" concert, visit www.stocktonlive.com.





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