

outword

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Activist and Speaker, Jennifer, with her sign.
Photo by Christopher J. Beale

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Lambda Legal Stands in Solidarity with AAPI Community After Tragic Violence in Georgia

Last week, in a series of attacks, targeted primarily against Asian American women working in spas, a 21-year old white man shot and killed eight people at three different spas near Atlanta, Georgia.

Of the eight victims, six were Asian, and seven were women. Although the occupations of the victims have not been confirmed, it appears the shooter intended to target sex workers, a particularly vulnerable group of people that experience consistently high levels of violence. Still, the shootings are the latest in a harrowing rise of racist violence against Asian Americans, which has risen by nearly 150% in the last year consistent with racist COVID-related hate

rhetoric, with women being more than twice as likely to report having experienced racism.

Sharon McGowan, Chief Strategy Officer and Legal Director of Lambda Legal issued the following statement:

“Our thoughts are with the families, friends, and communities of the eight people killed last night near Atlanta. While we are waiting for more information to come to light, one thing is clear: Asian Americans

who were already reeling because of the recent spate of targeted racist attacks against their community are devastated and feeling a heightened sense of fear. We stand in grief and solidarity with Asian Americans in Atlanta and throughout the country to denounce racism, violence, and xenophobia. As we learn who the victims were, we will say their names and hold them in our hearts. They were human, they had value, and they should still be here.

“Senseless violence motivated by hate has no place in a just society, and we are all required to stand together to root out white supremacy, sexism, sexual violence, and hate from our society. We will keep fighting for equality and justice to prevail.”

SFGMC To Honor Rita Moreno

By Chris Narloch

Legendary star of stage and screen Rita Moreno will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award this April 22 by San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus during SFGMC’s benefit, “Crescendo Voices Rising.” The virtual event is the chorus’s annual benefit honoring extraordinary individuals who tirelessly champion and promote LGBTQ+ equality. “Crescendo Voices Rising” will also honor Grammy Award winner LeAnn Rimes and Emmy Award-winning Artistic Director of The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Terrance Kelly. To purchase tickets, which start at \$25, visit sfgmc.org/crescendo-2021



Rita Moreno

Support for Local Museums is Needed

In compliance with all state, city, and county guidelines – and while local museums remain temporarily closed for indoor visitors – many Sacramento area museums are proud to present a variety of special membership opportunities during Museum Membership Month in March 2021. While it is important to check with museum(s) of interest, membership and benefits typically begin/resume when museums are allowed to reopen.

The benefits of museum membership often extend well beyond a financial savings and include exclusive experiences only available to members. Plus, there’s something for everyone as

March
Museum
Membership Month

the local museum community offers memberships at virtually every museum and/or destination – from fine art, history and culture to native, exotic and endangered wildlife. To highlight Museum Membership Month in March, many of the local museums are offering special incentives and discounts for enthusiasts who choose to become members of their favorite museums and destinations.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit them at www.SacMuseums.org

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Dealer Discount:	\$5,500
Sale Price:	\$60,430
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$59,930

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STK/VIN#: 63284D-545987, 63306D-545988, 63373D-545989

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MSRP:	\$26,135
Dealer Discount:	\$2,363
Sale Price:	\$23,772
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$3,000
CA BC Retail Consumer Cash:	\$500
Chrysler Capital 2020 Bonus Cash:	\$750
CA 2020 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$500
National 2020 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$500
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500
CA 2020 Bonus Cash:	\$750

\$8,863 Net Savings!

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7 at this net cost \$17,272

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 60916D-L54099

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MSRP:	\$25,520
Dealer Discount:	\$8,000
Sale Price:	\$19,520
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$6,500 Net Savings!

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STK/VIN#: 61230D-257846

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MSRP:	\$28,425
Dealer Discount:	\$3,750
Sale Price:	\$24,675
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$3,500
Chrysler Capital 2020 Bonus Cash:	\$750

\$8,000 Net Savings!

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5 at this net cost \$20,425

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 61879D-134305

New 2020 Charger SXT RWD

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MSRP:	\$31,490
Dealer Discount:	\$3,000
Sale Price:	\$28,410
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$2,920
CA BC Sacramento DMA Retail:	\$1,000
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500
CA 2020 Bonus Cash:	\$1,500
2020 Bonus Cash:	\$1,000

\$10,000 Net Savings!

1 at this net cost \$21,490

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 60963D-162965

New 2020 1500 Classic SLT Squad Cab 4x2

3.6-Liter V6 24-Valve VVT Engine, 8-Speed Automatic 845RE Transmission, Trailer-Tow with 4-Pin Connector Wiring, 7-Pin Wiring Harness, 26-Gallon Fuel Tank, Remote Keyless Entry with All-Secure, Locking Tailgate, Overhead Console, 17-Inch x 7.0-Inch Aluminum Wheels and so much more.



MSRP:	\$39,135
Dealer Discount:	\$8,250
Sale Price:	\$32,885
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$2,000
Chrysler Capital 2020 Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
National 2020 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$750
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$10,500 Net Savings!

*Must finance through Chrysler Capital on approved credit

1 at this net cost \$26,635

STK/VIN#: 60767D-105539

New 2021 1500 Tradesman Quad Cab 4x2

3.6L V6 24V VVT Engine, 8-Speed Automatic 850RE Transmission, Class III Bumper Hitch, Trailer-Tow with 4-Pin Connector Wiring, 7 Pin Wiring Harness, 26-Gallon Fuel Tank, Locking Tailgate, Anti-Lock 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, 17-Inch x 7.0-Inch Steel Wheels and so much more.



MSRP:	\$35,790
Dealer Discount:	\$3,000
Sale Price:	\$32,790
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,750
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$750
National 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$7,000 Net Savings!

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STK/VIN# 62995D-503790, 63144D-503791, 63158D-503789, 63171D-539358

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MSRP:	\$48,935
Dealer Discount:	\$4,500
Sale Price:	\$44,435
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$2,000
CCAP Retail Bonus Cash:	\$750
National 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$3,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$1,750

\$12,000 Net Savings!

3 at this net cost \$36,935

STK/VIN# 63199D-518632, 63238D-518129, 63242D-518135

New 2021 1500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4

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MSRP:	\$46,490
Dealer Discount:	\$3,000
Sale Price:	\$43,490
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,750
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$750
National 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500
National 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$500

\$7,500 Net Savings!

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EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 62897D-513258

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More Options for Spring SMF Travelers

By Mark Haneke

Spring and Summer are on the horizon, and travelers from Sacramento have several new options to bring them closer to the sunshine. New and expanded routes are kicking off from SMF to Phoenix (PHX), Orange County (SNA), San Diego (SAN) and Cancún (CUN).



Leap, by Argent

Frontier brings four-times per week service between SMF and PHX. The desert city has gorgeous spring weather, tempting visitors with days by the pool, world-class golfing, museums, nightlife and dozens of parks and preserves for hiking and biking. When the desert heats up, there is an array of local boutiques and luxurious spa experiences to enjoy. When the sun goes down, the eclectic Melrose District on Seventh Avenue is a hub for bars, nightclubs, cabarets and restaurants.

From the desert to the beach! Two new options make it easier to get to popular southern California destinations. Spirit Air begins daily nonstop flights to SNA in April. Whether it is the 42 miles of beaches, celebrated theme parks or coastal luxury, Orange County is one of the state's most popular destinations. Towns like Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach capture quintessential California with its iconic piers, art galleries, dining and entertainment while world-class shopping is a short drive away.

Alaska Airlines is reinstating its four daily nonstop flights to SAN in April. Renowned for its idyllic climate, miles and miles of beaches and exiting family attractions, San Diego has something for everyone. Unique neighborhoods highlight the city's diversity including Hillcrest and North Park, which are both known for the buzzing nightlife, as well as ethnically diverse restaurants, acclaimed wine bars and distinctive shops. Balboa Park, the largest urban cultural park in the U.S., is home to 15 museums, art galleries, beautiful gardens and The Globe Theatre. Don't forget San Diego's beaches! Black's Beach is famous for its big winter swells, while Ocean Beach is a popular spot for running along the shore, people-watching and enjoying the carefree beach culture.

If you're ready for some international fun, JetBlue launched new nonstop service to CUN in mid-March, where the white sand beaches and clear blue water of the Caribbean Sea are ideal for diving, snorkeling, kayaking, sailing or windsurfing and paddle boarding – or relaxing with a tropical drink in hand. Flights operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cancún's renowned culinary scene fuses Mexican and international flavors in both iconic street food and Michelin recognized restaurants. The Yucatan peninsula is home to thousands of sacred cenotes – underwater limestone caves – scattered among the majestic Mayan ruins. Originally spiritual destinations for the ancient people, today tourists can swim or snorkel in their brilliant blue waters, while discovering their rich cultural history. Cancún is also known for its legendary nightlife, where visitors can dance the night away in clubs and party boats throughout the area.

SMF has also made it easier for travelers to get free COVID-19 testing through a partnership with CityHealth Urgent Care. Testing takes place daily at one of the airport's parking lots and meets Hawaii's more restrictive travel requirements. For more information on safe travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit sacramento.aero.

Thank you for flying from SMF! Please make sure you ARRIVE EARLY!

Mark Haneke is the Director of Air Service Development Marketing for Sacramento International Airport as well as a seasoned expert in air service development and a savvy world traveler. His travel column appears monthly in Outword to share news on new destinations from Sacramento International Airport, peppered with some of his own personal stories and travel recommendations.

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Scrapping Plan A

By Lauren Cazares (she/her)

I checked-in for my flight home on the evening of March 15th, 2020. My trip to the suburbs of Toronto, Ontario where I had spent time with my partner's family for the first time was coming to an end.

My girlfriend Claire was supposed to come back with me to finish their spring semester but stayed behind because no one knew what the university was going to do about COVID yet. On the way to the airport, Canada announced they were closing their border... so we said goodbye as her family dropped me off at the airport, anticipating that it would simply be a couple of weeks before we were reunited.

We couldn't have been more wrong. As I write this, it has been nearly 365 days since we last saw one another -- since we last held hands on a walk, made dinner together, or got to snuggle up on the couch and watch *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Yet, I have never felt closer to Claire, or more in love. As it turns out, we discovered what strong candidates we are for a long distance relationship.

We figured out how to work around each other's schedules while being 3 hours apart and nurture each other's love languages in new, creative ways. In doing so, we learned more about the way each of us experiences love and how to self soothe when days were tough. We continued to watch Buffy, just over Zoom, kept attending concerts and plays like we always did, just on the internet instead of at the local Civic Theatre, and messaged in the Zoom chat at church, instead of whispering about the sermon in the pews. We learned how to communicate more

effectively and got comfortable telling our best kept secrets over FaceTime.

I could have never imagined how drastically long distance would change our future plans. We would dream about spending our lives together and yet, in all of those pre-pandemic discussions, we had never spoken of the possibility of spending any real amount of time apart. As the pandemic raged on, and the border remained closed, I started a new job and Claire applied to graduate school. During this season, we realized something big: neither of us were ready to leave the lives we had been so carefully cultivating for ourselves.

So, I signed a lease in San Diego alone; and Claire chose between 3 incredible grad schools, all over 2,000 miles away from me. Yet, I'm not sure either of us have ever felt more right about a series of decisions. I never thought we would be here, but we are actually looking forward to the unexpected continuation of our long distance (but with more weekends together when COVID ends). It may sound like moving on from each other, but we are scrapping Plan A. I don't know when we will be able to safely see each other again and I have no idea when we will 'close the gap' in our relationship, but I don't need to know. Our plans changed and our queer love evolved in the most beautiful way.



Pictured: Lauren Cazares (she/her, left) and Claire Sunberg (she/they, right) in Downtown San Diego, photographed by their amazing friend Cody Tegtman (he/him).



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SF LGBTQIA Community Marches In Solidarity With Asian Community

Words and Photographs by Christopher J. Beale

San Francisco's LGBTQIA community gathered Sunday in solidarity with Asian community members, days after a white man murdered eight people in a rampage targeted at Asian businesses in Atlanta.

The queer community in America has a long history of activism. In San Francisco, that spirit of protest is often tied to tragedy. As an example, the White Night Riots in 1979, when 5,000 people marched on City Hall from The Castro, San Francisco's gay neighborhood, in response to a lenient sentence for Harvey Milk's murderer.

Historically, when San Franciscans mourn, some sort of action is taken.

On Sunday, March 21, the weather was

sunny and crisp, and the mood mostly celebratory as local politicians, like gay State Senator Scott Weiner offered words of encouragement and solidarity, "I am not a member of the AAPI community," he said, "but I am a Jew, and a gay man. I know what happens when society refuses to take responsibility for a pandemic and decides to scapegoat marginalized communities."

Of everyone who spoke, including San Francisco Mayor London Breed, it was only

District Attorney Chesa Boudin who received a mixed reaction. As Boudin left the stage, a woman yelled, "Will you prosecute the offenders?" The District Attorney did not answer.

A protestor named Jennifer proudly carried a sign that read "Fuck your Asian fetish!" in huge letters. And from a platform on the back of a converted school bus, she read an online reply to that sign: "Men like me (self identified Asian fetishists) are probably the strongest supporters of the Asian community." Boos rang out as Jennifer continued, "(Asian women) are delicate and beautiful. I wish I could get an Asian wife like you to love

and protect." The boos turned to a brief, disgusted silence. She also explained what a 'rice daddy' is and invited anyone cruising at the event to leave. "Are you really here for us?"

"If you have Asian friends and colleagues, check in on them regularly and yesterday," says Eugene Clifton Cha, the son of Korean immigrants. His advice to Asians: "Give yourself some fucking grace and self-compassion. Mental health and well-being are real and important. At some point (though) our pain must turn to resolve - to action - for change." After a moment Cha added, "when you've reached that point... let's talk."





Hate Crime Reporting, Legal Assistance, & Advocacy Groups Resource Guide

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UP
REPORT
HATE**



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IN OUR
TOWN**
STOP HATE. TOGETHER.



Resources, Websites and Hotlines Regarding Hate Crimes, Hate Crime Reporting, Legal Assistance, and Advocacy Groups

An incomplete, non-vetted, "open-source" document compiled by a concerned LGBTQ citizen for use by those who are united against hate in all of its forms.

Hate Crime Reporting and Legal Resources

STOP AAPI Hate, a site for reporting hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with multi-lingual resources for reporting:

<https://stopaapihate.org/>



The **National Asian Pacific Bar Association (NAPBA)** page on Hate Crimes contains links to the Department of Justice, FBI, A State Attorney General Office Finder, and various Asian, Muslim, Sikh organizations for reporting and legal assistance, as well as Hate Crime Tool-Kits:

<https://www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources>



NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund:

<https://www.naacpldf.org/>



Muslim Advocates:

<https://muslimadvocates.org/issue/hate-crimes/>



Council on American-Islamic Relations

Muslim Community Safety Kit:

https://www.cair.com/american_muslims/cair-muslim-community-safety-kit/



Communities Against Hate website reporting page:

<https://communitiesagainsthate.org/report?ref=ndrn.org>



Victims of Crime Resource Center page on hate crimes with definitions and multi-lingual information on possible compensation for survivors of hate crimes:

<https://1800victims.org/about-us/>



The Sikh Coalition Hate Crime Tracking:

<https://www.sikhcoalition.org/our-work/preventing-hate-and-discrimination/hate-crime-tracking-and-prevention/>



Association of American Indian Affairs resources page

For those coping with violence:

<https://www.indian-affairs.org/resources--organizations-involved.html>



National Disability Rights Network: Anti-hate

page with resources and reporting link:

<https://www.ndrn.org/issues/hate-incidents/>



Anti-Defamation League hate crime reporting for Jewish Americans:

https://www.adl.org/reportincident?gclid=Cj0KCQiA1KiBBhCcARIsAPWqoSrodv91SeivturigZnZlcnuVCLaXVRKTBCIDfyGeBcavpUbHgcjxBlaAlJIEALw_wcB



Anti-Defamation League Hate Crime Resources in English and Spanish for Latinx Community:

<https://www.adl.org/latinx>



Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Stop Hate Project/Ayuda Brochures for Immigrant Victims of Hate Crimes and Incidents in English & Spanish (PDF):

<https://8449nohate.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Ayuda-Brochure-FINAL-ENG-002.pdf>

<https://8449nohate.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Ayuda-Brochure-FINAL-SPAN.pdf>



National Center for Transgender Equality

Guide on Hate Crimes (PDF):

https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE_Hate_Crimes_Manual.pdf



Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

LGBTQ Hate Crime Prevention Guide and Toolkit (PDF) from:

<https://pflag.org/sites/default/files/Hate%20Crimes%20Guide%20&%20Toolkit.pdf>

Legal Help Lines

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Reporting

Hotline and Website: 1-844-9-NO-HATE (Per website, they offer "legal information about hate incidents and crimes, and provide callers with general information about reporting, as well as the kinds of legal remedies that may be available in different states.")

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/project/no-hate-resource-hotline/>



National Center for Lesbian Rights List of LGBT-Focused Legal Hotlines:

<https://www.nclrights.org/get-help/resource/national-lgbtq-anti-poverty-action-network-covid-19-resource-list/>

Mental Health/Crisis Helplines

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline free, confidential counseling (open 24/7):

Call: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Asian Languages: 1-877-990-8585

Spanish: 1-877-AYUDESE

Veterans or family of veterans:

1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1

TTY: 1-212-982-5284

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>



Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service Website:

<http://ithacacrisis.org/about/programs/crisisline/> SAMHSA's free, confidential 24/7 National Helpline for treatment referral and information (in English and Spanish):

Call: 1-800-662-HELP (4357) Text: 838255

Visit: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>



National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

helpline LIMITED HOURS (see below):

Call 800-950-NAMI (6264). Monday-Friday

10am-8pm ET, or send an email to info@nami.org.

Website: <https://www.nami.org/help>

In a Crisis, text "NAMI" to 741741

Trans Lifeline: LIMITED HOURS (see below)

Call: 1-877-565-8860 Press 1 for English,

2 for Spanish Family and Friends: call the hotline

and ask for Family and Friends Assistance

Helpline Hours: Hawaii: 5:00am-12:00am

Alaska: 6:00am-1:00am • Pacific: 7:00am-2:00am

Mountain: 8:00am-3:00am • Central: 9:00am-4:00am

Eastern: 10:00am-5:00am • Website: <https://translifeline.org>



The Trevor Project runs a 24/7 crisis intervention and

phone helpline, chatline, and textline for LGBTQ+ youth

among other support services directed at youth from this

population: TrevorLifeLine: 1-866-488-7386 TrevorChat

(via computer, NOT smartphone or tablet):

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/>

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TrevorText: Text START to 678-678



Resources, Websites and Hotlines Regarding Hate Crimes, Hate Crime Reporting, Legal Assistance, and Advocacy Groups

An incomplete, non-vetted, “open-source” document compiled by a concerned LGBTQ citizen for use by those who are united against hate in all of its forms.

Mental Health Websites for BIPOC Populations

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s page on Minority Mental Health Resources has an extensive list of links to websites for the Black, Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native American/Indigenous communities: <https://afsp.org/minority-mental-health-resources>

Mental Health America’s website has individual pages with information and resources dedicated to various groups:
Asian-Pacific Islander: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/asian-americanpacific-islander-communities-and-mental-health>
Black: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/black-and-african-american-communities-and-mental-health>

Latinx/Hispanic: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/latinxhispanic-communities-and-mental-health>

Native American and Indigenous: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/native-and-indigenous-communities-and-mental-health>

LGBTQ: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/lgbtq-communities-and-mental-health>

NAMI’s Identity and Cultural Dimensions Webpage has links to individual educational and resource pages for Asian-Pacific Islander, Black, Latinx, Native and Indigenous, LGBTQI communities, as well as People with Disabilities: <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions>

African American Mental Health Providers referral website: <http://aamhp.com/>

Asian Mental Health Collective offers education, an Asian mental health directory, and more: <https://www.asianmhc.org/>

Institute for Muslim Mental Health promotes mental health in the Muslim community, and has a therapist directory: <https://muslimmentalhealth.com/>

South Asian Mental Health initiative & Network (SAMHIN) offers a provider network, education, advocacy, and a helpline: <https://samhin.org/>

Learn More/Get Involved

Not in Our Town: <https://www.niot.org/>

Southern Poverty Law Center “HateWatch” <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch>

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): <https://naacp.org/>
<https://www.naacp.org/campaigns/no-hate/>

American Civil Liberties Union: <https://www.aclu.org/>

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans: <https://www.ncapaonline.org/member-organizations/>
Asian Pacific American Advocates: <https://www.ocanational.org/>

Japanese American Citizens League: <https://jacl.org/>



Korean American Coalition: <https://www.kacla.org/>



Native American Rights Fund: <https://www.narf.org/>



Partnership with Native Americans: http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pwna_home



Muslim Advocates: <https://muslimadvocates.org/>



Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR): <https://ca.cair.com/>



Latino Justice PRLDEF (formerly known as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund): <https://www.latinojustice.org/en>



Unidos US: <https://www.unidosus.org/issues/>



League of United Latin American Citizens: <https://lulac.org/>



Anti-Defamation League: <https://www.adl.org/>



National Women’s Law Center: <https://nwlc.org/>



National Disability Rights Network: <https://www.ndrn.org/>



National Center for Transgender Equality: <https://transequality.org/>



National Center for Lesbian Rights: <https://www.nclrights.org/>



Human Rights Campaign: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/hate-crimes>



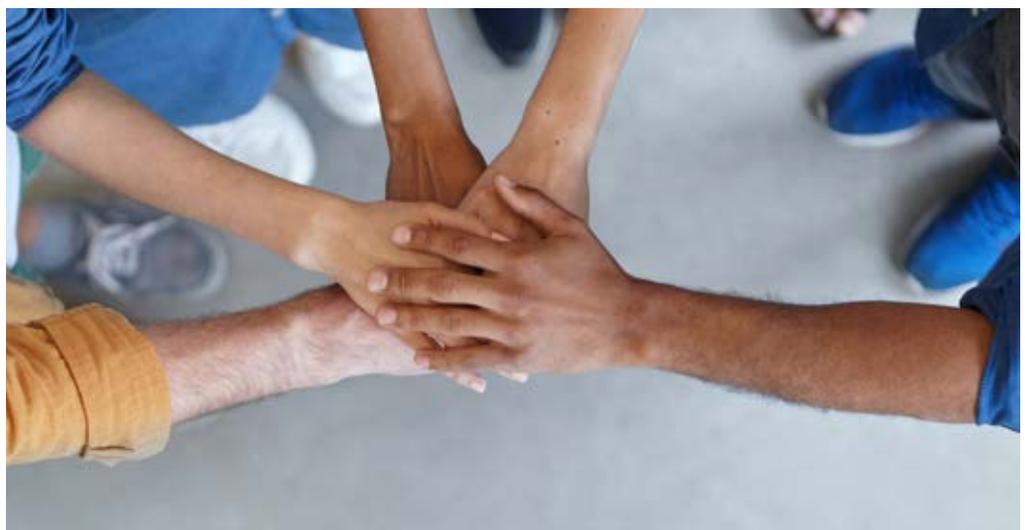
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation: <https://www.glaad.org/>



Matthew Shepard Foundation: <https://www.matthewshepard.org/>



The Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>



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Taking Action To Accept Change (An Impossible Time, Part 2)

By Alison Erickson
(She, Her, Hers/They, Them, Theirs)
IG & Twitter: @alisonxfelice

I am just going to start off by saying that COVID sucks and this last year of quarantining and limiting contact with others has forced many of us to look at ourselves and spend more time alone than ever before.

The lack of activity and starting on antidepressants caused me to gain weight like I never had before, and my body image plummeted within months. None of my jeans fit and my boobs became a lot bigger (this led me to realize that I hated the more "feminine" parts of my body), so I became a shell of the person I was before. Body dysmorphia is so complex and creates a mindset that makes it almost impossible to ever feel comfortable in your body, and the idea of buying clothes because I had gained weight was daunting to me. I remember this one specific day where I was in the fitting room at Tilly's last year and tried on a shirt and started crying the second I looked at myself in the mirror. I just wanted to disappear and go home to cry in the corner. It was a really dark moment, but it ended up being exactly what I needed to accept that I had changed.

My body has long been a source of insecurity for me, but this year especially helped me to realize that the things I had done in previous years aligned with mild gender dysphoria. For many years, I only wore sports bras and would delete any photos of myself if you could see my cleavage at all. My face has always been more round and I didn't really have a sharp jawline that every girl had, so I tried to lose weight to change this but I realized that it would never change. My body was never the typical feminine body, and I always felt that I was not really a girl. I wanted to start using she/they pronouns this last year and was terrified of doing so, but the moment I heard someone use they/them pronouns for me, I balled. I never realized that this is what I was struggling with and accepting my body became so much easier afterwards. It was an incredibly liberating feeling and I will never



forget it.

Recovery for anything is not linear, and it's okay if you're not in a good place. Life happens and it's hard to keep healthy habits when we don't have our routine anymore. My takeaway for you is to talk with someone (even yourself). Have an honest conversation with them, try to understand how you've changed and if you like who you have grown into. Take action to help yourself. I promise it helps.



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Eddie Murphy & Michelle Pfeiffer Return

By Chris Narloch

While I was writing this article, I received the happy news that Sacramento's historic Tower Theatre will be open again by the time you read this, after a year of being dark save for selling fresh popcorn a few days a week.

The first films to be shown at the Tower will allow Sacramento's movie fans to catch up on this year's Oscar nominees. "Nomadland," "Minari," "Mank," and "The Father" opened at the Tower on Friday, March 19 and may still be playing there by the time you read this piece.

I hope diehard film buffs will return to movie theaters, especially after they are vaccinated, but I will probably put on my mask and go before then, since it feels like an eternity since I reviewed a movie on the big screen that wasn't at the drive-in.

If you're not quite ready to return to brick-and-mortar theaters, you can watch Eddie Murphy's latest comedy from the safety of your own home on Amazon Prime Video, but if you want to see Michelle Pfeiffer's new film, which is scheduled to release on April 2, you'll have to venture out to theaters.

Coming 2 America

It took Eddie Murphy 33 years, but he finally made a sequel to "Coming to America," one of his most beloved comedies, which has become even more popular in the years since its release. I wish I could report that it was worth the long wait, but "Coming 2 America" is just so-so.

The new film reminded me of an old friend that you haven't seen in a while -- the kind that you have outgrown and don't have much in common with anymore but still have a nostalgic fondness for.

In the shadow of Wakanda and "Black Panther," even the original film -- which I saw for the first time recently -- looks quaint and tame now. Sad to say that "Coming 2 America" is even quainter and tamer, although fans of the first movie will laugh at the return of the very funny and heavily made-up supporting characters played by Murphy and Arsenio Hall.

The other reasons to see the new film are for Ruth E. Carter's gorgeous African costumes and for the feminist subplots involving the three spunky daughters of Murphy's character, Prince Akeem.

The rest of the script plays like a big-screen sitcom, but it's still nice to see Murphy back on screen, although his last movie, "Dolemite Is My Name," was much better than "Coming 2 America."



Arsenio Hall and Eddie Murphy star in "Coming 2 America."

French Exit

At 62, Michelle Pfeiffer is still insanely beautiful, and I find her endlessly fascinating as an actress, even in junk like "Mother!" and "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil." Her new film isn't junk, but it isn't great either, which is too bad because Pfeiffer is great in it.

The actress plays a very eccentric socialite who leaves New York for Paris with her aimless son (a very good Lucas Hedges) after she spends most of her late husband's money. In France, she surrounds herself with a coterie of friends and neighbors who are almost as strange as she is and holds seances to summon the spirit of dear old dead dad.

Did I mention that our heroine also has a telepathic cat? All of this might have made a quirky comedy, but if "French Exit" is intended to be funny, nobody told the director, Azazel Jacobs. There are a few darkly funny moments in the film though, thanks mostly to Pfeiffer's wonderfully witchy performance.



Michelle Pfeiffer stars in "French Exit."

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Local Theater & "Broadway Backwards"

By Chris Narloch

Movie fans have been able to enjoy Netflix and other safe, streaming options during lockdown, but live theater lovers like me have had a rough time over the last year. The good news is live theater is slowly starting to return now, along with many virtual productions, and you can take your pick from the upcoming events described below.

Broadway Backwards

This annual BC/EFA (Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS) benefit puts a twist on male and female character songs from Broadway and off-Broadway shows by having performers switch gender roles.

"Broadway Backwards" will take a hopeful, musical look toward life post-pandemic in its first virtual edition, set to stream with a bevy of Broadway's best, at 5 p.m. PT on Tuesday, March 30.

This virtual edition of "Broadway Backwards" will explore how the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic has specifically affected the LGBTQ+ community. The show will feature Jay Armstrong Johnson as an isolated New Yorker who dreams a fantastical journey guided by a late-night television host, portrayed by Jenn Colella.

New performances will be merged with full numbers from previous editions of "Broadway Backwards" to create a "Broadway Backwards" that feels distinctly of the moment.

This year's streaming event includes a special opening number featuring Stephanie J. Block, Deborah Cox and Lea Salonga, plus performances and appearances by Matt Bomer, Darren Criss, Ariana DeBose, Robin De Jesús, Cynthia Erivo, Joshua Henry, Cherry Jones, Kelli O'Hara and Jim Parsons.

The free online event, where gender doesn't matter but love does, can be viewed on the Broadway Cares YouTube channel and will be available on demand through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, April 3. For more information, go to www.broadwaycares.org



Alan Cumming and cast members from "Broadway Backwards 2011"

The Carsino Show

Live, non-virtual theater under the stars with social distancing sounds pretty good to me, after a year without live theater. Sutter Street Theatre will make that dream a reality for one weekend only with its production of "The Carsino Show."

In the style of the Johnny Carson show (as done by the Mafia), "The Carsino Chow" boasts live music, comedy and tributes to Liberace, Carol Burnett, Frank Sinatra, Rodney Dangerfield, Dean Martin, Abbot & Costello and more, with your host, Johnny Carsino.

The show will feature socially distanced nightclub seating on the outdoor patio of The Gaslight Company, on Sutter Street in Historic Folsom. Masks are required, temperatures will be taken upon arrival, and a full bar will be available.

Tickets for "The Carsino Show," playing March 26 - 28, are only \$20 but must be reserved by calling (916) 353-1001. More information is available at www.sutterstreettheatre.org

Extreme Home Makeover

This live virtual production follows a family of four who competes for a chance to win a miracle home makeover, after having lost their head of household.

During a time of so much loss, grief, and transformation, "Extreme Home Makeover" offers a glimpse into the life of a family's struggle that is far too common for BIPOC folks.

The play explores grieving, challenging family dynamics, and financial hardships, all of which are painfully poignant, particularly among BIPOC communities who've been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

"Extreme Home Makeover" will run March 19 - 28, 2021, courtesy of Sacramento's Teatro Espejo. More information is available at www.teatroespejo.com

For tickets, please visit: bit.ly/3ebjeAr



Marianne Ceballos stars in "Extreme Home Makeover."



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Do Not Miss “Immersive Van Gogh”

By Chris Narloch

If you’ve ever dreamed of stepping into Vincent Van Gogh’s exquisite painting *The Starry Night* -- one of the most famous works in Western art and, hands down, my favorite painting by anyone ever -- now you have your chance, with the arrival of “Immersive Van Gogh.”



“Immersive Van Gogh,” currently in San Francisco, will blow your mind.

This stunning new exhibition merges state-of-the-art projection, recorded music, and world-class animation to take art lovers inside Van Gogh’s remarkable art, illuminating the artist’s most famous masterpieces, as well as lesser-known works.

Presented as a walk-through experience inside San Francisco’s SVN West -- an enormous, warehouse-like space on South Van Ness near Market Street -- “Immersive Van Gogh” is overwhelming in its beauty and exactly the balm I needed after a year of lockdown.

Art lovers have been starved of live events over the last year, and I can think of no better way to welcome back a semblance of life as we knew it (before COVID) than with this amazing show, which features rigorous safety protocols such as mandatory masks and temperature checks, large circles on the floor that promote social distancing, and plenty of polite security on hand to make sure folks follow the rules.

“Immersive Van Gogh” also takes place in one huge, high-ceilinged space, and timed tickets mean that there will never be large crowds of people packed into the exhibition area, where I felt very secure thanks to my newly-acquired Van Gogh mask and multiple hand sanitizer stations available throughout the venue.

The exhibition blows the roof off the recent movement towards experiential, site-specific art installations with a 35-minute show that wows with its size and scope. Featuring over 500,000 cubic feet of projections, “Immersive Van Gogh” combines art, light, music, movement and loads of creative imagination to create an experience like no other.

It must have taken an artistic army (and a ton of money) to put this show together, and I marveled at the attention to detail and the complexity of what I was watching, as Van Gogh’s masterpieces floated before my eyes -- supersized to allow viewers to appreciate his unique artistry.

The four gigantic walls inside the space are at least two stories high, and the projections

wrap all around the room in a continuous flow of hypnotic imagery. The creative team has even found a way to simulate Van Gogh’s famous swirling brushstrokes, by having the images appear to be painting themselves.

Van Gogh’s purple irises bloom and pop, his sunlit fields and golden haystacks vibrate, shooting stars fall, lights twinkle, water shimmers, and the artist’s swirls of color move and pulsate. The digital images dissolve and morph into other images by Van Gogh, and his masterpieces crash into each other and combine in interesting ways.

I loved how the entire space occasionally appeared to be turning as the colossal images moved horizontally around the four walls, and they also sometimes move vertically, seeming to disappear into the rafters. (The exhibition is probably not recommended for those overly sensitive to moving lights.)

Even the floor of the exhibition space is illuminated with different colors, and you must climb the stairs to the platform in the center of the space during your visit for a sensational, 360-degree view of the entire room. I watched the show once from that raised vantage point and then sat through it again from one of the benches on the floor.

“Immersive Van Gogh” makes frequent use of the artist’s piercing self-portraits, and I also enjoyed the pairing of his art with the intense voice of Edith Piaf, who belts out “Je Ne Regrette Rien” at one point during the presentation. (Most of the other music accompanying the images is classical and lovely.)

Art snobs may scoff at this show, but until the next big exhibit of Van Gogh’s actual, physical artwork arrives on our shores -- and who knows when that will be -- “Immersive Van Gogh” is a dazzling gift from the gods, especially after the nightmare year we’ve all had.

Ticket prices start at \$39.99 (\$24.99 for children 16 or younger) and are currently on sale through September 6, 2021 by visiting www.vangoghsf.com

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All Together for Animals This March

By Chris Narloch

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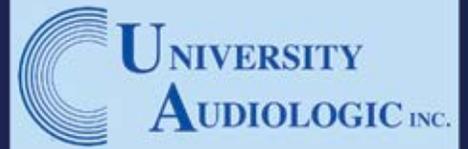
For a mere \$30, you can enjoy "All Together for Animals," a virtual concert by country music stars Brad Paisley, Old Dominion, Ashley McBryde, Wynonna, and others, and also support the nonprofit Sacramento Zoo's conservation partners. "All Together for Animals" is a private

concert this March 31st, with proceeds going to the 240 zoos and aquariums belonging to the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums).

With the following unique link, a portion of the ticket sale proceeds from this one-time-only concert, and 100% of any

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Tina Turner Says Farewell On HBO

By Chris Narloch

After 60 years as the undisputed Queen of Rock, Tina Turner, now 81, is ready to retire from public life, and her upcoming HBO documentary "Tina" will reportedly be her swan song and a farewell to her millions of fans.



While we wait for the recent Broadway musical about her life to make its way to the West Coast, we can enjoy this brand new, 2-hour film, which presents an unvarnished and dynamic account of the life and career of a true music icon.

"Tina" includes a wealth of never-before-seen footage, audio tapes, personal photos, and new interviews with the singer herself, who revisits a life filled with trauma that included physical and sexual abuse.

Directed by Dan Lindsay and T.J. Martin, the film charts Turner's early fame, her personal and professional struggles, and her return to the world stage as a global phenomenon and a rock 'n' roll survivor in the 1980s.

Angela Bassett, Oprah Winfrey, journalist Kurt Loder, playwright Katori Hall and Tina's husband, Erwin Bach, are among the interviews in the intimate documentary, which will begin airing on HBO this March 27.



Tina Turner

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A Fond Farewell From Lucca Restaurant

Dear Fred and Ron,

It is funny, and this will sound a little silly, but almost exactly a year ago, I was driving into Sacramento to meet with the Lucca management team and heard on the radio, while crossing over our little golden bridge into Sac, the Neil Diamond song, "Done Too Soon." The one about Jesus Christ, Fannie Brice, Wolfgang Mozart, Humphrey Bogart - on and on.



Outword Supper Club at Lucca, circa 2011

While Lucca Restaurant and Bar cannot compare to these historical icons, the part that made me a little teary eyed was the last set of lyrics - "Each one of them had one thing to share, they all sweated beneath the same sun, looked up at wonder at the same moon and wept when it was all done - for being done too soon." Surely, I thought, this cannot be the end of it for Lucca.

I, like a lot of us, thought I am pretty sure we will be back up and running in May, then August, then October and still here we are, shuttered and closed.

I cannot tell you what a hard decision it has been to close Lucca. But, not only was there this horrible pandemic with fits and starts of hope for re-opening, but also the knowledge that so much of what happens in Midtown to support our little restaurant are highly populated events like Broadway Sacramento, Music Circus, the Speakers Series and even events like "Mama's Makin' Bacon," ha! (thank you so much for letting us host that for so many years - we were

honored) would take a while to come back.

All of this has compounded the challenges we will face, including the fact that we are not a couple of spring chickens anymore.

Lucca has had some wonderful Glory Days and we are beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of so many Midtown happenings.

I do want to thank you personally for your support, and also that of the wonderful and vibrant LGBTQ+ community of Sacramento. That this community embraced us from the early days on has truly meant the world to us, and we love you all to the moon and back.

I have no doubt that something wonderful will come along to that little corner of 16th and J and that life will come roaring back to the Midtown area.

Thank you my dear. Many thanks to your Outword readers.

With love,
Terri Gilliland

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We have been Sacramento's source for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and so much more. Since the recent economic downturn, and closure of businesses that helped distribute our publication, we have had to go to an online-only format.

Many of our advertisers have cut their advertising budgets, or have completely stopped advertising in our magazine altogether.

We have never asked for help before, however, in order to keep publishing online and to keep paying our staff of three and a few of our writers, we have established this site for our readers or local businesses should they wish to support us. If you consider us as a valuable and vital resource for the LGBTQ+ community, thank you in advance for your support.

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OutwordRainbowFund.com

One Night At 'The Stud'

By Christopher J. Beale

It was the final week that life was 'normal' in California. The end of the first week of March 2020 will go down in history as one of those "Where were you?" moments. The news was grim. A deadly pandemic was making its way to America. Officials said we might have to wear masks whenever we leave our homes, and that this looming lock-down would only last a couple of weeks.



Dancing at The Stud. Photo by Christopher Beale

We know how that ended up. The Saturday night before shelter-in-place, my best friend Todd, sensing that we may not get another opportunity for a while, invited my boyfriend Reagan and I out to dance at The Stud.

my group weaved, ending up directly in front of the speakers, occupying the border between the DJ, and the revelers. From this position the music was more like a feeling than a sound. The subwoofers making love to every cell in my body, giving me life!

THE STUD

The Stud, due to its inclusivity, was counter-culture. Opening in San Francisco's SoMa neighborhood in 1966, the Stud sought to cater to underserved parts of the queer community. In those days, the gay bars in SoMa were for men only. The Stud on Folsom St. bucked this trend - putting a sign above the door that read "Everyone Is Welcome Here."

Moving from its original location in 1987, The Stud landed at 9th and Harrison.

LAST DANCE

A sign jutting out from the corner of the heavily-muraled, single-story building reads simply, "STUD." The sidewalk outside bustling with smokers, and people waiting to join the party inside. The music from the dance floor was only slightly muffled by the walls, the traffic, and the chatter.

I opened the door and the smells of The Stud hit me - Sweat. Vodka. Smoke. Cologne. Sex.

This was my first visit to the San Francisco night spot. I did not know that this would be my only visit, or that this would be the gay community's final Saturday night in this sacred space.

It's easy to forget how much we didn't know.

"Jack & Coke!" I yelled to the bartender, unsure of whether or not he actually heard me. It would take some liquid courage to get me out on the dance floor, but I didn't come here to not dance. Based on the bartender's subsequent pour - he might have sensed my need for fortification.

DJ Jason Godfrey started his set and I felt the rhythm of the house music calling me to the dance floor. Through the gaggle of gays

By midnight - the place was packed. The DJ brought the frantic crowd closer to climax with each song. Against the wall a couple was making out, erections visible through skin-tight jeans, the only thing either of them were wearing at that moment. That infectious sexual energy swept through the gathered gays moving in sync with the beat - all of our bodies one.

We swayed, laughed, screamed and jumped in the air together in messy jubilation.

ONE YEAR LATER

The Stud closed its home of 34 years a few days later, citing a combination of rent being due, and tills being closed. The bright murals on the exterior walls were painted over within weeks of that final dance. The Stud, according to the co-op that owns it, will return...someday. The building now sits empty.

Reflecting on that night one year ago, and the somber year that followed, it's easy to see why some believe that the divine, or God, can take whatever form you need her to. That night as I stared up at the lights, letting euphoria wash over me, with no idea what lay ahead, I was truly free.

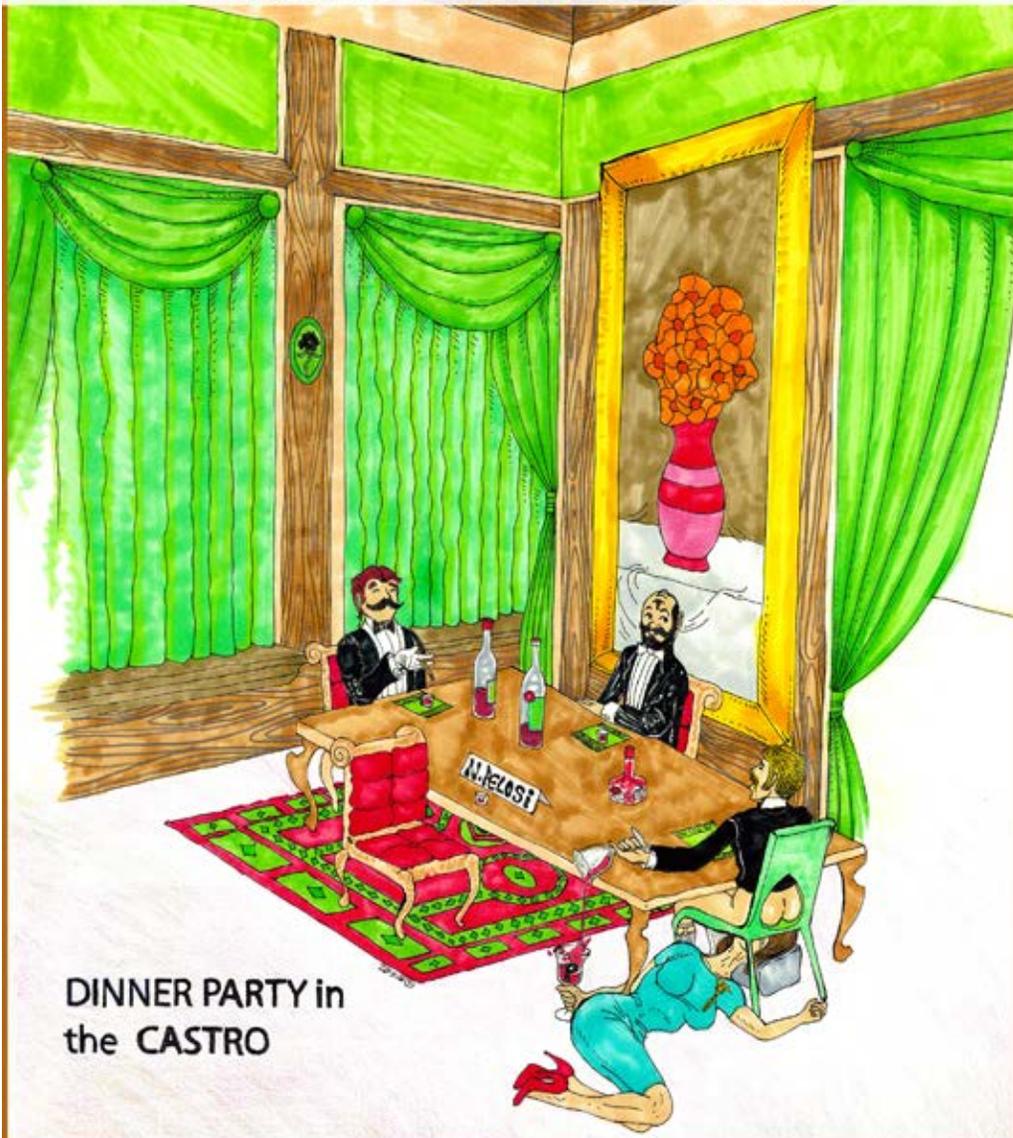
If there is a God, that night, she was a DJ.

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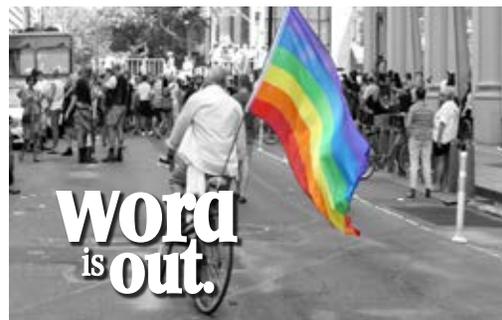
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