

# MGW

**MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSMAGAZINE**

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**Aging &  
Relationships  
Issue**

**ellen pontac & shelly bailes**

**better with age**

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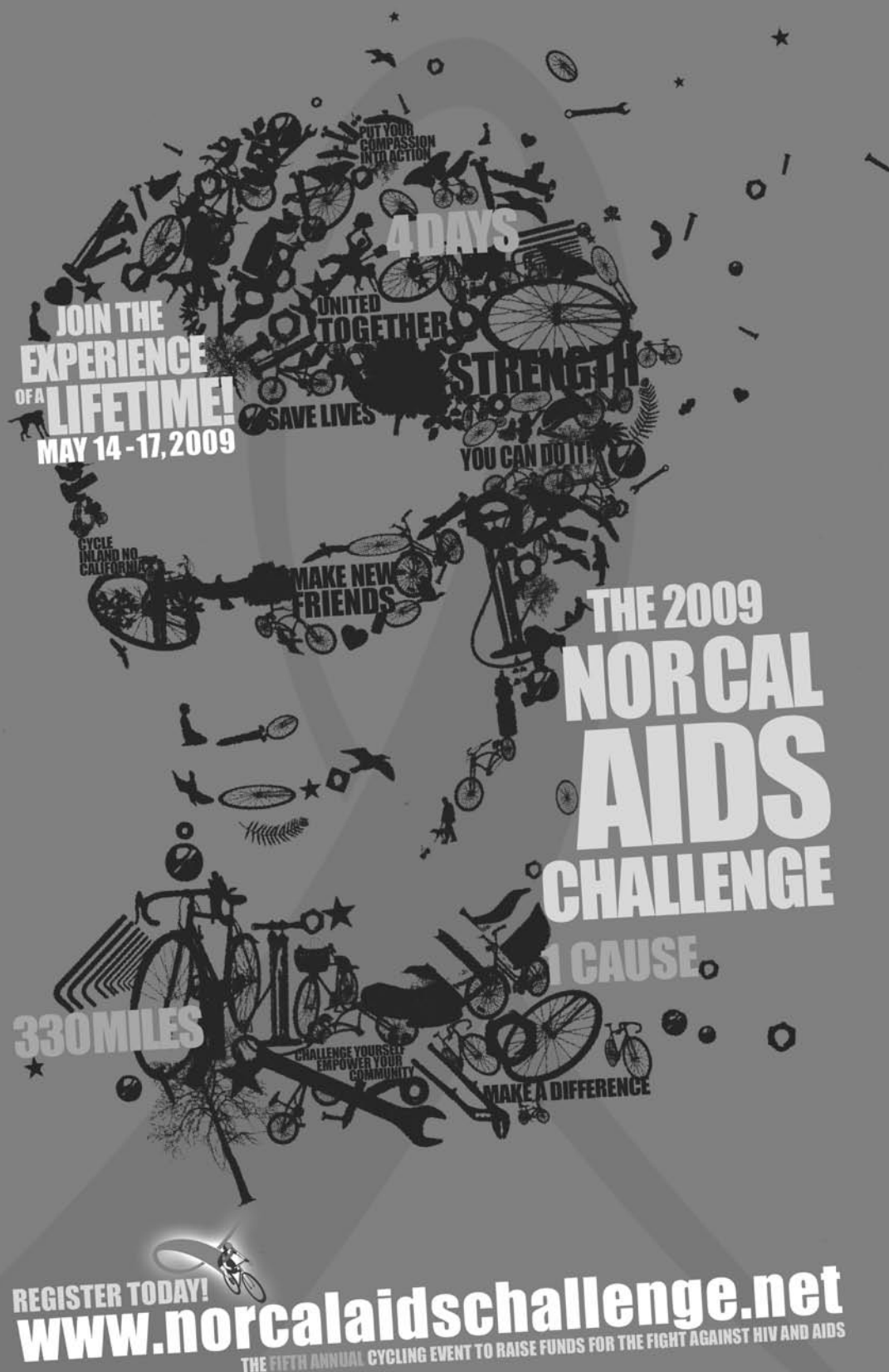
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MATTHEW BURLINGAME HAS BEEN THE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF MGW FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE IS AN AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST AND PLAYWRIGHT AND HAS WORKED WITH, AND WRITTEN FOR BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS THE PAST 14 YEARS. EDITOR@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

## In Memory of Mark Steven Olson



This issue of MGW covers two important aspects of our community. The first is relationships. With same-sex marriage the hot button issue of our times, our relationships seem to be continually under the microscope. So much so that any gay relationship not adhering to the monogamous “one plus one” ideal has been swept under the carpet.

Poly and “open” relationships have, in recent years, become somewhat more acceptable — or at least tolerated — by the LGBT community. As we are often left to make our own societal rules and “norms” when it comes to relationships, acceptance of these differences was not a huge leap. The adage of, “as long as you’re not hurting anyone, who cares?” applied. But when putting a face to the struggle of marriage equality, three is a crowd.

While marriage equality is not about legitimizing “alternative” relationships and is about gaining another step in equality for our community, we, above all others, need to remember that when it comes to love — one size does not “fit all”.

But love is a wonderful thing! In this issue we profile two incredible women who have been an inspiration and a voice of unselfishly motivated leadership in our community for over two decades.

Ellen Pontac and Shelly Bailes are well known in Sacramento and Davis, CA for their enormous contributions to the activist and feminist communities. Also life partners, they have given more to the LGBT community than most of us will ever realize. This year they celebrate 35 years together. The two gave some of their precious time to MGW to speak with us about life, activism, marriage equality and most importantly their love for one another.

The second theme in this issue is

again within our community. For many gay men, aging is a taboo subject. For years life beyond 30 in the gay community was considered a sexual and social death sentence. Enter the “Daddy”.

It seems to many that the lesbian community has always had an attraction and respect for their older sisters. This may or may not be accurate, but has always been portrayed as such. Not so in the gay male community.

Ten years ago older men were referred to as “trolls”. Gay male media and life was marketed solely for the young. Now, however, older men have found themselves being the subjects of desire by gay men both young and old. We now move from “twink” or “cub” to “Daddy”.

It started being marketed as a fetish. Magazines like “Daddies” and “Older” started with a handful of followers until these days, even our gay publications both adult and mainstream are inclusive of the older, more mature man.

Five years ago, a senior friend of mine was considered a troll. Today, at 70, he has men throwing themselves at his feet — hot, young professional men who have no interest in a “sugar daddy”. They genuinely find him an exciting, engaging man.

However, as Daddy moves into Granddad, we, face new and frightening hurdles.

Retirement and elderly care for the LGBT community is a relatively new concern for us. Before Stonewall if we went into retirement homes we went back in the closet. We often grew old and died in the same closet we kept inside of when we were young.

The issue would most likely have been addressed in the 1980s and 1990s as more and more of our community became out and visible. But what would have been retirement homes became hospices as almost an entire

generation of our brothers, and some sisters, were decimated by HIV/AIDS. We couldn’t focus on aging when most were just trying to live long enough to see the next year.

But now more than ever our community is out and proud and have no intention of living our lives in the proverbial closet. Imagine having spent the last 30 years of life protesting, loving and living out loud. Then one day you find yourself older, your partner has passed on, you have no children and the friends and family you do have are experiencing their own issues with aging. Now you are facing issues that no longer allow you to live on your own.

If that were to happen today, you’d be forced to live in a retirement facility with heterosexual people who grew up in the era of gay being an unspeakable sin. After 30 years of being out, you would find yourself in a place where you may have to go back into the closet just to find some peace.

It should not have to be that way. One of the most immediate and important issues our aging LGBT community faces is affordable senior housing and elderly care. This is something every one of us should be concerned about and contributing to, whether financially or in action. There have been a few LGBT retirement communities throughout the country. It time we start focusing on a place for our community’s seniors in Sacramento.

This issue also features photos from Sacramento’s MLK Day March, the reception for the pilot who landed the plane in the Hudson river, January’s Rainbow Chamber mixer and more. Please remember to support your local gay-run and gay-friendly businesses as much as possible in the current economic climate, and to always be proud of yourself, your community and those you love. Happy Valentine’s Day.

Fairy Godfathers Fund, CARES of Sacramento or a pet rescue of your choice.

### In Memory of Joseph Migliaccio

Joseph Migliaccio, owner of a number of restaurants and bars — several of which bore the name “Joseph’s”, passed away Jan. 27. He had been long battling a series of ailments, but friends say he never let them get him down. Migliaccio’s bars were among the first LGBT bars in Sacramento and he played a large part in the community’s early gay history. He leaves behind his partner of many years, Tom Daugherty.

Jack, a longtime employee of the Bolt, formerly owned by Migliaccio said, “To me he was a great personal friend.” Bolt bartender AJ confided, “He was a great employer.”

Community member and FACES employee Billy Ray stated, “That gentleman was the hardest working person I knew and he would give you the shirt of his back. He put his heart and soul into everything he did. He was a good man and that’s how he blessed us. He supported the gay community. He always gave people a chance — always.”

### In Memory of Danelle Saldana

Danelle Saldana, a gifted therapist who helped establish the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center’s Counseling Program passed

away suddenly, in her sleep, on Jan. 10. She was 30 years old. She had become engaged in May 2009 and planned to marry in 2010.

Danelle was the first clinic manager for the Center’s Counseling Program, working tirelessly to establish the program in 2007. She was instrumental in obtaining grant funding from the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians to sustain and expand the Counseling Program’s services in its new facility at 1722 J Street.

The Center has established The Danelle Saldana Memorial Fund to commemorate Danelle. Contributions will be used to support the Counseling Program.

### Police Looking for Men Who Attacked Transgender Woman

Sacramento police are looking for two men who allegedly attacked a 22-year-old transgender woman at 5 p.m. Jan 23 in the tunnel connecting Downtown Plaza and Old Sacramento. Two men verbally harassed the victim, one of them threw a bottle at her leg. The victim, who cut her foot on the broken glass, ran away and called police. Both men are described as African American men in their late teens or early 20’s, 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 190 pounds. One was wearing a red bandana, baggy blue jeans and a black sweatshirt. The second wore a grey sweater and blue jeans, police said. Anyone with information is asked to call 916-264-5471.



## BOYCOTT LIST

THIS IS A LIST OF BUSINESSES IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA THAT ALLEGEDLY ENDORSED OR DONATED FUNDING TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN. THESE BUSINESSES ACTIVELY FOUGHT FOR THE PERMANENT REMOVAL OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MARRIAGE RIGHTS THAT HAD BEEN FULLY RECOGNIZED IN 2008 BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. DO NOT LET YOUR MONEY SUPPORT THEIR HATE.

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IF ANY OF THE BUSINESSES LISTED ABOVE ARE LISTED INCORRECTLY OR UNFAIRLY, OR DID NOT DONATE FUNDS TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN, PLEASE CONTACT MGW NEWSMAGAZINE IMMEDIATELY SO THIS INFORMATION CAN BE CORRECTED. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR THOSE CHOOSING TO FINANCIALLY BOYCOTT BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED "YES ON 8". WE DO NOT ADVOCATE VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM OF ANY KIND, NOR CONDONE ANY MALICIOUS ACTION OR BEHAVIOR TOWARD ANY BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL POSITION ON PROP. 8. THIS IS AMERICA; THEY ARE FREE TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE AND WE ARE FREE TO NOT SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSES.

### DIVERSITY IS AN EVERYDAY THING

I really enjoyed the column from the Editor in the Jan 15 issue of MGW. Your column is always the first I read and I agree with you about diversity. Why do publications only dedicate one issue per year to diversity? Each and every issue should deal with diversity in one way or another.

In both the gay and straight world we deal with diversity on a daily basis. Why do we have "Black History Month" (every February), "Hispanic Heritage Month" (every September) or "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month" (which began October 2008) and so on? Is it because we only want to deal with "Diversity", "Black History", "Hispanic Heritage" or "Domestic Violence" and other issues once a year?

I don't think that's why. I think it's about awareness, it's to remind us and educate us of such issues and history. So keep up the good work — with each and every issue you just keep getting better and better!

Regarding D Yee's letter to the editor: Mr. Yee, you are a very lucky man. In your letter you said you have all the equality you want and that's wonderful because that's all that all of us are asking for — equality! Like the rest of us, your opinion matters, your opinion counts, you own it, so I'm not here to

"discount" your opinion.

But, why should heterosexuals be allowed "marriage" and the gay community only get "civil partnerships"? Legally the end results may be the same, however, isn't that a lot like "segregation"? Remember a time when white and black people had to use different restrooms? Sure, they both had the same equipment in those two different rooms. But was that the point of giving blacks the same rights to share the same restroom? It was to end segregation.

Just because you don't want the personal, financial, and legal constraints of "marriage" doesn't give you or others the right to take it away, or not allow others who want it to have the right to do it.

I don't think gay activists are delusional at all. They are standing up for equal rights for all, they are fighting for gay marriage for those that want to get married. I think you need to wake up and realize that you saying "no" to gay marriage is taking a civil right away from our community.

My sister has a picture on her Myspace that says, "If you don't support gay marriage — DON'T GET ONE." Don't let your personal beliefs or opinion take away the civil rights of others.

RICH J  
SACRAMENTO CA

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## Libertarian Perspective

CA.LP.ORG

### MOST DANGEROUS PART OF BUSH LEGACY IS WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN

America's largest third party says the most dangerous part of President George Bush's legacy is that which cannot be seen. "President Bush leaves office after eight years having pushed the idea that people should trust the government because it knows what's right for them," says Libertarian Party spokesperson Andrew Davis. "This is the most dangerous facet of the Bush legacy."

"In a matter of decades, we have gone from President Reagan who said the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help,' to President Bush, who considers those words to be inspirational and rousing," says Davis.

"Americans, especially conservatives, have been brainwashed into trusting—without question—that the government will do the right thing," says Davis. "What have we gotten in exchange? A bigger, more powerful government that has shown no fidelity to civil liberties or the Constitution."

"Americans forgot that enemies of freedom are both foreign and domestic," says Davis.

"Bush leaves office with many Republicans looking at government the same as their Democratic colleagues," says Davis. "They see government as an agent of good in society, rather than an agent of corruption

or iniquity. The economy can rebound and civil liberties can be restored, but ideas have lasting consequences. The idea that government can be unquestionably trusted will have disastrous consequences for liberty in the United States," explains Davis.

"The most terrifying phrase a citizen of a free country can hear is, 'In Government We Trust,'" says Davis.

The Libertarian Party is America's third-largest political party, founded in 1971 as an alternative to the two main political parties. You can find more information on the Libertarian Party by visiting [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org). The Libertarian Party proudly stands for smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom.

### WE'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND OUR WAY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

America's largest third party is calling plans by the incoming Obama administration a "multibillion-dollar boondoggle."

"We're not going to spend our way to economic recovery," says Andrew Davis, a spokesperson for the Libertarian Party. "You can't even call Obama's economic plans a gamble because the results are written in stone. We've tried this Keynesian experiment many times in the past, with no proven success. It's nothing but a multibillion-dollar boondoggle."

The Libertarian Party says that Obama's spending proposals, which include funding the largest public works program since the 1950s, will take too long to implement and don't pass a cost/benefit test.

"The best plan for economic recovery would be giving more money back to taxpayers in the form of tax cuts, which can increase consumer spending and increase job creation," says Davis. "It will also avoid the corruption and wastefulness of government spending—something that must be addressed at once if we expect to remain

a free and prosperous nation."

"Public works projects, like those proposed by the Obama administration, will take too long to implement and many will cost far more than their economic benefit," Davis explains. "So, not only will the government be spending taxpayer money on wasteful projects, it be spending money during a time when economic relief is not needed. Conversely, tax cuts are always in season."

The Libertarian Party also warns that adding close to a trillion dollars in additional government spending to the budget will push the United States closer to financial ruin.

"Elected officials don't like to talk about the reality of government spending because it's not an issue that gets them reelected, especially when they will be long-gone before it comes time to pay the piper," says Davis. "However, we've reached an event horizon in spending that if government doesn't immediately begin to cut its programs, the only option will be massive tax increases unlike Americans have ever seen."

Davis says the government's focus should be on permanent and significant tax cuts. "However, any tax cuts absolutely have to be offset by a reduction in government spending, or else we're merely asking for higher taxes in the future," Davis explains. "We must not make the same mistakes of the Bush administration, which cut taxes, but also dramatically increased government spending."

For more information on this issue, or to arrange an interview with the Libertarian Party, please email Andrew Davis at [andrew.davis@lp.org](mailto:andrew.davis@lp.org), or call (202) 731-0002.

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### GREEN PARTY RESPONDS TO STATE-OF-THE-STATE

GOVERNOR SHOULD BLAME SELF FOR BUDGET CRISIS; REFUSES TO ACCEPT IDEAS TO HELP THE STATE, AND WORKERS BECAUSE IT WOULD HURT HIS WEALTHY FRIENDS

Gov. Schwarzenegger should look more at his failed "one-man rule" than even the dysfunctional Legislature — and someone should remind him that people are losing their homes and can't put food on the table while he refuses to tax the super wealthy, said the Green Party of California today in response to the State-of-the-State message.

"While the governor said he wants to punish the Legislature for not passing a budget on time, he forgets that it's his veto over the will of the majority, and his stubborn refusal to tax the super rich, which could raise billions for the state, that is holding back real change and a solution to the budget crisis," said Joe Feller, a member of the GPCA Coordinating Council.

Greens said a simple way to raise tens of billions of dollars would be to tax the wealthy

— a move that GOP governors Reagan and Wilson willingly made.

"If we were to tax the upper 5-10 percent of our wealthiest citizens at the same percentage as we do the poorer 5-10 percent, we would have a manageable problem. But the governor today reaffirmed he would rather continue to sacrifice the disabled, the sick and the very poorest in this state. He won't tax his rich friends, but will raise sales taxes — a regressive move that hurts those most in need," said Wes Rolley, a California Green.

"There are other options, and they include supporting Green technologies which provide jobs, and universal single payer healthcare, which would help the people of California, and save us even more billions. But we don't see this from this governor. All we heard today was more 'he said, she said,'" added Rolley.

"The Green Party is amazed the Legislature has accepted a pay raise, refuses to trim its own staff and continues to accept per diem payments even when lawmakers are not in Sacramento. Again, like the governor, they act as if they are not like the rest of us, including state workers who are being asked to 'sacrifice' by forced furloughs and pay cuts," said Rolley.

More on the green Party at: [cagreens.org](http://cagreens.org)

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This is a time of immense economic stress for people across the country. According to recent reports, 2.6 million people lost their jobs in 2008. There is unemployment insurance to help people cope with the economic stress of losing their jobs.

But also each year working people face the need to take time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a new minor child. Especially these days, most people cannot afford to do that because they can't afford the loss of pay while they are staying home.

But there is a program which might help people in these situations. It is called Paid Family Leave (PFL). PFL is administered by the California Employment Development Department. This program helps families led by same sex couples, as well as heterosexual couples. The program provides a weekly check to people who take time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent,

or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a newly born or adopted child or a child just taken in under foster care. Time off to care for a family member may include time to provide psychological comfort or time to arrange for third party care.

The weekly benefits range from \$50 to \$959 per week. The maximum benefit is six weeks of benefits in a 12 month period.

The benefits are paid for out of deductions made from the paychecks of workers in California. Self employed people can voluntary pay into the fund, to help tide them over during periods of lost income, if they need to stay home to care for a family member. Also, state employees may be covered if they are covered by the State Disability Insurance Program through a contract between the state and their union.

Employees taking time off to care for a seriously ill family member must submit a medical certificate with specified information

about the family member's illness.

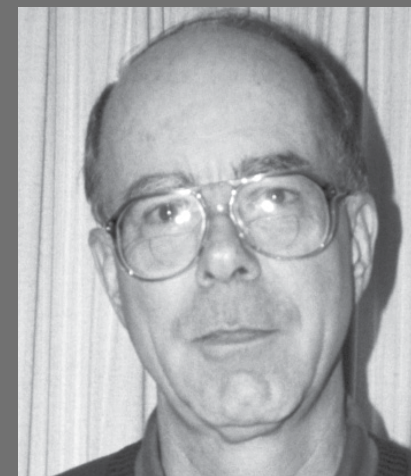
Time off for bonding with a child must occur during the first year after the birth, adoption, or placement of the child in foster care.

There is a seven day waiting period before benefits are paid. Also, employers may require employees to use up 2 weeks of paid vacation before they receive the PFL benefit.

People may not receive PFL benefits if another family member is able and available to take care of the ill family member. It also is unavailable if the employee is currently receiving Disability Insurance, Unemployment Insurance or Workers Compensation.

To find forms to submit direct your browser to the following Internet address: [edd.ca.gov/Disability/PFL\\_Forms\\_and\\_Publications.htm](http://edd.ca.gov/Disability/PFL_Forms_and_Publications.htm)

You can also see a summary of the PFL program (In English or Spanish) by clicking on "DC8714CF Rev. 9 at the bottom of the page reached at the above address.



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BELOW: WHO SAID GAYS DON'T LIKE SPORTS? EVER SEEN A MONARCHS' CHAMPIONSHIP GAME? MGW VISITED THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMAN'S EXPOSITION (ISE) ON JAN 15 AT CAL EXPO AND SAW MANY A COMMUNITY MEMBER LOOKING AT THE LATEST SPORTS AND HUNTING GADGETS AND EQUIPMENT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE AIMING AT THE RIGHT "BEARS" WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN THE WOODS THIS SPRING. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

JANUARY HAS BEEN FULL OF AMAZING EVENTS! ABOVE: THIS MONTH'S RAINBOW CHAMBER MIXER AT KENNEDY GALLERY; TOP RIGHT: BOYS NIGHT OUT AT LOUNGE ON 20TH AND BELOW IT DRINKS AT THE MERC. MIDDLE RIGHT: AN EXCELLENT EQUALITY ACTION NOW FUNDRAISER AT BADLANDS; BELOW RIGHT: THE STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF GREATER SACRAMENTO CELEBRATED INAUGURATION NIGHT AT HEADHUNTERS/ROK. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN.

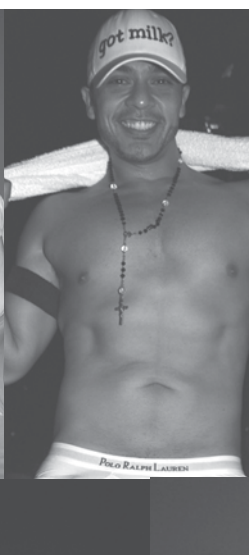
CHECK OUT MORE PHOTOS FROM THESE EVENTS AND PAST EVENTS ON MGW'S WEBSITE PHOTO ARCHIVE. MOMGUESSWHAT.COM







CAPTAIN CHESLEY "SULLY" SULLENBERGER, THE PILOT WHO LANDED A DAMAGED PLANE SAFELY ON THE HUDSON RIVER WAS GREETED IN HIS HOMETOWN OF DANVILLE WITH A HERO'S WELCOME. AT THE EVENT HIS WORDS WERE HUMBLE, "WE WERE SIMPLY DOING THE JOBS WE WERE TRAINED TO DO." SULLENBERGER ACCEPTED PLAQUES, A KEY TO THE CITY AND AN HONORARY DANVILLE POLICE OFFICER BADGE. PHOTOS BY FRANK ALVARADO

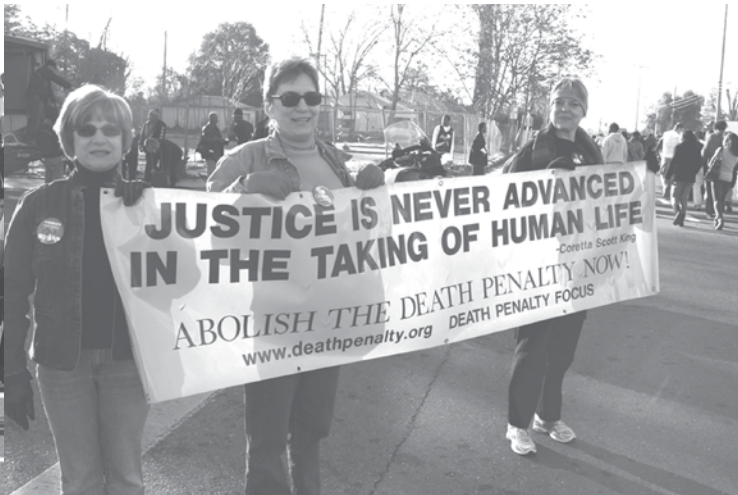


ABOVE: A WEEKEND NIGHT OF FUN AT FACES NIGHTCLUB. BELOW: THE FUN AT FACES CONTINUES WITH THE CLUB PAPI FOLKS HOSTING A NIGHT OF HI-ENERGY MUSIC, DANCERS AND STRIPPERS GALORE! PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN





MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF DIVERSE ACTION GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY CAME OUT IN FORCE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN SACRAMENTO, AS WELL AS THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S DREAM OF UNITY. THE MARCH BEGAN AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD AND ENDED AT THE CONVENTION CENTER. MANY LGBT COMMUNITY MEMBERS MARCHED WITH THE RECENTLY FORMED EQUALITY ACTION NOW GROUP. [MLK365.ORG](http://MLK365.ORG); [EQUALITYACTIONNOW.ORG](http://EQUALITYACTIONNOW.ORG). MORE PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT [MOMGUESSWHAT.COM](http://MOMGUESSWHAT.COM)





A black and white photograph of a person standing in a room with cardboard boxes and a house-shaped sign on the floor. The person is wearing a plaid shirt and pants, and is holding a white cloth. The floor is covered with many small white cubes. The house-shaped sign is on the left, and the text 'THE TIME IS NOW!' is overlaid on the top of the image.

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REVIEW BY ROBERT APPLIGATE  
PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

## Zelda's Pizzeria

ZELDA'S PIZZERIA IS LOCATED AT 1415 21ST ST. (BETWEEN N AND O STS.). THEY ARE OPEN MON. - THUR. 11:30 A.M. - 10 P.M., FRI. AND SAT. FROM 11:30 A.M. UNTIL 11 P.M., SUN. FROM 5 P.M. UNTIL 9 P.M. THEY ACCEPT CASH AND RECENTLY STARTED TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS. NO CHECKS.

ZELDASGOURMETPIZZA.COM

Good pizza is easy to find. Excellent pizza is a rarity. If you haven't been to Zelda's Pizzeria you are missing out on some excellent pizza. Everyone has their favorite style of pizza, thin crust, thick crust, New York Style, Deep Dish, and many other interpretations of Pizza. No matter what your preference Zelda's is true pizza bliss.

In the East they refer to pizza as "pie". I know why. The crust at Zelda's is like flaky pie crust, but rather than sweet it is savory. It has texture. It has flavor. It's wonderful, melt in your mouth heaven.

If you are looking for glossy tri-fold bright menus, knights in armor, or cheese in the crust style pizza, go to a strip mall. In fact, the menu is actually handwritten scrawl that has been copied over and over, slightly unreadable. Your not here for fancy, you're here for the food.

The restaurant itself is outdated, 1970s kitsch style. Old posters, gem filled glass candles on the tables, red laminate tablecloths, black cottage cheese ceiling with glitter, and Christmas lights strung along the ceiling.

You enter underneath a very simple black and white sign that simply reads "Zelda's Pizza", through a nondescript door. Walking into the dimly lit restaurant you come face to face with a portrait of Zelda. Just to let you know you are entering an Italian restaurant, the walls are covered in old

posters of Italy and numerous awards as well as restaurant reviews covering the many years Zelda's has been in business.

The waiting area is comprised of benches in the bar. The bar is a full bar with beer on tap, imported bottled beer, mixed drinks, and wines. They have the standard straw encased wine bottles behind the bar, denoting a time when the only Italian wine available in the U.S. came in a straw bottle. For a pizzeria they actually have some decent wines. They carry Bogel, Berringer, and Ruffino wines by the glass.

The room is divided by a lattice wall. The bar on one side and the cave like dining area on the other side. The dining area is very small and dark. Tables are close together. If you sit in a booth, they are extra dark and really only 2 persons can sit comfortably in them. Thank goodness for the tacky red glass candles at each table, especially the booths, as it is dark here! Lights are few and are from the 1970s, stained glass flower looking with huge white bulbs. What I am getting to is that if it is atmosphere you are looking for, this isn't your slice of pizza. You are warned; however don't let that stop you. You're not here for the décor; you are here for the food.

If you want some knock your socks off, bold in your face different, unique, down right delicious pizza, you have made it to pizza heaven. Having been here many times, each time I swear I am going to try something

other than pizza. I never have. Besides pizza they have salads, several tasty sounding sandwiches, hamburgers, appetizers, and pasta. I have had several pizzas all with different toppings and while the sauce is fantastic, the cheese tasty, and the toppings fresh and plentiful, it's always the crust that leaves me tongue-tied. They say this is Chicago Style in the pan pizza. I am going to have to trust them as I have never been to Chicago. I have had Chicago style pizza at chain restaurants and when desperate, yes even a frozen Chicago style pizza or two over the years. If Zelda's is Chicago style pizza, then my next trip is to Chicago. I could go on and on about the crust, but you have to try it for yourself to truly experience it. Words don't do it justice. It arrives at your table piping hot, in a pan, not a silver disk plate. The deep pie pan is carried with pliers by the server to your table. You smell it before it lands in front of you. This stuff is hot, fresh, out of the oven still bubbling as you are served a piece by the server.

Zelda's has a reputation for its food servers, however not a good reputation. I often have been told they are not friendly. I have not found that to be true. They are busy! They are efficient! Unfriendly? No, haven't experienced that.

Program Zelda's pizzeria into your cellular phone and call when you are on the way. Tell them it's for dine-in and give your name. These works of art are handmade for you and that takes time, up to 45 minutes per pizza. By the time you get there your pizza should be almost ready. As you wait in anticipation, it gives



you some free time to order a salad and enjoy some wine, beer or soft drinks. Salads are rather large, so share one. The anti-pasta salad is outstanding with slices of cheese, salami, ham, tomatoes, olives, peppers and lettuce. Nothing here is too expensive, most pizzas are less than the card board chain restaurant pizzas. Sandwiches and burgers are all under \$6.50 each.

Every dining experience I have had at Zelda's has been great. Always adventuresome, I order a different pizza each time, enjoying every bite. My last pizza here was the Spinoccoli recommended by my daughters. It consists of seasoned spinach, broccoli, garlic, cheese, and fresh tomato. Yum.

Now, if only I can convince myself to try something other than the pizza on my upcoming (hopefully soon) next visit.

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Things were bleak for older gay men in the 1960s. "Nobody loves you when your old and gay," was a lament often heard in gay bars as the aged 50+ men sat on their bar stools and literally cried in their beer. There were no LGBT organizations with programs for gay seniors. Most reference books said we were nothing but sick perverts.

While it is difficult for most young LGBT people to understand, many gay seniors' memories of their younger years include those of bar raids in the 1950/60/70s — the last of which took place in San Francisco in 1975 when the police raided a New Year's party sponsored by Council on Religion and the Homophile at California Hall. On New Year's Day Willie Brown's AB 489, the Consenting Adult Law, came into effect and California's gay and lesbian citizens were no longer criminals for simply being who they were.

These bar raids like the 1969 raid at New York City's Stonewall Inn which sparked the modern LGBT rights movement were common in many parts of the country. Those arrested were taken to jail and their names were often published in the newspaper the next morning for being arrested frequenting a bar full of perverts. The publication of names often resulted in the loss of jobs, apartments and often caused them to be cut off from their families. The watchword those days in bars across the country was, "In case of a raid grab a dyke!"

Jim, 82, a resident of Palm Springs, relates a story how he attended a small house party of about 12 men in Los Angeles and one of the guests left to go get a friend to bring to the party. The "guest" returned as a Los Angeles vice squad officer along with some fellow officers and arrested all of the attendees.

So the road growing old for the LGBT seniors of today was fraught with all kinds of pitfalls not generally faced by our nongay counterparts.

Being old is the pits, a body that aches all the time, a brain that has young thoughts in a body that simply will not meet the challenge of those young thoughts. It brings to mind a famous quote by author, activist Larry Kramer, "Getting old brings new meaning to the term 'old fart.'"

### A RAY OF SUNSHINE

However, as bleak as aging may seem, there are rays of sunshine for LGBT seniors in a handful of support programs which were not around just a few years ago.

Things are a little better today as American Association of Retired People (AARP) has begun to recognize the needs of LGBT people and in an October, 2008, online report says, "Social isolation is one of the major issues. Two-thirds of LGBT elders live alone—twice the percentage of older heterosexual adults who do, according to U.S. Census data and survey findings.

LGBT elders are also less likely to have life partners, children or other relatives they can call for help. But health and aging-support systems, assume there is an unpaid caregiver you can rely on, a spouse or a child."

On the national level there is Service and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE) founded in

1978 as Senior Action in a Gay Environment (sageusa.org).

SAGE recently co-sponsored a conference with AARP on the needs of LGBT seniors.

On its web page SAGE explains it, "works with LGBT elders to address and overcome the challenges of discrimination in senior service settings, while also being an essential component in the creation of informal care giving support, and development of new "family" networks. SAGE's programs include: the nation's first Friendly Visiting program for frail and homebound LGBT seniors, the country's first support group for LGBT seniors with HIV, the nation's first program dedicated to care giving services for LGBT seniors, the nation's first LGBT Senior Drop-In Center, the creation of the first national conferences devoted to LGBT aging concerns, the only Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Faith in Action" grantee (of more than 2,000 nationwide) specifically targeting LGBT older people for supportive services.

### LOCAL RESOURCES

As can be seen from the SAGE list much attention is being paid to care giving in skilled care situations where many seniors feel the necessity of going back into the closet for fear of discrimination.

To address some of the issues facing LGBT seniors, a new group has been formed in Sacramento called Senior Gays (SeniorGay.org). It meets on the last Saturday of each month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for a 11 a.m. pot luck and discussion.

SeniorGay founder Manny Lomba, 74, started the group because he was tired of sitting at home wishing he had friends to go to the movies, a play, or a day trip to the city.

In addition to the monthly potlucks the group has taken outings to movies, the Capitol Building and State Archives and a day trip to San Francisco.

They are establishing a telephone tree to check on the well being of the members. The website has a forum for discussions of topics of interest. A representative from Kaiser Permanente spoke about senior health issues at its Jan. 31 meeting.

Area 4 Agency for Aging (a4aa.com, 916-486-1876), a federally funded program covering a seven county area is a major resource of seniors. The agency recently had staff training about the needs of the LGBT community. It can give referrals for housing, food programs and help with other government agencies.

Gary Meyerscough, an openly gay member of the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission and a former member of the local Ryan White AIDS Funding Council, participated in the Area 4 workshop setting out the needs of the LGBT community.

He is particularly interested in trying to get the county to do a survey to identify LGBT people who are currently in public housing and are isolated or closeted because of their living situation.

### KEEPING BUSY

As stated, a major problem LGBT seniors face today is being isolated. It is important

to have a group of friends, both peers and young people for support and if need be care.

Jerry Frink, 74, an accomplished musician and retired employee of the Franchise Tax Board, says aging reminds him of a pillow he saw in a shop in Old Sacramento on which was embroidered, "Growing old is not for sissies."

He maintains an active life as a member of the Peace and Freedom Party and by joining peace picketers at 15th and J streets on a weekly basis and a second group picketing against the death penalty. He is usually easy to identify as he wears colorful feather boas at these functions and other social occasions.

Last year for a number of Sundays he picketed Fremont Presbyterian Church because the pastor led the movement in the Sacramento to prevent LGBT persons from becoming deacons and elders in area Presbyterian churches.

Two other gay seniors who are keeping busy are the former owners of the now-closed Open Book bookstore, Ron Granz, 68, and Larry Bailey, 69. Both are engaged in running half marathons, Ron training for his first and Larry looking forward to his sixth.

Ron, who five years ago was diagnosed and underwent successful treatment for prostate cancer in addition to his training for running, has been a volunteer as the archivist for the Lavender Library and Cultural Exchange a field in which he is an expert and for the last year he has volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity (HH) helping them get their files in order.

Larry is the Floor Planning Manager for HH and is responsible for doing all the planning for their projects up to the point of construction.

He would like to note that low income LGBT persons, especially those with children, might be eligible for HH programs.

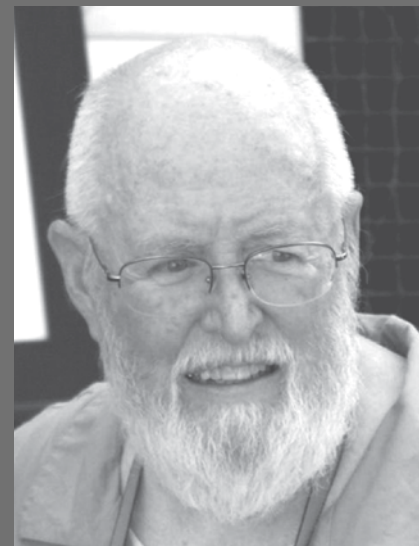
For many LGBT seniors the Internet has been an outlet for connecting to peers all over the world. A little googling helps find all kinds of connections.

So, for LGBT or non-LGBT many of the problems of aging are common. One of the main solutions seems to be the ability to utilize programs and activities aimed at seniors.

To find out about these programs contact some of the agencies and organizations mentioned in this article.

And above all stay active and look for volunteer opportunities particularly at the LGBT Community Center (916-442-0185) or the Lavender Library (916-492-0558).

These are the Golden Years!



BY JERRY SLOAN

## The Good Old Days?

## Aging In The LGBT Community

### SeniorGays.org

Support Group for the Senior GLBT Community



As seniors we face common problems of aging, illness and the loss of friends, partners, and relatives. As LGBT people, we sometimes face estrangement from our neighbors and families. It would be good to unite to form a community of support for each other in Sacramento as well as online. In other cities such organizations have flourished and have provided companionship, fellowship, and mutual nurturing to LGBT seniors.





BY MATTHEW BURLINGAME  
PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

# Love & Activism

## Ellen Pontac & Shelly Bailes

Chances are anyone who has been involved with activism in Sacramento and Davis, CA, have heard of Ellen Pontac and Shelly Bailes. Longtime activists, feminists and life partners, they have given more to the LGBT community than most will ever realize. Celebrating 35 years together this February, the women took some time out to speak with us about life, activism, marriage equality and most importantly their love for one another.

**Tell us about your backgrounds; where you grew up and your families.** Ellen: I grew up in the Los Angeles area, the youngest of three children and the only girl. In fact, I was often called "Elena Princess." My parents had a wonderful and loving relationship and I thought all marriages were like that.

Shelly: I grew up in New York, the oldest of four children. I was the apple of my dad's eye. I had a wonderfully happy childhood and was always told that I could be whatever it was that I wanted.

**At what age did you realize you were lesbian? When did you come out and was it difficult for you?** Shelly: I always knew that I was different than my girl friends growing up. I married at age 20 and had two children just as I was supposed to do. I didn't come out until I heard Harvey Milk tell a crowd of 10,000 that the most important thing we could do was come out. When Ellen and I got together in 1973, we were told that we would lose our kids if we told anyone about our relationship, so we kept it quiet for at

least ten years. We never touched or showed any affection in public.

**Did you have relationships before you met one another?** Ellen: I grew up as a straight person ... had boyfriends ... got married ... got divorced ... met Shelly. New chapter in my life. I was married for ten years and was in the process of getting a divorce when I met Shelly.

Shelly: I was married for ten years and was in the process of getting a divorce when I met Ellen. I had a few girlfriends before I was married and one while I was getting a divorce — before I met Ellen.

**How did you meet each other and how long have you been together?** We met through mutual friends. Ellen had a friend whose son was in kindergarten with her daughter. The friend, who was married, had a lesbian lover. The lover's best friend was Shelly. The first time we went out (to a drag show in New York) Shelly was on a double date. Ellen had never gone out with a woman and was just going out "with the girls." This was 35 years ago.

**Was it love at first sight?** Ellen: Not exactly, but we both remember the first second we saw each other. We both know exactly what we were wearing and where we were standing. Funny how you usually don't know the things you should remember. But Shelly courted me for a long time and well ... the rest is history.

**What was that moment when you knew each other was the one for you?** Shelly: It was at a Thanksgiving dinner put on by one of my lesbian friends about two weeks after we met. We kissed for the first time and I knew this woman was someone I wanted to be in my life forever.

**What are your daily lives together like?** We used to have a small crafts business and made and sold ties and suspenders at craft shows around the country. We were "Tie One On". For about 25 years we spent pretty much every moment of every day within a few feet of each other. We made the items at home and we sold them on the weekends. It was perfect for us. We took our time traveling to and from craft shows across the country. Now that we're retired, we're busier than we were when we worked for a living. This political stuff takes up a lot of time.

**How do you keep the romance alive in your relationship?** Ellen: This is a question we actually had to think about. We spend a lot of time in bed. We have leisurely mornings talking and hanging out and often get up late. In fact, our kids know they're not allowed to call on Sundays before one in the afternoon. We enjoy each other's company and often find we have more fun alone than with others. My mother used to always say she and my dad enjoyed going out alone more than with others too.

Shelly: We go on vacation a lot and plan them together. We celebrate everything. Like the anniversary of the first day we met, our civil union, our domestic partnership, our "first" marriage and now our "second" marriage and, of course, Valentine's Day. There's always at least one bottle of good champagne in the refrigerator. We also always try to do something special for each others' birthdays. We kiss every night before going to sleep and when we wake up and I tell Ellen I love her every day.

**What advice would you offer to other couples? Both politically and personally?**

Ellen: Getting involved politically can be a wonderful thing for a relationship if you can do it together. Some of the more exciting kisses we have enjoyed have been while standing in front of those rabid anti-gay folks.

Shelly: The most important thing, I think, that a couple can do for each other is to listen and be aware of the other person's needs.

**What are the toughest obstacles you have had to face, both as individuals and as a couple?** We feel we've been amazingly fortunate in our lives. We both had great childhoods; we worked for ourselves so we never faced discrimination in that way. The greatest problem we've had was our daughter who was a smart, funny, talented and difficult teenager. Against our wishes and those of most everyone who loved her, she married someone (as an act of rebellion) who converted her to a life of strict religion. They moved to Nebraska, had eleven children and shunned us for 24 years ... not allowing us to visit or even send a birthday card to our grandchildren from both of us. After 24 years she realized how judgmental and cruel her religion was and came to us in her quest to leave that life. She is now one of our greatest allies ever.



**What obstacles do you feel you faced as a couple that younger couples now may not have to?**

The first obstacle was keeping our relationship a secret. Both of our attorneys told us, separately, that if we mentioned that we were a couple we would lose our children when we divorced. One of our husbands wasn't in a position to take care of his kids so they would have become "wards of the court" — words we will never forget. Life was so different in the 1970s. We just forged ahead and didn't really think of obstacles. We didn't know any other families like ours.

We feel we should say, however, that all the sneaking around and finding times to be alone together when you have four children made for very exciting and romantic times.

**You are both very politically active. Tell us about your activism.** Shelly was always an activist. She wore pants to school when she was in sixth grade and her teacher made her sit in the hall. She sat there for a week until her teacher finally gave in.

In 1983 we became involved in working to pass the Davis Civil Rights Ordinance which was designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the city. The City Council passed it, the opposition put it on the ballot, and we won. We realized that we could make a difference. As any activist can tell you, once you get a taste of winning, it's pretty hard to stop. We ran the No on Prop. 22 campaign out of our house in 2000 and Yolo County was one of only seven counties in California to vote no and the only one that didn't touch San Francisco. We bring a good number of resolutions to our City Council in support of gay rights issues.

In 1989 we lobbied the city council to pass a resolution declaring Davis a Pro-Choice City. We were escorts at a local abortion clinic every Tuesday for four years.

We created Yolo County Gay Pride Day and put it on for ten years. We pushed the envelope a little further every year by working to get resolutions from the County Board of Supervisors as well as some of the Yolo County cities, making it the best kids event in town, advertising it with a booth at the Farmer's Market every Saturday for three months where we sold raffle ticket for 150 prizes we had donated by local shops, getting banners for Lesbian & Gay Pride Day stretched across two intersections in Davis — the first group ever to do it — being the first non-profit group to place signs on the double decker buses in Davis, etc.

For many years we've put on the Dec. 24 Holiday Meal for the Davis Food Co-op which serves about 800 people. Ellen has managed the volunteers and done the publicity and Shelly does the fundraising which goes to local organizations which help feed the less fortunate.

Shelly was chair of the Davis Human Relations Commission and now meets with the Davis police chief once a month representing the gay community.

We often bounce ideas off each other until we get to the place where we really don't know whose idea something is. The one thing we do know is that the idea comes out better after we've talked it over.

**Why is it so important to you to be out**

**and visible?** If you had told either of us 35 years ago that we would see ourselves on the front page of the Wall Street Journal, or the New York Times, or the San Francisco Chronicle, or the San Jose Mercury News, or The Boston Globe, or the Orange County Recorder, or MGW, we would have had a great laugh. We are unable to financially donate as much as others, but we are able to be visible and accessible. We do what we can to work to create equality for everyone.

**Tell us about your work with Marriage Equality USA?** We began working with Marriage Equality CA in its very early years. It joined up with EQCA for some time and then separated to become Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA). It's a true grassroots organization that fits us well. We are the Yolo County co-chairs and have been since its inception. It's heavy on actions and demonstrations ... marriage license requests on Valentine's Day, signs about paying the same taxes and having less rights on Tax Day at the Post Office, etc.

In 2004 we went on a cross country Marriage Equality Caravan with 24 other gay rights activists stopping at a dozen rallies on our way to Washington DC to have a rally on The Mall and to present the president with a letter signed by hundreds of folks we encountered on our trip.

There's always something to do and we encourage everyone to join up. It's free and can be found at [marriageequality.org](http://marriageequality.org).

**Did you get married during the period in 2008 when it was legal?** We were so anxious to get married that Freddie Oakley, the Yolo County Clerk-Recorder, said she would marry us at the first moment it was legal. We were married at 5:01 PM on June 16, the first moment it was legal. Shelly has always said that she wants to be married to Ellen for as long as she can.

**How did it feel to have that legal recognition in your home state?** It felt unbelievably great because we worked so hard on making it happen. We had a wedding reception and invited the whole city of Davis because of the great support we have received here. About 500 people came and it was a wonderful celebration. Ellen's a native Californian and always wanted to be legally married in her home state.

**When Prop 8 passed, what was your reaction? Were you part of the protesting?** Shelly was angry; Ellen was in denial. We couldn't leave the house for about a week so we weren't part of the first protests. We were asked to speak at a couple of protest rallies and lead a march in Sacramento the following week. It was very uplifting. It gave us hope. There were so many times in the past that we felt we were out there alone and we sure don't feel that anymore.

**Why is marriage equality important to you?** Ellen: We got involved in the first place because we wanted to do something more for the gay rights movement. It was either "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or "Marriage Equality." The latter was more comfortable to us. I've always believed that marriage equality is a portal to full equality.

Shelly: The social recognition is wonderful.

As I said, we had a civil union and a domestic partnership and no one even congratulated us even though it was in the local newspaper. When we got married, we received over 200 emails and over 100 cards congratulating us. We had over 500 people come to our reception to tell us how happy they were for us. When our daughter and her boyfriend of five years got married, I said, "Welcome to our family." Marriage is different. I remember every day that we are married and it gives us another day to celebrate. We now celebrate every month on the 16th. We will do that until we are married a year and then we will celebrate every year.

When we started working the No On Prop. 8 campaign, someone said that it's very important that we win so that when a 15 year old boy wakes up on Nov. 5, he would feel equal and not commit suicide. That stayed with me throughout the campaign and that's what keeps me going.







## despite our differences

BY JENIFFER WERTZ

I'm middle aged, and I've had more than a few relationships —none of which have worked out. After years of trials and tribulations it gets to be more and more disappointing with each break up. It's harder to believe in anyone anymore and I have less and less hope that I will ever meet the right one that lasts forever.

I really don't even care that much anymore, or put much thought into trying to meet someone. At times, I have wondered what's wrong with me and other times, I've known I wasn't the one doing anything wrong. Maybe my choice

in partners has been the problem? Maybe I need to put up with less and expect more? I don't know what the answer is, but I've come to realize that all the blame has not been solely mine or my previous partners'. We as gay people have obstacles that others don't have, and I place more than some of the blame on the straight people that marginalize us.

When I was age 29, I began to think that it was OK with America that I was gay as long as I kept it a secret. President Clinton had recently passed "Don't Ask Don't Tell". No one at work gave me a hard time. My girlfriend and I were very friendly with our neighbors. I even baked them cookies and left packages on their doors at Christmas time. They did the same for me and my "roommate" whom they loved and thought couldn't possibly be lesbian.

We had neighborhood parties together. We knew how to keep our personal lives to ourselves. We kept it to ourselves with our neighbors, straight friends, family, and at work. We were the Jones'. We acted like the fag jokes were OK so as not to "out" ourselves. We felt lucky to be accepted. Issues about discrimination were somebody else's problem. We were fine in our closet and everybody liked and accepted us as long as we stayed there.

Then Prop 22 came along, and I was certain

that it would not pass. Everyone was fine with us — or at least so I thought. I walked outside one day, and all of our neighbors had "protect our marriage" signs posted in their yards. This was a complete shock to me, and a direct slap in the face from people I thought were our friends. We hadn't done anything to their marriage. They must have known we were gay. Could they really be talking about us?

I was so insulted, I took our dogs out and let them pee on all of their freaking signs. I spent a whole night with my friends driving around and stealing those signs. I came home with my big truck full of them, and proudly filled up my garbage can with a bunch of twisted metal and plastic, displaying to everyone that they had insulted us. We, who were their good neighbors and friends. It felt good, but Prop 22 still overwhelmingly passed anyway.

She and I inevitably broke up, which is the story of my life. In this case, she was very religious and her church was telling her that being gay was a sin. She's now married to a church going man, and has children (although she complains to me that she hates it and really thinks she's gay). I've had other relationships in which there were issues with the children's acceptance, family's acceptance, or they just didn't feel like being committed anymore. One of the big problems I think we really have is that it's just too easy for us to walk away from each other. Our culture isn't designed for, or encouraged to have, long term committed relationships.

It's easy for straight people. They meet each other every day, every where they go, and take it for granted. They don't have to guess if the other person is gay or straight like we do. They have a lot more people to choose from. They don't have to worry about flirting with someone that will be offended, or the consequences of doing that. They have public support from each other (the majority), and we get treated like deviants. They get benefits for their partners from work, and we get the fear we will be fired if anyone finds out. They get to be the step-parent, and we are the embarrassing lesbian lover who turned the kid's mom gay and ruined their "normal" family (even if it was the mom that picked up on us).

We teach our kids to be accepting, and they teach their kids to ridicule and beat ours up.

They get tax breaks, and we get to pay more for them. They are encouraged to get married, and we have to struggle to have the right. They think going to church makes someone a good person, and then at church they thrive on condemning us. They want us to live a more "normal", upstanding life, and we are only allowed to meet each other in bars. A casual lifestyle with no legal commitment is the only thing we are legally allowed to have.

After just about being done with my most recent divorce, and all of the other failed relationships before that, maybe I personally have had too much heartache to feel like I ever want to get into another relationship again. However, I still hope for something better for the younger gay people.

When I was younger, I used to accept not being able to get married, but now I see things differently. I have grown to question why we are not afforded the same civil rights. We haven't done anything wrong; wrong has been done to us. If we can pay and we can serve, then we deserve the same. I have grown to question why our society's "values" keep us in situations that don't encourage the respect of others and don't encourage the stability and responsibility in our relationships that we need to gain that respect. We should have equal rights to the same privileges, but more importantly for our own sake, we should have equal rights to the same responsibility for each other in our relationships as well.

We are making progress. Prop 8 was a lot closer to going our way than Prop 22 was. I have learned we cannot stay in the closet and hope for the best. We have to get involved. We have to stand up for ourselves. We have to vote and encourage our friends and supporters to do the same. To the generations before mine that have been able to make it through the struggles that were worse than mine — you have my deepest admiration and respect, and I thank you. You have paved the way for me to take up these issues, made progress that I am the beneficiary of and I would like to pass that on to younger generations in return so that some day we will actually have the equality that we deserve. We have to continue to fight so that some day we will have the same rights and responsibilities that foster relationships that will last forever.



GREETING CARD ARTIST AND MGW WRITER TAMARA LITTLE DEBUTS A NEW LINE OF GREETING CARDS IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

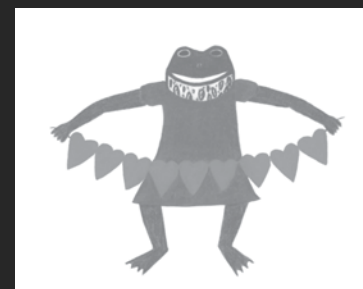
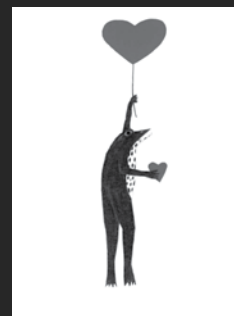
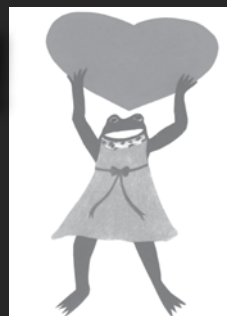
## "Hoppy" Valentine's Day!

Tamara Little has started a new venture designing greeting cards. Combining her lifelong love of frogs and interests in fashion and dance, she creates cards for all occasions featuring her fun and lively characters.

In Sacramento, her cards are available at Etc., Newsbeat, Collected Works, and the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center's giftshop "Something Fabulous".

In San Francisco, they can be purchased at WildCard, located near Castro and Market streets.

They are also available in Davis at Newsbeat and The Naturalist.





As I was enjoying the euphoria of inauguration I received an email from my Rabbi that a member of our congregation had just passed. For me it was shock and disbelief since I knew this person and his partner. I saw them every Saturday in services and they had participated in the AIDS walk the last two years. This passing brought to home my job and why I do what I do. Tony died of Pneumonia. He had AIDS.

A more loving couple you could not find. They were always together at services, ushered the high holidays and truly committed to their faith and to each other. Over the years I have had several friends pass as a result of AIDS.

There was JP Sullivan, Michael Himovitz and in the 1980s it was not unusual to die after contracting HIV. But this is 2009 and you're not supposed to die of AIDS today.

I started working for the Capital City AIDS Fund four years ago. When I came to work here I saw an opportunity to work on events that would help a great cause. I am a woman, not young (young at heart), Hispanic, Jewish and I do not have HIV/AIDS.

I have met amazing committed people in my work, Agencies that go out of their way to help those infected and affected

with HIV/AIDS. Most of the people I work with are dedicated to making sure that no one dies of AIDS. CCAF has a prevention and education program that works to get the word out. So how did someone today die from this disease? Obviously more works need to be done.

As I think about the passing of Tony, I am reminded of many friends, which include medical professionals, who ask me, "isn't AIDS gone?" There is a misperception that people are not getting HIV/AIDS".

However, Sacramento has had an increase of infections over last few years. More have passed but you won't hear about it because most people think it does not exist.

I have several friends who are recently divorced, widowed or not with a partner. Many think oh great I am older I don't have to worry about getting pregnant, but they don't think about AIDS or STDs. The same with the younger generation except they probably aren't thinking at all.

As I go to the funeral today, I will think about how we can make a change. How can we prevent HIV/AIDS, and how I can continue to raise much needed funds to help those living with the virus. I don't want to see anyone else have to lose a loved one to this disease.



LEFT TO RIGHT: DOUG COLE, ST MARKS; STUART ELDRIDGE, PRESIDENT CCAF; MIKE SILVA, CCAF BOARD; RACHEL PEARMAN, BREAKING BARRIERS; JENNIFER NOVAK, SUNBURST PROJECTS; LIBBY PARR, CCAF BOARD & OSCAR CO-CHAIR; JOSEPH D. WILLSON, INTERIOR DESIGNER; JULIE KENNEDY, CARES; SABRINA BRADLEY, GOLDEN RULE SERVICES; PAUL CURTIS, CCAF BOARD, OSCAR CO-CHAIR; PETER SIMPSON, HARM REDUCTION SERVICES. PHOTO BY NATHAN FELDMAN

BY LORRAINE ALVAREZ OPPER

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ERIC OLSEN IS A COMMENTARY WRITER DEDICATED TO EXPOSING THE MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

## Change Is The One Thing We Cannot Change

My life is currently facing catastrophic change. In less than two weeks I will be leaving everything I have known in the past eleven years, moving across the country and rebuilding my life — from scratch — in a city I have never seen.

As my time in my current location and situation has grown shorter and shorter I have found myself thinking in circles about the nature of change. How to approach it? How to handle it? Is there a way to hold onto a small part of what was and bring it with you as protection against the fear of what will be? Should one even try to hold on? Is it better to face change by throwing oneself into the chaos of the unknown and letting be what will be?

Many questions on my mind. Many attempts to put things into a perspective that I can handle and understand, but the more I ponder change the more I come to believe that it is something that cannot be understood. It is entirely to present in life and in fact, there is almost no way to separate change from life itself.

Everything that we do and experience as living creatures is a form of change, there are no two moments in which things are the same. Even for those who embrace the security of familiar routines for years on end, change occurs. Grandma's house may look the same as it did twenty years ago, but you can be absolutely sure Grandma isn't. So why is change such a cause of fear? Why do we fear the very thing that our lives are based upon?

I have lived in my current situation for eleven years and spent the majority of those years running from change. I was trying to live within my own mind in order to escape the reality of an unhappy situation. All of that effort and all of that running made no difference. Each day, each hour, I changed. I changed, and everything around me changed no matter how familiar the appearance of things came to be.

After all of those years wanting to escape change, I am now embracing it; I am embracing the death of a huge part of my life in favor of a new and unknown tomorrow.

What is interesting to me about this is that the change was always there — it was there during my years of isolation just as much as it will be a few weeks from now as I move to CA with nothing but a few possessions. The power to change my life for the better was always there. The change I face is overwhelming and terrifying — yet exhilarating. It fills my mind with possibilities and concerns while pushing me to question everything.

On the surface, it seems an incredible contrast to the last few years — going from being a virtual shut in to starting over 3000 miles away from everything I know. Yet I am beginning to see that the only difference is that this time, I am aware of the change happening in my life and am accepting and embracing it — the good and the bad, the hope and the fear — head on and walking forward into the unknown.

I called my approaching move a catastrophic change, but can any of us — even those who have been in the same familiar surroundings for years — look back at our life a decade ago and honestly say the change within us and around us has not been catastrophic to the way we view and

live our lives? Even those of us who feared change and sought desperately for security — did it make a difference? Did it stop us from changing? Did it stop those close to us from changing? Did it stop the death of loved ones? Did it stop the upheavals and uncertainties of the world around us?

Perhaps the changes that are made within us each day aren't as life altering as how we changed after Nine Eleven. Yet every choice we make — soup or salad, walk or don't walk — regardless of how mundane it may seem, changes us. It is what makes us human, allows us to dream, to realize those dreams, to love, to lose, to feel passion and wonder as well as terror.

For me looking for security and running from change did nothing but make my life miserable — it was like hammering away at a concrete wall with my bare fists. Change is invulnerable, constant, everywhere — change is life. If you don't embrace it and ride with it as best you can, it'll take you by force.

Great things come from catastrophic change and while it is easy to forget that though it can bring fear and devastation, it

can also bring us power. The power to move on from what we can no longer live with, to alter our lives and make them more fulfilling and to be released into a world of possibility and potential we never dreamed possible. We must look beyond the terror of change and see its promise that no dark place will last forever and no pain is beyond passing.

A common misconception many of us have is that we have no power over our own lives; we have no choice and unhappiness is normal. We simply push on with stoic resolve and marinate in our pain. But change shows us that each day — each moment — we can harness its power and make a choice that even though we may be afraid of change we are going to embrace it anyway and find what will make us happy.

So as I look around at the building I will soon leave behind for good, I am doing my best to surf my wave of change. I am doing my best to remember that over the years the changes that have happened inside of me have lead me to this next step in my life. I am doing my best to be enlightened, let go of the fear and live in the moment. Occasionally I succeed.

# National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

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**Julia Louis-Dryfus**  
 The New Adventures of Old Christine  
**Marc Shaiman**  
 Prop 8 the Musical, Hairspray, South Park  
**Deborah Gibson**  
 Singer  
**George Takei and Brad Altman**  
 Star Trek  
**Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen**  
 Film Producers Milk, American Beauty  
**Selene Luna**  
 The Cho Show  
**Dr. Michael Gottlieb**  
 Discovered the AIDS Virus,  
 Co-Founder of amfAR

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**Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 2009**

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**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2009**  
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[www.EqualityActionNOW.org](http://www.EqualityActionNOW.org)

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Lobby for Love**

(Contact Laurie [twanda13@comcast.net](mailto:twanda13@comcast.net))

[www.EQCA.org](http://www.EQCA.org)





# Red Hawk is Red Hot!



A FABULOUS PLAYGROUND OPENS! MGW HAD SPECIAL ACCESS TO THE RED CARPET AS IT WAS ROLLED OUT FOR STARS, TRIBAL ELDERS AND V.I.P.S FROM FAR AND WIDE. THIS NEW PALATIAL WONDERLAND IS JUST A JUMP AND A SKIP FROM DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO. LOCATED IN THE SPRAWLING HILLS OF SHINGLE SPRINGS WITH VIEWS OF SNOW CAPPED MOUNTAINS IS THE NEW RED HAWK CASINO WITH EXPANSIVE GAMING FLOORS, FINE FOOD AND EVEN A PLACE TO LEAVE THE KIDS. THIS RESORT IS A MECCA OF FUN! TAKE HWY 50 TO PAST THE SHINGLE SPRINGS EXIT TO EXIT 40. [REDHAWKCASINO.COM](http://REDHAWKCASINO.COM) PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN





# Get Cruz'd

BY DAN RAMONE

There is an art to attracting attention. In addition to inspiring curiosity and posing a challenge, it's important to break patterns and expectations, be stimulating, foresee trends and most importantly, dare to be fun. No one knows this better than Austin Smolka, the designer and controversial CEO of the popular accessories line for men, Cruz Azur. He certainly knows a thing or two about attracting attention — and this Valentine's Day, he's introducing new pieces in his collection that might just help you attract some.

**Some people might know you as Austin Masters from your adult film star days. How did you move from gay adult film to jewelry designer?** I learned from my adult film days that everyone wants to be seen and get noticed. In 2006, I launched CruzAzur and the "GetCruz'd"

campaign. I wanted to encourage men to wear jewelry that makes a statement, gets noticed and is affordable. The transition has been so rewarding. It's incredible to walk into a club or a party and see guys wearing my pieces.

**What influences your designs?** I have been fortunate to have travelled to many fun and interesting cities throughout the world. The drive and allure of cultural icons inspired me to create my first line of men's jewelry. This energy brought together a piquant mix of Sanskrit spirit and Catholic saints; the Celtic and the cowboy; the Incan and the Egyptian. The result is men's jewelry that is eclectic yet resonant, universal yet personal.

**Some of your necklaces are religious in nature, such as crosses, rosaries and the Star**

**of David. How does religion play a role in your own life?** My line was never meant to be religious. It is a mixture of items that I created as gifts for friends. I am more spiritual than religious but I have so many friends that wanted my crosses that I started sharing them by incorporating them into my line. Each has special meaning to me.

**How did your DJ pendant line come about?** The "Joy to Music, Style Remixed" collection is dedicated to Ft. Lauderdale-based DJ Herbie James. I love Herbie's music, as well as the music of many other DJs. Their music inspires me to keep creating fun magical pieces for my line.

**Amen to that! What is your involvement with the Trevor Project?** The Trevor Project is an amazing organization that saves the lives of many young members of the GLBT community. The volunteers and staff provide a 24/7 hotline to help young people who are questioning, troubled or confused by their sexual orientation. Trevor is the only hotline that provides this service and we're proud to donate to their cause. We also help other organizations, such as PAWS, Being Alive, and Children's Hospital.

**What is "shop locally and act globally"?** I have always been a strong believer in giving back. I encourage people to stay involved with their communities. Local businesses need us more than ever. "Shop locally and act globally" is Team Cruz's campaign to encourage people to serve their community and support local vendors.

**Who will you be spending Valentine's Day with this year?** I'm looking forward to celebrating the day with the man of my dreams. Cupid has been real good to me.

## Community Valentine's Messages

**JIM** — IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR AND I HAVEN'T BEEN AT MY BEST. LOVE IS HARD TO DESCRIBE, BUT I HAVE FALLEN HEAD OVER HEELS FOR YOU. PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART AND MIND, TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE. I WILL TRY NOT TO PUT SO MUCH PREASURE ON OUR RELATIONSHIP. JIM MY CIRCLE OF LIFE IS ONLY COMPLETE WHEN WERE TOGETHER. WILL YOU BE MINE? — DON

**W** — YOU ARE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS TO EVER HAPPEN TO ME. I TREASURE EVERY MOMENT OF OUR FRIENDSHIP. — M

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO JEFF DAVIS, AARON, RYRY, DAVID, SANTOS AND THE FACES FAMILY! — STELLA

**JAY** — MAGICALLY UNPREDICTABLE, YOU MAKE ME SHINE LIKE VEGAS ON A NEW YEAR'S EVE. HERE'S TO GREEN BEANS AND SCARLET ROSES. I ADORE YOU. — CHRISTIAN

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employee stops me and asks, "Sir, is there a dog in there?"

I said, "No it's my child and he's fine" and I kept walking.

"We can't have dogs in the store," he said.

I pointed to this ugly woman nearby and said to him, "then why is that bitch in here?"

I'm just kidding, of course. I said, "Well, Sir, I've been in this store shopping for 40 minutes and I haven't had a problem till now and my child has been sleeping the whole time — not barking — so you better call your manager."

He did call the manager who said it was fine. I was pissed at the dramatic scene that the store employee put me through in front of everyone — so I gave them a show and announced to my friends that we should and never shop there again. I felt violated — like the first time I lost my virginity!

I am joking, a bit, but

I really was pissed and that worker was lucky I was in a goo mood that day and didn't turn into Joan Crawford. "You drove Al Steel to his grave and now your trying to stab me in the back? Forget it! I fought worse monsters than you for years in Hollywood — I know how to win the hard way! Don't f--k with me fellas!" OK, enough of *Mommie Dearest* (which is my all time favorite movie).

I woke up early on January 20 to watch President Obama get sworn in. I was so excited to watch the inauguration. I just loved that the person swearing him in screwed up the wording and Obama could smile about it. It showed that he was a real person.

I really hope that he does create change for the U.S. and doesn't just talk about it like others have. I hate when people step up to the plate as a leader in an organization or work place or wherever and before they get elected

say that they are going to do this and that — then they don't do a damn thing! They still demand respect, but they don't do anything to deserve it.

I'm the type of person who if I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it and not just talk about it. It seems that in Sacramento there are a lot of people who just sit and talk and never put anything into action. But I won't mention names — I ain't one to gossip, so you didn't hear it from me.

I am so excited that my drag daughter Perscilla Moore from Boise, ID will be flying in to do the Dragalicious Show at FACES Nightclub. We are going to party like it's 1999!

Please don't forget that Mr. Gay Sacramento and myself are hosting the "King & Queen of Hearts" charity fundraiser contest on Feb. 8 at Club 21 (1119 21st St.). There will be two categories: formal wear and talent. There will be crowns, trophies, medallions and certificates given out that night to first, second and third place winners in each category. The door charge is \$8 for the pageant and with your hand stamp you will be able to get into FACES that evening for free for the Dragalicious Show 9 p.m.

Proceeds for the "King & Queen of Hearts" contest will go to breast cancer awareness. If any one wants to be a contestant just contact me at the email listed under my photo.

This is Mizz Monique Moore — always keeping it real!



MIZZ MONIQUE MOORE

MIZZMONIQUE74@AOL.COM

## Keeping It Real With Miss Monique Moore

PHOTOS: ABOVE LEFT: MONIQUE MOORE WITH TONIGHT SHOW HOST JAY LENO; LEFT: MONIQUE WITH AMERICAN IDOL'S RANDY JACKSON

MYSFACE.COM/  
MIZZMONIQUEMOORE

January is over and what a month it was for me. I am dedicating this month's column to my mother whose birthday was Jan. 22 — she turned 72. I would like to dedicate it to a dear friend of mine — "Jose" Latina Davina from Chicago, who passed away last month from meningitis.

I was saddened to see the news posted in a Myspace bulletin that Jose had left us. I had hoped it was a joke and called friends in Chicago only to find out that it was true. Jose had just turned 27 years old.

God bless his soul — he was such a good, high-spirited person who gave nothing but love to everyone and was always wearing a smile. I will miss him dearly.

Enough about the deceased, let's talk about the living! How many of you have started watching *American Idol*? I think that new judge needs to be fired because she isn't doing a thing for the show but wasting extra time on critiquing contestants. There are already three other judges to do that, so why do we need a fourth? I have always loved *American Idol* and I became an even bigger fan after I appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* with Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

I was on *The Tonight Show* performing for Paula Abdul as a surprise for her birthday. How Simon portrays himself on *American Idol* is a act because he is a really nice man — who I think is totally hot!

In my last column I wrote about finally breaking down and buying a dog stroller. Well, I was strolling my "baby" through IKEA for about 40 minutes when a store





TOM SWANNER HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 10+ YEARS. HE LIVES IN SACRAMENTO WITH HIS 25-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND SEAN AND THEIR GROSSLY OBESE DAUGHTER (READ DOG) "HONEY".



BRIAN JUDD HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 6 YEARS. HE LIVES IN SMALL APARTMENT WHERE A PORTRAIT OF ANITA BRYANT HANGS OVER HIS BED SO HE CAN POINT AT HER AND LAUGH DAILY. HE IS ALONE AND BITTER AND LIKES IT THAT WAY.

## Swanner & Judd

SWANNERANDJUDD.COM

### INKHEART

Swanner: This week I saw *Inkheart*. It's the new Brandon Fraiser film about a father and daughter on the run from fictional characters. OK, that sounds odd, but that's basically the plot. Fraiser plays a man with a silver tongue and when he reads a story out loud something or someone from the story comes into the real world while something from the real world goes into the story. I must admit that after the mediocre *Mummy 3* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, I wasn't expecting anything even close to good. However, I was very pleased with the movie.

Judd: Ugh, I am so glad my life is a hectic circus right now. I hate this time of year — the time when the studios release all the shit they've been storing up since the end of summer. I apologize for not being able to see these films so that while Tom is fawning over them I can warn moviegoers not to waste their time or money.

Swanner: Hey, this was a good movie. It had a lot of action sequences and some very exciting moments. It's based on a novel by Cornelia Funke, so it does have some literary chops. The film has Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent to give the movie some class. It felt a lot like *Stardust*. It didn't have the same humor of *Stardust* but it was fun. Don't you remember movies when you were a kid that felt like they were made for you? Well, maybe you didn't — but for the rest of us that like movies with happy endings.

Judd: *Stardust* without the wit would have been an awful children's movie. *The Princess Bride* without the wit would have been an awful children's movie. The fact that they were made with children and adults in mind is what makes them so great. Children's movies do not have to be flimsy, one dimensional pieces of crap that leave that guardian in tow yawning and rolling their eyes. Until children can pay for their own tickets and cart their own asses to the theatre, children's movies need to have a bit of adult draw to them.

Swanner: *Inkheart* obviously does have something to it since I liked it and it has a difference sense of humor to it than the other two films. It is funny and the cast was good. I also liked that the movie talks about books and the love of them. It encourages reading and the imagination. All things you obviously don't understand. You're just judging this on the fact that Brandon Fraiser has been making crappy movies and that I liked it — which you think is the kiss of death. You're such a fat, opinionated asshole with bad hair.

Judd: At least I have hair — I don't have to swirl it around my head and hope nobody notices I'm losing it. If your hair part goes any farther left, it's going to start at your sideburns! No, I didn't see the movie and yes, I'm playing the odds that it sucked. A February children's movie starring Brendan Fraiser — I can smell it from here.

Swanner: I HAVE PLENTY OF HAIR!  
Judd: ON YOUR BACK!

Swanner: The only thing I didn't like about the movie was the score. It seemed like someone was scoring with one of those electric pianos that can make sounds like an organ or a trumpet. During the more zany moments I swear I heard a xylophone ... I actually used the word "zany".

Judd: Great, it was a crap movie with a

crap synthesized score. How can it get any better?

Swanner: Well I still liked it.

**Swanner: 2 1/2 Stars**

### HOTEL FOR DOGS

Swanner: I'm a big dog lover. I don't even have a favorite breed I just love them all. So a movie like *Hotel for Dogs* was definitely right up my alley. The story follows two foster kids who have been passed around from family to family ending up in the apartment of Lisa Kudrow and Kevin Dillon who are more concerned with their musical career than the two foster kids they keep. Unbeknownst to the foster parents is the dog that the two kids have been hiding in their room. After a too-close-for-comfort moment with the dog



COURTESY PHOTO NEW LINE CINEMA

the kids happen upon an old closed hotel and figure this would be a good place to keep their furry friend.

Judd: That sounds right up my alley! Children with negligent, selfish foster parents find an abandoned flea-ridden mutt. One tension filled night the foster parents almost discover that their rebellious ragamuffins are harboring the mangy animal. The children flee to a condemned, disintegrating old hotel that was built in the 1920s. Its art deco grandeur is left crumbling and water stained. The poor waifs then decide to take in other forsaken and outcast canines and call it L'Hôtel pour les Chiens (*Hotel for Dogs*). Damn, I'm sorry I missed it!

Swanner: You don't have to be mean. It's a "family" film. I felt it was there with the classic Disney films. There wasn't any bad language or overly violent behavior — and of course nothing sexual. There were a lot of jokes about dog poo — stepping in it, smelling it and even falling in a dumpster of dumps ... heh heh heh! It was a satisfying little comedy that I had no problem sitting

through. It also has a really nice selection of talented dogs and yes, I cried three times.

Judd: Oh, my god. It sounds horrible. Now I am glad I missed it. A satisfying little comedy? Are you trying to completely destroy what little credibility you have left?

Swanner: Why am I losing credibility? Is it because I like movies without subtitles? It's a dog movie and you know how I love dog movies and I cried because there is a pitbull with only three legs. Every time he was on screen I'd weep ... I'm sensitive that way. It's also a known fact that you don't like movies for kids. Did I mention Don Cheadle is in it? You like Don Cheadle cause he stars in movies that are played in art houses. *Hotel Rwanda*!

Judd: You're losing credibility because you're advising people to see these movies! At least when I see a piece of crap film that I really liked, I frame my endorsement with,

"This movie is a piece of crap, but I like it because ...". You just throw your hands in the air like a big girl and squeal, "I loved it!"

Swanner: OK, I know that you'd hate this movie. It has children — orphans — which should just drive you crazy. It feels like a Disney live action movie which is like your kryptonite. So for our readers that always agree with your Negative Nelly attitude — don't see this movie. Somehow I feel I just alienated all our readers.

Judd: Oh, come on now. There are people out there that agree with you more often than they agree with me ... mostly little old ladies. Our brethren who've adopted kids and drive minivans and have totally lost all sense of art and kitsch — I bet they agree with you!

Swanner: Yea me.

**Swanner: 2 Stars**



**Tell us a bit about yourself beyond your bio.** I have a wife and a son. I waiver between being small and a shrimp. My accent is mixed up because I'm half Australian and half American. I'm a dual citizen and I currently live in Melbourne. Ten years ago I led the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade as a girl scout with a map and compass. "Is this the way to the party?" I'd ask the crowd. I got the uniform from the Girl Scout office but I fibbed and said I wanted it for "a play" — not for the parade. I thought I looked really cute, but all my friends said I looked like Linda Hunt in drag. Another year I went with a group of my friends as Miss Kerry Okie. I looked prettier that time. I met a cute girl at the party and we danced all night and then walked home together. We got chased by some yobbos in a Subaru Impreza.

**Did you always know you wanted a career in entertainment?** Pretty much. I was a bit of a screw off, and I liked dressing up. I was lucky to stumble across the craft of acting because it essentially requires a lot of screwing off and dressing up. Of course Halloween doesn't pay the bills, and neither does amateur theatre, so I decided to go professional. I moved to Sydney and studied for three years at the National Institute of Dramatic Art where I discovered that there are all sorts of serious responsibilities and professionalism involved. But basically it's still about having fun in front of people, so that they in turn can have fun. Of course, it's also intellectual and soulful and meaningful and political and important, but overall the underlying motivation is "Look at ME! I'm having a ball!"

**Your greatest moment on stage so far?** Well, the most bizarre moment was when Rudolf Nureyev punched me in the stomach on stage. I was an acting student and I had a job as an extra in the London Festival Ballet's production of Romeo and Juliet. When Nureyev flew onto the stage for his entrance on opening night, I got nervous and mixed up — and I ended up in a spotlight upstage on a riser. He gave me the most frightening look and he shouted, "Go forward

... CUUUUUUNT!" So I went forward. And then as I stood there with my knees trembling, he paraded slowly around the stage, came up real close to me, looked me in the eye, and then he socked me in the stomach. He did it so that it was unseen by the audience. Thirty years later I'm still dining out on that story.

**What's Lyrebird about?** Myself, basically. My ideas about life, theatre and the arts told expressionistically via the life of the outrageous old-world thespian, Sir Robert Helpmann. It doesn't matter if you've never heard of him (he played the Child Catcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*) because the show is about passion, overacting, wearing too much make up, and the dignity and wisdom of age. Sir Robert was truly one of the biggest theatre queens and hams of all time. He was also a genius who was born in rural Australia last century; an effete young man who was determined to be the best ballet dancer in the world. And he did it! He partnered Fonteyn, was great friends with Katharine Hepburn and Vivien Leigh, but if you did something he didn't like he would sting you like a wasp without mercy.

**What attracted you to Sir Robert Helpmann to begin with?** His mask, his camp and comedic physicality, the overt sexuality and face-lifts, his extraordinary life and career. He had a strange and haunting look; and I thought that if I could paint his face onto mine and completely transform myself, and if I can make people laugh while telling his grand life-story as an old-world thespian, I might have a good time.

**When did Lyrebird start taking shape for you?** My impersonation was part of a sketch for the 1995 Sydney G&L Arts Festival called "Bobby's Fluffy Trip". After our lukewarm season petered to a halt, I extracted my characterization from the show, got serious, and wrote a solo show that's taken me around the world.

**How did it feel to be performing in the Sydney Opera House?** Now that was my greatest night on stage! Among the opening night audience were my parents and some family who had flown in from the US. It



was a beautiful balmy evening. There was I, an American from Sacramento, at the magnificent Sydney Opera House playing a famous Australian in a solo show I wrote.

**You've had quite an extensive career in Australia, what made you decide to tour this production in the states?** For the thrill of it. A few years ago my brother Mitch flew to New Zealand to see my show, and then asked me to bring it to Sacramento. He's producing it, and it's taken us a lot of time and effort to get it here for this U.S. premiere season. It's great and intense to be working on this together. We've turned his house in Loomis into a mini production office.

**How does it feel to be touring your hometown?** It's goofy, but there's no place like home and the best friends are old friends. I've been away in Australia for over thirty years, and now here I am rehearsing my Australian solo-show in a warehouse in Rancho Cordova — the town I spent my childhood in. Life goes in circles.

**What do you hope people take away from this production?** What all audiences do. You'll feel, you'll laugh, and maybe you'll fall in love again with theatre and the simplicity and intimacy of it: just one person onstage telling another's story, embellishing and entertaining, weaving and stringing you along on an adventure, transporting you to unfamiliar places and times. I love doing the show; and my experience has taught me it's the love that goes across the footlights into an audience's heart.

**TYLER COPPIN IN LYREBIRD  
(TALES OF HELPMANN)**

INTERVIEW BY MATTHEW BURLINGAME

## Lyrebird

United States Premiere: Feb 5 - 22, 2009,  
Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.

Multi award-winning Sacramento native and now Australian actor and playwright Tyler Coppin will bring Sacramento audiences his acclaimed solo-show about old-style international theatrical great, Sir Robert Helpmann — the outrageously flamboyant Australian dancer, actor and choreographer and the 'man who put the ham into Hamlet'. Coppin's self-written solo-show marks his return to the Sacramento stage after over 30 years. *LyreBird (Tales of Helpmann)* reveals Coppin's fascination with the life of Sir Robert Helpmann, an Australian country boy who held onto his dreams, against all odds, to one day become a world famous ballet dancer. But Coppin's expressionistic tribute is more than a biographical stage play — it's a heartfelt ode to the theatre on a grand scale, and an incisive analysis of what it means to be a performer. As the sole performer, Coppin has audiences in the palm of his hand every step of the way. For "90 glorious minutes" (*The List*, Edinburgh, 1999) he runs untethered on a set vocative of a bygone theatrical era, with lighting by Tony Award winning designer Nigel Levings, and classic music from many of the world's famous ballets.







SONYA COX HAS BEEN MGW'S HIV/AIDS EDITOR SINCE 1986 (22 YEARS). SHE BEGAN AT MGW AS A VOLUNTEER PROOFREADER BEFORE BEGINNING THE HIV NEWSWIRE COLUMN. SHE ALSO BEGAN THE "IN LOVING MEMORY" COLUMN IN EARLY 1993 (15 YEARS AGO). THE JUNE 1993 COLUMN CONTAINED 6 NAMES; JUNE 2008 CONTAINED 77. THE ENTIRE YEAR'S LIST NOW CONTAINS OVER 1000 NAMES—MOST BEING DEATHS FROM HIV.

**BREAKING BARRIERS:** PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV. 2200 21ST ST., 916-447-2437, [BREAKINGBARRIERS-SACRAMENTO.ORG](http://BREAKINGBARRIERS-SACRAMENTO.ORG)

**CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND:** RAISES MONEY FOR HIV/AIDS SERVICES IN THE SAC. AREA. [CAPCITYAIDSFUND.ORG](http://CAPCITYAIDSFUND.ORG)

**CARES:** HIV/AIDS HEALTH CLINIC, OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. FREE, RAPID HIV TESTING M-F 9AM TO 5PM. 1500 21ST ST., 916-443-3299 [CARESCLINIC.ORG](http://CARESCLINIC.ORG)

**GOLDEN RULE SERVICES:** A MINORITY BASED ORGANIZATION THAT RESOLVES HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DISPARITIES IN PEOPLE OF COLOR. 4433 FLORIN ROAD, SUITE 760. 916-427-GOLD, [GOLDENRULES.INFO](http://GOLDENRULES.INFO)

**NORCAL AIDS CHALLENGE:** (MAY 15-18, 2009) A 4-DAY, 330 MILE BIKE RIDE TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR HIV/AIDS [NORCALAIDSCALLENGE.NET](http://NORCALAIDSCALLENGE.NET)

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY AIDS RUN/WALK:** SEPT. 916-448-1110, [SACVALLEYAIDSRUNWALK.ORG](http://SACVALLEYAIDSRUNWALK.ORG)

**SAC. VALLEY POZABILITIES:** HIV+ SOCIAL GROUP. [SACVALLEYPOZABILITIES@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SACVALLEYPOZABILITIES@YAHOO.COM), PO BOX 161871, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-1871

**SIERRA HOPE:** PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV & AIDS. SIERRA HOPE, 1168 BOOSTER WAY, P.O. BOX 159, ANGELS CAMP, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, [SIERRAHOPE.ORG](http://SIERRAHOPE.ORG)

**SUNBURST PROJECTS:** PROVIDING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS. 1025 19TH STREET, SUITE 1A, 916-440-0889, [SUNBURSTPROJECTS.ORG](http://SUNBURSTPROJECTS.ORG)

## NEW POZ SOCIAL GROUP STRENGTH IN NUMBERS ...

A new social group is starting up in Sacramento, part of the SIN nationwide group for men with HIV. Their first event – a potluck lunch meeting scheduled for Sat, Feb 7, at 2 pm, will be held at the Lambda Center.

They also have plans for Date Night for single members, outings to Marine World, picnics in the park, and other get-togethers. The group is also open to family, friends and those interested in supporting those with HIV. E-mail Andrew ( [Candodrew@aol.com](mailto:Candodrew@aol.com) ) or Arturo ( [acjackson3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acjackson3@sbcglobal.net) ) to confirm potluck, or to get additional info about the group. Or sign on to their confidential website -- [strengthennumbers.ning.com/group/sacramento](http://strengthennumbers.ning.com/group/sacramento).

## CASES OF TB TRACED TO CASTRO BARS ...

Public health officials in San Francisco have traced several cases of tuberculosis to bars in the predominantly gay Castro neighborhood. Bar owners are distributing a fact sheet to the public, in which health department officials express the possibility that a "cluster of highly infectious TB cases" may be "working its way through the SF gay community." After tracking the route of a handful of current cases, it was found that contacts of the original cases had "frequented many of the bars in the Castro during their infectious periods," the fact sheet reported. The poor ventilation in many bars puts employees especially at greater risk, said a department official. More than 50 people have already been tested, with plans to screen about 140 others for the disease.

Health care providers are also being alerted to watch for cases, and the health department has set up a special screening site at the gay men's health center in the Castro for those who are concerned and wish to be tested. City officials emphasize that "members of the public are at extremely low risk" and should not be concerned about patronizing Castro bars.

## BALANCING PRIVACY, ACCURACY AND SPEED FOR HEALTH CARE ...

President Obama wants to link physicians and hospitals to the nation's improving technology, making available at our fingertips information about allergies, insurance, and other information, and quickly treat those seeking treatment for medical problems. But the complexity of safeguards for sensitive information, such as records of abortions, psychotherapy, or HIV status, could prove to be a difficult and complex challenge for lawmakers.

Obama wants doctors, hospitals, drug stores, and insurance companies to become more efficient by exchanging information instantaneously through information

networks. And White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel says that, as we quickly move forward on health information technology, "it is absolutely essential that an individual's most personal and vulnerable information is protected."

## THE FUTURE OF ABSTINENCE-ONLY FUNDING...

The new President is considered to be a supporter of comprehensive sex education, which – unlike the abstinence-only curriculum – includes advice to young people about using contraceptives if they do engage in sexual activity. The president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America noted, "I hope that will be the official position of the administration, but when Congress gets involved, sometimes things get more complicated."

We can expect critics of abstinence-only sex education to make an aggressive push to cut off federal funding for what they consider an ineffective, sometimes harmful program that has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars over the past several years. But even if the new order of the day becomes the comprehensive education approach, some states – such as Georgia – say they are determined to keep abstinence programs going on their own, ensuring that this topic will remain active.

## CLASS-CREDIT STD OVERVIEW FOR NON-CLINICIANS ...

Training will be available on Thurs, March 5 for people working in the fields of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV prevention & education who are not medical providers. (This training is also available in Spanish for those who work with bilingual and monolingual Spanish-speaking clients.) Attendees will learn about STDs' epidemic trends, effects on reproductive organs, causes, symptoms, transmission, consequences, and risk reduction. The course is often taught more than once a year, and those who have taken it before are asked to allow others to attend before repeating the course at a later date. The all-day March class will be at Sierra Health Foundation on Garden Highway. Call County health educator Nick Mori at 875-5748 for additional details.

## SAN FRANCISCO MISSES SOME GOALS BUT SEES PROGRESS ...

New estimates indicate that San Francisco health officials fell short of the goal they set five years ago for a 50 percent reduction by 2008 in new HIV infections among men who have sex with men. Officials say they achieved instead about a 10 percent reduction over the five years, and project the city's future HIV growth is expected to be flat.

In 2004, the city estimated there were nearly 1,100 new HIV infections annually, of

which 835 were among men who have sex with other men. They had hoped to reduce this number to about 420, but after five years the revised number is 772 cases. The city had also set a goal of eliminating HIV transmission among heterosexuals by 2008, but this group is now expected to see 12 to 15 new infections this year.

There was better news regarding injecting drug users, whose numbers fell from 220 cases per year to 144. The five-year prevention plan also called for eliminating mother-to-baby transmission by 2008. While the city says there may be two such transmissions, the actual number may in fact be zero. The city also achieved better than the hoped-for 50 percent reduction in new cases among male-to-female transgender persons. New cases among this population dropped from 102 in 2004, to 42 this past year.

## MANY AUSTRALIANS VAGUE ABOUT PROTECTION ...

Half of Australians who use condoms as their main form of contraception are not using them consistently, and 12 percent of women using oral contraceptives miss taking a pill at least once a month, according to a recent Melbourne Institute survey of 600 people over age 18. Few respondents understood details such as failure rates and potential side effects.

"A big concern is that even though most people were using some form of contraception, few were using them correctly, increasing their risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections," said one of the study authors. Forty percent of respondents had never been tested for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (such as syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, human papilloma-virus, and herpes), 17 percent were "unsure" of their partner's STD status, and 3 percent said they had lied to a partner about their own STD status. Many had never even heard of some of the options that were listed in the survey such as injections, implants, IUDs [intrauterine devices] or natural family planning methods," said one study author.

For youngsters, the Australian Medical Association is proposing mandatory, comprehensive sex education in state schools in order to curb "alarmingly high" teen pregnancy and rates of STDs. The incidence of chlamydia among teens ages 15-19 has doubled in five years; gonorrhea and syphilis reports are increasing; and 16 percent of females ages 16-19 say they have had an unwanted pregnancy.

The four-year, \$20 million proposal to train teachers would target students ages 10, 12, and 14, and include topics such as anal sex, mutual masturbation, and date rape. Under AMA's proposal, frank "street" terminology would be used to ensure clarity. Graphic images of STD infections would be shown to warn about the dangers of unprotected sex. "We need to make it really clear what we're talking about," said the AMAs vice president. Parents will have the power to opt their children out of the classes.





## CDC SAYS STD RATES ARE STILL TOO HIGH ...

In 2007, U.S. cases of chlamydia reached their highest level ever, representing an increase of 7.5 percent, said a recent CDC report. Syphilis cases rose 15 percent from 2006. (Syphilis has increased every year since the beginning of the decade - its rate is up 81 percent from a record low level in 2000, when officials thought it was on the verge of elimination.)

Of all the causes of infertility, chlamydia is probably the most preventable among women, said one study author. In men, untreated gonorrhea can cause infertility and can spread to the blood or joints and be life-threatening.

The data show African Americans are disproportionately affected, accounting for 70 percent of gonorrhea cases and nearly half of chlamydia and syphilis cases, CDC said.

Gay and bisexual men accounted for 65 percent of syphilis cases in 2007. Many of the cases involve HIV-positive men who choose other HIV-positive men as sexual partners. Within that relationship, they are less concerned about the transmission of other conditions, and sometimes are not using condoms, said the CDC. They mistakenly believe that, since their partner already has an HIV infection, they've got the worst they can get.

Overall, says the CDC, the United States logs almost 19 million new infections annually, with nearly half among those ages 15-24. To get the numbers down, teens must delay the start of sexual activity, and people should limit their number of sexual partners and use condoms.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRIENDS LOST IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1985:  
NORM MORRISON

FEBRUARY 1986:  
DEWAYNE DALE LINAM

FEBRUARY 1987:  
DARYL SPEICHER

FEBRUARY 1988:  
BRIAN PARKER

FEBRUARY 1989:  
LAFAYETTE TERRELL  
RON WALLIS

FEBRUARY 1990:  
DAVID AUSTIN  
MAURY MILLER  
ERNIE CONTI  
DON GOBEL

FEBRUARY 1991:  
JIMMY PISCIOTTA

FEBRUARY 1992:  
SCOTT CARLSON  
ANDRES LOPEZ

CONNIE LEE  
DAVID ANDERSON  
PAUL PACKARD  
CHARLIE WELLS  
BRUCE C. BITTS  
RON BREWER  
LARRY PHELPS

FEBRUARY 1993:  
STEPHEN WARREN  
RON BUCKNER  
RUSS STEIGER  
JACK VOYLES  
JACK GREINER  
MICHAEL RAWLINS  
JOHN TRAPP  
MICHAEL SCHIVELEY  
STEVE COLIP

FEBRUARY 1994:  
CHUCK SCAGGS  
SONIA ESTEVES-VELAZQUEZ  
DON HESTER  
GEDDES  
DAVID DOBLER  
RALPH F.  
RANDY SHILTS

FEBRUARY 1995:  
JOEL FERREIRA  
REUEL JOHNSON  
DAVID POPE  
RANDAL CHRIS BITTERMAN  
MICHAEL CHAPMAN  
DICK GALLAGHER  
BILLIE RAE BUTULIA  
BRIAN BELL  
DAVID ARNOLD  
DAVID TRIMBLE

FEBRUARY 1996:  
MARK BRITTON  
TERRY CHILDERS  
WILLIAM M.  
DENNIS B.  
CHUCK SMITH  
E. D. GRANBERG

FEBRUARY 1997:  
CLIFFORD WASSON  
VICTOR MARTIN  
MARK ALLEN BRITTON

FEBRUARY 1998:  
RONNIE DIONES  
("RACHELLE")

FEBRUARY 1999:  
TERRY HURST  
J. B. HEFFERLIN  
ERMINE DUCCINI

FEBRUARY 2001:  
CHRIS ANDERSON  
GARY LOMBARDO

FEBRUARY 2002:  
JOHN MACK

FEBRUARY 2003:  
ROBIN GARRISON

FEBRUARY 2004:  
AARON SANTOS  
("CHRISTIANNA RAMOS")  
MIKE WARD

FEBRUARY 2005:  
BARABARA JEAN WALKER

FEBRUARY 2006:  
STEVE FOLTZ

YEAR UNKNOWN:  
MICHAEL BOWENS

JOE BRIXLIE  
KEVIN COOPER

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF FRIENDS LOST LAST MONTH

JANUARY 2009:  
MARK OLSEN  
WARREN S. SHANNON, JR.  
JOSEPH MIGLIACCIO

REMEMBER THOSE TIMES OF LAUGHTER AND JOY WITH ONE ANOTHER.  
THOSE MEMORIES SUSTAIN US AS TIME GOES BY.

TO ADD THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES TO MGW'S REMEMBRANCE COLUMN, OR CLARIFY YEAR UNKNOWN, CALL 737-0309.





## Reba: Season 5



Reba is back, and the Hart household is crazier than ever! Country music superstar and Grammy® winner\* Reba McEntire returns as the feisty-yet-frazzled head of the uproariously unpredictable Hart family when "Reba"- Season Five debuts on DVD January 13th from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. Returning with her hilarious "down-home" antics, McEntire stars as a single suburban mom trying to juggle her career, family and relationships with pizzazz – but this time around, everyone has issues! While Cheyenne and Van struggle to save their rocky marriage, Brock is in danger of losing his home, and Barbara Jean is simply driving the rest of the family insane! And still, with a little tough love and a whole lot of determination, Reba manages to keep her extended brood together, proving that she really is a survivor in the hilariously heartfelt Season Five of "Reba."

In the fifth season of "Reba," the Hart family faces new trials and tribulations as Reba and son-in-law Van Montgomery (Steve Howey, Supercross) decide to team up and work in real estate together. Just when she thinks money troubles are a thing of the past, Reba and her ex-husband Brock (Christopher Rich, "Murphy Brown") are audited by the IRS for back taxes. Meanwhile Brock's wife Barbara Jean (Melissa Peterman, Fargo, How High) tries to sue Reba after spraining her ankle in the house Reba and Van rent to her. Featuring all 22 original episodes.

## NOAH'S ARC: JUMPING THE BROOM

Noah and the boys are back to tie the knot ... or not? The all-new feature length movie about four African-American gay friends in Los Angeles, Noah's Arc: Jumping The Broom, captures the drama of life and love on February 3, 2009 on DVD. After a stellar box office run reporting one of the best per screen averages of any film this year, the DVD is to give fans more of what they love. Brand new special features including a "Making Of," deleted scenes, photo shoots and more. The film from LOGO, the nation's leading 24/7 channel and source of entertainment for the LGBT audience, and Paramount Home Entertainment will also be sold as a 2-pack with the soundtrack from Tommy Boy Records.

Fresh on the heels of the TV show's first two seasons, Jumping The Broom finds Noah (Darryl Stephens), Alex (Rodney Chester), Ricky (Christian Vincent), Chance (Doug Spearman) and their significant others traveling to Martha's Vineyard for a weekend wedding getaway. Drama ensues as one-by-one their relationships start to crack under the pressure of closer examination. Newly successful screenwriter Noah looks to his friends for advice as he prepares to move his relationship to a more serious level while struggling to keep his first studio movie alive. But the friends are of little help as they juggle their own issues.

More information [LOGOonline.com](http://LOGOonline.com)

## RENT: THE FINAL PERFORMANCE

Sony Pictures Home Entertainment will release RENT: Filmed Live on Broadway on Blu-ray Disc™ and DVD on February 3, 2009. The ground breaking Pulitzer and Tony® Award-winning musical thrived for an impressive 12 years on Broadway, and on Sunday, September 7, 2008, Sony Pictures Releasing's new alternative programming division THE HOT TICKET was there to capture the final Broadway performance. Both the Blu-ray Disc™ and DVD are loaded with special features including numerous original featurettes, and is timed to the launch of the National Theater Tour of RENT, which begins January 2009 starring original Broadway cast members Anthony Rapp, Adam Pascal, and others.

Filmed by Radical Media utilizing the latest in high-definition video and digital audio technology, director Michael Warren takes us on an enhanced journey through the music, lyrics, and images of this historic piece of live entertainment. RENT: Filmed Live on Broadway allows viewers to experience the show like never before, not only from the best seats in New York's famed Nederlander

Theatre, but from the stage and wings, where cameras capture the raw emotion of the cast's performance.

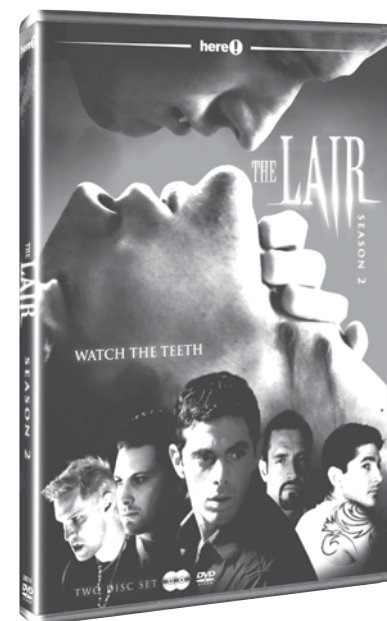
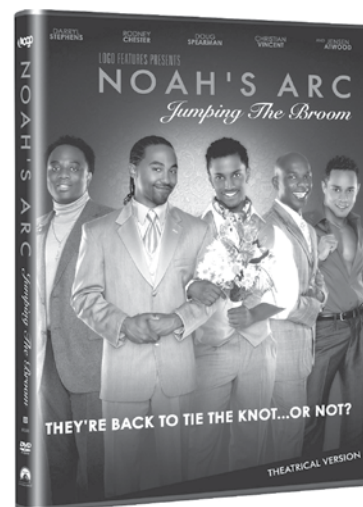
Jonathan Larson's revolutionary rock musical RENT provides a modern interpretation of the iconic opera La Bohème and tells the story of a group of friends struggling to live and pay rent against the gritty background of New York's East Village while holding fast to their bohemian ideals and pursuits. Confronting poverty, addiction, illness and the AIDS epidemic, these young artists strive to get ahead, find acceptance, and above all, establish a connection to their world and

each other. [sonypictures.com](http://sonypictures.com)

## THE LAIR: SECOND SEASON

After sinking its teeth into a successful first season, Liberation Entertainment is set to release the popular here! Network spin-off of Dante's Cove, The Lair: The Complete Second Season to DVD on February 24, 2009. Peter Stickles (Shortbus) and Colton Ford (Naked Fame) return in a biting follow up to the unabashedly sexy series that combines horror, vampire and GLBT genres with just the right balance of camp. The Lair: The Complete Second Season features over two hours of bloodsucking content in a 2-disc set complete with never-before-seen extras.

With more sex and deeper bite, here! Network's The Lair: The Complete Second Season is the ultimate destination for a sinfully good time. Created by a sexy pack of vampires as an erotic playspace to satisfy their desires for the finest flesh, The Lair is now the stage of a frenzied battle for total domination. Featuring heated performances by Peter Stickles, Dylan Vox and Colton Ford, The Lair: The Complete Second Season is an explosively entertaining thriller that lays bare the boundary between pleasure and pain. [heretv.com](http://heretv.com)





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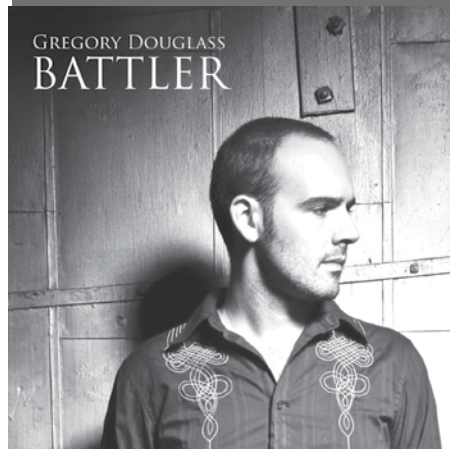
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## Battler

### Gregory Douglass

What happens when you take an award winning songwriter and leave him to his own devices in rural Vermont for a melancholy winter equipped with red wine and unrestrained inspiration? In Gregory Douglass' case, *Battler*, a stunning album laced with infinite lyrical wisdom, overflowing with soul and melody. A collection of songs that are plaintive, poignant, heartfelt, and bittersweet. Set to hit via Emote on March 3rd 2009, *Battler* will not only excite Gregory's devoted fan base who have helped finance the production of the record through donations, but is sure to expand on that fan base and propel this incredible artist to the next level.

Gregory Douglass is no stranger to the music industry, his numerous accolades include being a finalist for both the 2005 International Songwriting Competition and the 2004 Independent Music Awards; he was the winner of the 2003 GrammyFest Awards in New York City, as well as the inaugural performer on the American Red Cross "Save A Life Tour." Douglass has shared the stage with artists like They Might Be Giants, Melissa Ferrick, Jason Mraz, Regina Spektor, Third Eye Blind and Margaret Cho. Douglass' music video for "Hang Around" charted for six consecutive months on LOGO TV's "Click List" Top 10 Video Countdown in 2008, following similar success on LOGO TV with his video for "I Wanted To Run" in 2007.

*Battler's* sound is all gorgeous trip hop grooves, soulful vocals, wise-beyond-his-years lyrics and unbridled spirit over wonderfully capricious chord changes. The driving, urgent and controversial track "Cathedrals" deals with religion and sexual addiction while the multi-layered a-capella songs "No Apology," speaks to family

relationships and the struggles we sometimes endure with the ones we love. Collaborations include Righteous Babe Record's Anais Mitchell on the moving and intensely beautiful "Sadly" and the stunning closing track "Ordinary Man," featuring soul diva Grace Potter.



## INDIA.ARIE

### TESTIMONY: VOL. 2, LOVE & POLITICS

India.Arie is known and cherished by fans and fellow musicians as a poet, a songwriter, a daughter, a producer, a musician, a sister, a singer, an advocate, a friend and a philanthropist -- but she is possibly best known for the love in her music that has inspired and motivated people worldwide.

From the moment that her very first single "Video," and her multi-platinum debut album *Acoustic Soul* were released in 2001, India's music established an extraordinary bond of trust, affection and communication with her followers. Her sophomore release the platinum selling *Voyage to India* in 2002 was hailed worldwide by critics. The New York Times called it "music that only further enhances her reputation as an artist of substance; centering on her acoustic guitar and confident but restrained vocals, it recalls such soul masters as Stevie Wonder and Roberta Flack." In 2006 she released her No. 1 charting album *Testimony: Vol. 1, Love & Relationship*, a beautiful collection of songs treasured by fans for its intimate, heart-tugging portrait of a lover's parting and its after-ache.

It is, as always, a searching, insightful, honest and creatively accomplished expression of inner emotions, and the interconnectedness of all of us. India adds that it's a reflection of changes -- hers and ours, too. "There's nothing you can do or say that's separate from other people any more," she observes. "Now you can have the whole world in your laptop, you are a part of the world instantaneously. Laying things on the table for conversation, that's politics. Politics is what happens when a group of people get together, and section themselves off. A lot of my album is about how we define and separate ourselves. I know from traveling around the world that people are now talking about all these different things. That's what the album is about."

The second volume of *Testimony*, she notes, was originally planned with songs that hadn't fit conceptually into *Love & Relationship* -- but a chance meeting with Turkish icon Sezan Aksu in New York "changed the vision of what I can do. It made me just say: Do what I want to do, no matter the consequences. I went to Hawaii the next month, visualized the album, started writing songs."

The album's spiritual and emotional core can be found in the romantic and compassionate songs "He Heals Me," "River Rise," "The Cure," featuring Sezen Aksu's vocal, and "Better Way," featuring roots-music superstar Keb Mo, India says. "Exactly a year later, I look at those songs and know they came out of that travel. I wrote ten songs in ten days in Hawaii, and when I came back, that inspiration was still so alive, I wrote five more." She adds: "'Ghetto' and 'Yellow' I started with Shannon Sanders while we were touring *Acoustic Soul*, and I was surprised at how much new life was breathed into them. I love these songs, and I love 'Pearls,' (India's revival of the Sade fan favorite, featuring the brilliant Ivory Coast multi-talent Dobet Gnahoré)."

## IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

### LILY ALLEN

Capitol Records will release *It's Not Me, It's You*, the follow-up to Lily Allen's critically acclaimed 2007 debut, *Alright, Still*. Recorded at Eagle Rock Studios in Los Angeles, the album finds Lily in top form, creating a record Blender's recent "In The Studio" feature described as "part God, part country and all middle finger." Allen wrote and recorded the album's 12 songs with producer Greg Kurstin (the bird and the bee), who worked with her on three songs for *Alright, Still* -- "Everything's Just Wonderful," "Alfie" and "Not Big."

"We decided to try and make bigger sounding, more ethereal songs, real songs," says Lily, who will be touring the U.S. in the spring. "I wanted to work with one person from start to finish to make it one body of work. I wanted it to feel like it had some sort of integrity. I think I've grown up a bit as a person and I hope it reflects that."

On *It's Not Me, It's You*, Lily's characteristically sharp observations find expression in a variety of musical styles, with influences ranging from the Jazz Era to country and western to dance music. "Highlights include 'Everyone's at It,' a synth-pop song about prescription drugs that features Allen on xylophone; 'He Wasn't There,' which matches emotional lyrics about her absent father to a jazz groove; and 'Not Fair,' a saucy country song about an inadequate lover," said Rolling Stone.

Often called the queen of MySpace -- a reference to the massive interest generated by early demos she posted on her page -- Lily was hailed by NME as "the archetypal singer-songwriter for the iPod generation" while The New York Times observed, "She symbolizes a new blogging-age, middle-class girl: cockily ambitious, skeptical yet enthusiastic, technically savvy, musically open, obsessed with public expression and ready to fight back." [lilyallenmusic.com](http://lilyallenmusic.com)





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## Finding the Silver Lining

ACHURCHFORALL.ORG.

I met this woman last week that was diagnosed with breast cancer in July of 2008. At the time of her diagnosis, Teryn was pregnant and five days later gave birth to a beautiful little boy named Jackson. Immediately after giving birth she began treatment for the cancer, first with surgery and then chemotherapy. As Teryn was telling me her story, I sat beside her listening with wide eyes, watching this bald new mom bounce her bald new baby on her knee. In a situation where depression, anger and confusion could dominate, all she spoke of was the "silver linings," as she called them. The greatest disappointment was not being able to breastfeed her son.

Loving and caring for her new baby is what dominates her life now. Her focus is love and her action is giving. As she cares for her son and is forced to live fully in the moment, thoughts of her illness fade away. The stories Teryn told me about the people who had reached out to help her and her family amazed me. Marathons were run on her behalf. Some people donated money while others cooked them meals. Family members drive three hours a day to help with Jackson, so his mother can receive treatment and consequentially recover from the treatment. The amount of support she receives testifies to the ability of the human spirit to rise in love and in service ... which is exactly what Teryn gives her baby everyday. Although costly, this family has breast milk delivered to their doorstep so often that Jackson has never had to drink formula. His immune system grows strong, as he is able to consume nutrients and antibodies from the breast milk of multiple women across the country. Talk about a silver lining ... Kryptonite doesn't have a chance!

On this day I witnessed perfect love ... a love more powerful than death. I could not get my eyes open wide enough to take it all in. Father, mother and child continuously smiled during the whole interaction. Adding more to the mystery is the fact that they are extremely healthy people. Here is a woman in the middle of chemo treatments and her face is still glowing. Her many hats complement this glow, as there is no hair to compete with her beautiful face. My gaze moved back and forth between the three of them but mostly I found myself captivated by Jackson. All I could hear in my mind was "he is an angel ... he is a miracle." He is an angel for the obvious reasons and a miracle because he has given life to death.

Cancer is symbolic of death in our society. Although the number of cancer conquerors is tremendous, our view of this disease is mostly negative and for obvious reasons. Before I go on, I would like to honor all those who have had a relationship with this disease and all those mourning loved ones lost to it.

The reason why so many healthy people get cancer is a mystery. I believe its purpose is often a spiritual one. What are cancer and other diseases trying to tell us? When diet and exercise fail to protect us, we are often forced to ponder on the spiritual reason for our illness. I see dis-ease as the manifestation of an imbalance of wholeness. Studies reveal that within every human lies four specific areas of being: the spirit, the emotions, the intellect and the body. These

are also referred to in spiritual literature as heart, soul, mind and strength. These areas will communicate imbalance to us in many ways. The body seeks our attention after the others have failed. The connection between the four is delicate and it can be difficult to distinguish where the imbalance is, but it can be life-threatening not to do so.

When our spirit wants to teach us about faith, disease may present itself to catalyze this lesson. Instead of looking at disease through negative eyes, we could choose to look at disease as a teacher. In Teryn's case, she believes one of her lessons is to accept all that is being given to her. This woman is a giver and it is easier for her to love on others than to be loved on. Her spirit is teaching her the balance of giving and receiving.

People that believe their health and happiness are solely based on their own actions will find that wholeness is impossible to achieve without faith. The faith that we are loved by the Source, that being human is our job (not being God), is often the missing piece of the puzzle of balance. True peace is impossible without letting go of our misperceptions of control. No matter how healthy or unhealthy people perceive themselves to be, disease testifies to our lack of control. Where do we turn when we have done everything right and yet illness and/or suffering still knock on our door?

We have the option of going to the One who can give us peace, rest and healing. Seeking God for healing and understanding

is definitely an internal process and never an easy one. But how much more could we benefit if we released our dis-ease in faith to a Higher Source and received our healing in whatever area of our being that might lie in?

Then the next question is ... why not give it a try? Why not try giving God a chance to show us how much She loves us and that She is the ultimate healer.

The joy that I have in my life today, because of my relationship with God, would be well worth any measure of illness and dis-ease. In fact, it already has. I wouldn't change those lessons for anything. This joy that God gives me allows me to be human and finally relax. I enjoy my life knowing that I am not alone and that the God of the universe can and has healed and transformed my life completely.

This is the same relationship that a mother and her baby have ... the same relationship that Teryn and Jackson have. Although they are always connected, any separation creates a longing for the other. This is because they give each other life. Their unconditional love for one another is beyond human reasoning. This is the same as the relationship we have with our Creator ... with our Mother God. When we fail to attend to this relationship we are losing out on such wonderful love. The Mother calls to us because She wants to give us everything. She wants us to be whole. When baby Jackson looks into his mommy's eyes, wholeness is declared.

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*A friend of mine in Connecticut raves about the "Green Drinks" events she attends there every month to meet up with other eco-interested locals. How can I find out if there are any such gatherings in my area?*

Every month green-minded people in 460-plus cities around the world meet up at informal social gatherings called Green Drinks. Started in 1989 in London by Edwin Datschewski and friends, the concept has spread like wildfire, with some 350 different Green Drinks chapters worldwide today. The events are designed to be low-key, unstructured and welcoming of all viewpoints on environmental topics. Many participants have found jobs, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity and inspiration at various Green Drinks events.

In the U.S. alone, different Green Drinks events are held in 223 cities every month. The New York City chapter is the biggest in the world, with an invite list topping 10,000 people and typical attendance in the hundreds. Green Drinks events are also popular in the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Japan, New Zealand, Chile, Puerto Rico and Australia. Melbourne, Australia currently holds the record for the world's biggest Green Drinks event, with more than 1,700 participants showing up on the first night of the city's February 2007 Sustainable Living Festival.

"People from different fields come together with a mutual interest in environmental issues and cross-pollinate and drink in a very low-key social atmosphere," says Margaret Lydecker, who started New York City's Green Drinks chapter in 2002 and currently serves as the U.S. point-person for the events. Lydecker—who has personally helped start upwards of 100 different chapters, including one in Kabul, Afghanistan—says the events have been a big catalyst for connectivity, community, collaboration and change in the environmental sector in New York and beyond.

In the U.S. and Canada, most mid-sized and large cities already have thriving Green Drinks chapters. You can likely find one somewhere near you, wherever you live, by searching under the "Find City" link on the [GreenDrinks.org](http://GreenDrinks.org) website, and clicking through until you get a schedule of upcoming events in your particular city. If there isn't yet a Green Drinks chapter in your region, by all means start a new one.

Heather Burns-DeMelo, who had started a local/green happenings website for Connecticut called [CTgreenscene.com](http://CTgreenscene.com), was inspired by Lydecker in 2007 to start a Green Drinks chapter where she lives in Connecticut's Fairfield County so that green-minded people in the area could connect in person. "The web is great," she says, "but face-to-face is key to growing the movement."

According to Burns-DeMelo, setting up the chapter was easy—she just emailed Green Drinks founder Datschewski from the [greendrinks.org](http://greendrinks.org) website with a request to start a new chapter—but getting people to come to the initial events was more challenging. She and friends set up sign-up tables at local community events, found a restaurant willing to host, sent a press release to local papers, hung fliers and posted notices on her website and others.

The hard work paid off: 65 people showed up at the first event on a gloomy Wednesday night, and the chapter has been growing by leaps and bounds ever since.

Contact: Green Drinks, [greendrinks.org](http://greendrinks.org).

*Which parts of the United States are or will be hardest hit by global warming?*

It's difficult to predict which areas of the U.S. will suffer the most from global warming, but it's safe to say that no regions will be unaffected. Scientists already point to increased severity of hurricanes on the East Coast, major Midwest floods, and shrinking glaciers in the West as proof of global warming's onset.

Of course, America couldn't have asked for a better poster child in the fight to stave off global warming than Alaska, which is undergoing dramatic landscape changes as a result of warming-induced temperature increases, glacial melting and sea level rise. Even Alaska's conservative elected officials can no longer deny that human-induced warming is affecting their state. The picture isn't looking too rosy in the western continental U.S. either, which is already facing some of the country's largest temperature increases. The signature glaciers in Montana's Glacier National Park may be all gone within just two decades.

A recent report by two leading nonprofits, the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and the Natural Resources Defense Council, details how the 11 U.S. western states together have experienced an increase in average temperature during the last five years some 70 percent greater than the global average rise. The hottest part of the region has been drought-stricken Arizona, where average temperatures have risen some 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit—120 percent greater than the global rise—between 2003 and 2007. Researchers also found that the West has experienced more frequent and severe heat waves, with the number of extremely hot days increasing by up to four days per decade since 1950.

In the Midwest, seemingly minor increases in temperature have already wrought major effects. In 2006 Lake Erie didn't freeze for the first time in history, which led to "lake effect" snowfalls as more evaporating water was available for precipitation. Likewise, changes in the lake's water temperature have begun to alter fish populations, which in turn affect birds and their migratory patterns. Despite localized heavier snowfalls, though, the region is generally suffering from a drying trend. Farmers worry that the result will be lower crop yields and thus more expensive food for American consumers.

On the east coast, coral reef bleaching, heat waves and increased hurricane intensity are just some of the warming-related hazards Floridians have had to deal with in recent years. Washington, DC's famous cherry trees are now blossoming earlier due to temperature increases. Further north, milder-than-typical winter temperatures have been linked to subtle changes in ocean currents. In New York City, the average temperature has increased about four degrees Fahrenheit since 1880, and could get 10 degrees hotter by 2100, according to a study commissioned by the federally funded U.S. Global Change Research Program.

But the bigger problem for New York City,



as well as other low-lying areas around the nation's coasts, will be sea level rise: Climate models predict that sea level around the Northeast is expected to rise between ¾ inch and 3 ½ feet over the course of this century.

Contacts: Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, [rockymountainclimate.org](http://rockymountainclimate.org); Natural Resources Defense Council, [nrdc.org](http://nrdc.org); U.S. Global Change Research Program, [usgcrp.gov](http://usgcrp.gov).

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## BARS

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands.com

BoJangles: 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

Bolt Bar: Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2am Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

Depot Video Bar: 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot.net

FACES Nightclub: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

Mercantile Saloon: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

Headhunters/ROK: Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

## BUSINESS

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: Business association promoting networking within the gay and lesbian business community and its supporters. rainbowchamber.com

Valley Rainbow Pages: A directory of GLBT-owned and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Greater Sacramento Valley. vrp.info

## FAMILY

Camp it Up: (August 3-10) A family camp known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations, we respect and celebrate all unique families. www.campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: A week-long summer camp for children, ages 9-14, of LGBT families. (2008 camp date has passed). camplavenderhill.org

Lesbian Families: A forum for Lesbian couples with children. geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

Sacramento PFLAG: Promotes health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends. Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

## FESTIVALS

Sacramento Pride: (June) Annual Pride celebration for Sacramento, hosted by the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian center. sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: (Aug. 29 - 31, 2008) Annual LGBT street faire over Labor Day Weekend. Rainbow Festival is Run by CGNIE and takes place at 20th & K Sts. rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: (Oct. 9-11, 2008) Annual LGBT film festival takes place over 5 days. siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: Annual Festival coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

## GALLERIES

Crocker Art Museum: The longest continuously operating art museum in the West founded 1885. crockerartmuseum.org

Kennedy Gallery: 2110 K St. Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6pm and by Appointment. mmkgallery.com

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Breaking Barriers: Provides a wide range of services for people living with HIV. 2200 21st St., 916-447-2437, breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund: Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 22, 2009), NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 15-18, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept. 14, 2008). capcityaidsfund.org

CARES: HIV/AIDS health clinic, outreach, education and prevention. Free, rapid HIV testing M-F 9 am to 5 pm. 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299, caresclinic.org

Golden Rule Services: A minority based organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules.info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: (May 15-18, 2009) A 4-day, 330 mile bike ride to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS norcalaidchallenge.net

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk: Sept. 14, 2008. 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: HIV+ social group. sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Provides support for people with HIV & AIDS. Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope.org

Sunburst Projects: Providing support to families with children who are living with HIV/AIDS. 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

**IMPERIAL COURT**

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): Parent organization for Sacramento's Court, La Kish Hayworth Memorial Fund, Fairy Godfathers' Fund and Rainbow Festival. mspace.com/cgnie

**LAW | POLITICS**

California Communities United Institute promotes the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal. calcomui.org

SAC Legal: Association of attorneys, legal professionals, and legislative advocates, affiliated with the Sacramento County Bar Assoc. that promotes equality the LGBT community. saclegal.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): A non-partisan, political action committee formed to provide a voice for the LGBT community in the political process. cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

Libertarian Party of Sac.: P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans: logcabin.org/logcabinca/sacramento\_chapter.html

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: Helping elect qualified, openly LGBT people and Democratic candidates who support equal rights for LGBT. P O Box 161623 Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

**MARRIAGE - PENDING**

Sacramento County Clerk Recorders Office, 600 8th St @ F St., ccr.saccounty.net

**NEW MEDIA**

Being Gay Today: Sacramento's oldest, still-running GLBT TV show. Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on mspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: A gay-focused internet chat show in and around Sacramento. checkerednation.com

Transponder Radio: Internet radio show covering many transgender issues. transponder.com

**PERFORMANCE**

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: Women, under the direction of Sage Brown, dedicated to performing music with a message. smalldifference.org

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: Produces up to three concerts a year, and performs throughout the year at events in and around Sacramento. sgmchorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: The Largest Same-Sex Dance Program in the United States. Classes, performances and competition. sacdancesport.com

True Colors Women's Chorus: Women building a community through their love of music. 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

**RELIGION**

A Church For All: Fosters an all encompassing spiritual community. 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-5603, spirit@achurchforall.org. achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: Promoting the civic understanding and acceptance of

atheism in our community. aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: Welcomes all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation. at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: An eclectic group of Druids, Wiccans, and other Pagans who gather twice a month and on the eight annual Celtic seasonal festivals, to share community, perform ritual, create magic, and support each other in our chosen earth-honoring pagan paths. groveoftheoak.org

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer: LGBT affirming and supports the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries. lcorsec.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: LGBT open and affirming. 2700 L Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites.net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: A Christian community welcoming a diverse congregation. stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Christian community that embraces one and all to worship together at God's table. 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: LGBT affirming. Christian worship, life and ministry. 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

Valley Ministries: Existing to communicate God's love and accept all people. 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

Westminster Church Sacramento: A community of faith accepting all people solely on the basis of their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. westminsac.org

**RESOURCES**

GaySacramento.org: Interactive online resource for LGBT Sac. news, events and community resources. gaysacramento.org

Lavender Library: Serves the LGBT community as a lending library and archives as well as houses LGBT activities. Loans books, periodicals, DVDs (general and erotica), to members. lavenderlibrary.org

outsacramento.com: Internet links, photos, message board and news for LGBT Sacramento. outsacramento.com

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: Serving the LGBT of Greater Sacramento and surrounding counties, providing facilitated discussion groups for LGBT youth and adults, counseling, legal services, HIV prevention and education services and programs for LGBT seniors, families and people living with HIV/AIDS. saccenter.org

**SENIORS**

Senior Gays: A resource for the senior LGBT and friendly community. SeniorGays.org

**SOCIAL GROUPS**

Capital City Squares: A square dance club for LGBT people who want to learn and enjoy Modern Western Square Dancing. iagsdc.org/capitalcity

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - A gay/bi male naturist organization for men who enjoy social naturism in positive. groups.yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturesacramento  
Natomas LGBTQ: A group to connect Natomas area queers for in-person social activities. An alternative to the bar scene. natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com  
Sac Woof Society: A social group for bears and bear lovers. sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: A literary group for Sac. gay men. Meets once a month (usually 3rd Wednesday). groups.yahoo.com/group/sacgaybookgroup

Pink Pistols - LGBT group with an interest in shooting sports and self defense. pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: Alternative lifestyle men who get together for networking and social gatherings with other professional men. groups.yahoo.com/group/SacramentoProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: A social and charitable organization providing bears and bear admirers. sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: Northern California motorcycle club whose membership consists solely of those who own and ride motorcycles. valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley LeatherCorps: Gay men's and women's organization seeking to educate and mentor members of the Leather/BDSM communities through classes and other club activities. svlclub.org

**SPORTS**

CHEER Sacramento: Volunteer cheerleading squad now cheering at games for West Sacramento Wolverines. cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: Social group inclusive of all types, sizes, dispositions, and levels of activities with running and running



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events as a main focus. frsac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: Lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento - Gay sport bike enthusiasts who meet, post rides and related links. Serious enthusiasts 18+ are welcome. autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC\_GSR

River City Bowlers: Gay and Lesbian Bowling league. Winter league runs from Sept.-May and averages 22 teams per season. Summer league lasts 12-13 weeks beginning in June. rivercitybowlers.homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): Sacramento's gay rodeo chapter. capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): Sacramento Women's Roller Derby team. sacredcityderbygirls.com

## THEATRE | FILM

Lambda Players: LGBT theatre company now in its 19th Season. 1028 R Street, 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Hosts Runaway Stage which does musicals and larger well-known plays. Facilities for large meetings, lectures, film screenings and performances Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

Sacramento Theatre Company: Professionally produced contemporary and traditional theatrical works. 1419 H Street, Box Office: 888-4-STC-TIX, sactheatre.org

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

The B Street Theatre - 2711 B St., 916-443-5300, bstreettheatre.org

Mondavi Center - 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org

Shiny Object: Weekly showings of independent films and Rocky Horror Picture Show. 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. Shows independent and GLBT films. Often hosts Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. thecrest.com

## TRANS SUPPORT

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: Counseling services available for transgender people. 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org

Kings of Drag: Performance troupe of women dressing in male drag. kingsofdrag.com

Sac. Gender Alliance: Provides recreational and educational needs of the trans community, their spouses, family members and related professionals. 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": A chapter of Tri-Ess, an educational, social and support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, their spouses or partners and their families. 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma\_Delta\_Gamma

## WOMEN

Adventure Out Women: Business networking, social activities, special events and recreational adventures throughout California year-round. adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support: Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

Rainbow Womyn (Sac.): Online social group for Womyn. groups.msn.com/RainbowWomynofSacramentoCA

Sac NOW: Feminist news, actions, and opportunities. Meets monthly on the 3rd

Thurs., 7pm, at the Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street (27th & J St.). sacnow.org

Sacto Girls: Lesbian social group for women in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. members.aol.com/sactogirls/index.html

Sisters of Scots Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): A tightknit sisterhood on women motorcycle riders who plan social events and raise funds for various charities. SOSWMC@hotmail.com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: A guide to help lesbians in the greater Sac. area identify and obtain services from providers who are sensitive to the needs of lesbian, bi and trans women. saclesbianhealth.com

Single Lesbians of Sac.: A community of single lesbians in the Sac. area interested in meeting other lesbians for the purpose of dating. groups.msn.com/SingleLesbiansofSacramento

Women On Wednesdays: Social discussion/activity group meets each Weds. at the Gay & Lesbian Center, 1927 L St. 7-9pm. Open to lesbian, bi and trans women. saccenter.org

Womyn Over the Rainbow: A group open to lesbian womyn over the age of 40 for the purpose of building friendship. groups.msn.com/WomynOverTheRainbow

## YOUTH

CSUS Pride Center: Open to Sac State LGBT students. Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street, 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus.edu/pride

Delta Lambda Phi: A non-secret, non-hazing, national social fraternity founded by gay men for all men. dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: Queer-friendly Sisterhood/Sorority social network on campus, accepting of all social identities and backgrounds. ldlucavis.org/about.htm

Modesto LGBTQ Youth: GLBTQ Youth in Modesto and surrounding areas. myspace.com/lgbtqmodesto

Rainbow Club Of American River College: LGBT students on the American River Campus. geocities.com/arc\_glbtcclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: A grassroots organization dedicated to creating safe schools for all sexual minority people in Sacramento area schools. Meets the second Weds. of the month, 6:30pm at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. 916-733-2135, RespectSacramento.org

Sac Youth Yahoo Group: Forum for LGBT and friendly youth under 21 years old. sacyouth.net groups.yahoo.com/group/sacyouth

City College LGBT Club: 3835 Freeport Boulevard, 916-558-2111 Advisor: Gayle Pitman, Behavioral & Social Sciences, PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu, wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~glbt/index.html

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: Campus Center for LGBT students. 530-752-2452, lgbcenter.ucdavis.edu

## REGIONAL

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group: Amador County Mental Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 209-223-6412

Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club: Helps elect qualified, openly LGBT people to public office, as well as Democratic Party candidates that support equal rights for the LGBT community. cvstonewall.org

Diversity R Us: Support group for Yuba City-Marysville GLBT. groups.yahoo.com/group/diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): An organization for the LGBT community in the Sierra Foothills of No. Cal. flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: Online Guide to events, personals, gay businesses, community organizations, classifieds, for Sonoma County LGBT. gaysonoma.com

"If The Shoe Fits": Gay/lesbian organization in the Foothills of El Dorado County that provides social/recreational activities for members. itsfnews.org

Nevada County Pride: Social network of gays and lesbians in western Nevada County in California. nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: Social network for fun/support among the LGBT in the central sierra foothills. outinthemotherlode.org PFLAG Sonoma/Mother Lode Chapter: Meets on the third Tuesday of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 6:30pm, at the Tuolumne County Library. Other events scheduled through the

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[www.RainbowChamber.com](http://www.RainbowChamber.com)



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year. pflagsonora.org

Rainbow Frontier: A website for LGBT adults in rural/frontier areas of Northeastern California funded Plumas County Public Health Agency, 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

Sierra Gay Men's Network: A newsletter & blog with news for Gay Men and their friends in the Sierra Foothills of California. sgmn.org

Sisters of Scots Foothills Chapter: Women's Motorcycle Club who rides mostly in the foothills. soswmcfoothills.org

Solano Pride Center: Support for LGBT of Solano County. Solano Pride Center, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

Stanislaus Pride Center: Resources and support for LGBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. stanpride.org

Stonewall Alliance of Chico: Services and support for LGBT people in Chico and surrounding areas. stonewallchico.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: Online forum for gay/bi men on/near the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's (between Sac. and So. Lake Tahoe). groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: Social, education & community involvement. gayyubasutter.com, groups.yahoo.com/group/Yuba-Sutter-Unity



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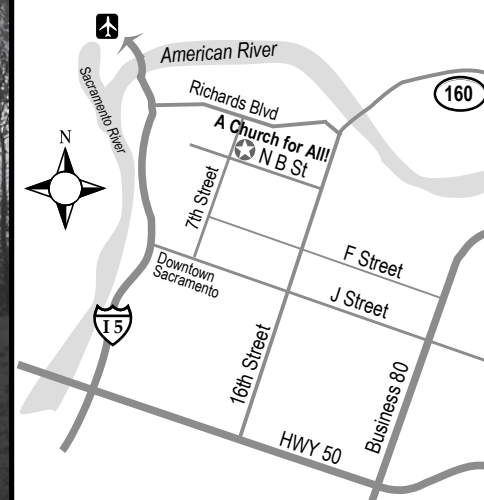
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