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Sunburst Project's Clients Hit Hard By Covid-19 Crisis

By Diana Pretzlaff

Says COVID-19 has hit his clients particularly hard. "We have been inundated with calls for help," Bradley-Rowe said. "Our clients are hurting. They can't afford to feed their families, buy diapers and formula for their babies, or pay their rent and utility bills," he said. "Our clients are immunocompromised and face unique challenges during a pandemic. Some are sick with COVID-19," he added.



Sunburst Project's clients live below the poverty line and have lost income and jobs due to the pandemic. "We need help building our Emergency Assistance Fund so we can provide immediate aid to our clients who are in financial crisis. Whether it's paying for childcare so our HIV positive mothers can see their doctor, giving food vouchers to clients who are hungry, or providing transportation to pharmacies for life-saving medications, our Emergency Assistance Fund is vital to our work in the community," Bradley-Rowe said. "From the calls we're receiving, we need to raise \$20,000 as quickly as possible. Some of our clients are in dire circumstances and this fund allows our social workers to help in ways that are very impactful. Every donation helps, no matter how small, and can be made through our website at www.sunburstprojects.org. Between now and August 17, 2020 all donations will be matched up to \$12,000 due to a generous matching challenge gift from the Loveall Foundation for Children and an anonymous donor," he added.

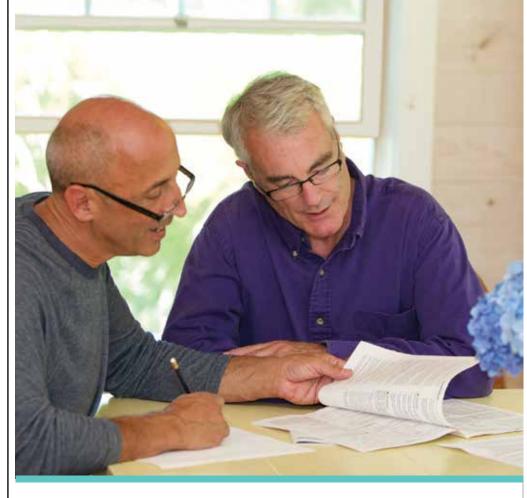
Bradley-Rowe joins Sunburst Projects after 18 years in the non-profit arena; working with several non-profits in the Sacramento area including Donate Life California, Capital City AIDS Fund and the Friends of the California State Fair. He has spent the last 15 years on various non-profit boards such as The Imperial Court of Sacramento, the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center, and NorCal AIDS Cycle. Bradley-Rowe and his alter ego, drag queen Precious Cargo, are well-known in philanthropic circles and have been active in the LGBT and HIV community for many years. "Sunburst Projects has touched my heart for quite some time. I was a member of the first Team

Sunburst to ride the NorCal AIDS ride. Hearing the stories of how the organization provided such crucial support to those in need left a lasting impression on me. It's an honor for

me to step into this leadership role for an organization I have admired for so many years," Bradley-Rowe said.

Bradley-Rowe has also begun work on expanding Sunburst Project's mental health services. "We will be launching our new mental health clinic in late fall, 2020. We are increasing our office space, hiring new mental health clinicians and social workers, and working with community organizations on a new HIV testing program at our facility," Bradley-Rowe explained. "I am excited to work to meet the challenges of the next decade in the HIV/AIDS community. Our goal is and always will be no new HIV transmissions and supporting those living with this disease," he added.

Sunburst Project's mission is to promote health, wellness, and social justice through services that strengthen and empower individuals, families and communities to ensure those living with HIV/AIDS reach their highest potential.



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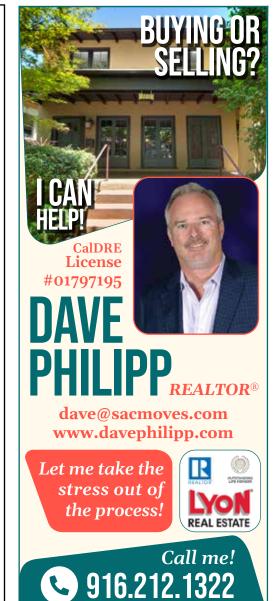
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City of Sacramento Launches 'Show the Love, Sacramento' Mask Campaign

I gs? Not now. High fives? Yeah, right. Secret handshakes? Nope. Right now, we're a little low on ways to show love. But wearing a mask? That's perfect.

The City of Sacramento and Uptown Studios this week launched a local public-service campaign to compel Sacramento residents and visitors to wear masks/face coverings in public indoor spaces and outdoors when they cannot maintain six feet from others.

Called "Show the Love, Sacramento," the campaign utilizes social-media graphics, user-generated photos and video, billboard signage and other materials to convey the message. It states that while physical affection and engagement with others may be limited at the moment, the best way to show love and take care of others during the pandemic is by wearing a mask.

"The idea is to reinforce the health benefits of wearing a mask and capitalize on Sacramento's community spirit and shared empathy," said Media and Communications Manager Tim Swanson.

Campaign materials have been translated into multiple languages and will be widely

shared by the City, its community partners and other organizations.

A key component of the campaign is the hashtag #MaskUpSac. Residents are encouraged to "mask up" whenever in a public setting and to participate in the campaign by taking a photo or video of themselves and sharing it and their story with the hashtag.

The coronavirus can spread when an infected person speaks, sneezes or coughs within six feet of others, according to State health officials and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To prevent infection, the State is requiring everyone to cover their nose and mouth when outside of their home.

Residents and organizations can learn more about the campaign and download the media toolkit by visiting the "Show the Love" webpage at http://www.cityofsacramento.org/City-Manager/Major-Projects/MaskUpSac.





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Let's Talk About Abolition

By Celeste Nunley (she/her) & Edited by Faith Colburn (she/her)

We have been taught that officers offer salvation from gratuitous interpersonal crime. We are told a thin blue line separates us from utter chaos. These beliefs are so pervasive that concepts of defunding and abolishing the police seem inconceivable; this represents the fundamental issue with the way we view policing.



Police departments were founded to protect assets and maintain order, not keep us safe. Slave patrols are the most blatant example of this yet controlling economic interests have long utilized the institution of policing to forcefully discourage revolutions of the working class. Police circumscribed low income and "socially inferior" groups including Black folx and immigrants, leading to the equation of perceived social aberrance with crime. This began an era of preventive crime control, leading to the insertion of armed officers into daily community life.

We currently entertain policing reforms which mirror those demanded since the institution's inception, somehow hoping these will offset a legacy of violent control. It should come as no surprise that department policies enable racial violence, decreasing survivability for Black folx in police confrontation. Most use-of-force policies lack guidance, neglecting information on de-escalation and use-of-force continuums. These types of unclear policy result in violence as they effectively permit the deadly force which devastates overpoliced minority communities. To meaningfully limit the violent aspects of police power, we must go further than calls for disarmament and decreased force.

SWAT teams, the pinnacle of militarized policing, best demonstrate the failure of use-of-force reforms. Although conceived to specifically combat violent crime, SWAT teams surprisingly do not reduce crime and offer negligible increases in officer safety. Studies demonstrate that armed SWAT teams namely engage in non-violent pursuits such as the service of search warrants. Counterintuitively, studies indicate areas of violent crime do not receive the most SWAT visits; that distinction belongs specifically to Black communities. The fact that these militarized teams execute non-violent tasks

in heavily Black areas regardless of crime rates reinforces racial tensions and increases the potential for violent confrontation.

After considering the true intentions of police departments, defunding and abolishing the institution of policing begins to seem less far-fetched. Policing's roots lie in maintaining the status quo and suppressing dissent; our current racial woes are by no means new. Police have repeatedly failed to police themselves, resulting in unnecessary deaths and the perpetuation of generational trauma in marginalized communities. Increased police militarization has obvious detrimental effects, and the police brutality at recent nationwide actions offers a prescient reminder that no force is too unreasonable to maintain a racist, capitalist system.

The reality that police are a threat to the most marginalized among us should serve to mitigate fear of abolition. Redistributing bloated police department budgets to fund mutual aid programs and alternative forms of justice will keep communities truly safe. Moving past defunding and into actions which support abolishment demonstrates a commitment to our communities and a commitment to ending the epidemic of police terror against Black folx.

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- George Eliot aka Mary Ann Evans



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The Little Camp That Could

By Milo Gray IG: @milo_myhigh Email: mr.milogray@gmail.com

Rowing the many ways COVID-19 has affected our lives, it seems almost frivolous to mention camp. Still, this summer I'm thinking about the kids who look forward to camp all year. Bear Valley Y Camp serves kids from low-income households, historically marginalized communities of color, non-able-bodied persons, and LGBTQ kiddos.



The little camp that could.

Families send their kids to camp knowing they will be safe, fed, encouraged to grow, be themselves and care about the world around them. Bear Valley also takes part in Raggers, a worldwide goal setting program that YMCA campers and staff can use for personal growth.

This summer I'm thinking about L, a 10 year old trans boy who came to camp after his mom was assured that Bear Valley was a place that welcomed everyone. When we met he said "so you're trans?" I nodded, yep. "Cool. Do you know how to make friendship bracelets?"

Over the course of that week, L blossomed. He became friends with everyone who crossed his path. I can't help but think about what it would have meant for me to have met a transgender adult when I was a kid.

I'm thinking about P, a camper who was described as defiant and a flight risk, until we chatted with her one-on-one and discovered that she hated her name because it reminded her of the abusive mother she was taken away from. She chose to use a camp nickname and we introduced her as such, but more than that, she learned how to advocate for what she needs.

One of my favorite parts of camp are the evening reflections, where leaders facilitate their cabins in discussions aimed around growth. That's where I feel so honored to provide a space for kids to explore their goals, identity, what it means to be thoughtful humans. For some of them, this is the only space in their lives that they get to have these meaningful insights borne from vulnerability. Giving them space to be heard

reaffirmed my desire to become a school guidance counselor, reminded me of my purpose.

I got the opportunity to spearhead Bear Valley's Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program. CITs are teens at camp who are learning how to be counselors, while also still enjoying some regular camp activities. I was able to adjust the program's focus so that these teens are learning responsibility and navigating new situations as they transition into not just counselors, but young adults. They're developing their own goals and seeking mentors that will help them grow, while understanding that they are role models too.

When I was hired on, the camp director lovingly described her camp as "the rinky-dink, camp-that-could" and as someone who's worked at several different camps, I can attest—she was right. It's old, it's a fixer upper, it's usually short-funded. But it's got history, and it's got heart. Being able to come in and contribute my knowledge, reimagine their CIT program, roll up my sleeves and do good work... it was so fulfilling, and I felt like I was just getting started. To not be at Bear Valley this year, while appropriate, is such a bummer when I feel like there's so much more good work to do.

This fall I'll be applying for my master's degree in Counseling so that I can continue toward my own goals of becoming a counselor and eventually, camp director. While I'm not at Bear Valley Y Camp this summer, I know that there's still plenty of work to get into down the mountain.

The Center is Here to Support LGBTQ+ Latinx Folks During COVID-19

By Ariela Cuellar (she/her/hers)

In the era of COVID-19, it can be difficult to attain the services one might need to feel supported and safe, especially as a Latinx community member. However, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center is continuing to uplift, support, and guide the Latinx community through services online, over the phone, or by direct referrals from staff.

The current social and political climate is difficult to digest as a Latinx person. I've personally heard from family members who once described the United States as the "land of the free," now describe it as a daunting and unsafe place. It's also important to recognize the various intersectional identities the Latinx community has. The Center is there to support everyone in the Latinx umbrella, whether you're trans, afro-Latinx, undocumented, or queer, they are here to support you.

It's already quite difficult to find affirming spaces in general as a queer or trans person, but it becomes a bigger struggle when your health care provider or counselor doesn't speak the same language as you or doesn't use your correct pronouns. The Center's Latinx Sin Fronteras (Latinx without

immigration resources, services specialized in the trans community, housing, social services, legal aid, or other support programs. The team at the Center wants to assist folks with finding whatever affirming resources they need to survive during a pandemic.

Additionally, Latinx Sin Fronteras offers free sexual health education, HIV/STI testing by appointment, free individual counseling for LGBTQ+ victims of crime, legal and immigration assistance, and support groups for trans folks in English and Spanish every Friday at 3 P.M. via Zoom.

The Center also hosts weekly "Latinx Livestreams" on Facebook Live every Friday at 12 P.M. Topics range from sexual health, racism within Latin America, or most recently they're starting a series on trans



Borders) program is designed to break down the barriers that stand in the way of community member access to culturally responsive services for Spanish-speaking Latinx and immigrant community members, especially trans Latinx folks.

"Regardless of a pandemic, we are always here to support our Latinx community," said Christina Arias Phillips, bilingual outreach coordinator at the Center. "Our physical doors may be closed but I am available to speak with anyone over the phone or Zoom to help them get the services they need."

Community members can receive community resource navigation for mental and medical health professionals,

health.

"We do these livestreams to help build community and connection with other Latinx folks during COVID-19," stated Matías Castro, the Center's sexual health coordinator. "These can be pretty lonely and stressful times for all of us, but this is our way of providing resources and education to our community through an online platform."

I wish I had these resources available to me growing up in my community as a queer Latinx kid, but I'm glad to know that they exist today. Latinx Sin Fronteras is available for folks by appointment only by emailing christina.arias@saccenter.org or by calling (916) 442-0185 ext. 114. **This Weather Making You Hot?**

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"White Too Long: The Legacy of White **Supremacy in American Christianity" by** Robert P. Jones

Book review by Terri Schlichenmeyer

undays just don't seem to last. You get up, attend church, attend fellowship, rush home for dinner, maybe more church in the evening. And before you know it, Sunday's over and you're left trying to remember what you learned, to get you through the week. But maybe, says Robert P. Jones in "White Too Long," it's time to examine what you learned that you don't remember.

Nearly 180 years ago, at a convention of members of the Baptist church, the issue was raised about whether there was room in Christianity for slaveholding. In the days following the gathering, Reverend Basil Manly, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, sent out a letter demanding confirmation that indeed, a Godly man could have slaves. When his group received a swift denial, Manley and other church leaders split and formed their own organization, a move that ultimately led to the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the country's largest Christian denomination.

And until about forty years ago, says Jones, this pro-slavery stance and the white supremacist roots went largely unexamined by white Baptists. Politics were not always mentioned with these issues then - at least, not like they are now.

Lest we point fingers unfairly, however, Jones says that racism is not just a Southern Baptist Convention notion: the same issues crop up in Catholicism and other denominations, as well as other areas of the U.S. Overall, he states that white Christianity has been the biggest, 'til-now-unchallenged reason for the propagation of white power and dominance.

So what can be done?

Rather than merely removing or destroying statues honoring white supremacists, many cities are also placing markers honoring integration and Black leaders. We can pay attention to our histories, and recognize our own most complex truths. And, he says, time will also help - it has to, because our nation's souls are at risk.

The first - perhaps only - thing you'll need to know about "White Too Long" is that it's deep. Bottom-of-the-ocean deep. Like, allthirteen-verses-of-"Amazing-Grace" deep. It's not even close to what you might consider to be a casual read.



As the founder of Public Religion Research Institute and a man who grew up in the Southern Baptist church, author Robert P. Jones bases his material here on his own solid studies, as well as theology and personal background. That's all good, but the depth of the content and meaning of this information also results in ideas that circle back and back again, and that can make the mind reel in befuddlement. You may have to read a sentence (or a paragraph) two or three times to get the full impact of it, or to understand what's before or after it. This can feel like a very long sermon on a very sleepy Sunday morning.

Beware that there's controversy all over this book but in today's world, it's an absolute must-read - as long as you give yourself time for thought. If you are a theologian especially, or are fighting racism, "White Too Long" might not be long enough.

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Sign Language Interpreters and Realtime Captioners Need a **Professional Exemption in AB 2257**

lthough the Americans with Disabilities Act recently celebrated its 30th year, the Act's promise to provide Legual access to people with disabilities remains a work in progress. For Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities the fight for communication access is still a daily struggle in America's verbose 24/7 culture.

Now, due to a new law, AB 5, this struggle for the right to communication access has become even more profound. Sign Language Interpreters and Realtime Captioners working as independent contractors are under fire to become employees.

On January 1, 2020, AB 5 set new criteria for independent contractors. These new criteria disrupted the decades-old model for Sign Language Interpreters and Realtime Captioners working as independent contractors and presumes it is superior to be an employee.

While many interpreters and captioners do work as employees in various environments

within AB 2257. This bill is designed by Lorena Gonzalez, author of AB 5, to "clean up" what has turned out to be a very controversial law.

Fairly, who could have predicted a global pandemic? However, COVID 19 is here and creating havoc to the state of California's economy. Now more than ever, flexible working conditions are preserving people's ability to continue earning a living. The restrictions on independent contractors created by AB 5 not only further disadvantage Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, but adds pull to the work already leaving the state of California.

Business entities that do provide

communication access through local interpreters and captioners for brief interactions with the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing consumer are not going to hire an employee. Not when it is possible to reach out across state lines and use a remote interpreter or captioner without the longer-term implications of employment.

Yet, accurate communication relies on human interaction. Remote interpreting and captioning cannot reliably replace the linguistic and cultural sensitivities provided by in-person communication. This AB 5 induced loss of service quality exacerbates the

Sign Language Interpreter

such as the courts, schools, and state agencies, there are even more who choose to work as independent contractors.

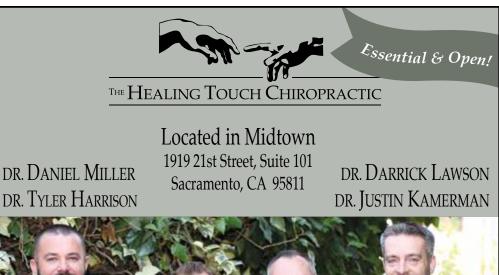
Not having a shared language disadvantages people. The independent contracting model is long-held and benefits the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities who rely on the services of interpreters and captioners at all times day or night in a wide variety of settings. As the stakes for clear understanding become higher in medical, safety, and legal situations, for example, the more critical it becomes for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to have communication access in an efficient and timely manner. In a manner that is not tied to the confines of employee restrictions.

Equal access to communication and the jobs provided by Sign Language Interpreters and Realtime Captioners are at risk if these two professions are not granted exemption

situation.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing people want access to, well...everything. From art, academia and business to tours of National Monuments, political rallies, and excursions, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people use the services of interpreters and captioners to fully enjoy ALL facets of life. An exemption within AB 2257 will allow the independent contractors serving these communities to continue working in a way that allows access even in random and acute situations.

We need your help. Assemblywoman Gonzalez has much to consider with AB 2257. And, as usual, the squeaky wheel will get the grease. Contact Gonzalez in support of Sign Language Interpreters and Realtime Captioners remaining independent contractors. Assemblymember.Gonzalez@ assembly.ca.gov 916-319-2080 -LorenaAD80







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Capital City AIDS Fund Cofounder Wins Emmys

by Matthew Burlingame

oyce Mitchell is a force to be reckoned with. Armed with a resume that would make any aspiring journalist envious and a list of awards and acknowledgements to go with it, it is her heart and compassion for the human condition that shine above it all.

For two and a half decades Mitchell has worked in Sacramento broadcast news. She spent her early days as a trendsetter being the second woman to hold the Editor-in-Chief title at her college newspaper and a few years later the youngest member of the Capitol Press Corps. She's worked at KCRA, CBS 13, KVIE Public Television and was an adjunct faculty member at the CSUS Journalism department. She's also been an Independent Documentary TV Producer since 2002.

Her awards include the 2017 Governors' Award by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and Emmy Awards for pieces on ALS, gangs, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and teen drug addiction. Her most recent Emmy for Program Writer comes from a piece called Searching for Hope – Homeless in Sacramento. The documentary, which has gone viral on YouTube, examines the stories of individuals living on the streets and investigates how city, county, and state governments are working to address the homeless crisis.

"I have had an interest in the topic for a long time," says Mitchell. "I was committed to showing the public the problem up close and personal. We are talking about real people living in these deplorable conditions."

Homelessness is a hot-button issue in Sacramento and one many, including Mitchell feels passionate about. "Everyone deserves a roof over their head and food to eat," states Mitchell matter-of-factly. "We're failing our community if we fail to provide these basic needs. I refuse to stand-by and simply watch. Awareness = Change."

"I learned a great deal about the needs facing our community in terms of the homeless and how very complicated the issue is," she continues. "The statistics are staggering. COVID-19 and the financial fallout from the pandemic is going to have a serious impact. I'm very concerned.

Mitchell's commitment to making her community a better, healthier place extends far beyond a production studio. She has been a tireless leader in Sacramento's fight against HIV/AIDS since the 1980s.

"In 1986 as the AIDS pandemic was unfolding I was assigned by KCRA to develop

(10) Outword Magazine

and produce one HIV/AIDS story a week," Mitchell recalls. "As a straight woman getting involved with people fighting a pandemic called the "Gay Cancer' I realized how important education and prevention was. I became involved with lawmakers and eventually was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation where I stayed five years. That was the beginning of a journey that is forever my calling."

In 1995 Mitchell co-founded the Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) where she serves as board president.

"CCAF was created to fill a void in the Sacramento area," explains Mitchell. "We wanted to help support other service agencies through events and to raise awareness. We've since evolved into an organization focused on education and prevention and supporting college students via our scholarship program. We distribute condoms through our unique condom dispensers and what we make from the sales we invest back into our community. To date, we've raised and given away several hundred thousand dollars in scholarships to college students living with HIV/AIDS."

These programs have a special meaning to Mitchell as they were started after her mother died and are named in her honor: The Helen Veress Mitchell Scholarship Program.

"My mother was an advocate of higher education," says Mitchell. "The CCAF board decided this was a worthwhile endeavor. It's absolutely amazing to see young people succeed. We have dozens of college graduates, BA degrees, MA degrees, PHD students. Most become involved in work helping other people living with HIV/AIDS."

A tireless HIV/AIDS activist Mitchell also blogs for POZ Magazine and also served on the boards of CARES and Harm Reduction Services

"Until we have a cure, we must all remain vigilant," she says adamantly. "That means educating people and providing information and tools for preventing the transmission of the virus. CCAF targets young people on college campuses because they are the demographic primarily impacted. Right now, in the midst of COVID-19, we are working



Joyce, with her two new Emmy Awards. One for writing, which is the most important to her, and one for the Governors' Award. In all, Joyce has eight Emmys.

with various establishments to continue distributing condoms. We don't want to see an explosion of HIV or sexually transmitted diseases."

When reflecting back on her body of work and a future where the world faces even greater struggles, Mitchell is determined to use her voice and resources to make it brighter.

"I believe we all have a part to make this world a little bit of a better place. I specialize professionally in social cause issues because I have access to airwaves. I often tackle the topics no one else wants to produce. They are

difficult and each one takes a piece of me and my heart. I will never forget some of the faces of people I interview. The hardships they experience—yet the display of courage exhibited with their willingness to share their stories—always overwhelms me. I must do a good job in order to best honor and represent these heroes. I am the conduit. It's the people who share their stories that continue to inspire me"

"If I am able to move a tiny grain of sand on a beach and make a difference, mission accomplished," says Mitchell.





Documentary Fever Grips America

By Chris Narloch

Tith most movie theaters closed, studios are making an endless slate of dud drover. endless slate of dud dramas and crappy comedies, like "The Kissing Booth 2" and "Fatal Affair," available for home viewing.

As a result, desperate quarantined viewers are increasingly turning to true-life tales such as "Tiger King," "The Last Dance," and "Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich" to entertain themselves.

Many people rely on word of mouth for streaming recommendations, but -- unless you really trust your friends' taste in film -- I recommend using the Rotten Tomatoes website before watching any Netflix Original movie, which are often bad.

While their own feature films are hit-andmiss on Netflix, the streaming service offers an endless array of dynamite documentaries, such as "Mucho Mucho Amor," which I recently enjoyed.

Read on for my reviews of that film and "Welcome to Chechnya," a superb documentary currently available on HBO, another great place to watch terrific true

Welcome to Chechnya

Now that same-sex marriage is the law of the land in the United States, it's easy to forget that many other countries still routinely persecute LGBTQ folks. "Welcome to Chechnya" pulls back the curtain on the dire situation in the Chechen Republic, where gays are currently being purged.

This is an edge-of-your-seat documentary that at times plays like a tense thriller, as a brave team of heroes attempts to rescue at-risk men and women from potential abduction and torture. Fasten your seat belt, and don't miss "Welcome to Chechnya."

Mucho Mucho Amor: The Legend of Walter Mercado

Like "Welcome to Chechnya," this



Welcome to Chechnya

fascinating doc has a well-deserved 100% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, and that is not surprising given the enormous affection for the late Walter Mercado, who died in November of last year.

I had never heard of Mercado before watching this film and was amazed to learn of his enormous fame as an astrology superstar from Puerto Rico. Obviously queer, but not openly gay, Mercado was as effeminate and flamboyant as Liberace and loved to wish everyone "mucho, mucho

Mercado's mismanagement of his finances is a cautionary tale of what not to do when you're rich and famous, but most of the movie is a loving tribute to his bizarre persona and his cult-like popularity.



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A Dream Realized — Mortgage Pay Off

T's an American Dream to be able to buy a home and eventually pay off the mortgage. According to Forbes (July 26, 2019), 37% of Americans pay off their mortgages, mostly older baby boomers. Anne Fenkner wanted to be one of those that actually owned their home outright. She bought her bungalow in 1992 and it was a stretch from the beginning. Anne still lived paycheck to paycheck. There were a lot of in-home meals, and scraping by with used furniture, appliances and do-it yourself projects. She knew she needed help and did the right thing seeking professional advice on how to get off the path of struggling and on a path of financial stability.

Anne worked with Stacey Powell of the Finance Gym to find out ways to save, manage her money more efficiently, address her feelings around money and success, and get her on a path to financial freedom. With Stacey's workbook "The Finance Gym Action Plan for a Better Life with Money: Don't just know better. Do better. Second Ed." Anne did better. She worked through the book, met by phone once a month with a group of people with similar goals of accessing financial freedom, and succeeded in finding financial stability. She felt good about her path and plans. She reached a point where the only thing left to improve her path was to improve her income and so Anne went out and found a new job that still provided her food for her soul as well as a better wage to attack the financial goals for her future, including paying off her mortgage, buying a new car, funding her retirement, and philanthropy - giving back to our community. With her new job and the help of Amanda Johnson at Ameriprise, she fine-tuned her budget, financial goals and

On July 7, 2020, Anne turned 55. She celebrated the beautiful line-up of numbers

with paying off her mortgage and having a joyful socially distanced Mortgage Payoff Parade. Friends and family masked up, dressed up, and marched a mile to Wells Fargo to cheer Anne on as she walked in her last mortgage payment (she has walked in every payment for the last 12 years). On top of paying off her mortgage, she also made a commitment to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center Capitol Campaign to help the Center pay down its new mortgage. Anne feels that the financial wisdom from her advisors has helped her feel less stressed, more confident and, most importantly, she feels like she has options. Cheers to Anne and her financial success!

Anne would like to thank the following LGBT businesses and Business Allies for their support in making the Mortgage Payoff Parade memorable and fabulous!

Wells Fargo Stacey Powell, The Finance Gym Fred Palmer, Outword Magazine Amanda Johnson, Ameriprise Bella Catering Burley Beverages Good Jo Coffee Accordion by Michael Zampiceni



Anne Fenkner thanks parade-goers who joined her to celebrate her final mortgage payment at a Wells Fargo branch in Sacramento, where employees also honored her accomplishment.







Anne Fenkner welcomes friends and family to her home for a post-parade party after their mile-long trek to a Wells Fargo branch for her final mortgage payment.



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SFGMC Will Sing Out Virtually In "Crescendo: Voices Rising"

rts organizations are becoming increasingly creative with their online offerings, and I have no doubt that San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) will wow us with their reimagined (and free!) Crescendo Gala this month.



While the venue will be "virtual," the excitement, celebration, and togetherness will be delivered with SFGMC-realness, honoring community strength and visibility, while also sustaining SFGMC and their youth outreach programs.

With "Crescendo: Voices Rising," an online take on their annual gala, SFGMC will recognize Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award-winning actor, producer, and advocate Billy Porter and philanthropist

and human rights activist Ariadne Getty.

The evening will also feature performances and appearances from special guests Alex Newell, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, the Getty Family, Ken McNeely, Wilson Cruz, and of course SFGMC, as well as an announcement of the chorus's Season 43 programming.

"Crescendo: Voices Rising" will sing out on Monday, August 17 at 7 p.m. Registration is free at www.sfgmc.org/crescendo.

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Jane, Judy & JLo On Blu-ray

By Chris Narloch

Paying \$30 to watch the new "Mulan" on Disney Plus this September 4 because that premium price is too rich for my blood. I wouldn't even pay that much to see a 3D movie in an IMAX Theatre.

I realize that Disney needs to recoup their investment in that \$200 million movie, but for a single person like myself \$30 to stream one film amounts to price gouging.

Lord only knows when indoor theaters will reopen in Sacramento. While we wait, the West Wind drive-in in Rancho Cordova continues to pack 'em in, especially on Tuesday night Family Nights, when admission is reduced to just \$5.50 per person.

Most of the films playing at the drive-in are vintage titles, and I recently caught a cool double bill of "The Wizard of Oz" and Disney's live-action version of "Beauty and the Beast" at the West Wind.

When there is nothing good at the drive-in and I need my movie fix, it's back to Netflix or my vast library of physical DVDs, which I still order (even in the age of streaming) because I enjoy all of the interviews and special features included.

Speaking of DVDs, four fun Blu-rays were recently released by the Warner Archive Collection and are reviewed below.

Sunday in New York

This breezy rom-com from 1963 is all but forgotten now, but it was one of Jane Fonda's earliest big-screen efforts and is the highest-rated film of her entire career according to critics on Rotten Tomatoes.

"Sunday in New York" is hopelessly dated in its sexual politics by today's standards, but if you can get past that fact, what you have is a sexy, funny comedy about an innocent virgin (Fonda) who heads to the Big Apple to escape her horny fiancé and winds up falling in love with someone else.

Girl Crazy

The late, great Judy Garland has been enjoying a renaissance since Renee

Zellweger won and Oscar for playing her in "Judy." This super-fun, 1943 musical is one in a series of movies that Garland made with Mickey Rooney, her pint-sized partner in at least eight movies.

Rooney plays a teenaged playboy who is sent to a western mining school by his father, only to fall for the feisty daughter of the dean (Garland). "Girl Crazy" is the second film version of the Broadway hit, and it features great music by George and Ira Gershwin and co-direction by Busby Berkeley.

Strike Up The Band

Yet another teaming of Garland and Rooney, "Strike Up The Band" was solely directed by the genius Busby Berkeley and features a corny plot in which Judy and Mickey put on a show to raise the entrance money for a competition being held in Chicago by orchestra leader Paul Whiteman. Despite the thin storyline, this 1940 musical is a charmer, thanks to Garland, Rooney, Whiteman, and Berkeley.

Selena

Jennifer Lopez struck gold in her first big hit from 1997 as the late Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, who was murdered in 1995 by the president of her fan club. Lopez had made other movies, but the role of Selena was a perfect fit for her triplethreat talents.

"Selena" is a pretty standard musicalbiopic with a tragic ending, but it is elevated by Lopez's sizzling star turn and by sensitive direction from Gregory Nava and excellent supporting performances from Edward James Olmos and Lupe Ontiveros.

For more information on all four of these Blu-rays, please visit www.wbshop.com/warnerarchive.



Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney star in "Strike Up The Band."



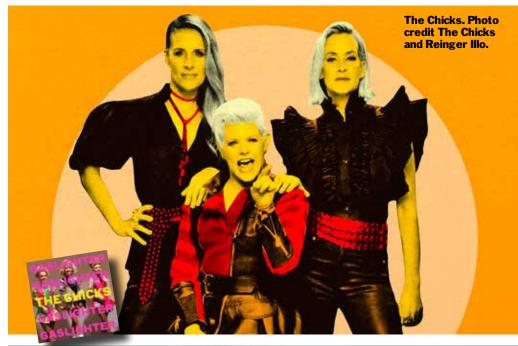
Jane Fonda and Cliff Robertson star in "Sunday in New York."



Judy and Mickey re-team in "Girl Crazy."



Jennifer Lopez stars in "Selena"







Country Kings & Country Queens

By Chris Narloch

For years I was a closet country music fan, especially at my suburban high school in the '70s, where it was not considered cool to like country. Now that I'm middle-aged, I don't care what anyone thinks, and so I am out and proud in my love of all things country.

Well, maybe not all things country. I am not overly fond of Bro-country bands like Florida Georgia Line, but I love most of the women of country and more than a few of the men too. Read on for my reviews of the finest new country music CDs.

The Chicks - Gaslighter

My favorite country band ever is back after a long break with their first album of new music in fourteen years. That is cause for celebration, especially with all the talented trio went through after they were banned from country radio following lead singer Natalie Maines' controversial comments about George W. Bush in 2003.

With a new name (The Chicks are now Dixie-free) and a new musical direction (more pop-rock than country), this great band lets it all hang out lyrically, with a bunch of raw songs on the subject of Maines' contentious divorce from actor Adrian Pasdar.

Like her formerly country 'sister' Taylor Swift, Maines isn't afraid to take down an ex, and "Sleep at Night," "Everybody Loves You," "My Best Friend's Weddings," "Tights on My Boat," "Hope It's Something Good," "Set Me Free," and the CD's title track seem to specifically address Maines' split.

The other half of "Gaslighter" is just as strong, including the perfectly timed protest song "March March," the fun feminist anthem "Julianna Calm Down," and the lovely, lovelorn lyric of "Texas Man."

Whatever they call themselves, The Chicks are welcome in my record collection any day, and I want to give a quick shout-out to my buddy Jeff Byers and his buddy Jim Fitzpatrick for turning me on to the hot pink vinyl versions of "Gaslighter" at Target, some of which were stamped Dixie Chicks and must have been pressed before the band's name change. (I may have a collectible on my hands thanks to Jim and Jeff.)

Sara Evans – Copy That

There are many wonderful new country

queens on the scene, from Ashley McBryde and Margo Price to Kalie Shorr, but I don't have room to write about everybody so I chose to devote this space to the latest CD by Sara Evans, one of my favorite veteran country queens.

Sadly, Evans, who is 49 now, doesn't get played much on country radio anymore, but her voice is as big and beautiful as ever, and this eclectic collection of cover songs includes such surprisingly successful selections as Yvonne Elliman's "If I Can't Have You," Kenny Loggins' "Whenever I Call You Friend," Carole King's "It's Too Late," The Knack's "My Sharona," and even "Come on Eileen" by Dexys Midnight Runners.

Brett Eldredge - Sunday Drive

This is the fifth studio album by one of my favorite country hunks, the very handsome Brett Eldredge, whose voice is as beautiful as the rest of him.

Thankfully, the singer doesn't write about beer or boats like many of his fellow kings of country, and I appreciate his soulful vocals and lyrics.

The CD's title track is a wonderful, heart-tugging tribute to his parents' love for each other, and I also enjoyed the album's first track ("Where The Heart Is") and first single ("Gabrielle").

Jason Isbell - Reunions

Another terrific male artist, Jason Isbell also eschews Bro-country bullshit in favor of a gritty alt-country sound that includes elements of Americana and rock music.

"Reunions" is his seventh studio album, and it was released first in independent record stores in early May of this year, to give small businesses a boost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

That should give you an idea of what a good guy Isbell is, and "Reunions" is one of his strongest discs, with standout tracks such as "It Gets Easier" and "What've I Done to Help?" offering further proof of the depth of Isbell's songwriting and musicianship.







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For 25 years, we have helped connect and maintain our community.

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

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

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

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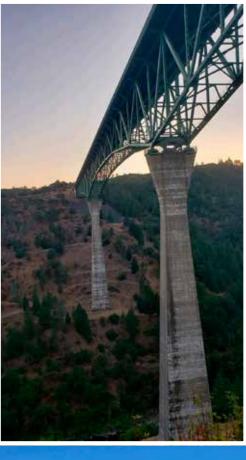
What's in your phone's camera?

No contest, no themes, just 6-8 pictures you have taken since March of 2020 that you would like to share with our readers. PG or tamer, please. Be in our next issue, email pics to graphics@outwordmagazine.com

photos by Jayne Moore



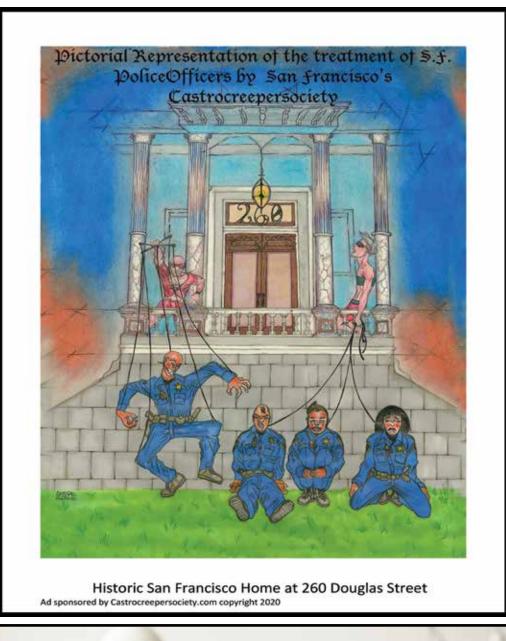


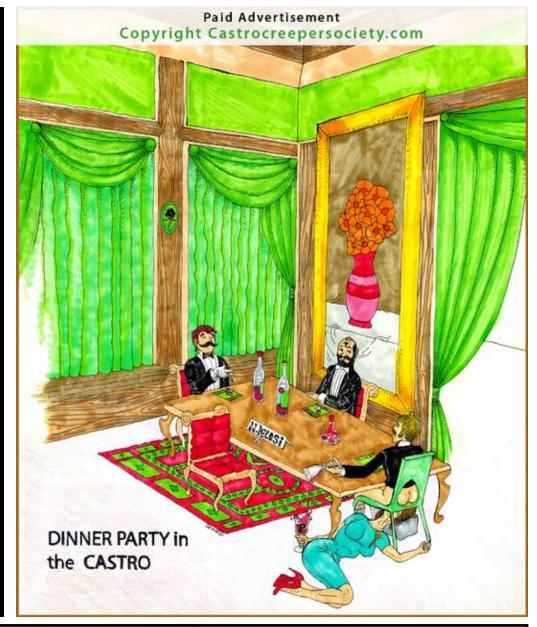












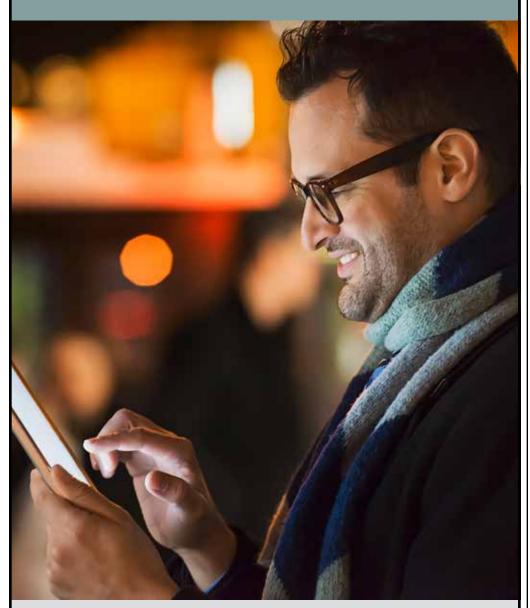


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Capital Dance Project Announces Digital Dance Series by Chris Narloch

acramento's Capital Dance Project (CDP) recently announced their first ever CDP Digital Series: Made in Sacramento, which will bring exciting new works to the community in new and reimagined ways - safely, on film.



CDP Digital Series: Made in Sacramento brings 11 new creations to viewers at home, available online for free. Choreographed and performed by CDP artists, and in collaboration with filmmaker Brandon Manning, the series celebrates the Sacramento community with featured local artists, musicians, and city landmarks.

Biweekly releases of the short films begin August 26, followed by a special full viewing event on October 2, 2020. You can also follow CDP on social media for details and behind the scenes peeks at the creative

For more information about the free online dance series, or to donate to CDP, please visit www.capitaldanceproject.org.



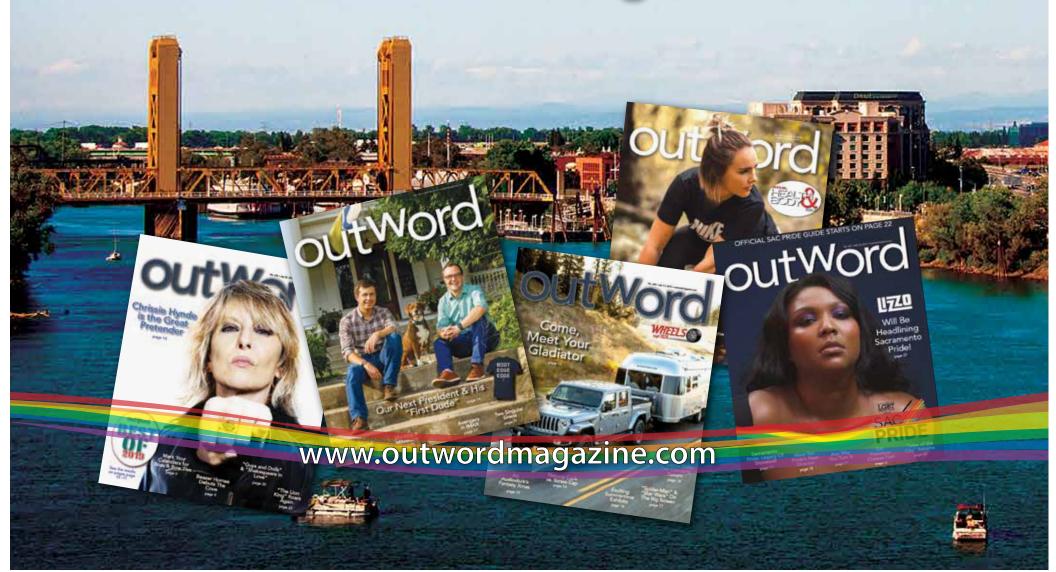
66 Tt was the pleasure of, and a blessing for the Capitol City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence- The Abbey of the Divine Light to hold our great "Mask-Up" event to raise funds for the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund! The funds will be used to support students applying as part of the RCC Healthcare Scholarship category. We wanted to recognize the fantastic work the RCC does in building and supporting our local community, especially during these challenging times. We want to thank everyone who participated in the event, purchased masks and came out to support our amazing community. We would like to specifically recognize the hard work of the *Outword* staff, the Kennedy Gallery, and Sheilagh McCafferty with Sacramento Costumers; without their support and gracious contributions, this event would not have been as successful.

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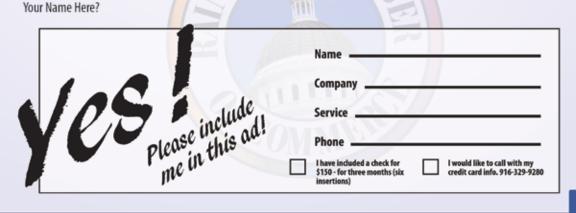
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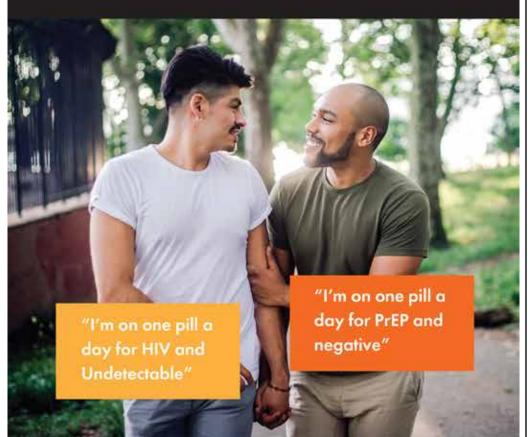
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Michael Franti, Los Lobos & More At Stern Grove Festival

By Chris Narloch

Stern Grove Festival, which continues to fulfill its mission to make high-quality, free musical performances accessible for all, will celebrate the conclusion of their 83rd season with a one-hour special featuring exclusive, newly-recorded performances from Michael Franti, Los Lobos, Ben Gibbard, Bebel Gilberto, Fantastic Negrito featuring Tarriona "Tank" Ball, ALO and Con Brio.

The Best of the Fest finale, hosted by TV and radio personality and season emcee Liam Mayclem, will be televised on KPIX-TV/CBS on Sunday, August 16 at 4 p.m., and simultaneously on the Festival's Facebook page, where Mayclem will host a Watch Party.

The Festival created "Best of the Fest" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the moratorium on large gatherings. The nine-week series of video playlists, featuring performances and historic footage from its archives, began on

Sunday, June 14, and has garnered a significant audience on KPIX-TV and its sister station KBCW 44/Cable 12.

By offering these performances free to the public -- thanks to a generous challenge grant -- donations from individuals this summer will be matched, helping the organization to continue its mission.

Festival fans and supporters who are looking for ways to support the Festival can donate online at sterngrove.org/support/. Please visit sterngrove.org for more information.







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