

MGW

MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSMAGAZINE

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Home & Garden
Issue

Time To Remodel?

The Queen of DIY Landscaping ...

Jackie Taylor

Northern California's Source for LGBT News Since 1978 • FREE



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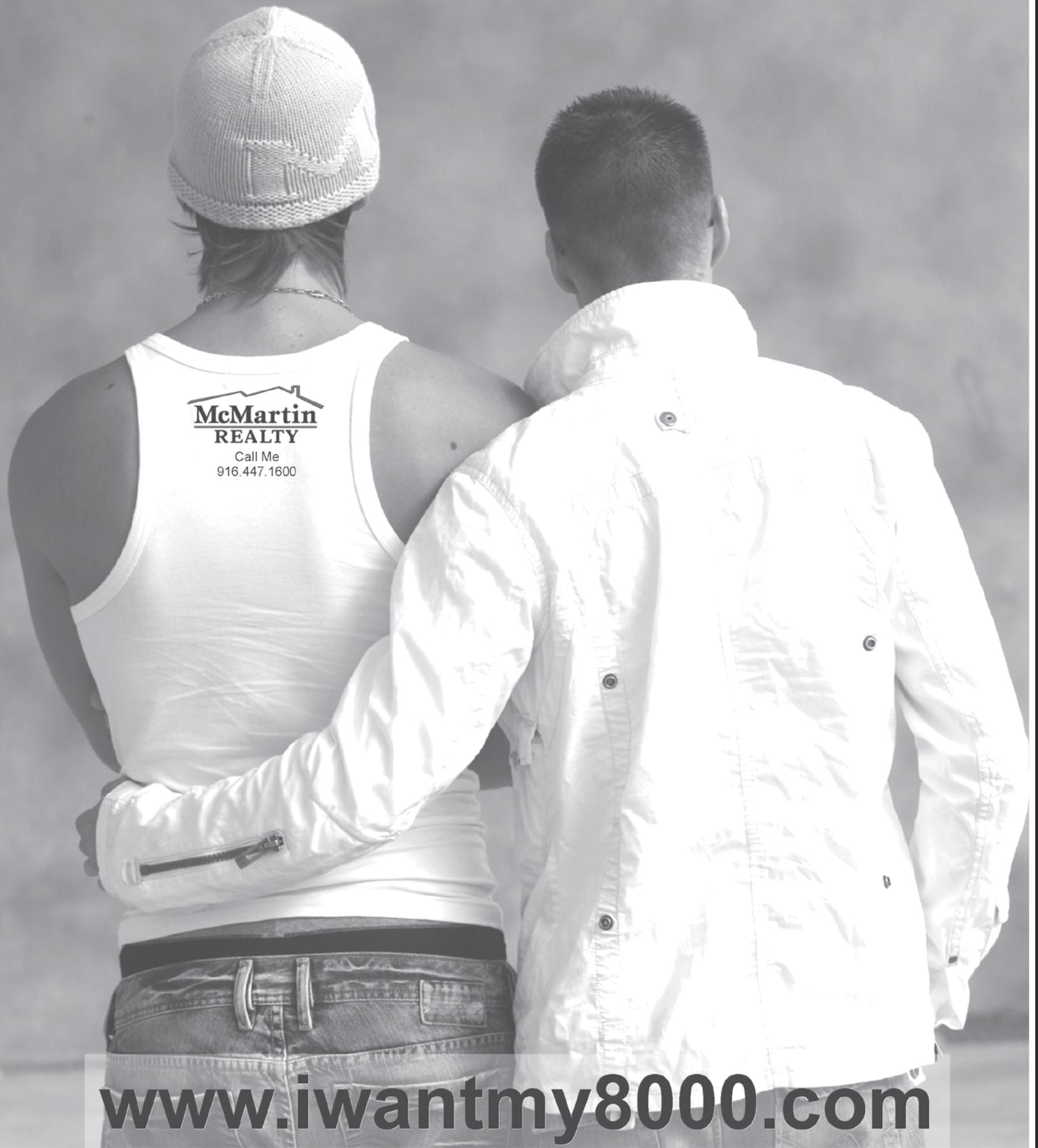
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MATTHEW BURLINGAME HAS BEEN THE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF MGW FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE IS AN AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST AND PLAYWRIGHT AND HAS WORKED WITH, AND WRITTEN FOR BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS THE PAST 14 YEARS. EDITOR@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

Normally I don't pay much attention to Home & Garden issues. I look at the pretty pictures and think how nice it would be to have a house of my own to make beautiful, a garden to work in and a back yard to make into a tranquil, peaceful paradise.

But after 21 years of apartment living and housing prices being through the roof — no pun intended, somewhere along the way I closed the dream magazine and tossed it in to the recycle pile along with the mythical "Corey Hart Coming Out" special issue. It wasn't going to happen so get over it.

Then last December we were asked to renew our apartment lease. We've always a year or two ahead and after 18 years in the same apartment, we signed and initialled and thought little of it. Perhaps because it was a new owner or a guiding light whispering into our ears — whatever the reason, we glanced through our new lease only to find that pets were not going to be allowed by the new management. Half the people in our complex have pets.

Sure enough the office staff confirmed all residents who had non-medically prescribed pets were to be ousted or forced to give up their pets. Which got me to thinking, how many people out there could be saving pets from pounds and shelters and providing them safe loving homes, but can't because of short-sighted apartment leases?

That aside, we were now looking at either giving up our rescued cats, or leaving the first place we had ever really thought of as "home" in our lives. It wasn't even a split

second decision — our pets are family. Even in relationships I have a "love me, love my dog/cat" rule.

So we decided we'd try to rent a house this time. But even renting a new place, how soon would we get settled before we'd have to uproot again and what about neighborhoods with less than savory reputations? We spent our holidays in a bit of a funk because of the uncertainty.

Suggestions of buying a house started coming from all of our friends. It used to be that if you didn't make over \$100,000 a year you need not apply. Because of the economic downturn and housing market collapse, as hard as it has been for so many, for others whom the American Dream had taken a crap on, we suddenly find ourselves with opportunities we never thought we would see.

So the house hunt was on. With so many excellent LGBT real estate agents and resources available to me it was easy to stay within the community. Regardless of what it is, I always try to "go gay" first, then gay-friendly before looking outside of our community.

The first thing I did was check for who was advertising in MGW after, of course, checking the boycott list to make sure I knew who I definitely would not be using.

Being one of the only local publications running an ongoing boycott list, it is important to run it responsibly. In recent weeks MGW has received a number of calls, emails and letters, both anonymous and not, offering

names of businesses to be added to the boycott list. While some have been valid, many of the donors to Yes on 8 have been individuals or employees of businesses.

While explaining that we try to only list businesses with donations made in its name or that are owned by sole proprietors who made donations, we were often met with displeasure. Assuring our callers that we sympathize with their feelings, we must stand by our policy of not printing individuals names. MGW will not take part in a personal witch-hunt.

A differing query came from another caller who tried to convince us to remove the list. This person felt it was time to put this all behind us and get over it. Having a boycott list is just provoking the Yes on 8 supporters to continue attacking our community.

I have a hard time understanding this way of thinking. The Yes on 8 campaign is mostly led in the Sacramento area by immigrants who left their birth country to find a better way of life. They hold signs with some of the most vile, hateful slogans written on them as they go about openly celebrating their hatred and oppression of our community's most basic civil rights like it is a college frat party. This is fun for them. Yet, we are supposed to be OK with this? Just "get over it"?

When same-sex marriage is completely and unquestioningly legal in California, then we can work on "getting over it". Until then a responsibly managed Boycott list will remain right where it is. Whether readers use it or not is up to them.

Wells Fargo Platinum Sponsor of Sierra Stampede Rodeo



The cowboys and cowgirls of Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA) had reason to celebrate. Wells Fargo, for the second year in a row, will be a Platinum (\$5,000) Sponsor of the Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival. The 9th Sierra Stampede Rodeo will be held the weekend of June 6 - 7, 2009, at the Central Park Horse Arena in Rio Linda.

Sammy Van Galder, the Sierra Stampede Rodeo Director, stated, "I am excited to have Wells Fargo return as a Platinum Sponsor. Their support is a great fit with our designated charity, Saddle

Pals, and will also help to encourage others to sponsor the rodeo, even in these economically challenged times."

For more information regarding the 2009 Sierra Stampede Rodeo and Festival please visit the Capital Crossroads web site at <http://www.capitalcrossroads.org>

PHOTO: LEFT TO RIGHT: CHEVO RAMIREZ, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER.



SCCGRA

Sierra Stampede Rodeo Poster Contest

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- The poster may not contain nudity.
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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.

OSCAR NIGHT A SUCCESS

Fresh off of the success of Oscar Night Sacramento, the best so far, Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) would like to thank everyone involved in putting on this beneficial and wonderful event. Once all is said and done, many people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS will be supported by the funds raised through this event. Paul Curtis, Libby Parr, and Tom Pack served as Co-Chairs for the event and were instrumental in ensuring that everything ran smoothly. They donated endless amounts of hours and we couldn't have pulled off the event without them.

Chevo Ramirez and Rick Cwynar of Wells Fargo once again stepped up and

their donation of time and as a sponsor made this event possible — CCAF cannot thank them enough. CCAF would also like to acknowledge all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Joseph Wilson, Jeff Tackett, Doug Cole, Michael Coulter, IKEA, Nouvelle Roux and Phoenix Gallery -you went out of your way to make this event the best ever. More importantly, money was raised to help those in need and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to everyone who attended and we hope to see you again next year.

SINCERELY,
STUART ELDRIDGE, PRESIDENT
CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND

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Libertarian Perspective

The Fallacy of "Fiscal Stimulus"

CA.LP.ORG

The trouble with conventional wisdom is that it is not always wise. The recent calls for government bailouts and an "economic stimulus" package — by which advocates mean pouring hundreds of billions, or even trillions, of dollars into failing industries and into public works projects — is an excellent case in point.

Congress has already authorized enormous bailouts for banks, insurance companies, mortgage companies, homeowners, the Big Three U.S. automakers, and so on. None of these actions has helped to bring back prosperity to the land, but they have enriched those in failing businesses at the expense of more productive businesses and everyone else who pays taxes. Now state and local governments are coming, hat in hand, to the federal government for a bailout of their own.

Last month, the National Governors Association estimated that the states have \$136 billion in infrastructure projects ready to go. Governor Schwarzenegger's office has said that California has \$28 billion in projects the federal government could fund during President Barack Obama's first 120 days in office (the \$42 billion in infrastructure bonds approved by the state's voters just two years ago notwithstanding). Not to be outdone, the United States Conference of Mayors recently presented its own wish list of 11,391 "shovel ready" pork — er, "infrastructure" — projects totaling more than \$73 billion. The list of projects includes such critical infrastructure needs as sports complexes, museums, tennis courts, bike

paths, and median landscaping.

But when Uncle Sam has racked up so much debt that the fiscal house of cards inevitably collapses, who will bail out the American taxpayer? The truth is that the idea that government spending can somehow cure economic ills does not work. It didn't work during Japan's "Lost Decade" of the 1990s, it didn't work during the Great Depression, and it will not work today.

In the 1990s, after a real estate and stock market bubble burst in Japan, the Japanese government passed ten fiscal stimulus packages in an attempt to turn the economy around. The programs focused largely on public works and cost more than 100 trillion yen (\$1.1 trillion in today's dollars). Those plans didn't succeed in reviving the economy, but they did saddle the nation with a mountain of debt that helped postpone any recovery for years.

Even the mother of all stimulus plans, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, which actually had its roots in the Hoover administration, did not work to "stimulate" the economy. Despite all that spending and all those make-work programs, unemployment remained extremely high. In 1929, the unemployment rate stood at a little over 3 percent. By 1933, it had risen to 25 percent. Yet, even after years of New Deal programs, unemployment remained around 15 percent or higher through 1940. It was not until World War II that unemployment dropped back to the low single digits.

But if all this borrowing and spending will really bring the recession to an end, why stop there? Why not borrow \$10 trillion

or \$1 quadrillion to really get the economy purring again? Why not just dispense with this half-hearted socialism and go full-bore? Because it doesn't work. Because government can print money, but it cannot create wealth. It can only give what it has already taken (or will take in the future) — after skimming a bit off the top to keep the bureaucracy going, of course.

Before 1929, it was generally acknowledged that the federal government should not try to manipulate the economy to mitigate the effects of economic downturns. Not coincidentally, even the more severe recessions/depressions were short-lived, typically resolving themselves within a year or two. Today, allowing the economy to liquidate the malinvestments that were made when the Federal Reserve drove interest rates to artificially low levels would surely cause some short-term pain, but doing so is necessary if the economy is to get on the right track. Perpetuating poor economic decisions through "stimulus" programs will only prolong the recession and make the inevitable correction even more painful in the end.

As difficult economic conditions drag on and more and more people clamor to bail out this industry or that, or to spend hundreds of billions of dollars to "stimulate" the economy, let us remember where all that money is coming from — us! — and that money taken for the purpose of "saving" industries or "protecting" jobs is money diverted to less productive ends. Ultimately, bailouts and economic stimulus bills will only result in less wealth production and a lower standard of living.

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The theme of this month's issue of MGW couldn't be more appropriate to the bill I want to discuss this month, AB 724.

The monthly theme is "Home and Garden." Home is at the heart of almost every same sex relationship. People want to live with their loved ones in a warm safe home environment. And, if it were to become necessary, each member of the couple wants to make sure the person he or she loves has a safe place to live after one of them dies. Many court battles have been fought to make sure that happens.

Often, when a couple moves in together, one of them already owns the home they live in. So how does the home owner make sure his or her partner has a place to live if the home owner dies first?

The home owner could deed joint ownership to his or her partner. The owner could will the home to his or her partner. He or she could create a trust to pass the home to the surviving partner. But there are problems with each of these alternatives.

Deeding joint ownership of the home could get very messy and expensive if they break up. It could require a court battle to get the other person off the deed. And this is a serious issue. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the US divorce rate each year is more than half the marriage rate per year. So, probably more than half of straight, legal marriages end in divorce. The rate may be higher for same sex couples since they face virtually none of the few remaining social restraints

tending to keep straight married couples together.

Willing the home has its problems as well. First there is the expense of getting a lawyer to draft a will. Then, if the homeowner dies first, the survivor has to go through a long, expensive probate process to get clear title to the home. Many surviving partners may not have the money needed to pay for this process. If the survivor is old, he or she may die before getting title to the home. And, if the couple separates before the homeowner dies, he or she must go to the expense of creating a new will to cut off the former partner.

There are similar problems of expense with the idea of creating a trust to pass ownership of the home on the death of the homeowner. And again, the trust must be revoked or changed in what could be an expensive process requiring the assistance of an attorney.

AB 724 provides a perfect solution to the problem. If passed and signed by the Governor, it would create a "Revocable Transfer On Death Deed". A home owner entering a same sex relationship could use this simple, brief document to transfer ownership of their home to the partner if the home owner died first. No attorney would be needed to complete the document. And, if the couple break up, the home owner could complete another brief document to revoke the transfer. No attorney would be needed for this either. It provides an easy, inexpensive process to terminate any claim the former partner may have had on the home.

California Communities United Institute will be supporting AB 724. We hope you will too.

New Same Sex Marriage Initiative In The Works

A new measure that would repeal California's ban on same-sex marriage has been green-lighted to collect signatures.

The measure would replace the term "marriage" with "domestic partnership" throughout California law, but preserve the rights provided in marriage, according to Secretary of State Debra Bowen.

The measure would apply to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation and strike down the provision in California's Constitution allowing only marriage between a man and a woman to be recognized in the state.

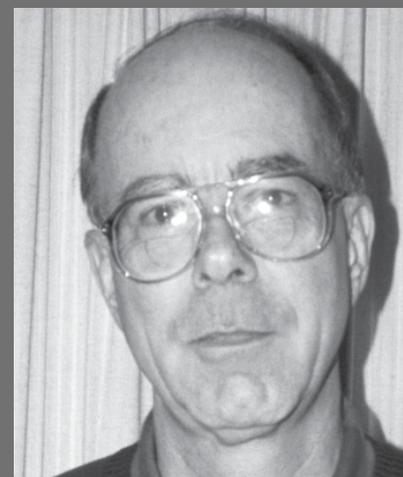
Supporters must collect 694,354 signatures of registered voters in order to make it on the ballot. Signatures must be collected by Aug. 6, 2009.



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Mom Guess What (MGW) Newsmagazine is Sacramento's oldest LGBT publication still in print. Founded in 1978, we are in our 30th year of making the LGBT voices of Northern California heard loud and clear. Download a current copy at momguesswhat.com

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LEFT: SCCGRA BOARD; ABOVE; COMMUNITY MEMBER ROB MCQUADE; RIGHT, DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO; PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN. ABOVE: CAPITAL STAGE'S AMERICAN BUFFALO BY DAVID MAMET MARCH 21 - APRIL 26, 2009; BELOW: MARRIAGE EQUALITY RALLY AT THE CAPITOL. PHOTOS BY THERESA INSLEE

PHOTOS BY THERESA INSLEE





LEFT: PHOTOS FROM THE OPENING OF THE LUXURIOUS NEW CITIZEN HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO.

WANT MORE PHOTOS? CHECK OUT MGW ON ASSIGNMENT AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



RIGHT AND LEFT: PHOTOS FROM THE HOME & GARDEN SHOW AT CAL EXPO IN MARCH.

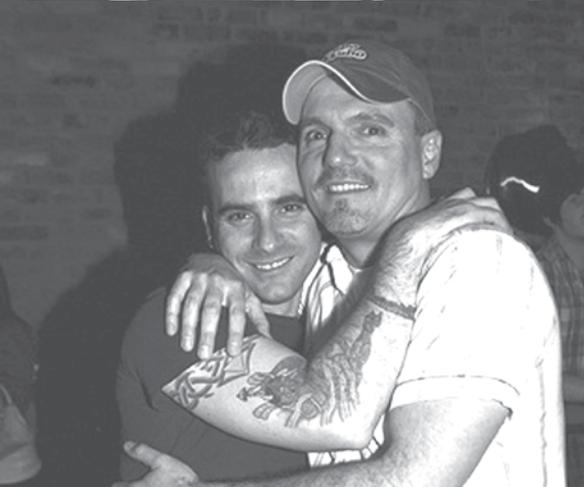
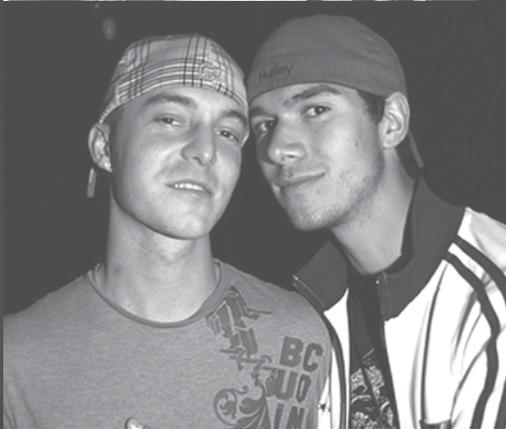
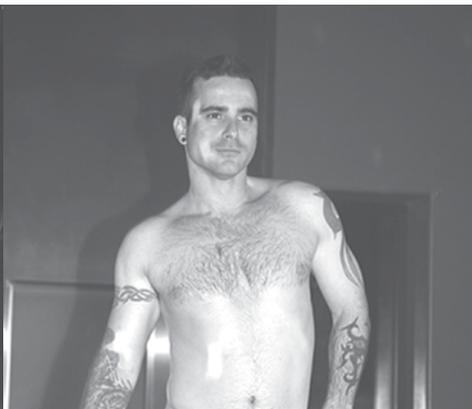


ABOVE: RANDOM PHOTOS OF THE FUN AT FACES AND BOJANGLES; BELOW: CGNIE INVADES FACES NIGHTCLUB FOR A STELLAR EVENT THAT ROCKED THE DANCE FLOOR. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN





LEFT & RIGHT: IT'S BINGO NIGHT AT THE DEPOT WITH HOST MICHAEL KENNEDY. BELOW: BADLANDS PLAYS HOST TO THE LATEST IN SACRAMENTO FASHION WITH A RUNWAY SHOW PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN





LEFT & RIGHT: PHOTOS FROM THE 2009 METRO EXPO IN SACRAMENTO. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN; THE 2009 PROP. 8 FIGHT BEGINS IN SAN FRANCISCO, PHOTOS BY JAY LENSCH



Accusation of Prop 8 Support Hits Home

BY NATHAN FELDMAN

With the final donors to the Yes on Prop. 8 campaign released and tempers running high as courts decide the validity of the measure, there seem to be a witch-hunt brewing against anyone with even the slightest connection to "Yes on 8" donors. MGW has received many anonymous and not so anonymous tips about businesses and individuals who do business with or cater to LGBT patrons being linked to Yes on 8 donors.

While MGW stands behind our boycott list as an informational source for our community to make educated choices about what businesses they give their money to, we follow a simple rule: businesses or sole proprietors of businesses who gave money to the Yes on 8 campaign should not see one penny of our money if they are using it to take away our rights. Yet donations made by individuals is simply them exercising their personal political voice — however misguided it may be — and does not necessarily reflect the views of an entire business.

A good number of LGBT friendly and supportive businesses are being caught in the current political crossfire and in an already rocky economic climate, many fear for the survival of their business.

One such case is that of Michael Lyon or Lyon Realty who has always been a staunch supporter of LGBT rights. An individual connected to a company doing regular business with Lyon Realty had made a donation to Yes on 8. Once it was discovered it set off a flurry of calls, emails and raised-tempers in offices through Sacramento.

When there are people actively seeking to strip our community of every hard-won civil right we have, do we really want to throw out the baby with the bathwater? If we think about it, every one of us is within one to two degrees of a significant Yes on 8 donor whether by choice or circumstance.

We need to hold those with a steady history of supporting our community closer than ever. The best way to defeat the Yes on 8 mindset is with sound judgment and

more than just boycotting those who do not support us, we need to actively be rewarding those who do. Look around — look in our publications, look at rainbowchamber.com — find our supporters and support them.

RESPONSE FROM MICHAEL LYON C.E.O. - BROKER, LYON REAL ESTATE

I want to thank you for bringing this to my attention. I personally have been a long term supporter of the gay community, and I have advocated for the gay Realtors in our Realtor Associations for decades. It saddens me when someone sends publications like MGW an envelope (with no return address) with scanned images of [Yes on] Proposition 8 donations — two by individuals and two by companies. I can only imagine that their intent was to add the two individuals to the same boycott list that the companies are posted on.

This issue is, and has become, so heated that many forget that employees of any company have the right to contribute to any legal cause as citizens without fear of retribution. It is also frightening to think that someone would use our first amendment rights to insinuate that because an employee thinks one way the whole company does. The opinions of our employees do not reflect the positions of our companies.

We must not allow ourselves to use hatred and fear to blind us, and hurt innocent people or business. The Lyon and Purves Co. do not take political stances unless they involve the laws governing our business practices. We serve all clients without regard to sexual preference, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability.

I can only imagine what a difference all that money spent on [the Prop. 8 fight] could have done to fight AIDS.

Bowling Anyone?

BY NICOLA SIMMERSBACH

Want to help out youth in our community? Have an afternoon to spare? Want to have FUN? You can by joining the Equality Action NOW bowling team at the Friends of ILP Bowling Tournament. Even if you don't want

to bowl, please consider sending the team a donation because these kids need our help. Make checks out to: Friends of ILP, Send to: ILP Bowling c/o Nicola Simmersbach 902 21st St. Sacramento CA 95811.

The bowling tournament will benefit our local ILP (Independent Living Program) for foster youth. ILP provides living skills training for youth in foster care to help prepare them for life on their own. Many foster youth lose their homes on their 18th birthday when they are no longer eligible for placement dollars. Without ILP services, many end up homeless. Without adequate survival skills, they survive the best they can. A disproportionate number of the youth are GLBT and lack family supports when faced with threats and discrimination.

Where: Fireside Lanes, Fireside Professional Bowling, 916-725-2101, 7901 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, When: Saturday, March 28, 2009 1-4:30 p.m. Want to bowl? Email to Nicola Simmersbach at DrNicola@DrNicola.net

17th Lambda Awards

BY BONNIE OSBORN

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center has added a couple of new twists for its 17th Annual Lambda Awards. Scheduled for Monday, March 23, at the Doubletree Hotel, the event will feature performances by the cast of "Forever Plaid" (playing through June at California Musical Theatre's Cosmopolitan Cabaret)—as well as the opportunity to purchase a meal with cast members as part of an exciting live auction.

In addition to a silent auction during the cocktail hour, professional auctioneer Dave Sobon will keep guests entertained during dinner with a live auction of a variety of exotic trips, unique "experience packages," and other luxury items. Guests who arrive promptly at 5:30 p.m. will receive an "ontime arrival incentive" of complimentary wine, courtesy of event sponsor Barefoot Cellars, and \$10 in auction bucks to spend at the silent or live auctions.

Historically, the Center's Lambda Awards honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the LGBT community. Sen. Sheila Kuehl, who

left office in 2008 due to term limits, will receive the Center's prestigious Timothy Warford Leadership Award. Other honorees include Wells Fargo; Stonewall Democratic Club President Ed Bennett; PFLAG Regional Director Pam Whiteley; Sacramento Police Department; and Cheer San Francisco. Assemblymember John Perez, current chair of the California Assembly Democratic Caucus, will be a special guest.

Also new for 2009 is the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Foundation Youth Leadership Award. Montana Hull, 18, will receive the first. The award is made possible through a donation from the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a supporting sponsor of the Center's Queer Youth Program.

Tickets for Lambda Awards are \$85 (\$850 for a table of 10). Call 916-442-0185, Ext. 110, for reservations or information regarding sponsorship and promotional opportunities, or visit saccenter.org for information and to purchase tickets online.

Lambda Awards sponsors include Wells Fargo, Outword Magazine, the Hewlett Packard Company, Valley Rainbow Pages, Barefoot Cellars and MGW Newsmagazine.

Proceeds from Lambda Awards support programs and services of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, including programs for at-risk LGBT youth, mental health services, training in LGBT issues for mental health and social service professionals, transgender services, free weekly legal clinic, HIV/AIDS support services, facilitated discussion groups for LGBT, and community events such as Sacramento Pride on June 20.



ABOVE: MGW ARCHIVE PHOTO OF SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LESTER NEBBLITT AT THE 2006 LAMBDA AWARDS



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BY JENIFFER WERTZ

Surviving the Mortgage Meltdown

As much as I would like to do something like work for MGW full-time, my day job is that of a residential real estate appraiser. I started working as an appraiser in 2001, so I've been through the whole rise and fall of the housing "bubble". It has opened my eyes to an enormous amount of personal, corporate, and political corruption and greed, that in some ways I would rather not know about.

It's been a very stressful environment to work in, to say the least. There is a natural conflict inherent to being an appraiser. My job is based on my ethical and legal responsibility to be an unbiased party to the transaction, who independently develops an opinion of market value for a property. The conflict that arose more often than not over the years of the rising market, was that the people that hired me wanted me to meet their objective. Borrower's wanted the loan to close, period. Loan officers wanted the loan to close, period. Real estate agents wanted the loan to close, period. Banks wanted the loan to close, period. It wasn't very popular with any of them if I were to mess up their deal by telling them the property was not worth what they wanted it to be worth. If I

messed up the deal, I probably wouldn't be hired again. Luckily, I had a strong sense of core ethics, and was able to say no, even when it was immensely unpopular, and caused my personal income to suffer. I actually was forced to sue a very large bank (that has since failed), after I was removed from their approved appraiser panel for saying the market was declining in 2007. I am very proud to have ended up on the right side of things in the end. I have survived, and am now very busy.

I decided to write about "surviving the meltdown" for our Home and Garden edition, because I think that everyone has been affected in some way by the downfall of our housing market. It's traveled through, and caused havoc on economies all over the whole world, like a virus with no apparent cure. There is blame to be passed around at every level, but the question should be, what do we do now to make things better? To some extent, I don't think that even our Government and all of their experts know what to do to fix it. I want to offer information and some simple advice to help individuals make personal decisions in the challenging housing and economic environment we are

currently facing.

While I am not a financial planner, real estate agent, loan officer, or tax advisor, my experience in the real estate industry has made me aware of many of the things that have gone wrong, and should be corrected if we are to overcome our mutual economic problems. Whether you are a homeowner who is upside down, or someone who is considering buying real estate, there are some things you should be aware of.

California and the Sacramento Region specifically, has been one of the hardest hit areas in the Country. I believe that directly corresponds with the fact that we had one of the fastest and highest rising markets during the boom period, which was about 2001-2005. We started to see declines in 2006-2007. 2008 was a complete disaster. Values still continue to decline in most areas of the Sacramento Region. The unusual thing is that in most areas, supply and demand are in balance, marketing times are within 2-4 months given a realistic list price, and sale prices are close to or exceed list prices. Multiple offer situations are even somewhat common. So, why are values continuing to decline considering all of these other factors?



There are two reasons.

One reason is that it is more difficult to obtain financing. The banks have made their lending criteria much stricter. Good credit scores, proof of income, acceptable debt to income ratios, and down payments are important considerations now, as they should be. Banks are still making loans though, contrary to what the media is reporting so often. Also, in some cases, banks that are selling foreclosed properties are requiring cash buyers, but these properties are usually in the lowest price ranges and are in need of major repairs.

The second reason is that so much of the available inventory is bank owned. I've seen as high as 100% of all sales within the last 3 months in a particular neighborhood were foreclosures (bank owned) or short sale properties (bank accepts less than you owe if you sell rather than get foreclosed). 75% - 95% of all inventory being REO (real estate owned) or short sale is not uncommon in this area. This drives prices down because the banks are competing with each other to sell the properties, and they just keep lowering the price to get the property sold. Unfortunately, the REO's and short sales are driving the market down for everyone, so even if you have done nothing wrong, and take really good care of your house, the price of your house will go down with REO's and short sales.

I think that the second reason is really important for everyone to understand. Many people are complaining about President Obama's Financial Stability plan because they don't want to pay to bail out irresponsible homeowners or banks. While I completely agree, there is no cure for decreasing property values and the resulting continuous damage to our economy as a whole, unless we stop the foreclosures from continuing to occur. I rent, and already pay way too much tax in proportion to the services I use, but if we don't get our neighbors working again, we may all end up unemployed and standing in soup lines. This is an economic disaster, and we need to correct it ASAP, before things get worse for all of us.

So, what do you do if you are upside-down in your house? President Obama has just gotten a new "Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan" passed. This is preliminary information that is not yet clear. My interpretation is that the Plan has contingencies for three categories of homeowners who are in trouble. I will briefly summarize what I think they intend, and provide the website information for you to visit, so you can verify and study the details for yourself;

1. Responsible Homeowner – Is someone who is making their payments, but can't refinance at today's lower rates because they don't have the traditional 20% equity that is required.

The Plan allows the bank to refinance the homeowner at today's lower rates, even if their loan amount is up to 105% of the value of their home.

2. At-Risk Homeowner – Is someone that is likely to be foreclosed.

The plan allows the bank to modify the loan to a lower affordable payment (31% of the homeowner's current verified income), for a period of 5 years, even if their loan amount is up to 150% of the value of their home.

3. Bankruptcy - Presumably if your principle balance is more than 150% of the value of your house, or you have no reasonable amount of income to be considered for modification.

The Plan allows a bankruptcy judge to lower the principle balance on your loan to the current market value of your house (The Senate voted against this provision as of this writing 03/01/09).

The website address is financialstability.gov. I encourage you to do your own research. Additionally, the website is supposed to be updated with all details on 03/04/09.

If you are thinking about buying real estate, I also have some advice for you. Prices are much more affordable now, and interest rates are at historic lows. I hesitate to say it is the "best" time to buy, only because we don't know for sure when prices will stop declining. However, it may be close to the "best" time, especially considering current interest rates. I would certainly watch interest rates, and housing value trends closely. With that in mind though, here are some other things to think about;

1. Real estate is supposed to be a long term investment. Only buy what you can truly afford, and plan to keep.

The days of "Flip This House" are mostly over, unless you are an expert real estate investor. If someone is trying to convince you of a "get rich quick scheme", run. What sounds too good to be true usually is.

2. Be very careful who you have represent you. Did you know when you walk into a new construction sales office and sign their book as a visitor, that simple act makes the sales agent on site your agent? They typically take 3% commission for representing you, and they work for the builder (seller) who also pays them 3% to sell you their house. Who do you think they are looking out for?

In a buyer's market (which this is) agents are very happy to have a qualified buyer. You are a commodity. Get someone reputable, and that doesn't necessarily mean the biggest office or the nicest car. They should be a member of NAR (National Association of Realtors). Typical commission is around 3%, but many agents will take 2.5%. Beware of an agent that is only showing you houses that offer them higher commissions. Make sure they are experienced, and that they are



honestly working to get you the best deal on the best house.

3. Hire your own appraiser and/or home inspector. The appraiser that gets sent out on a purchase is working for the bank, even if you pay them. You would never know if a loan officer or the bank was pressuring them to make the deal work. Call an appraiser and tell them you want to hire them to work for you and have them do what is called a "private party" appraisal. Same thing with a home inspector. Many times they work for the same agent, over and over again. If they mess up the sale, guess what? That agent probably wouldn't use them again. Make sure the appraiser and/or home inspector you hire isn't involved with your bank, loan officer, or agent. Each of these things will cost you about \$300 - \$400 well spent dollars, when you consider you are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars for a house in most cases.

4. Be very careful who you have working as your loan agent, and what the terms of the loan are. This is probably where most of the

people in trouble have gone wrong (except bad timing). Make sure they give you what is called a "HUD 1" disclosure, which they are obligated by law to provide you with. The "HUD 1" is supposed to list all of the costs associated with the loan. If you get to the title company to sign and you don't understand or the documents say something other than what you understood the terms to be, don't sign.

We are currently facing tough times; however I believe there are some valuable lessons to be learned by all of us. We need to save more and spend less. We need to quit trying to keep up with the Jones', and live within our means. We need to be responsible individually if we are going to correct this problem collectively. I hope that the information I have shared will be helpful.

I have one last thought..... We should support those who support us. Our advertising partners make this news magazine possible. You will find many qualified real estate and financial professionals among them.



BY JENNY B.

Crossroads

As I approach my fourth year of sobriety I can't help but reflect on and marvel at how much has changed in my life, based on that one decision. At that time I was struggling to identify with a reality and a role in my fundamental Christian Republican family that just wasn't me. As a result I felt trapped in inner and external turmoil just from the strain of conforming. I had been taught to embrace and love my own special unique gifts and talents, but only if those talents existed within a box of acceptable behaviors. I was doing my best to live a lie, but retreating further and further into the depths of alcoholism and drug abuse to numb the pain. I was experiencing increasing anxiety and was slowly losing my grip on reality. One night I was seized by a panic attack and hallucinations and knew that I had reached some kind of crossroads, and had to make a decision on what kind of life I was going to live. I cried out to a god that I secretly believed condemned me for help

and guidance. From that moment on I haven't touched drugs or alcohol, and the first steps of self healing were able to begin. It has been a long and arduous journey, but well worth it. Once I accepted myself without judgment, it was easy to be more open and honest about who I am with others, without the need to apologize or explain myself.

The hardest thing for me to tell my family and friends was that I was gay. I wasn't going to marry some hunky guy and pop out brilliant gorgeous grandkids. No big church wedding with mass amounts of family (most of whom I barely know) to celebrate me joining the ranks of the happily married. It was hard to give up my spot as their source of pride and accomplishment, and to shatter their dreams for me. Ultimately though, they wanted me to experience happiness and love, even if it's not in the traditional style they had originally envisioned. I can't help but wonder that had known that I would receive consent and approval by them for being gay, if I would have struggled so hard not to be, and sunk so low before I finally acknowledged, accepted and loved myself for who I truly

was, rather than what everyone wanted me to be.

Recently I've had to make another big decision that will ultimately change my life. In this fear based fragile economy I quit my job of eight years and moved 300 miles away from my family and friends to be with my partner. Now I'm jobless, but still a far cry from hopeless. Many people couldn't believe that I'd leave a good job and venture so far from my hometown, to take a shot at love. I think that especially during times of fear and confusion it's important to place all things in their proper order of importance. Love, family, friendship, companionship, these are the things that are going to help us through the tough times. Though security and money are important, they are not enough to provide a life with meaning and purpose. So we still take big risks in life and in love, knowing that though it may be tough, it may also be rewarding beyond our wildest dreams.

Send comments or questions to womensvoices@momguesswhat.com.

Pioneering legislator and civil rights activist receives Center leadership award

BY BONNIE OSBORN

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center will present Sen. Sheila James Kuehl, the first openly gay person elected to California State Legislature and a founding member of the California LGBT Legislative Caucus, with its Timothy Warford Leadership Award. The awards presentation will be part of the Center's 17th Annual Lambda Awards on March 23 at the Doubletree Hotel.

Named for a local community activist and Center co-founder, the Warford Leadership Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated dedication to the LGBT community through leadership, activism and an outspoken determination to achieve complete equality for LGBT people. "Senator Kuehl exemplifies the intent and purpose of the Warford Leadership Award," said Center Executive Director Lester Neblett. "She has been a champion for LGBT rights and a role model throughout her remarkable career. We are honored to have the opportunity to recognize her many achievements on behalf of LGBT people and our state."

Kuehl's life path has taken her from teen actor portraying Zelda Gilroy on the hit comedy series "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis" to pioneering civil rights attorney and law professor to accomplished state legislator.

Kuehl, who lives in Santa Monica, was elected to the California Assembly in 1994. She served as Speaker Pro Tempore during the 1997-98 legislative session, becoming the first woman to hold the position. In 2000, she was elected to the California State Senate. Having served the eight years allowed under California law, she left the Senate in 2008 and was appointed to the California Integrated Waste Management Board in December.

Kuehl's legislative achievements include the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, which protects students from being harassed or discriminated against at school because of sexual orientation or gender identity. In her fourteen years as a state legislator, Kuehl authored 171 bills that were signed into law, including legislation to establish paid family leave, establish the rights contained in Roe vs. Wade in California statute, overhaul California's child support services system protect domestic violence victims and their children prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of gender and disability, safeguard the environment and drinking water; and many more.

Beginning in 2003, Kuehl led the fight in the legislature to achieve universal health care in California, passing the California Universal Healthcare Act in 2006 and 2008, only to see it vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Today, she continues to work with advocates statewide and nationally to bring universal, affordable, quality health care to all Californians.

In addition to her work on the Integrated Waste Management Board, Kuehl is currently a Distinguished Policy Fellow at the UCLA School of Public Affairs and serves on Los

Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' transition team.

Kuehl graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978 where she was the second woman in the school's history to win the Moot Court competition. She was a law professor at Loyola, UCLA and USC Law Schools and co-founded and served as managing attorney of the California Women's Law Center. Prior to her election to the Legislature, she drafted and fought to get into California law more than 40 pieces of legislation relating to children, families, women and domestic violence.

For more information about the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center's 17th Annual Lambda Awards or to purchase tickets, visit saccenter.org.

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Is it just me or are people disappearing into the night? My cul-de-sac that used to be full of laughing children, bikes, doorbells ringing to ... silence. I woke up one morning and noticed the family of four that kept us up on most weekends was gone. It seemed eerily quiet, and so I crept up slowly to their door and couldn't help notice that all of the curtains, blinds, and furniture were also gone. The entire house was empty. Then I saw the white form carefully pasted on the window stating that the home had been foreclosed and would be for sale in 30 days. The house looked sad, and all of the sudden "run down", the fence was falling apart, the gate was crooked and hanging to the side, and leaves and debris scattered the front lawn. Just where did they go?

As the financial crisis continues, Obama has offered up those in need of help a "stability plan" to keep us in our homes and to avoid foreclosure. This has led to numerous scams regarding Modifications. Some companies are requesting fees upfront of up to \$3500, yet giving the consumer no guarantee of successful modification, and even if they are able to do so, the change could be minimal. We need to be diligent during these times of economic crisis, and even more so regarding the biggest scam of all.

The richest religious order in America has launched one of its biggest scams ever. The Mormons, among others, have taught others to believe that we are not worthy of the same rights as they are because they disagree with who we should be allowed to love, by twisting truth with fear. Same sex marriage

is at a focal point, not only in California, but throughout America.

The high court in San Francisco is hearing arguments regarding the legality of Proposition 8, and if indeed our marriage licenses can be taken away once again, as some see us as a threat to their families. What exactly does that even mean? Sounds completely small minded, yet dangerously controlling to me. Money buys ignorance and like I said, they are loaded. Yet their argument is ridiculous, and if they win ... then what? Do they think we will just nod our heads in defeat and simply go away? We will no doubt emerge stronger from this, no matter which way the gavel drops. The judges have up to nine months to decide, let us continue to have hope and to make our presence a noble one.

On the lighter side, or shall I say the heavier side I have noticed many are using the words "muffin top" to describe that unsightly deposit of fat that sits mid waist and hangs over the top of our cool low-cut jeans. Let me be one of the first to predict that high-waisted jeans will make a huge comeback, and hopefully soon. Americans are feeling the depression and filling themselves up with comfort food. Now, you must know what I am talking about, the warm, filling, fatty foods that make us feel better when we are down.

Emotional eating is another reason we are seeing more "muffin tops" popping up everywhere. Add that realization along with the simple fact that fast food is so damn cheap to buy, as is the load of junk foods at your local grocery store. Why is it, that healthy food and organic food especially, is

so much more expensive? One would think that the less processing it took to produce, the cheaper the food would be. But instead it is the exact opposite. We are driven by consumer ads to eat all of this junk, and sometimes I wonder if the health care system is involved in this fast food pushing. After all, as long as Americans stay sick with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer they stay in business. Health care is a huge business and the cost of health insurance is even larger! Unfortunately, the cost of going without health insurance could prove disastrous. A third of all Americans under 65 are without health insurance. Consider the damage that can be placed not only on your health, but on your pocketbook, as the cost alone for one heart attack is estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Even Obama can't save you if this happens.

We can't afford to eat healthy, to pay health insurance, or to stay in our homes. Obama has a plan for healthcare also, let us hope that it works, but does he have a plan for us? A plan to treat all equally under the law, and I mean equal! This inequality business needs to be fixed at the federal level, not state by state. Things are looking bleak for many Americans, but especially for homosexuals. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm on my way to buy some of those high-waisted jeans and a large pizza! Hopefully, I will be able to afford them and if not, I'll head on over to Mickey D's.

Send comments or questions to womensvoices@momguesswhat.com.



BY NIKKI

Modify My Mortgage, My Marriage and My Muffin Top Please!

She Stoops to Conquer: Getting dirty balances getting steamed

The weather in Oregon is doing its usual nasty cold windy rainy late winter act. Except for a brief sunny respite — our annual February fooler — these dark days can get downright dreary. Some locals seriously lose it during our long wet season. You can see them catharting courtside, fieldside, or from their recliners. Unless you thrive on moss and rust, you have to find some way to muddle through.

My coping mechanism — if I stay true to all my New Year's resolutions — precludes any of my former repertoire of self-medication and other destructive behaviors. But after a long stretch of dismal days, one does get pent up. This time of year I desperately need an outlet.

Luckily, we got our sunny spell over the weekend. Gray skies gave way to blue and the thermometer rocketed into the 60s. My poor winter-neglected garden sent out its siren song. Perfect timing. Mid-February is the best time to plant peas. Started now, sugar snaps will be ready to eat by Memorial Day — that uniquely American holiday when the oil baron fat cats pretend to honor our war dead.

The prospect of pre-summer pea munching prompted me to don my grubbies, pull up my mud boots, and get outdoors. Prepping garden beds is hard

work, but nowhere near as arduous as all these years of slogging through "sanctity of marriage" right wing miasma.

Plus physical activity distracts while it releases depression-fighting endorphins. The rare sunshine activated my impulse to shovel and schlep. I forgot all about the melting polar ice caps, surging unemployment, and Governor Jindal. But hibernating most of the winter is not exactly good conditioning for extensive physical labor. I grunted and sweated like a porn star — which naturally attracted my sweetheart's attention.

Wifey called out from behind her crossword puzzle, "Be careful of your back, Sweetie."

Right, my back.

Last summer I was flat on it, and not in a good way. I'd had no choice but to surrender to the healing hands of our friendly neighborhood physical therapist. Her grueling workouts eventually restored me from gardening casualty to homo erectus. Then I forgot all about my back. But Wifey was right, I should take it easy.

But here I was on a perfect Saturday and my back wasn't hurting me at all (yet). I sat on my garden bench and rested a minute to make sure my lower lumbar was holding up OK, then proceeded to clear

out the pea bed and dig compost into the soil. I worked at it all afternoon, strangely amnesic that I could be undoing hours of expensive and tedious physical therapy.

My project was so completely distracting, I not only abandoned any lingering concerns about the health of my sacrum, but also forgot about recent wave of anti-immigrant vigilanteism, the erosion of reproductive freedom, and overturning Prop 8. Focused on my task, I wrestled a ball of twine into submission and launched into stringing up the pea trellis.

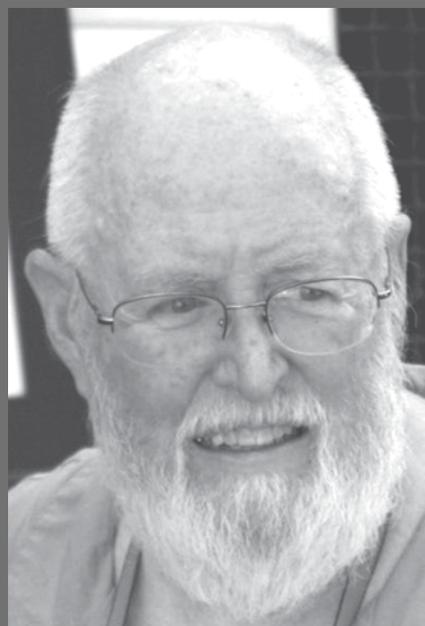
I was just reaching for the bag of bone meal when my back sounded its alarm. Ending up in the ER was not on my militant homosexual agenda — I'd have to quit. Me and poor Senator Daschle. Gotta know when to fold 'em.

I hoisted myself up and — as if I always walk with my torso parallel to the ground — scuffed back to the house.

Wifey greeted me at the door with a bottle of ibuprofen and the ice pack. "Come on in." She propped the soothing cold compress onto my throbbing back. "Let's watch the news. It'll take your mind off the garden."



SALLY SHEKLOW, AWARD-WINNING WRITER, DOES HER BACK EXERCISES IN EUGENE, OREGON.



BY JERRY SLOAN

Hate Watch

With all the racket going on about same-sex marriage so many things like the needs for LGBT seniors and our LGBT youth are slipping through the cracks, mostly because they are not money makers for our national organizations.

One of the most egregious things being ignored by HRC and NGLTF is the international spread of homophobia, particularly on the African continent. Even with the busy business of same-sex marriage our national organizations should be tracking and informing our community about what is happening to our brothers and sisters in Africa many of whose very lives are at stake every day.

This topic of international homophobia should be of great interest to us in the Sacramento Valley because one of the most infamous disseminators of international homophobia is a former Sacramentan named Scott Lively who recently left our area for Springfield, MA, where he has become an assistant pastor of the New Generation Christian Center, a church affiliated with the New Generation Church, a mega church located in Riga, Latvia, pastored by Bishop Alexey Ledyaev.

Lively, who humbly bills himself as "ONE OF THE MOST KNOWLEDGABLE AND ARTICULATE OPPONENTS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA IN AMERICA," (his caps) at the writing of this article is in Uganda speaking at an anti-gay conference. Accompanying him in this anti-gay venture is Don Schmierer, a board member of the ex-gay group, Exodus International.

So how did Lively get to the point where he is welcomed in many Slavic and African countries as an expert on the dangers of homosexuality?

The answer is he has traveled a long distorted road to get to Uganda.

Lively was Lon Mabon's right hand man in Oregon in the 1992 Prop 9, an anti-gay initiative sponsored by Mabon's Oregon Citizen's Alliance that attempted to overturn anti-discrimination legislation passed by the Oregon legislature.

In 1995 he co-authored with Kevin Abrams, *The Pink Swastika: Homosexuality in the Nazi Party*. The book is now in its fourth printing and a big seller in Baltic and Slavic countries where Lively has spoken and New Generation churches are located.

In his book he outlines a history of homosexuality in Germany starting with alleged gay groups from the 19th century several of which, he claims, later merged into the Nazi party.

According to Lively the reason gay institutions like the famous Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Research were destroyed is the operators knew too much about the homosexuality of the leaders of the Nazi party. Gay men were persecuted and sent to concentration camps to keep "closeted" Nazi leaders in power.

He writes, "the Nazi Party was entirely controlled by militaristic male homosexuals throughout its short history."

With the defeat of Measure 9, Lively left Oregon to attend law school at the Simon Greenleaf University in Los Angeles, a little known place of higher learning that instills its graduates with Biblical Law.

After graduating and passing the California bar Lively and his family moved

to Sacramento where he established the Abiding Truth Ministries (www.abidingtruth.com) and acted as state director for Rev. Donald Wildman's American Family Association.

A few years ago Lively became associated with Bishop Ledyaev and spoke at two annual anti-gay conferences in Riga, Latvia, held a week before fledgling gay groups were to hold their first LGBT pride events.

The first event in 2006 a rabid anti-gay crowd threw rotten eggs and feces at worshipers as they left an Episcopal church where a special church service was held for the pride event and then later at a hotel to which the LGBT celebration had to be moved because authorities determined a planned march could not be safely held.

Since those two conferences Lively and Ledyaev have partnered with Rev. Ken Hutcherson, of Kirkland, WA., and two Slavic men from Sacramento to form a group called Watchmen on the Walls.

In 2007, after much research, the Southern Poverty Law Center, added Watchmen on the Walls to its list of hate organizations.

Watchmen on the Walls has held meetings in Russia, although Russia will not allow Bishop Ledyaev in the country, and many of the former Soviet Union republics.

While Russia is smart enough to forbid Ledyaev into its borders we here in the good old U. S. of A., let him roam freely spouting speeches attacking LGBT people and even make him a special guest at the annual presidential prayer breakfast held in our nation's capital.

Speaking of prayers, here is one of the imprecatory prayers uttered by the good bishop at a Watchmen on the Walls Conference held in Riga November 14-18, 2007:

In the name of Jesus I curse this phenomenon! I curse the root of this movement!

In the name of Jesus I curse the culture of death and say to it: DRY OUT! Let every plant that is not planted by my Father be pulled up with it's root and thrown away! In the name of Jesus I proclaim fair God's judgment on every disgrace and people's lies who suppress truth! We are setting your hands free and say: God, deal with all activists and leaders of homosexual movement! Raise, God! And your enemies will dissipate! Raise God! Save America! Save Latvia! Save Europe! Save us!

... God, please forgive us for stepping down and please give back the weapons the Church possessed before. Let your strength and fire and authority come back!

... God, raise brave pastors and brave people and raise an army of holy people, raise the Watchmen on the Walls who would stand and protect their cities!

... We love America, please protect it from suicide and self-destruction!

... Let a stone, without the assistance of a hand, come off the rock and hit this homosexual idol right on its legs! Let this idol come down to ashes! Let this stone become a mountain and fill the whole Earth.

... Today we proclaim the death of the culture of death! We proclaim the victory of life!

... You, the Pharaoh of homosexuality - we will not give a hoof, a rusted nail to

you! Our houses, our wives, our sons and daughters will go - and you will go bankrupt.

... Homosexuality is a global problem and it is only the first wave. After that comes Islamization. If we won't stop the first wave, then the second wave won't wait for long.

Here is Lively's description of the murder of Satender Singh as transcribed by the BoxTurtleBulletin blog from a video of a Watchman on the Walls conference held in Novosibirsk, Russia, in August 2007:

"Now, I've been working with the Russian community in Sacramento. And I want to tell you this is an example of how bad things are in the United States. Because we've come to a place in the United States where the homosexuals have achieved very high power. And they've begun to punish... They've begun to cause the political powers to punish anyone who says that homosexuality is wrong.

"There was a situation in Sacramento a few weeks ago in a public park. There was a group of homosexuals and they were very drunk and one of the homosexual men was taking off his pants. And there were children in the park. And a Russian man went over to these homosexuals and he was rebuking them and there started a fight. And the Russian man punched the homosexual. [The audience starts to shout and applaud.] No, no, no, don't...

The man was very drunk... the homosexual was very drunk. He was very drunk and he fell down and he hit his head and he died. [Some in the audience start to applaud and laugh] No.... no...

Now the Russian man has been accused of murder and the FBI is seeking him. And all of the powers in Sacramento have been accusing all of the Russian community of being murderers. And the goal is to silence everyone who speaks against homosexuality. And this is a very dangerous situation because we don't want homosexuals to be killed. We want them to be saved. Amen?"

So far the only organization of any stature to speak out about this hate conference in Uganda is the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) which issued a press release stating:

"We condemn their discriminatory words and actions that only lead to violence. Suffering is all that they are bringing to Uganda—all in the name of God ... The U.S. religious right has a history of exporting homophobia to Africa. With support from anti-gay organizations and faith leaders such as Family Watch International and Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, Pastor Martin Ssempe from Makerere Community Church has attacked not only gay men and lesbians, but also women's rights and HIV activism."

While it is true LGBT people in this country suffer violence almost every day, we need to look at the suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world and speak out against it.

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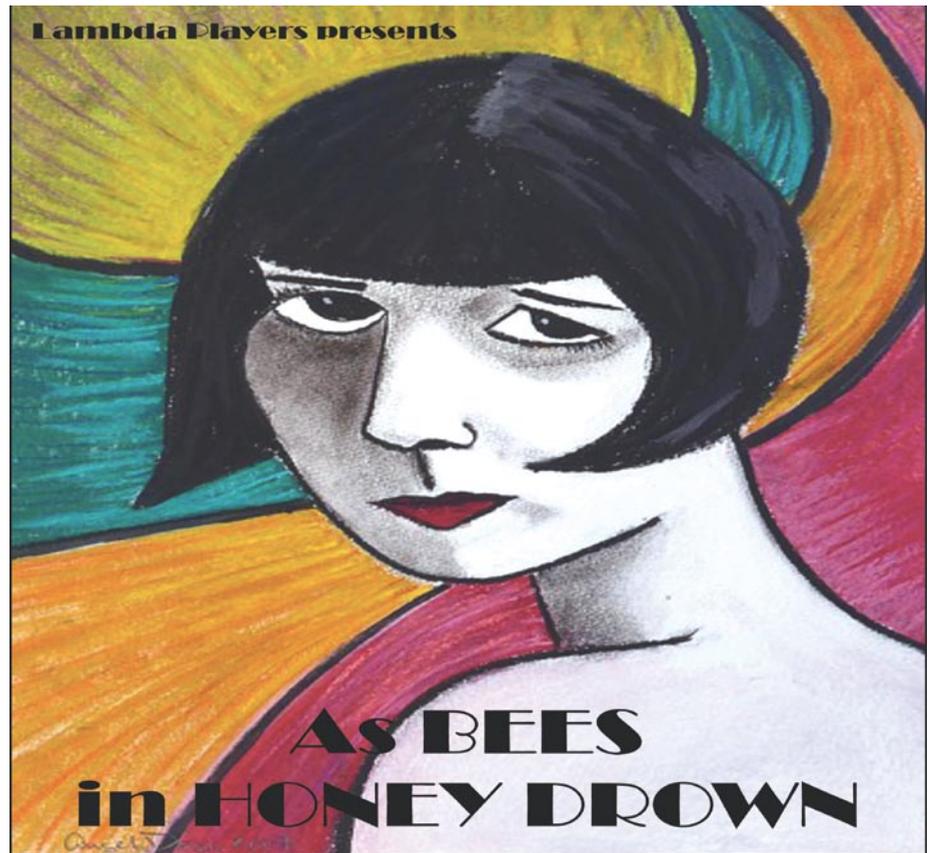
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The Queen of DIY Landscaping ...

Jackie Taylor

BY MICHAEL SHANAHAN

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOU?

I was born in Southern California, Watts to be exact, and in 1975 moved to Sacramento with my mother who was a single parent. We had a tough life. We didn't have a lot of money. That's when I became "the tool gal". My mother would say, "oh no this is broke. Can you fix it?" So I had to learn how to look at a broken household item and put it back together. When I was thirteen I made my own jewelry and decoupage paintings as a form of allowance – so you can say I've always been handy. I was also an only child and spent a lot of time alone trying to entertain myself, and anybody else that would pay attention to me. I think that was the start of my attraction to the entertainment industry. I've worked in a variety of settings both in front and behind the camera. I've worked live on stage as a comedian and as an educator teaching people how to do their own home improvement projects. Over the years, I've partnered with a number of nonprofits that work to empower women to change their lives and be the best they can be.

DO YOU HAVE FORMAL GARDEN / IMPROVEMENT TRAINING OR WAS THIS A GIFT YOU WERE BORN WITH?

I think it started out as a gift. I've always been creative and hands on. But when I started working for DIY network they sent me through a training experience that was equivalent to a landscape designer carpenter degree. The training was hands on 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, twice a month. It included research and training in the use of heavy and light landscape equipment. For four years, I traveled to different climates and different environmental conditions, analyzed horticulture needs, and became a connoisseur in plant selection, and landscape design.

HOW DOES ONE GO FROM HOSTING CALIFORNIA LOTTO TO DO-IT -YOURSELF HOME AND GARDEN?

While hosting the Lotto, I bought my first house which happened to be a fixer upper in Natomas. (That's where I really learned how to do home improvements on my own.) I actually worked for both the lotto and channel 31 at the same time. I was the "Do It Yourself HER" reporter for Good Day & Good Evening Sacramento. At the same time, I created a pilot show called "Fun House". The premise of that show was to empower and teach women to save money by doing their own home improvements. It's funny because that was a really down time in my life. My contract was ending with Lotto, and I wasn't sure what I was going to do next. My friend, Michael Glassman, just happened to call, and asked if I was interested in auditioning with him for a national landscape makeover show at DIY Network. Hundreds of applicants sent in their demo reels as part of the auditions. Michael sent his own demo reel; I decided to send footage from Fun House. The footage from the Fun House pilot turned out to be a "kick ass" demo reel, exactly what they were looking for edgy, fun, and entertaining. The next thing I knew I was the host of Grounds For Improvement.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO GARDENING?

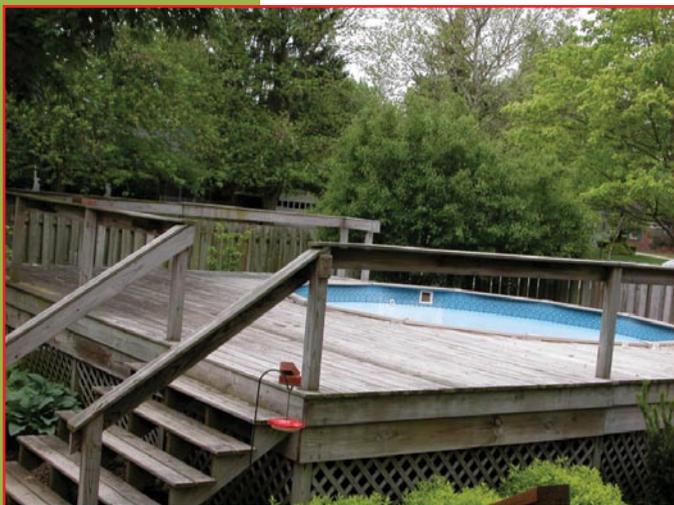
I just like watching things grow and creating – My moms a gardener – My family is originally from the country, from the South. We had to grow whatever we ate. But also what kind of sparked it for me is seeing how gardening and creation come together, lending to a total spiritual experience. I look as some plant that have been around since the beginning of time, creating and living history, take ferns they are one of the oldest plant species in the world. I



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



FAR LEFT: DIY NETWORK'S JACKIE TAYOR (COURTESY PHOTO JACKIE TAYOR) MIDDLE LEFT: BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF PROJECTS TAYLOR HAS DESIGNED (COURTESY PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JACKIE TAYOR) ABOVE: TAYLOR GETS HANDS ON INTO HER WORK (COURTESY PHOTO JACKIE TAYOR - PHOTO BY JANE & JANE MAGAZINE)

encourage my clients to plant native habitats to sustain the earth's ecosystems. There's something about the interconnectedness of nature, the link between bees and plants and their cross fertilization. You know in gardening there's a sense of pride, you're giving back and giving life. It's meditative and soothing to the soul.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A NEW HOMEOWNER LOOKING TO START HIS OR HER OWN GARDEN?

When I'm working with clients who are new home owners, I work from the inside out. I look at how they live, how they entertain, and what they can afford. I tell my clients, that you want your outdoor living space to be compatible with the way you live. On my first visit to the home what I look at is not the backyard but the inside of the house. I look for trends, style, quirkiness, color preferences. Then we come up with a plan to blend the outdoor with the indoor.

DO YOU THINK THE CURRENT ECONOMY IS MOTIVATING MORE PEOPLE TO ATTEMPT DIY PROJECTS?

Most definitely – its not in the budget to hire someone else, budget cuts, furloughs, layoffs, and the loss of equity are forcing folks to do it themselves.

Everybody's cutting back even contractors. A lot of my contractor friends are doing smaller jobs, discounting projects, creating payment plans, and breaking projects into more financially manageable phases to help homeowners save money. Whether you do it yourself or hire out, this is the time to do home improvement projects.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY NEW TRENDS IN THE HOME IMPROVEMENT / GARDENING MARKET?

Yes – drought tolerant landscapes, people are figuring out how to get rid of their lawns to help the environment, to help them save money. The new theme is Gardening for Sustainability, and building materials are going green, like permeable pavers.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UPCOMING PROJECTS?

With one of my clients in the pocket area, we're working on a drought tolerant water conservation community park, and in July, my company, OODLEBOXTV.com and Channel MY58 will be hosting a home improvement makeover contest which should be really exciting.

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Saturday, March 21, 2009

Come out to The BOLT for SNOTTY SCOTTY'S BIRTHDAY! We'll have CAKE (okay, Scotty will have cake - the rest of us are on our own), BALLOONS, and DRINK SPECIALS from 9pm to midnight! And if you can CATCH him, you can SPANK him! NO COVER!

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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

THE WATCHMEN

Judd: We're finally getting past the early year shit releases – the movies with which Tom has destroyed his credibility by recommending – and Hollywood has decided to give us an early "Summer Blockbuster"-style movie called *The Watchmen*. Based on a late 1980s comic book where superheroes, stripped of their duties by the government, are slowly being killed off. But it's much more complicated than that, and the movie deals with themes of nihilism, moral absolutism, nuclear obliteration, creation and life. It's chock full o' nerdy goodness and if you ask me, it was too much nerdy goodness.

Swanner: I agree with there's just too much here. I'm sure the followers of the comic are going to love all the content but to the layman it's overwhelming. The movie runs 2:43 which is a lot for the first installment of a superhero franchise and with the glut of story ... I was getting bored. The film itself is beautifully made and you can see every dime that was spent. OK, now to the good stuff, wasn't the Comedian gorgeous?

Judd: The Comedian is played by an actor named Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and you swooned over him when you saw *PS I Love You*. He looks a lot like Javier Bardem. The cast is mostly a bunch of unknowns. Matthew Goode and Billy Crudup being the most famous names. I think the thing that got me about the movie was how even though the story was extremely in-depth, none of it seemed relevant. The only characters that had any bearing on the plot were Rorschach, a violent paranoiac with absolute terms of right and wrong, and Dr. Manhattan, a man whom nuclear testing turned into something of an apathetic deity. Everyone else was basically irrelevant and lacking personality. Hell, I didn't even know the bad guy's name until I looked it up.

Swanner: You forgot to mention that Dr Manhattan doesn't wear clothes so you get to look at his wiener the whole movie. I think that might have been why I'm not really sure what happened in most of those scenes. They did throw in Patrick Wilson and Carla Gugino as the lovers and they're naked a lot too but if they removed the whole romance from the movie we could have saved a good half hour. Jackie Earle Haley, who played Rorschach, was very good as well. You do make a very good point that most everyone had little or no relevance in the film.

Judd: Wiener? Are you 12? Did you "tee-hee" after writing that? I do want to mention there are two completely pointless and somewhat graphic sex scenes, both between Silk Spectre and Nite Owl (Gugino/Wilson). I'm no prude and I don't mind sex in movies, but these seemed like scenes that were written by and for sexually frustrated comic book nerds. What's even funnier is that the audience seemed more comfortable with the sex than they were with Dr. Manhattan showing his "wiener".

Swanner: Those sex scenes and their whole romance were pointless. You're right. It was just for those comic book nerds to have something to occupy their hands while they watch the Blu-ray. At the beginning you don't see his wiener and then Boom! you see it in every scene Dr Manhattan is in... which I guess will give the gay nerds something to do. I thought the movie moved well and the

production value was amazing but I felt like I wasn't in on the joke. As if this was made for people who walked in with knowledge of this story. There was too much exposition, it confused me and I don't think it was just the wiener.

Judd: That's where the fault of this movie lies. It was made for a very specific audience, with no effort to bring anyone else along for the ride. I think director Zack Snyder (300) cashed in on this genre's popularity to make a movie that most people wouldn't have normally seen. At least now comic book dorks will have something to cling to and tout their superior intellectual comprehension of the postmodern graphic novel, while the rest of us normal folk wait for the next *Iron Man*.

Swanner: 2 Stars

Judd: 2 ½ Stars



FIRED UP

Swanner: Last night I saw the newest cheerleader movie called *Fired Up!* and I loved it. I know Brian is going to be mad at me but I don't care. I'm going to tell you the storyline and you're going to think I'm stupid too but anyway ... here it goes. Two star football players ditch football camp to attend cheerleading camp. Once in the camp they slowly but surely learn the joy of cheer and of course fall for some of the girls.

Judd: Once again, I'd like to apologies to who were our loyal readers. I say were since I'm sure if anyone has listened to you and have gotten burned on some stupid ass movie that you got all giggly over, they aren't loyal anymore. The only solace I can offer is that my schooling will be done in May and you can once again trust this calm voice of sanity. I'm sure that Tom has his hands on his hips and is reacting something like Divine after being told she's not pretty.

Swanner: You didn't even see the movie. It was really funny. I'm sure you would have

liked it. The dialog was snappy and smart. The performances were all good. I especially liked the supporting people who made throw away roles classic. One thing that Brian would hate is that everyone in the movie has a clever come backs ... but I figure that if it's funny it doesn't matter if everyone sound like a 35-year-old Jewish comedy writer.

Judd: You used the word snappy. Snappy! All these years of building a readership fan base has just been shoot down. I hope you're proud of yourself. Okay, since we have nothing to lose, let me play along. Were the guys cute? Did the girls have big boobs? Did the moral of the story come through in the end? We all really want to know.

Swanner: Well of course the guys are cute and there are plenty of boobs. As far as the ending, I don't want to ruin it for anyone so let me just say don't worry about being disappointed ... the ending was good. This

all seemed sort of charmed. The script is fast paced and well, snappy. It reminded be of really good dialog like in *Animal House* or *Ghostbusters*. The two leads are very charismatic, played by Nicholas D'agosto and Eric Christian Olsen. This movie should prove to be their breakout roles.

Judd: I bet. I'll be sure to watch for all the publicity and it heats up over this amazing movie. Are you done now? This sounds like another romantic comedy dressed up to look like a teen sex comedy. And look, it's rated PG-13 so all your 12-year-old girl friends can see the movie too. This looks to be another stereotypical bullshit teen movie with no redeeming qualities unless you can count that it's perfect for your next sleepover.

Swanner: You think your so cool ... but you are totally a Panther and everyone knows the Panthers are all conceded bitches.

Judd: All I hear are the rambling of a big fat girl. Hey that might be a good name for your autobiography.

Swanner 3 ½ Stars

David Bromstad, Star of HGTV's Color Splash to Appear at Emigh Hardware

David Bromstad, star of HGTV's "Color Splash", will be making an appearance at Emigh Hardware in Sacramento on April 25th. David, who achieved stardom when he won HGTV Design Star, is the national spokesman for Mythic Paint – the highest performing, zero-VOC, zero-toxin paint available.

David, who has a passion for painting, chose to become Mythic Paint's spokesman based on his experience and love of paint hues, and because the paint is the only high performance, zero-voc paint that is available in unlimited color options. "I don't want to sacrifice my health or the health of the planet because of my passion for painting," said David. "As a designer I want the most durable and premium paints in the most luscious colors available. Thanks to Mythic, I don't have to sacrifice anything."

The star will be offering a free home design color class, and will unveil his brand new line of colors exclusively for Mythic Paint, to fans who come to the Emigh Hardware store. The classes, which are open to any one, will be held on Saturday April 25th from 11am until 3pm. The activities will culminate in a free raffle to win a unique piece of David Bromstad's artwork that he will paint at the event.

Emigh Hardware, a fourth generation, family owned and operated hardware store is Sacramento's exclusive distributor of Mythic Paint. Emigh, operating since 1908, carries an extensive range of hardware products, including paint, gardening equipment, plumbing and electrical supplies,

home handyman tools, housewares and plants. Emigh Hardware also owns Emigh's Casual Living Center – featuring all of the top names in outdoor and patio furniture.

"We're extremely excited to have David Bromstad appear at our store," stated Rich Lawrence, President of Emigh Hardware. "We'd like our customers to learn more about this exceptional paint, as it not only performs extremely well, it's simply the strongest, safest and smartest choice in paint for you and the people you care most about."

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Advice From a Shrinking Fat Man

Let me start off by saying that dropping my pants in front of the nun and the small crowd of homeless children was entirely unintentional.

I've lost 110 pounds over the last year — about 80 pounds on my own, and another 30 since my gastric bypass surgery in November. Yes, that's quite an accomplishment. I get that, believe me. I've shed blood, sweat and Haagen-Dazs to get here. The many handmade holes in my poor, suffering belt should probably be considered a trophy, a badge of honor of losing the sullen, cookie-loving elementary school student that I apparently once wore around my midsection.

That said, I should probably trade in my badge of honor for a pair of suspenders. Or

some really festive underwear.

When you lose a lot of weight, you need to be prepared for many changes. That means:

1. Being ready to think a new way about food.
2. Being ready to face exercise with a new mindset.
3. Being ready to knock over the occasional 7-11 to replace all the clothes you're outgrowing every two weeks.

While steps one and two have gone smoothly for me so far, my cat seems to have made off with my gun. Though it's prevented me from collecting forced fashion donations from local convenience store clerks, it's also cleared up the local rodent problem. The homeless children's charity behind my apartment gets the most direct benefit from my accidentally arming my cat, so there's probably some good Karma in it for me.

Being the proud owner of a rapidly shrinking body suddenly creates certain problems. For example: when climbing the three flights of stairs up to your apartment, one hand must, at all times, be holding up

your pants. Don't let your hands be otherwise occupied by, say, holding a bag of groceries and waving at the nice children next door chatting with the nun that runs the charity. You may find that that suddenly your ankles are very well covered while your lucky Batman™ Underoos™ are not.

Traditionally, the grocery bag must be filled with oranges, apples, or any other round fruit that may go spilling in every direction when you dive to salvage your fallen dignity. This gives something for the homeless children to pick up and snack on while they watch you try and rearrange yourself as best you're able. Nuns are very much in favor of fresh fruit.

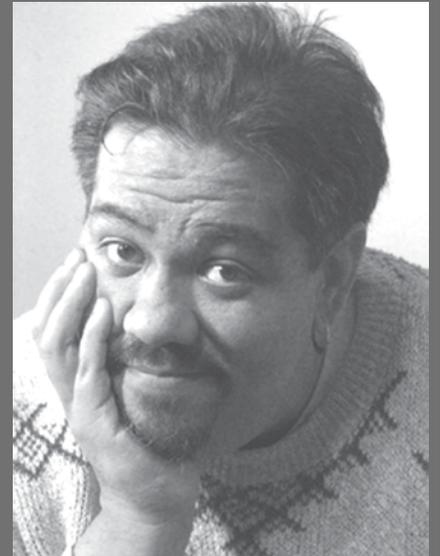
Sudden unplanned visits to the wonderful world of exhibitionism aren't rare events for me anymore. It seems that with each pound I lose, another innocent bystander is treated to another unexpected peek at my derriere. Luckily for me, insurance covers most of their subsequent therapy sessions. And the pants aren't the only issue. Surprisingly enough, a lot of people who lose a lot of weight find that their shoes start getting looser. That's right. I started going to the gym and cut out any and every food that made my inner child smile so I could fit into a sleek pair of size 12 loafers. Mind you, they're really AWESOME loafers. There's a bright side to everything, I always say.

As much as I can complain, though, the truth is that for the first time I see a glimmer of a new world that I've never quite seen before. The world of Fashion. A world where I've been unwelcome, kept out by brass edged glass doors and unsmiling salesgirls. A mythical place of strange patterns, soft colors and, of exotic textures that I've only glimpsed behind painted glass. And that's not too far off from the truth. Every fat man has had that moment where he's passed by the Gap and looked at the clothing that "normal" people wear. There we stand, our noses pressed up against the window like oversized, bearded Little Match Girls dressed in large print Hawaiian shirts dreaming of a better life before we light up our last match and snuff it.

I can step through those doors now, into this mystical place beyond the wardrobe. While there's nothing for me here yet, I can now pick out a shirt and put it up just below my chin and not laugh at the comedy of it all. That shirt, against all odds, will almost fit me. The wardrobe door is opening, and I can smell a whole new world on the other side.

Around about this time, an unsmiling sales girl will sidle up to me and ask if I need the shirt rung up, knowing full well it won't fit me. I can smile as I hang it back on the rack, though, because even if I can't wear that shirt, yet, there's an AWESOME pair of size 12 loafers waiting for me one store over.

ADVICE: ALWAYS BE SURE TO WEAR CLEAN UNDERWEAR. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'LL BE CHECKING.



HUMORIST AND SATIRIST DONALD E. MARSHALL IS A 35-YEAR-OLD GAY MAN LIVING IN HOLLYWOOD, CA WHO RECENTLY MADE SOME CHANGES IN HIS LIFE. OVER THE PAST YEAR, HE'S LOST 130 POUNDS BETWEEN DIETING, EXERCISE AND GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY. HIS LIFE IS CHANGING QUICKLY, AS IS THE WORLD HE LIVES IN. THE LOCAL ALL YOU CAN EAT CHINESE BUFFET HAS GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. TRAINERS AT THE GYM NO LONGER HIDE UNDER THE DESK WHEN HE WALKS BY AND HE'S EXPLORING THE WHOLE NEW WORLD OF FASHION, DESPITE THE PROTESTS OF LOCAL SALESGIRLS. BEST OF ALL, HE'S LOVING LIFE IN A WAY HE HAVEN'T IN YEARS!

EXERCISE TIPS & SECRETS BY MICHAEL COOK FITNESS-HAPPENS.COM

Tip #2 is Be Consistent! The difference between being successful or not is exercising regularly. This is true for strength training, weight loss, endurance training, from beginners to advanced.

Decided to drop a few pounds? Then cut out fatty foods, start walking on a treadmill regularly and the pounds will come off. Beginners don't need to be fast, the best tip for maintaining a successful fitness regimen is just be consistent. Have to skip a day? Then do it the next day — that's consistency.

Frequency of exercise is the single most important factor in reaching weight loss goals, satisfaction with results, or feeling good about progress.

"Scheduling your exercise" was last issue's topic. Remember today's tip, clip it out, save it on the fridge, and make sure to read next issue's topic, "Follow an Effective Exercise Routine".

Feel free to contact Michael A. Cook, at (916) 813-9009, with questions, comments or suggestions. Michael has 15 years of experience as a certified personal fitness trainer, and is owner of Fitness-Happens.com and the East Sacramento Training Studio.





Naommon



French Electro-Pop Singer NAOMMON Scratches The Glitter On Brand New Album "Love Is Struggling" out on Tuesday, March 3rd 2009

Naommon's world is one of an underground, dark and gritty disco. Redefining modern music and bringing his own elements of Euro-dance to the clubs worldwide, Naommon's brand new album "Love is Struggling" is a dance essay on what it means to "scratch the glitter." This new album is one strict neo-discopop collection of songs that will make heads turn. "Love Is Struggling" officially releases on Tuesday, March 3rd 2009 on CD Baby, iTunes and many more digital outlets.

Last year treated Naommon very well. His debut album "Allnighter" was critically praised in outlets nationwide including HX, PlanetOut, ArjanWrites and Queerty.com. His music videos for singles "Allnighter" and "You Go To My Head" made a huge splash on LOGO, HBO Zone, Promo Only, Rock America, Screenplay and more. Naommon's fans also voted him in as the #1 Artist on The Click List, which is the Top 10 Video Countdown show on MTV Networks' Logo Channel.

Watch for the for the new video single for the title track "Love Is Struggling" being released soon.

A child of the Eighties, teen of the Nineties, clubber of the 2000s, Naommon embodies - both musically and physically - a myriad of continually morphing influences from the spaceglam of Bowie, sophistication

of Daft Punk, acidfunk of Deee-Lite and Dietrich's rigorous sense of glamour, to London's creative parties Paris's romantic dandyism and New York's popping scene. This only begins to describe Naommon's presence and live stage shows.

It was Naommon's appearance on the French talent TV show, "Popstars" (similar to MTV's "Making The Band"), that sparked collaborations with hot electro producers Kiko resulting in several hot singles on International Deejay Gigolo Records including the european club classic "Jack The Box (Come On Up And See Me Sometimes)". Clubbing brought further introductions with Copyshop producers Arnaud Pilard and Fred Berthet, who co-produced the tracks on "Love Is Struggling".

Naommon fans include UK producer Mark Moore (S-Xpress), Scissor Sisters DJ Sammy Jo, Queen of Electro-Soul Billie Ray Martin, Peter Rauhofer, Electro Cat Larry Tee, The Ones, and the brilliant Princess Julia.

Check out naommon.com and myspace.com/naommon.



THRIVING IVORY

One of the great developing artist stories of late 2008 continues to build as Wind-up recording artist Thriving Ivory kicked off their headlining tour on January 23rd in

Bakersfield, CA before traveling to LA to headline the legendary Troubadour and beyond. The San Francisco quintet has been very busy over the last year promoting their self-titled debut album and single "Angels on the Moon," culminating with the album reaching the #1 spot on the Billboard Heatseekers Chart. Besides being named a VH1 "You Oughta Know" Artist and appearing frequently on the Top 20 Countdown, as well as on LOGO's NEWNOWNEXT "Pop Lab," "Angels on the Moon" is making its ascent up both the Pop and HAC charts as it moves into the Top 30. At MySpace, "Angels on the Moon" has been played over 7 million times, while the video has been viewed over 2 million times on YouTube. iTunes made it the Music Video of the Week and featured the band as a "Rising Star of Alt Rock," while the ringtone has been a hit on Verizon Wireless's Top Ringtone chart.

Singer Clayton Stroope noted, "It's exciting to return to cities that we've previously been to and experience this groundswell that has been building over the past year. There is nothing like the feeling of standing on stage as a packed room sings along with you. As a band, we are in the midst of the connection that every artist hopes for. This has been so special, and we can't wait to get back out there and experience this feeling nightly. To all those folks who have bought our disc, thank you. If you tell your friends, I can finally upgrade the tires on my '84 Taurus, and instead of being number one Heatseekers, we can simply be number one overall."

Over the past 8 months the band has been criss-crossing the country playing to packed houses while garnering rave reviews. The Hartford Courant exclaimed, "With anthemic, piano-driven songs and plaintive vocals, the quintet's 45-minute set had an epic quality, as if the band is on the verge of exploding off small stages and into bigger clubs, or even arenas. Singer Clayton Stroope's voice quivered with the emotion of his searching lyrics, and the band excelled at building songs from quiet beginnings to bombastic finales."

thrivingivory.com



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REVIEW BY ROBERT APPLIGATE

The Greek Village Inn

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THEGREEKVILLAGEINN.COM

My dear Greek friend Elaine always indulges me with my insistent queries into her family's history and life. I am always mesmerized when she regales me with stories of her time spent in Greece. Her parents were born there each on a different Island. Her Father from the Island of Chios where the family home still is, and her Mother from the Island of Kythira. I love knowing someone with a family home on a Greek Island! Each year around the time of our local Greek Food Festival, she always purchases tickets for me, as she knows it's my most favorite Festival of the year. Greek men and Greek food, what could be better? I love to go and watch the camaraderie of all the attendees. Everyone seems to truly care for each other. The men hug and kiss in greeting one another, the children laugh, dance, and sing, the women gather together to watch their families. You can see a slight smile on their faces and if you look closely into their eyes, you can see the joy in their souls. Greek people know how to love, how to live, how to take care of each other and how to cook! Elaine's Yai Yai (Grandmother) used to cook for the family and each family member was expected to be at her home for dinner. There were several generations at these meals. The meals were events, a time friendship, family, sharing and love.

When you walk into The Greek Village Inn Restaurant you will feel what I feel each time I am enchanted with her stories. The restaurant is not large in size, but it is huge in heart. It is an upscale restaurant but very simple and inviting. You are immediately greeted with a welcome and ushered to your table and handed a menu that is going to take some time to go through. One of the things I appreciate about this restaurant is that they have not Americanized Greek food. They call their Avgolemono Soup Avgolemono Soup and not "Lemon Rice Soup" as some other Greek restaurants have done. They have kept the authentic original names of the family's recipes intact. I enjoy that. I may not be able to pronounce a single item on the menu, but the descriptions tell me what I am about to enjoy.

On my recent visit I did in fact have the Avgolemono soup. It is a wonderful bowl of lemon and rice soup seasoned to perfection. It's thick and rich. The lemon flavor is there but it's not sweet, there is just a hint of it. It's sheer perfection in a bowl. While I enjoyed the soup my server checked on my progress several times. "It's good huh," she asked, obviously hearing my soft moans as each spoonful reached my mouth.

I decided rather than having a full-blown meal I would just have an appetizer along with my soup. I have eaten here many times before and know that each dish is wonderful. A few months ago Elaine invited me over to her home to make Spanakopita. It's one of my favorites and something I stand in line for at the Greek Food Festival. It's very labor intensive and while it was a fun way to spend the afternoon, I thought on this particular afternoon I would savor the restaurant's Spanakopita and all the labor they had poured into it. I order an appetizer of it and the three hot triangles of Spanakopita arrived shortly. The filo dough was crisp and hot, and not at all greasy from all the butter I am sure it had in it. It was perfect. The mixture of spinach, feta, herbs, and onion was spot on. It had a unique flavor much different than what mine had tasted like. Curious of the flavor, when my server came back I asked her what the herb mixture consisted of. She went to

the kitchen and I could overhear the chef brag about the perfect blend of mint, dill, salt and pepper. It was nice to overhear the delight in his voice of his creation.

The entire operation is run this way. Each staff member I came into contact with was warm and friendly. You could tell they were happy and proud of their products and their restaurant. The busier I checked on me several times, my server was always attentive without being intrusive, and the owner walked by often to make sure I was satisfied with my meal.

I ended my little lunch with a slice of Baklava. All desserts are house made. The Baklava had many soft sweet layers of filo dough, walnuts in simple syrup served on a plate with a dollop of whip cream. It was a outstanding simple ending to a wonderful lunch.

On past visits to this restaurant I have had the Village Inn Salad that is mammoth! I truly recommend sharing it. It is an intense salad made with mixed greens, caramelized onions, pepperoncinis, cucumbers, tomatoes, egg, rich Greek feta cheese, kalamata olives and gyro meat. If you don't like gyro meat you can have the salad with chicken, eggplant, or calamari. The dressing is very subtle with lemon and oregano. It is the best Greek salad I have ever had.

The restaurant has many traditional favorites. Pastichio that is a baked macaroni mixed with seasoned ground beef and topped with a béchamel sauce. Mousaka, which is a baked casserole with layers upon layers of potato, eggplant, and seasoned ground beef. The restaurant's infamous lamb served either

as Lamb Souvlaki (Kabobs) or simply as lamb chops.

Pursuing the menu, I was delighted to see that this restaurant has Greek beverages to go along with its food. They have Mythos beer that I never see any place except once a year at the Greek Food Festival. They have several Greek wines on the menu. They also have coffee, tea, soda, bottled water, other beers and wines. However, if you are going to be partaking in an experience, go the whole way, order the Greek adult beverages.

As Elaine's Papou (Grandfather) used to say, "Elaine, there are two types of people in this world, Greeks and those that want to be Greek". Lucky for the many that want to be Greek, there is The Greek Village Inn where we can pretend. At least for a meal or two.

The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They have Greek favorites for each meal. There is a children's menu available for the little ones and the restaurant has several Vegetarian offerings. Outdoor seating is limited but enjoyable for our fast approaching spring days. They also offer delivery and catering is available.



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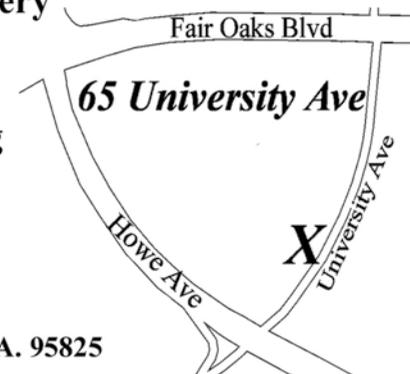
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"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal." The Message Bible, John 12: 24-25.

While in meditation this morning, I began reading a book called "He Restores My Soul". As I perused the various chapters, I found myself drawn to a passage on brokenness. Recently, I have provided support to many who are in a place of brokenness. Brokenness is a state of mind in which there are overwhelming feelings of defeat and hopelessness. Brokenness is a place inside of us where questions out weigh answer, and fear is replaced by indifference. The author, Jennifer Kennedy Deane, encouraged the reader to embrace this place of brokenness, to examine it, to remember it.

"Only by breaking your outer layers – layers of pride, self centeredness, and self –trust, can the inner power be released." J.K. Deane

As a motivational speaker, counselor, and pastor, I am more prone to leave my audience feeling up lifted and inspired. I'd rather see faces with smiles than tears. Although I do understand times when there is a need to cleanse one's soul with refreshing tears. This notion of embracing brokenness seemed antithetical to the message of hope often found in the gospel. However, it does appear to be a more attractive option than leaving empty promises of hope in the wake

of devastating life circumstances.

"True brokenness means losing all faith in own abilities, abandoning all dependence on human resources, and disavowing all outward pretensions of righteousness to cling to the Spirit of God as if to a lifeline. The broken person — the person wholly dependent upon that indwelling life — will find that all of the resources of heaven and all of the Spirit's power are now at his disposal and, unless heaven's riches can be exhausted or the Spirit's power can be found wanting, he cannot come up short."

Ms. Deane's concept of brokenness appears to be rooted in a religious fundamentalist interpretation of God. However, other spiritual disciplines within Muslim and eastern philosophies also support the idea of self examination during times of emotional, physical, and spiritual challenge. Despite the good things that are happening — or that have happened in the past, it's still hard to accept the losses and disappointments that come with life. I've gone through so many turbulent times during my life, at the very hint of tough times I brace myself to defend against the emotional blow before it even happens. I desperately try to stave off the challenge before it comes, walking in fear, avoiding situations that have the potential for disappointment, throwing out promise to dodge the potential pain. Embracing brokenness sounds like a leap into a bottomless pit of depression and anguish.

In fact it is the opposite, when in the place of brokenness there is a heightened sense

of awareness. The hallmark of brokenness is the ability to be fully in touch with all emotions, vulnerable, weak, and pliable. We become fully aware of all limitations; on a really bad day magnifying them to establish a case for wallowing in self imposed pain. However, in any case, while in that place of brokenness you know yourself better than you ever will. Raw, you can look at yourself, critique your weaknesses and your strengths, and if you truly embrace the moment, you will set a new path that is destined for greatness.

In that place of brokenness, there is an opportunity to bury the self loathing that comes during times of loss. By shedding light on the pain, examining it, we make peace with our humanity. We understand not only the pain but also the strength that grew out of it. We learn to relish those moments of challenge. We recognize them as monuments in our lives — a reminder of our ability to overcome adversity, to persevere, and endure. We learn to use our weaknesses in the same way we use our strengths, as roadmaps for success. We understand what motivates us, what drives us. We learn to anticipate what will derail us, and take responsibility for getting our own needs met.

What felt like death actually becomes a moment of rebirth and renewal. Like the grain of wheat that must be buried to experience growth and prosperity. We, too, must live to experience our dark moments out of which will sprout new opportunities, new vision, new strategies, new love, new hope and new life.

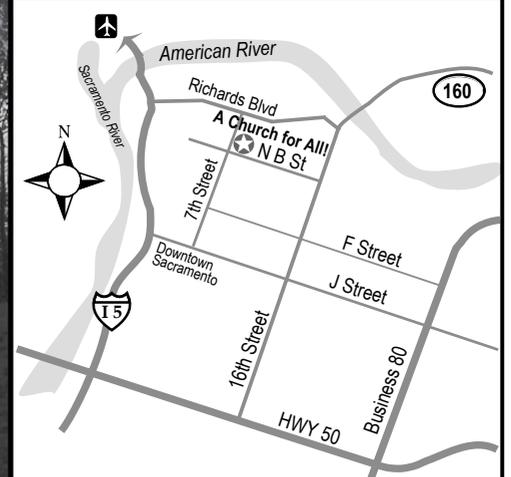
I encourage you embrace the brokenness and BE LIKE WHEAT!

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I don't eat meat, for a variety of ethical and environmental reasons, and I'd rather not feed it to my cat, either. Do cats have to be carnivores?!

Unlike dogs and other omnivores, cats are true (so-called "obligate") carnivores: They meet their nutritional needs by consuming other animals and have a higher protein requirement than many other mammals. Cats get certain key nutrients from meat—including taurine, arachidonic acid, vitamin A and vitamin B12—that can't be sufficiently obtained from plant-based foods. Without a steady supply of these nutrients, cats can suffer from liver and heart problems, not to mention skin irritation and hearing loss.

As such, a cat's ideal diet is made up mainly of protein and fats derived from small prey such as rodents, birds and small reptiles and amphibians. Some cats munch on grass or other plants, but most biologists agree that such roughage serves only as a digestive aid and provides limited if any nutritional value.

Of course, providing your domestic cat with a steady stream of its preferred prey is hardly convenient or humane—and cats can wreak havoc on local wildlife populations if left to forage on their own. So we fill them up on dry "kibble," which combines animal products with vegetable-based starches, and meat-based canned "wet" foods, many containing parts of animals cats would likely never encounter, much less hunt and kill, in a purely natural situation. Most cats adapt to such diets, but it is far from ideal nutritionally.

Veterinarian Marla McGeorge, a cat specialist at Portland, Oregon's Best Friends Veterinary Medical Center, argues that the problem with forcing your cat to be vegetarian or vegan is that such diets fail to provide the amino acids needed for proper feline health and are too high in carbohydrates that felines have not evolved to be able to process. As to those powder-based supplements intended to bridge the nutritional gap, McGeorge says that such formulations may not be as easily absorbed by cats' bodies as the real thing.

Some were vehemently disagree. Evolution Diet, makers of completely vegetarian foods for cats, dogs and ferrets, says that its meatless offerings, on the market for 15 years, are healthy and nutritious, and, if anything, have extended the lives of many a feline and canine, even reversed chronic health problems. Claiming that most mainstream pet foods contain artery-clogging animal fat, diseased tissue, steroid growth hormones and antibiotics no less harmful to pets than to humans, its website posts testimonials from loyal customers who claim happy and long-lasting pets who look forward to their meals.

And Harbingers of a New Age, which makes "Vegecat" kibble and supplements that provide cats with nutrients otherwise only found in meat, says that its products allow owners to "prepare food in your own kitchen, choosing recipes that fit your

lifestyle."

The vegetarian pet debate is a contentious one among vegetarian pet owners and veterinarians and is one not likely to go away anytime soon. The best approach may well be to give some of the non-meat supplements and/or foods a try. If your cat won't eat them, or does not do well on them—take kitty to a veterinarian for a check-up to see—you can always go back to what you were feeding her before.

Contacts: Best Friends Veterinary Medical Center, bestfriendsdvm.com; Evolution Diet, petfoodshop.com; Harbingers of a New Age, vegepet.com.

What is the "green cities" movement?

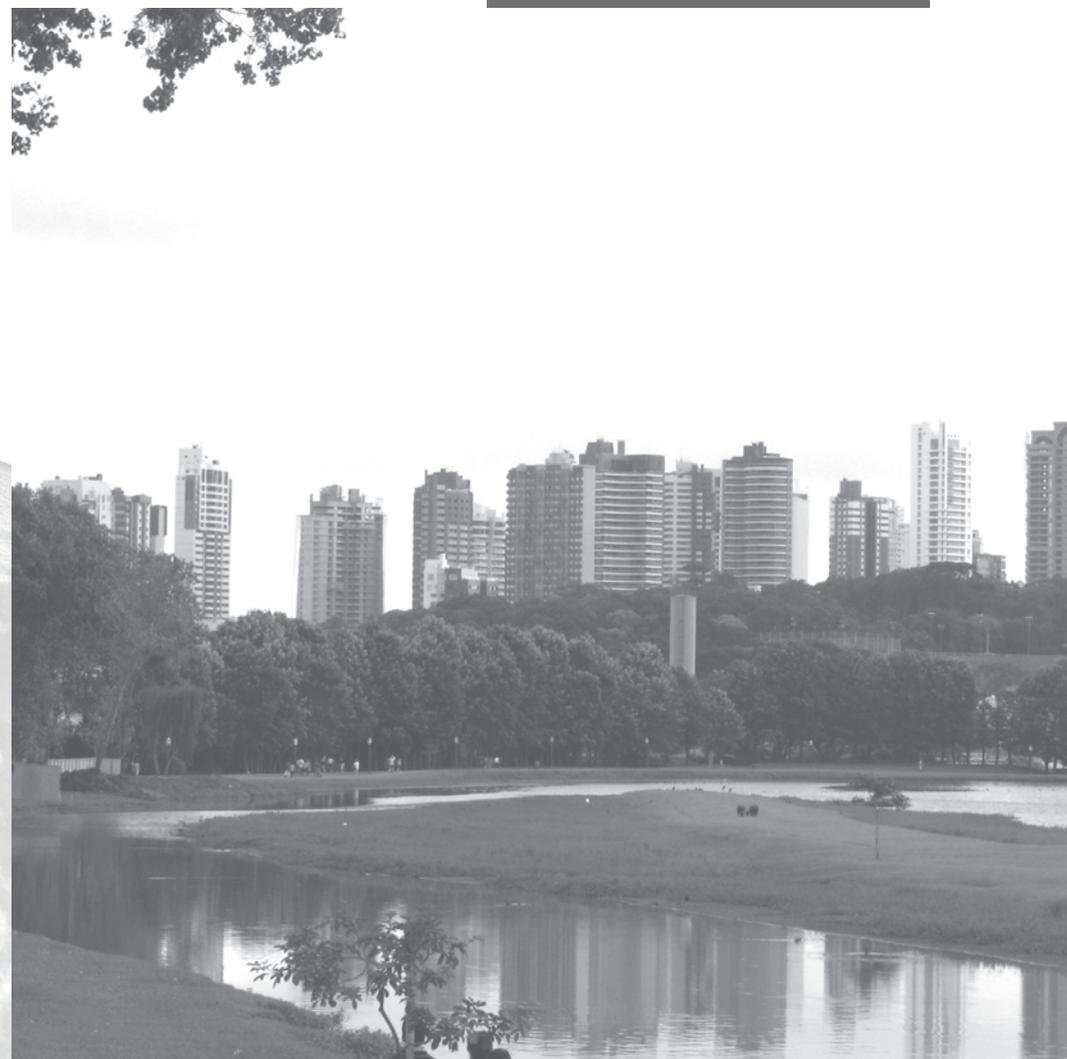
Best described as a loose association of cities focused on sustainability, the emerging "green cities movement" encompasses thousands of urban areas around the world all striving to lessen their environmental impacts by reducing waste, expanding recycling, lowering emissions, increasing housing density while expanding open space, and encouraging the development of sustainable local businesses.

Perhaps the archetypal green city is Curitiba, Brazil. When architect and urban planner Jamie Lerner became mayor in 1972, he quickly closed six blocks of the city's central business district to cars, delighting residents and business owners alike. Today the pedestrian-free zone is three times larger and serves as the heart of the bustling metropolis. Lerner also put in place a high-tech bus system, greatly reducing traffic, energy usage and pollution; the move also encouraged density around transit hubs and thus preserved open space in other areas that would have likely turned into suburbia. Today the bus system still goes strong, and three-quarters of the city's 2.2 million residents rely on it every day.

Another green cities leader is Reykjavik, Iceland, where hydrogen-powered buses ply the streets and renewable energy sources—geothermal and hydropower—provide the city's heat and electricity. London, Copenhagen, Sydney, Barcelona, Bogota and Bangkok, not to mention Sweden's Malmo, Ecuador's Bahía de Caráquez and Uganda's Kampala, also score high for their green attributes and attitudes.

Green cities abound in North America, too. In 2005, Portland, Oregon became the first U.S. city to meet carbon dioxide reduction goals set forth in the landmark (if ill-fated) Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement forged to mitigate the threat of global warming. Seattle, Washington also committed to meeting Kyoto's goals and has persuaded 590 other U.S. cities to do the same under the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. And Vancouver, British Columbia draws 90 percent of its power from renewable sources while its metro area boasts some 200 parks and more than 18 miles of accessible waterfront.

San Francisco is a leader in green building, energy efficiency and alternative energy, and has been on the forefront of the



battle to reduce plastic usage. Austin, Texas is fast becoming a world leader in solar equipment production and has made great strides in preserving open space. Chicago has invested hundreds of millions of dollars revitalizing its parks and neighborhoods, and has built some of America's most eco-friendly downtown buildings. It is also working to provide affordable clean power to low-income families. Of course, many would argue that New York City—with its densely packed housing, reliance on mass transit and walking, and recent green policy moves by Mayor Bloomberg—may be the greenest of all.

While there is no formal green cities organization, per se, many groups have sprung up to help urban areas achieve their sustainability goals. GreenCities Events, for one, hosts conferences around the U.S. at which local experts, policymakers and business leaders share ideas for greening their region. And International Sustainable Solutions takes urban planners, developers and elected officials on tours so they can check out some of the world's greenest cities to glean first-hand what works and what can be applied back home.

Contacts: Mayors Climate Protection Center, usmayors.org/climateprotection; GreenCities Events, greencities.com; International Sustainable Solutions, i-sustain.com.

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SACRAMENTO LGBT NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY



GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG



GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE, INTERACTIVE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE HUB FOR LGBT SACRAMENTO.

THE SITE OFFERS A SPRING BOARD TO ALL OTHER LGBT WEBSITES IN SACRAMENTO AND KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED ON THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS AND WHERE TO FIND THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES THEY NEED.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ACTIVISM

Equality Action NOW, a Sacramento based grassroots organization dedicated to mobilizing concerned citizens to promote equality for all. Formed in the wake of Prop. 8 the group works to see that LGBT voices and concerns are represented in the larger community. 916.446.1082, equalityactionnow.org

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. sacramento pride.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

HIV | AIDS

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

THIS MONTH'S COMMUNITY DIRECTORY SPONSOR IS: GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG
THE SACRAMENTO LGBT NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG PROVIDING THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE LGBT INFORMATION ONLINE. TO BECOME A COMMUNITY DIRECTORY SPONSOR PLEASE CONTACT SALES@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM. TO CORRECT INFORMATION LISTED CONTACT EDITOR@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund: Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 2010), NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 14-17, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept., 2009). 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. myspace.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 Records 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 myspace 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. lcoresac.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 for 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 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

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.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 Scotia 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. ldlducdavis.org/about.htm

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

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

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. mspace.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 Sonora/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 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. sgmnet.org

Sisters of Scotia 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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www.RainbowChamber.com

Look Whats New & Upcoming!

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 20th - Club Octopussy Returns!
Friday, April 3rd - Live Performance By Kat Deluna

Coming Soon

BOLT Flashlight Party In **FACES** VIP Lounge
Watch For Updates on www.myspace.com/facessac



FACES

Nightlife Built For You!

Weekly Schedule!

Monday

Win Cash - Give-Away @ Midnight
Next 7 Weeks Watch RuPaul's New Show DragRace
With Your Host Monique Moore @ 10:00pm
Karaoke @ 9pm

Tuesday

Latin Night Featuring Live Shows & Hot Go Go Dancers
Drink Specials Throughout The Night!

Wednesday

75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 8pm -Midnight!
Featuring 80's Music, Country, Top40 & R&B

Thursday

All New SEXXX Thursdays Features All Male Strippers,
Erotic Shadow Dancing, Weekly Contests, Hot Go Go Dancers
And Drink Specials All Night Long!

Friday

Furlough Fridays
"NO COVER" With State I.D. (special events excluded)
75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 7-9pm
Featuring 70's Music, Country, High Energy, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers Entertaining You All Night!

Saturday

75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 7-9pm
Featuring 70's Music, Country, High Energy, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers Entertaining You All Night!

Sunday

\$2.00 Double Well Drinks - \$1.00 Draft Beers
Dancing 3-9pm -Dragalicious Show @ 9pm



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Lambda Awards



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Montana Hull

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Contact Luis at 916-442-0185, Ext. 110, manager@saccenter.org

Or order online at: saccenter.org/events/lambda-awards

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