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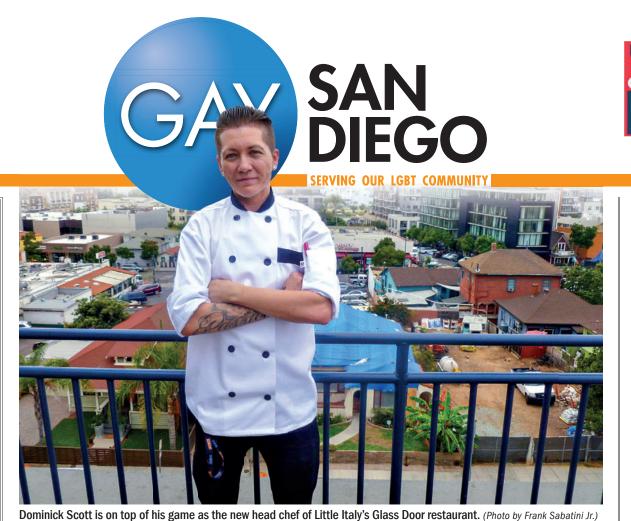
FILMOUT

Filmmaker inspired by drag

DINING

An exquisite French brunch

THEATER



Dominick Scott is on top of his game as the new head chef of Little Italy's Glass Door restaurant. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Cooking in transition

The personal and professional triumphs of a rising chef

By Frank Sabatini Jr.

In an industry dominated by men, Dominick Scott knows what it's like climbing the culinary ladder as a woman.

Before recently landing the position as head chef at The Glass Door, located on the fourth floor of Little Italy's Porto Vista Hotel, the 31-year-old Serra Mesa resident identified as female.

"I lived as a girl my whole life and was uncomfortable with it, but never really shared that with family or friends — nobody," said Scott, adding that in his early teens he would dress up in his brother's clothes when family members weren't home

What he saw in the mirror seemed natural.

"Even if it was just for an hour, it felt like I should be a male," he recalled. "But I never knew back then a female could transition to a male."

At age 17, Scott came out as a lesbian. Although several years later, after seeing a YouTube video about female-tomale (FTM) transitions, he became determined to eventually make the journey.

Scott secured health insurance more than a year ago and immediately began the process through hormone therapy. He has since changed his name from Nikkole to Dominick; listed his gender as "male" on Facebook; and has attended Trans Pride events, despite his disinterest in politics.

see Chef pg 12

Design stage for AIDS memorial

Photo Feature Page 18

Community asked to take part in design of the 'lasting tribute' to those lost

Morgan M. Hurley | Editor

The San Diego AIDS Memorial, meant as a "lasting tribute" to the 8,000 San Diegans who have been lost to AIDS, just got a lot closer to reality.

On Monday, Aug. 28, the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force committee, co-chaired by City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez and Katherine Faulconer, had a community meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Bankers Hill.

In addition to Ramirez and Faulconer, those in attendance from the committee included Rabbi Laurie Coskey, CEO of United Way in San Diego; the Very Rev. Penny Bridges, dean of St. Paul's; Terry Cunningham, chairman of the county

see AIDS Memorial pg 2

An infectious 'Hamlet' at the Globe



MUSIC



Kesha pens a letter to the gays

Kicking and dodging in San Diego

Registration for Varsity Gay League's fall seasons about to start

Morgan M. Hurley | Editor

Since the 1950s, gay bars have been not only a haven of safety and security for LGBT persons, but also a destination in every city where people within the LGBT community could meet other like-minded people, socialize with friends and maybe even find a life partner.

A decade ago, Will Hacker decided to create a social experience outside of the bars; something else that could bring LGBT people together in a fun, satisfying way and involve exercise, too.

"For so long, my entire social life and circle was built around going out, dancing, attempting to meet guys — and usually failing — and drinking," Hackner said. "While it's fun once in a while, it never felt fulfilling in any way, shape or form."

One day, Hackner, who lives in Los Angeles, planned a game of "capture the flag" with a few friends and after word of mouth spread, 50 people showed up.

"I realized I wasn't alone; others were also looking for



One of Varsity Gay League's San Diego dodgeball teams, Pride Kitties, enjoying their sport. (Courtesy Pride Kitties)

other ways to have fun and bond in our wonderful LGBT community," he said.

As a result, Hackner launched Varsity Gay League, a recreational sports organization geared toward the LGBT community.

Now celebrating their 10th anniversary, that afternoon pickup game with friends has grown to six states (California, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, Oregon and Colorado) and offers a half-dozen types of sports themes, including kickball,

dodgeball, flag football, tennis, bowling and beach volleyball. Kickball is the most popular, and is played in every city that participates in each of the six states.

One topic Hackner does not play games with is gender.

"Most recreational sports organizations ... have gender requirements, a certain amount of women on a team, or men on a team," he said. "I've never subscribed to the notion of gender inequality in sports. Certainly men are more muscular and bigger in general, so

they might be able to throw a ball harder, or kick a ball with more strength, but that never equates to winning. I've seen all-women teams dominate as much as all-men teams. It comes down to skill, passion and respect."

Varsity Gay League got its start in San Diego in 2015.
Long known for its myriad of popular LGBT sports leagues — including flag football, softball, basketball, tennis and bowling— San Diego did not prove to be a competitive market to Hackner, because he's not looking to disrupt an already avid sports town.

'When we go into a new city, our first goal is to fill the voids that exist," he said. "From there, we'll look at what we can provide based on the player's demands. While we are a business, we operate with the nonprofit mindset of providing a positive impact in the community and want to bring additional support to the sports world, whether it's Varsity Gay League or San Diego LGBT flag football, softball or a pickup game of Frisbee. Community is what is central to us, and to have a community you need respect, support and kindness."

see Varsity pg 17

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San Diego Community News Network

FROM PAGE 1 AIDS MEMORIAL

HIV Health Services Planning Council; Jim Cassidy, representative of Being Alive San Diego; Carolina Ramos, representative of the San Diego LGBT Community Center; and former Assemblymember Jeff Marston.

Others on the committee but unable to attend included Susan Jester, Jim Lennox, Jimmy Ramsey, Carole Norman, Shannon Wagner, Ben Dillingham, Dr. Delores Jacobs, Jay Sheehan and Diana Schmid.

Ramirez gave a quick summary from a historical perspective on the memorial, and while an AIDS memorial in San Diego is something he said he has been pushing for decades, the official task force has been in place for approximately two years and progress and plans have been made. He said that the task force expects to break ground within the next 18 months.

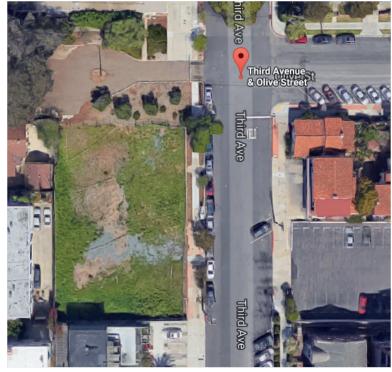
So despite several months of community concerns and push back, the location of the memorial has been set; it will be built as part of the Olive Street Park development — a half-acre plot of land at the intersection of Third Avenue and Olive Street, on the eastern edge of Maple Canyon in Bankers Hill. The location was donated to the city in 1909 with the stipulation that it would be used as a park, but it

had never been developed until earmarked for this cause.

Ramirez read aloud a letter from District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward, who is in full support of the memorial and its location at Olive Street Park.

A second letter, delivered to Faulconer in advance of the meeting, was from Assemblymember Todd Gloria. Gloria, who has been a champion of the AIDS memorial, re-emphasized his support in the letter and offered some historical context. Faulconer paraphrased the letter but did not read in full.

"During the process of the sale [of Truax House], we identified Olive Street Park to be the most fitting location for the AIDS memorial for numerous reasons, including



An aerial view of the future location of the Olive Street Park, which will also house an AIDS memorial. (Google)

its proximity and connection to Maple Canyon and the Truax House," Gloria stated. "Most importantly, Olive Street Park remains the most suitable location for the AIDS memorial because of its open public access."

With the location determined, the main point of the community meeting on Aug. 28 was to alert the public that the task force is now taking ideas for the design phase of the memorial.

After reading the letters of support, the task force summarized the process for submitting ideas for the design of the AIDS memorial and the surrounding park, and directed those in attendance to bit.ly/sdaidsmemorial.

Then they opened the meeting up for public comment. While 12 community members signed up, only 10 took to the podium to share their support or concerns. Those who spoke included Michael Lochner, Dawn Marie Tol, Rory Curz, Tom Kirkman, Eddie Reynoso, Charles Kaminski, Mat Wahlstrom, Roy McMakin, Aime Hayes and Leo Wilson.

Every speaker started their comments thanking the task force for their efforts in getting a memorial in place. Several who spoke identified themselves as AIDS survivors and were emotional while delivering their remarks and concerns. All speakers underlined the need for a "peaceful place for reflection."

"This memorial is incredibly important to me and it is incredibly important to our history and our community," said Curz, who stood alongside large printed versions of his proposed design. "... For many of us, we have no place to mourn our loved ones."

One concern brought forward by several speakers was the location's lack of easy access for seniors; another speaker implored the task force to make use of the corner of the property that overlooks Maple Canyon and incorporate it into the area of reflection; and another speaker encouraged them to import cherry trees from the original AIDS Memorial in Vancouver, Canada, for inclusion in the design.

Two speakers who identified themselves to be in the

architectural industry both asked that those on the committee overseeing the competition for the final design have some type of design and/or architecture experience.

Bankers Hill Community
Group president Amie Hayes
said she reiterated some of the
issues the group outlined in
a letter sent to the task force,
copying Councilmember Chris
Ward and Leo Wilson of the
Uptown Planners. Hayes stated that while the group, which
is comprised of residents of
Bankers Hill, are in support
of the AIDS memorial, they
do not support it being built in
Bankers Hill.

"For a number of reasons, including the neighborhood's current parking deficit, no proposed restrooms or facilities, and the programming of a tot lot also proposed for this site, the BHCG strongly believes the AIDS memorial warrants a more respectful and accessible location, where restrooms and parking are available, especially for those coming to see a regional monument," Hayes said, reading from the letter. "Further, this park site was originally comprised of a Craftsman house, and is too small for multiple programs and large gatherings of people.'

Those with ideas, plans or designs for the AIDS memorial are requested to submit them via online form at bit.ly/sdaidsmemorial.

Access to the form will end on Friday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m. Submissions are not to be anonymous, as the submitter's name and email are required to process the form. A detailed description of your idea is requested, and up to 10 files can be uploaded via the form.

The website also suggests that the design of the memorial could be buffered by landscaping, walkways or other features, and that the plans also call for a "tot lot" on the same property as the memorial, based on community input.

To read background on the project, written by Ken Williams, editor of our sister-paper San Diego Uptown News, visit bit.ly/2qsPR1y.

—Morgan M. Hurley can be reached at morgan@sdcnn.com.





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Popping his cherry

Drag queens inspire young filmmaker's first movie

Ken Williams | Contributing Editor

Born and raised in the Middle East, Assaad Yacoub didn't have any exposure to the bedazzled world of drag queens. It wasn't until he moved to the United States seven years ago that the young filmmaker learned about the courageous men who strap it up, tuck it under, and don glamorous gowns and tall wigs to create the outlandish female characters that entertain us in clubs, on television and at the movies.

It was love at first sight. Yacoub decided his first film had to be about drag queens. His short film "Cherry Pop" won accolades at film festivals in 2014 and 2015, so Yacoub decided to do a full-length version, which debuted in 2016.

The "Cherry Pop" movie will be presented by FilmOut San Diego on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Landmark Hillcrest Cinema. Tickets are \$10 at filmoutsandiego.com or at the door.

Yacoub said he plans to attend the screening and participate in a Q&A session with the audience.

"Cherry Pop" takes place on one eventful night at a local drag bar.

A handsome newcomer (played by Lars Berge) is shunned by a bunch of backstabbing drag queens, played



(I to r) Miguel Sagaz, Mayhem Miller, Tempest DuJour, Detox Icunt and Allusia Alusia star in "Cherry Pop" coming to FilmOut San Diego (Courtesy of cherrypopfilm.com)

by Caldwell Tidicue (aka Bob the Drag Queen), Tempest Dujour, Mayhem Miller, Detox Icunt, Misty Violet, Allusia Alusia and Miguel Sagaz.

Adding to the story line dramatics is "drag legend" Zaza (Patrick Holt), who is in mourning, not only because of the death of her beloved, but also her final show as a performer.

Inspired by the art of drag, "Cherry Pop" has been a labor of love. Here are five questions with Assaad Yacoub:

1. How did a young man who hails from the Middle East end up making a movie about drag queens, and whenand wheredid you seeyour firstdrag show?

I was born in Dubai [United Arab Emirates] but I'm Lebanese. I moved to New York City when I was 20. I had never been to America before that, and that's where I saw my first drag show at The Stonewall Inn. I was so intrigued and impressed with what I saw that I knew I had to give this community a voice.



The young filmmaker will be on hand for a Q&A at the Sept. 13 screening. (Courtesy Assaad Yacoub)

That's how "Cherry Pop" all started.

2. How did a young director get so lucky to get such talented drag queens for the movie, and were they divas on the set? Where did you find Lars Berge and why did he get cast as the "cherry"?

I wouldn't call it lucky; it was more like persistent. [laughs] I met Bob the Drag Queen in New York City six years ago and cast him in the short version of "Cherry Pop," so Bob was already attached to the project.

Allusia Alusia introduced me to Detox and I basically harassed her to be in my movie. Magnus Hastings (Photographer) linked me to Latrice and she brought Tempest on board. I found Allusia, Misty and Mayhem at The Abbey [West Hollywood, California] drag show. Miguel, who plays Choriza, came to the table read to fill in for the part and killed it, so that's how he got the role.

No one was a diva on set! It was one of the most fun sets I've ever been on. The girls are all pretty close to each other.

Lars got involved with the project from my friend, Dina Shihabi, who plays his fiancé in the movie. They both studied acting in New York City. After meeting him, I asked if he would be interested in reading for the Cherry character, and after the first read-through I knew I had found my Cherry.

3. How have audiences responded to "Cherry Pop" and do they react differently in different parts of the country and the world?

The responses I've been getting at the screenings have been amazing. People are really receiving the movie well. The biggest difference I noticed is that in every city, different jokes work better,but overall it's been a positive reaction.

4. What are the challenges to making LGBT movies, the gamut from financing to casting?

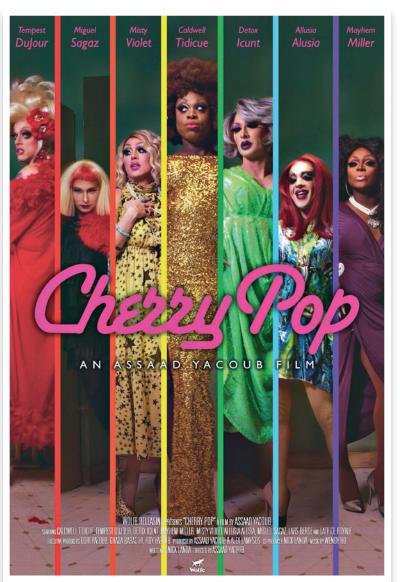
The biggest challenge I faced when making "Cherry Pop" was getting people to believe [the project] was actually happening. I live in Hollywood and the queens are constantly approached by people wanting to work with them on so many different things; but most of the time, the projects fall through.

I don't blame people for having reservations that this 25-year-old was actually going to make the "Cherry Pop" movie happen. Once the ball started rolling and we were on set, that's when it all sank in that this movie was actually happening.

5. What are you working on next?

I am currently working on a TV adaptation of the movie and excited to start pitching it around. Also working on a few music videos with some of the RuPaul girls.

—Ken Williams is a contributing editor of Gay San Diego and can be reached at ken@ sdcnn.com or at 619-961-1952. He is a volunteer board member of FilmOut San Diego, serving as film and media relations director.▼







GAY SAN DIEGO Sept.1 — 14, 2017



Numbers San Diego will be closing Sept. 10 and lots of final celebrations are planned. (Facebook)



A farewell to 'Numb3rs'

Back Out with Benny Ben Cartwright



In the May edition of this column, I wrote about the importance of "our bars, connecting and community." I discussed why LGBT bars continue to be very important spaces for the community; as safe places to gather, socialize, connect, and raise funds and support for important issues. And every time we lose one of these spaces, it feels like a piece of our community is lost.

It was just announced that Numbers San Diego, a nightclub on Park Boulevard on the border of Hillcrest and North Park, will close permanently on Sept. 10.

For at least 20 years, Numbers has served as a place for the community to dance, drink, socialize, learn, and raise funds for numerous causes. The club, which includes two separate rooms, has probably played host to the most diverse line-up of events in town, including Latin nights, Club Sabbat gothic night, Bear Night, harness/kink nights, drag shows and so much more. I personally have attended countless ceremonies, pageants, and even a local horror film festival at Numbers.

In fact, tonight [Sept. 1], in the club's second-to-last weekend, one side of the building will feature the popular Latinthemed "Tropical Nights" with the Manny Cepeda Orquestra, while the other room will have a special event called "Diaper Palooza" — which speaks to the diversity of events that happen in this space.

As the world and tastes change, it is unlikely that a space like Numbers will ever exist again.

In the time since I've been over age 21, I've seen numerous LGBT bars and clubs close in San Diego, and it hurts equally, each time. I remember attending closing night parties for spaces like Universal, Eden, and 1202 (those three were all in the same location that now partially houses Gossip Grill), along with Bacchus House, Bourbon Street, Wolf's (which eventually became Re-Bar before closing permanently and becoming the current Bluefoot), Top of the Park, and Club Montage (now Spin). Each of these places were special in their own way, and each played a unique role in the community.

While we're lucky to still have a fairly vibrant LGBT nightlife scene in San Diego with thriving spaces like Rich's, Urban MO's, Babycakes, Flicks, Pecs, The Caliph, and many more, our options for places to gather as a community continues to dwindle.

Some suggest that it's part of the evolution of our equality, arguing that there is less need for LGBT bars as "we can go anywhere now."

Unfortunately, as legal protections are extended to our community (at least in the state of California), it's clear in the current political climate that there are people all over the

country — including in San Diego — who would rather LGBT folks not exist. Until the day when hatred disappears are not for LGBT spaces is important and necessary.

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I'm sad to see Numbers go — where else will I be able to dance to a Cuban band on one side, and then hop over to a sweaty kink party on the other side? I greatly appreciate the contributions this important, yet underrated, night spot made to our community, and am very grateful to its friendly staff, management, and owner Nicholas Moede, for keeping the doors open as long as they could.

In its final days, Numbers will host several of its regular events, including Tropical Nights on Friday, Sept. 1, Bear Night on Saturday, Sept. 2, and Noche Romantica con Daisy Salinas on Sunday, Sept. 3.

Keep an eye on Facebook for information about closing weekend celebrations.

If you've never been to Numbers before, or haven't been in awhile, be sure to stop by to say goodbye and please continue to support our LGBT establishments so that we continue to have many options to choose from for years to come.

Getting out with Benny

AIDS Walk & Run San Diego fundraising season is in full swing and a number of team fundraisers have been announced. The Center's Young Professionals Council, who are currently in the top 10 team ranking, are hosting their third annual Bubbles & Cupcakes fundraiser on Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 6-8 p.m. at Babycakes. Guests will be treated to complimentary champagne and cupcakes with \$10 suggested donation, or by signing up to participate on YPC's AIDS Walk team. Visit bit.ly/2x69ulw.

Everyone is welcome to The Center on the first Wednesday of each month for GGG Game & Trivia Night! The evening includes the opportunity to choose from hundreds of board games, or jump into the Live Team Trivia, hosted by John Lockhart. A donation of \$5 is suggested for admission, and there is plenty of snacks, pizza, wine, beer, and soft drinks. The next GGG is Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 6–8:30 p.m. at The Center. Visit bit. ly/2x6ec2M.

Homelessness continues to be one of the most pressing issues facing San Diego, and urban neighborhoods like Hillcrest are particularly affected by it. The Hillcrest Town Council will host its September Community Meeting on Tuesday Sept 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. with a conversation on strategies to address homelessness, featuring Councilmember Chris Ward. Everyone is welcome to come and hear Councilmember Ward's plans to address the problem and plenty of time will be allocated for questions. Visit bit.ly/2vKJ8kw.

—Benny Cartwright is the director of community outreach at the San Diego LGBT Community Center. He can be reached at 619-692-2077 ext. 106 or outreach@thecentersd. org. Note: Byline photo by Rob Lucas Modern Aperture Photography.▼

Addressing hate

North County Update

Max Disposti

The white supremacist violence and terrorist attack that recently erupted in Charlottesville is the latest in a rising tide of racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Semitism, and anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment.

While manifestations of racism and racist violence are not new to this country, this emerging and visible display of hate has reached a new peak since the last presidential election. In fact, everywhere, old and new racists are demagogically emerging within the space of freedom of speech provided by the Constitution. They are claiming a space for "opinion" and found that this new administration can easily harbor their

There are many ways to denounce the domestic terrorist attack we witnessed, but one of them IS NOT to generally denounce violence.

Generic statements of anti-violence sentiments are not the answer that will shine a light over the darkness of racism, or bring respect to those that have been killed by racism and injustice. The intent of the white supremacists is to bring attention to themselves and find legitimacy. As if professing the killing of Jews, LGBT and black folks in our country is a conversation that we can have or negotiate about.

Meanwhile, few within the GOP have fought President Trump's refusal to condemn the white supremacist groups that marched with tiki torches and called for racial lynchings; an image we wish had stayed only in the dark pages of our history.

What has changed? Many things, but mostly in the past the KKK were wearing robes, today they are marching right out in the open, unashamedly identifiable and doing press conferences and interviews like any other legitimate political party.

We have allowed this to happen.

While California is not West Virginia, racism and racists

are very well alive and they often thrive when the majority tends to downplay the damage of these interactions and acts of violence. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, California is home to numerous hate groups and major rallies are already organized by white supremacists in different areas.

What can we do? We have so much to do and we can do so much to counter these demonstrations of hate.

As we work to ensure that all LGBTQI people have safe, affirming and loving spaces to define themselves, we must also work to ensure that we are actively combating racism. Whether it's the ugly hate-filled violence we saw in Charlottesville or the micro aggression and daily indignities people of color face, we have a responsibility to do better. We have a responsibility to make sure our leadership positions are fully representative of our diversities.

Let's not only condemn this evident manifestation of racist violence, but also take the time to investigate how racism shows up in our own every day lives, our work, and in our community.

As the executive director of a LGBTQ center, I recommit to ensuring that youth, everyone of all races and ethnicities, have a space at The North County Center to be their full authentic selves. Furthermore, I commit to finding ways to accommodate our queer youth of color in a time when their dignity and identities are being attacked even within our LGBT communities.

I hope you can all join me to make sure that together, we continue to be vigil of the racial divide, aware of the privilege that some of us experience, and commit to initiate conversations whenever possible within and outside our LGBT spaces.

With love and appreciation.

—Max Disposti is a human rights activist, a community organizer and the founder and executive director of the North County LGBTQ Resource Center. He can be reached at maxrome@cox.net.

The new PTSD: President Trump Stress Disorder

Life Beyond Therapy

Michael Kimmel

Traditionally, PTSD has stood for "post traumatic stress disorder." It describes how we may have to tough it out to get through something traumatic (war, rape, bodily harm) and then, when it's over, we typically "collapse" into a big, ole mess. In this after-the-trauma-is-over phase, we let ourselves feel all the feelings that we held inside to just get through the awful experience(s) and survive.

Yesterday, a client asked me, "What do I do about Trump? I still feel anxious and depressed that he's acting like a mad man and shows no signs of improvement."

Two days ago, a friend asked me, "Would you write a column about what we can do until he's gone? I wake up feeling so stressed out that he's the president."

Ask and thou shalt receive.

Living through Trump's reign is like living through a new kind of hell. It is traumatic: it's a new kind of PTSD. And that's where this column came from.

So, what we can do to get through this awful 'President Trump Stress Disorder"? Here are some suggestions:

1. Realize that you're not alone. It's normal to feel anxious with a president like Trump. There's nothing wrong with you: He is crazy.

2. Take action. Do something. Passivity breeds helplessness, and helplessness feels the worst of all. Take your worry, energy and anger and channel it into something constructive.

3. Talk about it, but not too much. You want to vent, but not obsess. Don't fill your mind with too much Trump! That's a sure prescription for depression and anxiety.

4. Go out of your way to focus on what's good in your life. You can't change the government (much), but you can change what you focus your attention on. Whether you write down what you're grateful for and post it on your refrigerator, or you go through your day and periodically remind yourself of what's good in your life, focus on the good stuff: It's the best antidote to the dope in the White House.

As Reverend Carl Bean used to say: "Don't let him (the 'enemy') take away your joy." That would be the ultimate victory for Trump. Don't give it to him.

5. Find balance in your life. If you hear about the latest horrible idea coming from the White House, quickly follow it by thinking about something good in your life: friends, love, pets, Mother Nature, living in a place as beautiful as San Diego, your job (if you have one), your home, etc.

6. Don't give up. I, for one, am optimistic about the politics of younger Americans. In general, I find them to be extremely progressive: Even though Bernie Sanders lost, look at the fervor he ignited for "real change."

According to polling by Frank Luntz, a top GOP pollster, Americans age 18 to 26 are extremely liberal — so liberal, that "the hostility of young Americans to the underpinnings of the American economy and the American government" should "frighten every business and political leader."

Luntz's poll found that young Americans' biggest concerns, in order, are "corruption, greed, and inequality." In response to the question, "Which type of political system do you think is the most compassionate?" 58 percent said socialism, 9 percent said communism, and only 33 percent chose capitalism. Sixty-six percent of the poll's respondents said corporate America "embodies everything that is wrong about America.'

Another source of hope to me in these dark PTSD times are movements like Black Lives Matter (BLM). Despite having no resources other than lots of cellphones with the Twitter app, BLM has done more to blunt police brutality than almost anyone in the past 40 years.

7. Lastly, in these Trumpian times of madness in the White House, be good to yourself and everyone else. Let's all — particularly we communities of color, immigrants, women and LGBTers — hang together or we will surely hang separately, metaphorically or otherwise. And while our current president treats almost everyone horrendously every day, let's show real respect and kindness to each other until — and after — this dark night is over.

-Michael Kimmel is a licensed psychotherapist who specializes in helping LGBT clients achieve their goals and deal with anxiety, depression, grief, sexually addictive behavior, coming out, relationship challenges and homophobia. Contact him at 619-955-3311 or visit lifebeyondtherapy.com.



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Guest Editorial

Delivery services are the answer to San Diego's cannabis problems

By Elizabeth Wilhelm

Looking around our city, you would hardly know that marijuana will be legally sold here starting in January.

Due to delays and inaction by city government, San Diego could be the California city least prepared for legal cannabis retail. This is mainly because there are still around 300 unregulated cannabis delivery services active within the city. Most of them pay regular business taxes, and some do not. None will have a chance at legitimization unless the City Council acts soon.

Currently, the only permits set up are retail licenses for the 15 dispensaries. This leaves out businesses who want to grow, manufacture or distribute in the legal market. Though California state law has established a licensing process for standalone delivery services, the San Diego City Council has not. Council members have decided that delivery services

are not important enough to be heard at their Sept. 11 public meeting, where they will finally vote on issuing permits for all of the other supply-chain business types.

These council members could not be more wrong. The reality is that around 50 percent of all cannabis sales in California are made as delivery orders. It's likely that someone you know has used a cannabis delivery service to obtain medical marijuana.

Delivery services are often depicted as fly-by-night operations, but the truth is that many of us are responsible business owners, stepping up and trying to take every possible step toward legalization. This includes the San Diego Cannabis Delivery Alliance members' current appeal to the City Council, to consider issuing permits for delivery services.

We differ from traditional dispensaries in several ways that directly benefit the community. Most delivery services currently cater to medical marijuana

patients who are homebound because of age, illness, disability or mobility issues.

However, we also support the choice of future recreational consumers to obtain legal cannabis while preserving their privacy and convenience by ordering from a delivery company.

As business owners, we are particularly vulnerable as we wait for the local government to catch up to state law. Jobs, livelihoods and patient welfare are at stake, but we continue to be stigmatized as "illegal businesses" because of the City Council's inability to properly regulate our side of the industry.

that make sense for the community. If the City Council would care to listen, they would learn the difference between a responsible delivery operator and one that is worthy of a police raid.

It's important that we encourage responsible delivery service operators to seek licensing through some type of legal system. Otherwise, the black market for underground cannabis delivery companies will continue to thrive in San Diego.

Voters in San Diego overwhelmingly approved cannabis legalization last

Council members have decided that delivery services are not important enough to be heard at their Sept. 11 public meeting, where they will finally vote on issuing permits for all of the other supply-chain business types.

In addition to helping people in a tangible way, allowing delivery services in San Diego would increase cannabis tax revenue for the city, without putting another dispensary on every street corner.

As we complete the complicated transition from black market to regulation, it's important that we see marijuana business as legitimate business, and recognize the city's responsibility to set up frameworks for legal cannabis

November. Whether responsible adults choose to wait in line at a storefront, or call for private home delivery, is entirely up to them. The City Council's failure to fully recognize this issue of supply and demand is nothing more than old fashioned "reefer madness."

—Elizabeth Wilhelm is president of the San Diego Cannabis Delivery Alliance.

▼

Letters

Mecca of puppy love

[Ref: "The South Park blueberry girls," Vol. 8, Issue 17, or online at bit.ly/2wr4zfv.]

We live across the street from this amazing mecca of puppy love ... moved here a year ago after 22 years in Ocean Beach and a long friendship with the wonderful activists of OB Dog Wash.

Our little Chiweenie loves the folks of South Bark and so do we. We keep our eyes open for sketchy folks and wish our wonderful doggie neighbors safety and prosperity ... go blueberry girls.

-Kat Baldwin, via gay-sd.com

We adore South Bark and one of the many reasons we miss being in South Park so much! So bummed to hear about these break-ins, but warms my heart to see the community rally. Love, love, love that community.

—Alison Hilles Ganz, via Facebook

Honoring Mel Merrill

[Ref: "Community mourns the death of Meldon 'Mel' Merrill," Vol. 8, Issue 17, or online at bit. ly/2vgcqs5.]

Thank you so much for that beautiful written obituary. I have a copy and will frame it and treasure it.

-David Ramos, husband of Mel Merrill, via email

Wonderful piece on Mel, thank you.

-Nicole Murray Ramirez, via email

Carol and piano bars

[Ref: "Carol Curtis: Hillcrest's 'piano wench,' Part One," Vol. 8, Issue 16, or online at bit. ly/2uDcg1; and "Part Two," Vol. 8, Issue 17, or online at bit. ly/2vXRCqc.]

I just wanted to thank you for the great article on Carol in particular, and piano bars in general. It was very thoughtfully detailed, and very interesting to read. So much about not only Carol's history, but the history of the bars I grew up with and loved so much.

I've known Carol since the early days at Bourbon Street, which must be, what -25 years now? So great to relive all those memories. Maybe one of these Mondays, Carol

see Letters, pg 8

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Remembering Mel

Out of the **Archives** Walter Meyer



I told many people, including Mel Merrill himself, that I wanted to download Mel's brain. He knew so much about so much. He was a nuclear engineer in his working life, but he also knew about music, food, and literature, in addition to science. For many of us in San Diego's LGBTQ community, he was a walking archive.

I met Mel years ago at a function of the San Diego Democratic Club, and he seemed a polite, if slightly austere, gentleman. Whenever he spoke, his wicked wit came out; the clever, subtle stabs he could take — many seemed like jokes with time-delayed fuses. He would deliver a line in so deadpan a manner, that it took a moment to get the barb embedded in his droll phrasing.

But it wasn't until I began working at Lambda Archives that I really got to know Mel. He had served on the Archives board and still continued to volunteer in many capacities. When I needed something, I would think, "I could spend eight hours scrounging in hopes of finding this answer ... or I could call or email Mel and have an answer in eight seconds.'

Sometimes it was something simple he could answer over the phone. Other times he would come in to the Archives and help me find items, whether it was a deeply filed document or an archived item about a pivotal person or event in the history of San Diego's LGBTQ community.

As I learned more about our community's history and the collections in the Archives, those calls to Mel became less frequent, but he never made me feel stupid for not knowing something (as many smart people can) and never seemed impatient with my inquiries. He liked sharing what he knew. And in the rare cases where he didn't know, he knew who did and gladly pointed me in the right direction.

In many cases, Mel was part of the history we were researching. He was an early member of the Dem Club (now called the Democrats for Equality), he volunteered on campaigns of LGBTQ candidates, and he founded or was involved in so many community organizations, that it would take several more columns to list them all. When The Center was homeless, he banded together with others to buy a building, which gave them a roof over their heads. He donated time and money to so many good causes, and never in the grand-standing, "Hey, look at

all the great stuff I am doing" sort of way.

Scott Williford, president of the Diversionary Theatre board, posted the following on his Facebook page: "The San Diego LGBT community lost a giant today. Mel Merrill — historian, champion of human rights, and an ever-present storyteller and advocate. Rest in peace dear Mel. Such a wise and elegant man."

At a Lambda Archives event held at Diversionary in 2015, Mel said, "The Argentinian novelist, Jorge Luis Borges, remarked that we all die twice; the first time when the body goes, and the second time when there is no one left to tell your story. Our two organizations exist to tell those stories and we would appreciate your assistance, as donors or members, to continue doing this."

Mel told many stories. When Lambda Archives was preparing to conduct guided walking tours of Hillcrest's neighborhood history, he was one of the first people we reached out to for institutional knowledge of the gayborhood. Mel was San Diego LGBTQ history.

At a recent gathering for the Archives, which Mel and his husband David Ramos held at their home this past December, Mel quoted Winston Churchill: "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it." Mel was concerned that LGBTQ people were usually not treated well in the telling of their stories — he felt history had been selective and often flatout wrong in its depiction of queers.

Mel's devotion to Lambda Archives was based in large part on his desire to make sure our history would be preserved honestly and shared with future generations.

Mel may have died once, but his second death will be a long time coming. Anyone who knew Mel will go on telling his stories for years to come, and his own history will be written faithfully by those who knew him.

-Walter Meyer is the manager of Lambda Archives. Reach him at manager.lambda.archives@gmail.com.



Mel Merrill was called a "walking archive" by Walter Meyer, who called upon his knowledge often. (Photos courtesy Lambda Archives)

LGBTBE certified ... now what?

#LGBTB2B



I have been working with the NGLCC on the LGBTBE certification program since 2005. It seems that no matter how far we have progressed in expanding opportunities for our LGBT business owners, I still hear the frustration in their voices when they say, "Okay, I got certified, so what now?!'

My answer to them is always three-fold:

How do you usually market your business to a new target market?

Can you afford to do it? How do you plan to follow up with your new client base?

No matter what kind of certification you have been awarded (i.e. women owned, minority owned, veteran owned, etc.) the process for rolling out the program is the same. The "Let's Work it!" training modules that I developed for the SDIV SBDC Regional Network LGBTBE certification program address these areas in more detail, but the following is a brief introduction to how you get started.

Step one: Marketing and solicitation

In the supplier diversity procurement world, it is critical to develop a concise and targeted "capability statement." This is the No. 1 marketing tool used to get a buyer's attention, and

lead to your company being further selected for a presentation.

So, what is it?

A capability statement is a business document, or record, of your individual and organizational competencies, achievements, associations and accreditations. It encompasses a value proposition and a unique selling proposition and it is limited to only one to two pages to present those areas.

The solicitation process involves researching your target market to see if you want to do business with these companies, and if you have a service that they want or need.

You also need to make an honest assessment of your company and its abilities. This takes time and is often the frustrating part. You are running a business, you say, and you don't have time for this. My response is that you started somewhere with your other revenue streams, and probably forgot that you did this same thing before.

There are opportunities to start as a subcontractor to a company that holds the main contract, and this is often a way to start. This is called "tiered contracting," which includes tier one (the prime contractor), tier two (subcontractor/s), and tier three (vendor/s).

After you have chosen your target solicitation market, understanding the RFP (request for proposal) process is another

see LGBTBE, pg 19



30-year anniversary gala

On Sept. 16, Lambda **Archives of San Diego** will celebrate 30 years of preserving our community's LGBTQ history.

Join us at the historic Lafayette Hotel for a cocktail reception and dinner, as we share the stories behind the "pearls" in our collections; remembering the events that shaped our community; honoring the people who wrote our history; and empowering the next

generation to learn about its LGBTQ+ identity.

The special guest speaker is intersex and gender nonbinary activist Hida Viloria, author of "Born Both: An Intersex Life."

When: Saturday, Sept. 16. The VIP reception kicks off at 5 p.m., with Hida Viloria and honored guests. Dinner and a program will begin at 6 p.m.

Where: Historic Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club and

Bungalows, 2223 El Cajon **Blvd.**, North Park

Tickets: Individual tickets to the dinner and program are \$125. Tickets to the VIP reception and dinner are \$250. Visit bit.ly/2vyCi2j.

Proceeds will support Lambda Archives in its mission to collect, preserve and teach the LGBTQ history of San Diego and Imperial **Counties and Northern** Baja California.



FROM PAGE 6 **LETTERS**

can introduce us at the Caliph. Keep up the great work! -Rob Wilkerson, North Park, via email

Mortality tested on the street

[Ref: "Editorial: Slow the hell down: pedestrians are people too," Vol. 8, Issue 17, or online at bit.ly/2wCdF9o.]

Looks like you're on to something! County just released a report [bit.ly/2vwsfKC] Aug. 24 that said pedestrian deaths were up countywide in 2016 [the number was 101, from 93 in 2015].

-Ben Cartwright, via email

This is no joke; I live on Rue D'Orleans [too] and have dealt with the same issue. It's a dangerous street that crosses over to Adrian, and these drivers do not understand that when the [crosswalk] symbol comes on, that it's our turn to walk. I have lived there since 2011 and I cannot count the number of times I have almost been hit. One time I even threw my Slushie at a windshield and then ran off. It is dangerous and I am sick and tired of being blamed by the drivers that it is my fault.

How come the city has not done more for the safety of pedestrians in my area? I only hope that they put up more safety signs for us. One of these days I am going to get hit going to 7/11.

—Danny Troxel, via gay-sd. com and Facebook

I think there's a lot the city could do - reducing the width of streets, prohibiting red light turns at certain intersections, reducing speed limits, etc.

-Thomas Michael, via Facebook

I drive around town all day

for work. Believe me, it's not just the drivers, people need to obey the walk signals, too. When it starts flashing red, it means to not enter the crosswalk, but pedestrians ignore it all the time. I'm as careful as I can be while driving, but pedestrians should realize that cars need some time to make the turn.

I saw a guy nearly get hit in front of MO's the other day because he decided to cross at the last minute, as a car was turning, and I think the driver just didn't see him. Yesterday, there was one woman walking down the street instead of the sidewalk with a baby in the stroller. Later, two other women with a baby walked right in front of me on Thorn Street, after seeing that I was close to the intersection. It wasn't a four-way stop, they didn't have a protected crosswalk, and the problem was not that I was speeding. Fortunately, I saw what they were about to do, so I slammed on my brakes. I'm very careful about respecting pedestrians, but San Diegans seem to think it's okay to walk in front of moving cars.

—Kathy Warner, via Facebook

Great article. I have been solely taking public transportation now for about a year. And I am always completely shocked how people do not even pay attention to the people in the crosswalk.

Once, I was crossing the street and somebody was blocking the crosswalk and there was oncoming traffic that I would've had to walk right into in order to get past the car. I had no other choice but to turn around and wait for the second time for it to go green for walking. And yes, when I'm crossing the street from Trader Joe's to get to the bus stop for the No. 10 to head back home, those cars coming out from Ralph's pull out like they just don't care.

—Ilka Weston, via gay-

sd.com

The last two times while crossing in a crosswalk, my cup of coffee or water bottle flew up out of my hands and hit their car/truck. They stopped but had nothing to say since I was in the crosswalk with signal on my side. Must be getting old losing my grip.

-Ronda Ruckle, via Facebook

Add Mission Hills to the list. The intersection of Goldfinch and Washington streets is so dangerous! People on their phones trying to make the light ... ridic! And University Avenue doubles for the Autobahn!

—Courtney Ray, via Facebook

I wish pedestrians in Hillcrest, especially at night, followed the lights better, it's scary to drive there, too many people in dark clothing dashing into traffic. I mean this ol' country girl in the land of lots of traffic and glaring light.

You definitely need to be aware night and day, people just don't watch for pedestrians. I had the same problem when I rode a motorcycle; you are just plain invisible (or so it would seem).

I have to admit, I tend to drive fast, but not in Hillcrest. Can you imagine the headline? I Uber there whenever I can.

-Gina Roberts, via Facebook

San Diego drivers are terrible about yielding to pedestrians. I hate walking anywhere. I had a friend who was actually hit in a crosswalk in Hillcrest, on Robinson, and she had to go to the hospital for a knee injury.

—Warisa Chulindra, via Facebook

On saying 'goodbye'

[Ref: "Life Beyond Therapy: How to say goodbye," Vol. 8, Issue 15, or online at bit. ly/2vXwP6a.]

Just read your article in Gay San Diego on "How to say

goodbye." Great work! I just recently retired and am still coming with terms the fact that I may not work again. Your article really made me see that I need to enjoy my memories of a great career (44 years in nursing) and look forward to what great adventures I may experience in my new lifestyle. Thanks! -Tom, via email

More memories of our bars [Ref: "Out of the Archives: The history of our bars," Vol. 8, Issue 6, or online at tinyurl.

com/h6nhfyx].

Bourbon Street ... everyone loved the place. I recall meeting the owner a time or two, a handsome guy, intelligent and good business sense. That place began as a broken down straight bar which had an ABC restriction on it (close at midnight) because of so many fights occurring in the bar.

There used to be a place right next to Cheers called Adams End (1814 Adams Ave., I think) which when I first found it, it was called Suds UP, but it was closed and then opened as Adam's End. It was owned by a guy named Ken Pero. He wanted to have a gay bar and lesbian bar and so he was able to buy this old straight place which he called Eve's End. At first, a few jerks from there would come down to Adam's End after midnight and try to start a fight but we were all gentlemen and the creeps gave up.

Ken's ownership didn't last because Mr. Pero was in over his head and never paid his bills. Adam's End actually had a court ordered till tap at one time. I loved Adam's End. It survived after Mr. Pero's ownership. Anyway, this Eve's End place closed and one day re-opened as a place called the Stage Coach. They had one of those giant television projectors there and you could watch movies. The Stage Coach didn't

last and it became the first Pecs, leather and S&M orientated. That went on for a while until the owner took a trip to New Orleans. He was really taken with the "Big Easy," so he converted Pecs into Bourbon Street.

He also bought the place that is now Pecs and opened a place for the girls ... and called it Bella's. However he had trouble with the hired help. One night there was a fierce lover's spat; one gal smashed her pick-up truck through the wall of the building and so Dave, (I think his name was ... can't remember his last name; Heineman, I think) said 'To hell with that," repaired everything and the place became the new Pecs and it is still Pecs today. It [originally] was a broken down straight bar called the Alabama Club, named for the ship, like so many of the streets in North Park named for ships of the fleet.

Any way, Bourbon Street did really well but Dave, the owner, was HIV-positive and I don't think he made it to the new medicines' time. It seems to me I heard that he died and the rest is history. I felt bad to hear that Bourbon Street closed and changed hands. It was very popular.

I left San Diego in 2004 and live in Houston now. Time really does march on but the poem is right: "Accept the council of years with grace." Take care everyone!

-Tom Vierling, via gay-

Remembering Oscar

[Ref: "Plea submitted in Melero death," Vol. 7, Issue 6, or online at bit.ly/2x6nWaL.]

My name is Annette Pullen and I was a good friend of Oscar. I travel a lot and was headed back to San Diego in a few days and was going to look him up. I do not know if you know his partner or a family member, I would like to say that I'm sorry for their loss. We have known each other since 1981 and we both were in the mortgage business.

When I go to San Diego, I'll check out the salon.

-Annette Pullen, via gaysd.com

—Letters to the editor can be sent to morgan@sdcnn.com. Comments can also be made on $our\ website\ or\ posts\ of\ the\ story$ on Facebook. V

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Ebony Burnett Mullins is set to produce the 2017 Nicky Awards (Photo by Big Mike)

GAY **NEWS BRIEFS**

NICKY'S NEW DATE, PRODUCER ANNOUNCED

The 42nd annual Nicky Awards, presented by the Imperial Court de San Diego and named after international LGBT activist Nicole Murray Ramirez, will be held Dec. 3. The organization has also announced a new producer of the popular awards, deemed "the gay Academy Awards of San Diego" by Channel 10 News.

'We are very proud to announce Ebony Burnett Mullins as the first woman producer of the Nicky Awards," said Big Mike Phillips, the 2017 president of the Nicky Awards' board of governors. "She has generously offered to produce the Nicky Awards with new changes and a fresh start."

Burnett Mullins, a past cochair of San Diego LGBT Pride, is a professional event planner and has worked with various nonprofit causes around San Diego. She is also the past recipient of two Harvey Milk/Nicole M. Ramirez student scholarships.

Founded in 1975, the Nicky Awards were one of the first LGBT events held in a public hotel and have been attended by federal, state and local elected officials.

"By showcasing excellence in the community, the Nicky Awards serve as proof that every person has something important to contribute, that each of us can make a difference," former California Gov. Gray Davis once said. "This celebration is a tribute to the men and woman of San Diego's LGBT community who work hard to improve the quality of life for all.

The Dec. 3 event is expected to include outstanding entertainment, hor d'oeuvres, VIP seating, a happy hour and other surprises, which will be announced at a later date. Keep checking nickyawards.org for further details.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 21

Small Business Expo, laying claim as the nation's largest business-to-business trade show, will return to San Diego on Thursday, Sept. 21.

The free day-long conference and trade show brings together industry thought leaders and experts in a hands-on environment that features more than 20 free workshops and programs along with 100 interactive booths, demos and brand exhibits.

Headlining the event is Bill Walsh, founder and CEO of Powerteam International, who will give a presentation titled "Success By Design - the 7 Keys to Build a Mega-Successful



Pictured with Murray Ramirez (center) on the Capitol steps in Alberta, are the government whip of the legislative Assembly, Honorable Estefnia Cortes Vargas and Assemblymember Michael Connolly, the first LGBT elected officials in Alberta. (Photo courtesy Nicole Ramirez Murray)

San Diego City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez was recently honored by the government of Alberta,

Canada for "... over 45 years of exceptional leadership and activism with the LGBTQ community in North America." Business" in the Inspiration 2020 Showcase Theatre.

Start-ups and business owners can take advantage of free admission and educational workshops covering online/social media marketing, employee benefit plans, credit and financing, strategies for increasing revenue and team productivity, mentoring, cloud technologies, retirement plans and much more.

The expo will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the San Diego Convention Center, Hall H, located at 111 W. Harbor Drive, Downtown. For more information, visit The Small Business Expo.com.

GAY COMEDIAN



Married comedians, Cameron Esposito and Rhea Butcher, will perform in San Diego Sept. 25 (Photo by Robyn Von Swank)

Cameron Esposito and Rhea Butcher — lesbian comedians who are married to each other in real life — will perform their comedy Monday, Sept. 25 at The Observatory North Park.

Part of their multi-city "Back to Back" stand-up tour, the Los Angeles-based comedic couple may be recognized from their hit TV comedy series, "Take My Wife." They co-created, co-wrote and co-starred in the show, which received critical acclaim from The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Vulture and IndieWire, and were also named to Variety's "Comics to Watch" list.

They have released standup albums on Portland label Kill Rock Stars and saw their records go to No. 1 on iTunes

Performing all new material. Esposito and Butcher's "Back to Back" tour will offer San Diego fans the chance to hear both comedians edgy and human takes on love, identity and pop culture when they take the stage - individually and together — at the Observatory.

Their tour comes to town Sept. 25. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Observatory is located at 2891 University Ave. in North Park. For tickets and more information, visit bit.ly/2gaqh01. Follow them on Twitter, @cameronesposito and @RheaButcher.

LCRSD RELEASES STATEMENT ABOUT TRUMP'S TRANS BAN

The president of the local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans — the LGBT arm of the Republican Party — is

Gina Roberts, a trans woman. Roberts is the only openly transgender chapter president within the organization and she was voted in as a delegate for the California Republican Central Committee last November.

In the wake of President Donald Trump's directive to ban transgender service members from military service, Roberts and the LCRSD released the following statement Aug. 28:

"Several weeks ago, July 26, 2017, when President Trump tweeted that he would not allow the service of transgender individuals in the military services, Log Cabin



Gina Roberts, president of Log Cabin Republicans San Diego (Facebook)

as an organization do not in any way support that decision by the president. Since that time, the White House has issued guidance and President Trump has signed that guidance to direct the Department of Defense to complete its study and present its findings to the president if the study contradicts the president's opinion.

"LCRSD stands by its opposition to any proposed general ban on transgender service members and calls on the Pentagon and Secretary of Defense to complete its study on this issue and present its findings to the president as defined in

see Briefs, pg 17





Register today! aidswalksd.org

Foodie F/ashes FRANK SABATINI JR.

Chef Abe Botello has left his long-standing gig at West Coast Tavern in North Park to head up the kitchen at Florent Restaurant and **Lounge** in the Gaslamp Quarter. His menu revisions, due to roll out in early October, will be Buffalo-style cauliflower, barbecue "pork wings" made from shanks, a truffle burger, and several varieties of flatbreads. 672 Fifth Ave., 619-595-0123, florentsd.com.



Chef Abe Botello transitions from North Park to the Gaslamp Quarter (Courtesy Citrus Public Relations)



A casual diner is up and running in Mission Hills (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Café Bleu recently transformed into Jo's Mission Hills **Diner** with a brightly colored makeover and a menu that covers numerous breakfast dishes, salads, sandwiches, burgers and entrees such as meatloaf and smoked mac n' cheese.

"We wanted to be a little more approachable," said Ric Libiran, who owned Café Bleu and kept its chef for the new

.....

A collaborative seafood boil and hog roast will be held Sept.

10 in Hotel Circle's hidden, out-

door event space known as Lot

8. The event starts at 5 p.m.

and features live bluegrass

music and chefs from Grand

Ole BBQ y Asado, Mastiff

Sausage, Lola 55, and Eco

The cost is \$65 per per-

and two alcoholic beverages.

son, which includes food

Caters.

venture.

Although a smidgen of the café's popular fare carried over, the menu also reveals French onion soup, steak frites and brandy French toast with strawberries.

As for the diner's name, Libiran added, "There is no Jo. We just wanted to give it a familiar, everyday name." 807 W. Washington St., 619-323-2035.

Presented by the Facebook group, Eating and Drinking in San Diego, portions of the proceeds will benefit The Berry Good Foundation, which supports our local food industry. To purchase tickets, visit brownpapertickets. com and enter "Le Grand Ole Boucherie and Seafood Boil." 1201 Hotel Circle South (behind The Atwood,) 619-546-5660.

The much-anticipated second location of Nomad **Donuts** recently opened in a 3,200-square-foot space located several blocks away from its original North Park shop at 4504 30th St. That location is under renovation and will reopen in a few months.

In keeping with its inventory of globally inspired donuts using ingredients from local farmers markets, the roomier digs have allowed executive chef Kristianna Zabala to add breakfast and lunch sandwiches to the menu, as well as woodfired bagels and new sweet and

savory baked goods.

Owner Brad Keiller envisioned a larger outpost of the business two years ago and soon after landed in what was formerly Lady of the Lake bookstore.

After a year of construction, the remodeled space greets with Caribbean-style elements such as aqua walls, vibrant tiling, and wooden captain's chairs and tables. In addition, an expanded coffee program features drinks made from limited-edition single-origin varietals. 3102 University Ave., 619-431-5000, nomaddonuts.com.



Nomad Donuts opens a second North Park location (Facebook)

.....

Joe's Crab Shack in Mission Valley's Hazard Center is among 40 locations nationwide that abruptly closed in the past couple weeks after

the chain's ownership, Ignite Restaurant Group, filed for bankruptcy earlier this summer. About 70 other locations in various states remain in

operation for now, including those in Downtown San Diego (525 E. Harbor Drive) and Oceanside (314 Harbor Drive South). joescrabshack.com.



Seasonal, organic produce at a new upscale market in Mission Hills (Courtesy Lazy Acres Market)

Everything from European locations — in Encipitas, Long butters and fresh pasta to artisan cheeses, seasonal produce and crafty baked goods are in the offing at Lazy Acres Market in Mission Hills, which held its grand opening Aug. 26.

Known for its "wholesome, natural and organic" foods, the market has only three other

.....

Beach and the original store in Santa Barbara.

A walk through the aisles leads to various stations offering pizzas, freshly carved meats, poke, prepared hot meals and a salad bar. The store also features a live beehive rescued by a North County beekeeper.

Marketing manager Cait Gunderson said most departments offer tasting samples on a daily basis, which doesn't exclude the bakery department handing out pieces of the company's famous cookie, made with Belgian chocolate, walnuts and sea salt. 422 W. Washington St., 619-272-4289, lazyacres.com.

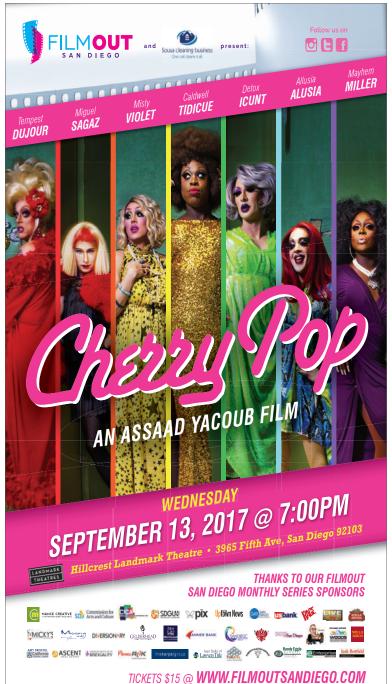
Circa Restaurant in University Heights has teamed up with North Coast Brewing Co. for a six-course pairing dinner to be held Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Circa's chef, Mike Almos, will present dishes such as local melon

salad with pea tendrils; braised chicken on a walnut waffle; roasted quail with lentil and pork belly, plus more.

The courses will be matched by various beers from the brewery's portfolio, which include Scrimshaw Pilsner, Le Merle

Saison, Alt Nouveau, and others. The cost is \$65 per person. 2121 Adams Ave., 619-269-9152, circasd.com.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san. rr.com.



Croques and crepes under cozy conditions

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.

Until a few months ago, there was only one window of opportunity each day to savor a meal at La Bonne Table, the small and beloved French restaurant that has teased its followers with dinner-only service since opening in 2014.

Now, if you're looking to spend some intimate mealtime with friends, lovers or family members on your day of rest, and before sundown, La Bonne accommodates with a noteworthy under-the-radar Sunday brunch.

Held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the weekly affair was put on the table — so to speak by Sandra Tristan, wife of Parisian transplant Renaud Tristan, who founded the restaurant before the couple met and married.

Sandra is from Rome and worked in the food industry since moving to the U.S. more than 20 years ago. Insisting to her chef-husband the time was ripe for introducing brunch, he concurred and put her in charge of it.

Like Renaud's concise dinner menu, Sandra's brunch options are focused and French with about a dozen dishes for the choosing. There's also a full bar that awakens when the doors open.

Although the best part is, you don't have to linger outside in flocks before scoring a cocktail, espresso or plate of food, because people still evening restaurant.

recent morning visit, some of whom I'm guessing were victims of long wait lists from eateries down the street.

La Bonne feels as though you've stepped into somebody's quaint living room. Tables are tightly arranged, though not uncomfortably so. And the interior is adorned with small lamps and numerous black-and-white images of Paris from the 1930s, all lifted and framed from a photography book by late photojournalist Robert Doisneau.

We started with an elegant salad called salade haricot, meaning thin, blanched green beans played a starring role in the mix of fresh lettuces, roasted pecans and sliced egg. Dressed in gentle vinaigrette, the salad also comes with crumbled goat cheese, which we requested on the side because of my inexplicable aversion to goat milk curds.

Hubby had a taste for something creamy and ordered the crepe forestiere, which uses cream to tie together wine-braised mushrooms. Gruvere cheese. shallots and bacon for what turned out to be a fantastically plump crepe. Sharing the plate were scrumptious, cubed potatoes stained yellow from turmeric.

Never one to pass up a Croque Madame, especially in seriously French restaurants such as this, I dove into the sandwich's generous layer of smoked ham and melty Gruyere with wild abandon. On top was a fried egg basking in a mantle of mornay sauce, a richer departure



La Bonne Table

3696 Fifth Ave. (Hillcrest) 619-260-8039

Brunch plates: \$13 to \$18.

Dinner prices: starters, \$9 to \$19; entrees, \$25 to \$33

might be cooked in beef tallow, as Renaud admitted to using when I visited for dinner a couple years ago. If that's still the case, I'm all for it.

We ordered Nutella-stuffed French toast for dessert, but towed most it home for later. I'm glad we did because it allowed the Nutella and slightly mushy brioche to set a bit more. Draped in pecans and sliced bananas, the flavors were nonetheless in decadent harmony.

Other brunch options include ratatouille with baked eggs; asparagus with poached eggs and melted Gruyere; a three-egg omelet with chives, goat cheese and asparagus; and a steak burger crowned with a fried egg and Morbier cheese.

Although if a hankering strikes for seared foie gras or streak frites or trout amandine, come back at 5 p.m. (or 4 p.m. on Sundays) when La

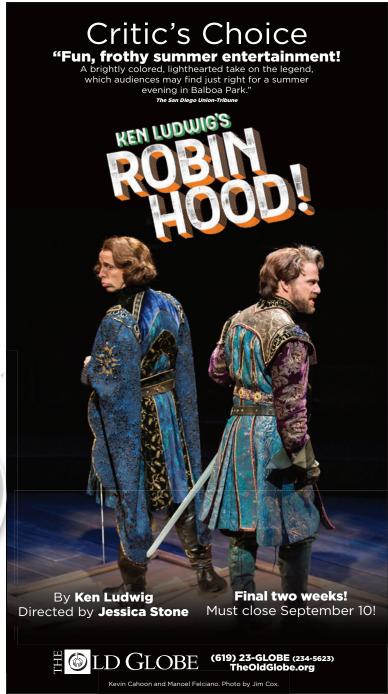
stuffed French toast with bananas; the forestiere crepe with mushrooms (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



San Diego's most intimate French restaurant resides in Hillcrest



Sandra Tristan runs the kitchen for Sunday brunch



FROM PAGE 1 CHEF

"I won't consider myself fully transitioned for another two years," he said.

Precluding his job at The Glass Door, he worked mostly as a female in various capacities for a number of restaurants and briefly attended culinary school at Grossmont College.

After starting out as a lead line cook for the USS Midway café, he moved to busier lines at Fox Sports Grill in the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, as well as Burlap and Searsucker.

He later secured sous chef gigs at Cannonball and Draft in Belmont Park, and then at The Cheesecake Factory, at which time he began transitioning and came out as trans to co-workers.

"Everyone was really accepting and they got used to the name change," he said, admitting, however, that he disliked the restaurant's corporate climate.

"I originally wanted to be a marine biologist, but it took too much math, which I'm horrible at," he said. "Then I realized I was good at cooking. It came to me naturally after cooking with my mom from a very early age."

He also cooked often for his stepmother, who taught him the ropes of Filipino cooking, a cuisine he remains passionate about.

As a female, however, Scott said cracking into the professional culinary world was challenging.

"I had a lot harder time finding jobs as a female than I have as a male," he said.

For his successful interview at The Glass Door — where he came out to his bosses as trans shortly after getting the job — Scott was tasked with making two entrees using several ingredients from a "mystery basket," which included salmon, chicken breast, potatoes and cous cous.

"It was the first time I had to interview like that," he said. "It was pretty nervewracking."

Scott swooned the panel with honey-glazed salmon paired with kale and roasted potatoes, and chicken capperi draped in lemon-caper sauce, which subsequently ended up on The Glass Door's dinner menu.

Since starting in July, he has revised 90 percent of the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus with new dishes that include fig bruschetta with goat cheese crostini; Gorgonzola rib eye; beer-battered fish tacos; and a refreshed selection of flat breads. He is also establishing relationships with local farmers to source seasonal ingredients.

Scott draws some of his culinary inspiration from celebrity chef Masaharu Morimoto of Food Network's "Iron Chef" series, because "he takes traditional dishes and refines them with a lot of detail."

With an ounce of luck, Scott hopes to show off his own culinary skills on the network, having auditioned last year via Skype to be a contestant on "Cutthroat Kitchen."

"They decided to go with somebody else, but I want to audition



Scott's fig bruschetta, made with tomatoes, garlic and fresh basil is served with goat cheese crostini. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

for 'Chopped' soon," he said, referring to Food Network's long-running reality cooking show hosted by openly gay Ted Allen.

While Scott's culinary career holds unforeseen promises, his FTM journey is certain; so is the love and support he has received from family members, including his biological father, a retired Marine veteran with whom Scott has formed a close relationship after years of living apart.

In regard to the cultural strides and challenges seen

within the trans community, Scott doesn't ignore either.

"It's a lot more accepted now with all-gender restrooms," he said. "But we are definitely still getting over that whole negative connotation of trans labels. I would love to speak someday for support groups."

Note: The Porto Vista Hotel, located at 1835 Columbia St., is home to Top of the Bay happy hour, a popular LGBT event held from 5 to 10 p.m. every Friday on the rooftop deck, one

floor above The Glass Door where Scott displays his culinary skills.

For more information about the restaurant or happy hour, call 619-544-0164 or visit portovistasd.com.

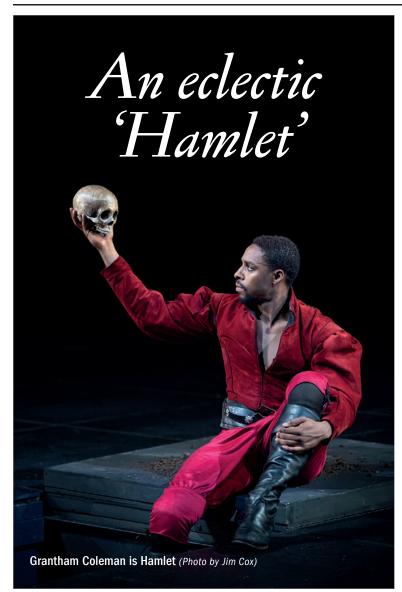
—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

▼





Dominick Scott oversees breakfast, lunch and dinner at The Glass Door. Here he prepares tequila-mango sauce for a fresh salmon dish. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



Theater Review

Jean Lowerison

Elsinore — Hamlet's castle and home — has never looked as barren as it does at The Old Globe this summer, where the Globe's artistic director Barry Edelstein is directing "Hamlet" through Sept. 10 on the outdoor Davies Festival Stage.

Maybe there's a certain logic to that, given that the plot is about murder and revenge (for starters). At any rate, something is rotten in the state of Denmark, and maybe it took a normal "Hamlet" set with it. What's left is a rolling bed that nearly all the major characters end up on at one time or another and three cheesy-looking (but very high) gold-toned stairways on rollers that can be pushed together so as to make a walkway in the heights separated for other uses.

It's here that Barnardo (Lorenzo Landini) and

Marcellus (Amara James Aja) take the nightly watch, and where Hamlet's friend Horatio says he has seen the ghost of Hamlet's dead father pacing more than once.

(That gold-toned theme seems to be a pattern: also on the stage is a massive goldtoned statue of Hamlet's father in fencing garb. It's not clear what purpose this serves.)

Hamlet's psyche is delicate enough to begin with, since he suspects his uncle Claudius (Cornell Womack) of foul play in his father King Hamlet's death. What galls young Hamlet even more is that his mother Gertrude (Opal Alladin) married Claudius shortly after King Hamlet was buried.

That's enough to drive anyone a little crazy. But a reported sighting of his father's ghost stalking the castle parapet at midnight? That might be enough to push him over the edge.

Hamlet (Grantham Coleman) takes the watch the next night, and sure enough, his father's ghost (Michael

Genet) not only appears, but talks, accusing Claudius of "murder most foul" and asking Hamlet to avenge his murder.

Hamlet verifies Claudius' guilt with the help of a troupe of wandering actors who play out a standard murder plot augmented by a few lines written by Hamlet and tailored to elicit a response that will reveal Claudius' guilt.

With that, Hamlet puts "an antic disposition on" and plots his uncle's demise.

Is he really nuts or just acting? Hamlet's hapless girlfriend Ophelia (Talley Beth Gale), not in on the plot, is mystified by Hamlet's sudden brushoff and his velled order to "Get thee to a nunnery." Fact or fake, it's enough to drive her around the bend, and her late mad scenes are wondrously fine.

The find for this production is Grantham Coleman's Hamlet. Brooding, with an increasingly dark spirit, he hurdles toward his bloody end with deep emotion and impeccable diction. At times, he seems possessed; other times just crazy; still others, determined; like the committed plotter he is.

Opal Alladin's Queen Gertrude is excellent as the lone aristocrat who isn't crazy or scheming, but she too will be a victim in the end.

Old Globe summer staple Patrick Kerr is wonderful as Ophelia's father Polonius, the old man with a bromide (or 12) for every occasion - in a notebook, to make sure he can find just the right one.

Cornell Womack's Claudius is a bit cruder than I've seen

"Hamlet"

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Barry Edelstein

through Sept. 10 Tuesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. [Sept. 5, 6 and 10 at 7 p.m.]

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre The Old Globe, Balboa Park

Tickets: 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

him played, which makes him even more credible in the overall plot.

Genet gets a workout. He not only plays the ghost (with great authority), but also the jaunty gravedigger and the player king.

Ian Lassiter is a fine Horatio, and many talented students

from the USD/Old Globe Graduate Theatre Program make strong contributions as well.

This production is stylistically eclectic. Originally set in medieval times, here Tim Mackabee's set is almost absent, the costumes (by Cait O'Connor) sumptuous, Curtis Moore's music (played by musicians Chaz Cabrera and Gabriel Wolf) distinctly modern, almost jazzy at times, the actions timeless.

It's also textually eclectic: Edelstein took parts of all three extant versions of the text and melded them into an intriguing and different whole.

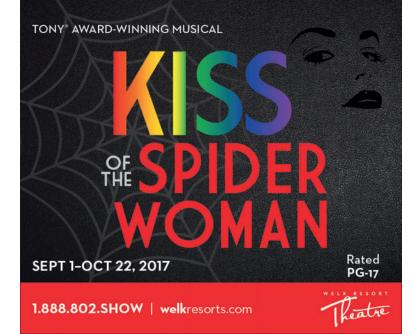
"Hamlet" is a difficult play in many ways, but always worth seeing. This production needs to be seen most of all for Grantham Coleman's fine portrayal of the title character.

-Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@cox.net.



(I to r) Grantham Coleman as Hamlet; Patrick Kerr as Polonius; Kevin Hafso-Koppman as Rosencrantz; and Nora Carroll as Guildenstern (Photo by Jim Cox)







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Dishing on the new albums of Kesha and Lana Del Rey

Chris Azzopardi | Q Syndicate

Kesha, "Rainbow"

Don't be surprised if Kesha needed "Rainbow," her first album since 2012's "Warrior," as much as the queer kids questioning their place in this mad, queer-resistant world do. Her comeback album's soaring first single, "Praying," finds light at the end of the long, turbulent tunnel the resilient pop star occupied for too long before reaching a point — beyond her much-publicized legal battles with producer Dr. Luke, beyond her booze-heavy factory pop — where she could finally say, "The best is yet to come."

As the thrashing ballad whips into something even more transcendent than that Mariah-high whistle note she hits during the track, unleashing the second coming of Kesha, that's no exaggeration—Kesha, of "Tik Tok" and general party-girl fame, has never been this raw, or as candidly captivating.

Marked by hard-won perspective and a fresh outlook on life (and death, per the charmingly weird send-off "Spaceship"), Kesha's artistic rebirth manages to offer an openhearted hug to anyone who, like her, has ever felt different.

"Hymn," an individuality-championing chant, and the understated title track, with its reference to our iconic LGBT symbol, are both songs I wish I could have leaned on



Kesha says she wrote "Rainbow" for the LGBT community (Courtesy Kemosabe Records/RCA Records)

as a young, struggling gay teen. "Come and paint the world with me tonight," she summons, over a Ben Foldsproduced track that bursts into a warm orchestral swoop. For once, maybe, Kesha is showing her true colors on "Rainbow," and that realness extends into the rock- and roots-inspired music.

Sometimes she fashions a simple coffeehouse-guitar approach (set opener "Bastards" and "Godzilla," a zany little acceptance-centric ditty using the infamous monster as a metaphor for her misunderstood boyfriend), and on "Hunt You Down," she tips her hat to Johnny Cash's rockabilly sound, adding her own killer feminist twist. She sticks it to

the man again on "Woman," a scorching kiss-off featuring The Dap-Kings' horns and enough girl power to put this current "only white men matter" administration into a cold sweat.

Elsewhere,

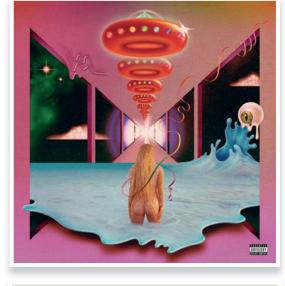
Eagles of Death Metal spice up two rollicking tracks, including the "Shake It Off"-esque "Let 'em Talk," while the Rainbow Queen herself, Dolly Parton, cameos because get this: Kesha's mom, country-music scribe Pebe Sebert, wrote "Old Flames (Can't Hold a Candle to You)" for Dolly in 1980. In many ways, having grown up on the Nashville greats, this is Kesha returning to her homegrown, pre-

pop-star roots. Because sometimes you have to look behind in order to move forward, she admits, "I've been through hell and back," on "Learn to Let Go," pointing to the "boogeyman under my bed." But Kesha has returned to the driver's seat, making the best music of her career, and we're all in for the empowering, starry-eyed spaceship ride. Grade: A-

Lana Del Rey, "Lust for Life"

There's a world on fire and not even a contact buzz from Lana Del Rey's pass-the-blunt "Never Never Land" [her single with Bonne Legion] will help us pretend we're OK. Momentary respite, though, lingers in every mindful corner of "Lust for Life," where indie-pop's wooziest wet dream finds herself in a contradictory place, one the album cover takes into consideration.

On it, Del Rey is not solemn, not even seductive. She's got a damn smile on her Barbie face and flowers in her hair — irony at its best. As gunshots pop throughout her coo-y ode to





unity, "God Bless America — and All the Beautiful Women," she addresses Trumpland's chauvinism with a wink, a wicked sense of humor and the feeling that late-night binging "The Handmaid's Tale" really got to her. "Is it the end of America?" she wonders, putting aside her own summertime sadness for something bigger than herself: the present-day paranoia and uncertainty of ... living.

Retro and lullaby-like. its sound mostly mirrors Del Rey's past work on 2014's "Ultraviolence" and its follow-up from a year later, "Honeymoon." But, working against type, she's hopeful. "Beautiful People Beautiful Problems" aptly enlists Stevie Nicks, the two advising that "we gotta try," while her moving, impossiblenot-to-cry-during piano solo, "Change," looks ahead with aberrant optimism. She empathically prays for "the third time" for the youth, has an entire song called "When the World Was at War We Kept

My 'true colors shining through'

By Kesha

Editor's note: This is a personal letter from the recording artist to the LGBT community.

My new album is called "Rainbow" and it's not a coincidence that rainbows are also a symbol of LGBTQ pride. Color for the past couple of years has been symbolic of hope for me. For me, rainbows are a sign of freedom to be yourself and celebrate who you are no matter what anyone else thinks.

I have always felt like an outsider and have felt that I needed to justify who I am and why I am how I am, and I feel like, unfortunately, that is a pretty common occurrence for people within the LGBTQ community as well.

The LGBTQ community has always been an important part of my life and has always influenced my art, and I feel like it's as evident as ever on this album.

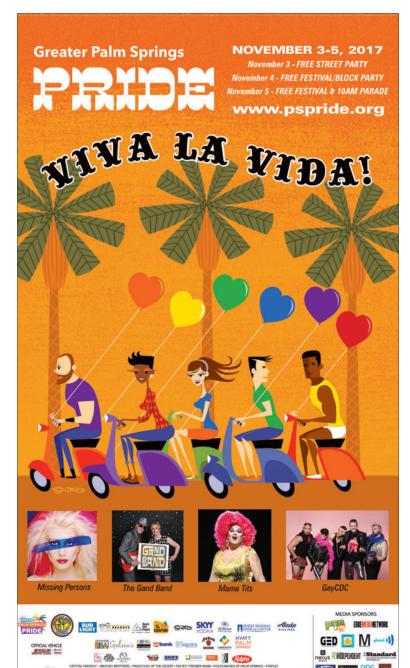
With the song "Hymn" in particular, I wrote many of those lyrics as I was recalling times I had gone into the streets to march for equality. Lines like, "Go and read about us in the news ... After all we've been through, no we won't stand and salute ... If we die before we wake, who we are is no mistake, this is just the way we are made," were written specifically about the idea of fighting for equality.

I personally will never stop fighting for equality for all humans and specifically for the LGBTQ community, because I know what it feels like to be bullied for just being yourself, and I know that so many in the LGBTQ community have it so much worse than I could ever imagine.

That's why I have rainbows painted all over my body and my house and everything else, because rainbows inspire so much joy and hope and light and happiness; and I hope the LGBTQ community identifies with my album "Rainbow," because it was made for you.

Dancing," and, during "13 Beaches," finally finds repose. Del Rey's cinematic "Lust for Life" doesn't need a visual component — we are on that beach, we are dancing, and we are living and we are lusting for her every reassuring word. Grade: B

—Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).▼



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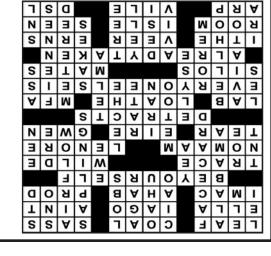
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FROM PAGE 9 **BRIEFS**

the text of the Presidential Memorandum.

"We believe that a complete assessment, as was previously requested by Secretary of Defense Mattis, will reveal that these patriotic service members are not an undue burden on the military service, and that these members should be able to serve openly and proudly.

"LCRSD also calls upon the representatives of the people of San Diego to work with others in the Republican Party to counter the misrepresentation of the statistics concerning transgender service members' surgical costs and their supposed period of non-deployability, as those figures are incorrectly placing an undue and unreasonable burden on transgender service members. It is recommended that these representatives refer to the Rand Study below for a more reasonable assessment of the total costs of Transgender service members. LCRSD can assist in understanding these issues and we will be contacting our congressional offices this week."

To read the Rand Study, visit bit.ly/2x786Pp. To learn more about LCRSD, visit bit. lv/2wU31Lb.

SAN DIEGO MAKES TOP FIVE CRUISE DESTINATION LIST

San Diego is in the international travel news again. CruiseCritic.com, one of the world's leading online review and cruise community destinations, recently named the Port of San Diego to its "top five destinations" in the United States and Canada for cruise ship visits.

At No. 4, San Diego topped Key West, Florida on the list. The other destinations Quebec City, Canada; San Francisco; and Bar Harbor, Maine — were named No. 1 through 3, respectively.

San Diego has two cruiseship terminals on the Embarcadero — Broadway Pier and the B Street Pier giving visitors easy access to all that Downtown offers.

'We are honored to be voted one of the top five cruise destinations by Cruise Critic's online community for the second year in a row," said Robert Valderrama, chairman of the board of San Diego Port commissioners "In recent years v have installed \$31 million in improvements to the North Embarcadero, providing our cruise passengers with a beautiful welcome to the Port of San Diego."

The honor was part of the website's second annual awards and is based solely on its community of reviewers. Many stated the importance of having multiple options for things to do when visiting a port destination and San Diego's Embarcadero, in addition to nearby Little Italy neighborhood and Petco Park, helped make that grade.

FROM PAGE 1 VARSITY

So instead of competing leagues, Hackner, along with local general manager Marc Golan, brought kickball and dodgeball to the region. While Golan was not available to interview, Hackner said Golan has grown the organization leaps and bounds in those two years and already has plans to bring soccer and ultimate Frisbee to San Diego in 2018.

Their current leagues, kickball and dodgeball, each have three normal seasons per year: spring, summer and fall. For new players to get a hang of things and meet other potential teammates — Varsity offers free kickball scrimmages and open gym events for those interested in dodgeball.

They also conduct several fundraising events throughout the year. For instance on Oct. 8, they will have their very first "Drag Kickball Game," with proceeds split between the San Diego LGBT Community Center and the winning team's chosen charity.



Men and women of San Diego kickball league shown on a recent game day at North Park Rec Center. (Courtesy Varsity Gay League)

The fall season for kickball, which is played outdoors, begins Oct. 15 at Morley Field in Balboa Park.

The dodgeball league, which outgrew its former home gym, will start its fall season Oct. 19 at a new indoor location, the Golden Hill Rec Center, located near the Balboa Park golf

Registration for either league will open online Sept. 1.

Hackner said Varsity Gay League is the only sports organization in the U.S. that does not force teams or players to conform to a standard "look." While sponsors can offset costs,

they also are not required. As a result, each team is encouraged to design their own style of uniforms and a participating vendor offers discounts for team shirts.

"Creating your own identity is important in the queer world and we want our players to have the ability to be the people they want to be," Hackner

Sounds like a great way to expand your socializing; besides, you don't have to give up the bar scene completely. According to the website, most players end up at Urban MO's after the weekly games to extend the day.

"Everyone and anyone is welcome to come and play with us," Hackner said. "We will do our best to make your experience positive, and hopefully you'll get a chance to walk away with a new friend, some new skills and maybe a fancy new medal and trophy."

For more information about the Varsity Gay League, visit varsitygayleague.com. To make contact with the local general manager, Marc Golan, email him at marc@varsitygayleague.com.

-Morgan M. Hurley can be reached at morgan@sdcnn. com.

















Friday, Sept. 1

Sunset DJ Friday with **DJ Heabnasty:** Hiba Qadri – aka DJ Heabnasty – always brings the noise. Come see her perform her passion in La Jolla. 5:45-7:45 p.m. at Bella Vista Social Club & Caffé, 2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive. Visit bit.ly/2wG1WWt.

Friday, Sept. 1 through Sunday, Sept. 24

'Artistry Through Deaf Eyes': The Studio Door will celebrate National Deaf Awareness Month by showcasing diverse range of work from 18 deaf and hard-of-hearing artists from around the country. An artist reception will be held at 6–9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Free. The Studio Door, 3750 30th St. in North Park. Visit bit.ly/2wvjJ3n.

Saturday, Sept. 2

Dragstravaganza Saturday: Get ready for a night of pure entertainment! Be prepared for amazing drag performances by both professional and student drag performers. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at SDSU's Montezuma Hall, 6075 Aztec Circle Drive. Visit bit.ly/2w8QRe1.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Andaz rooftop - Labor Day Sunday: Come re-discover the STK Rooftop at Andaz for an amazing brunch and pool experience. Today's event features DJs Frankie M, Pete Prado, Nicky Saponaro, FOMO and Will Hernandez. 12:30 p.m. at Andaz San Diego, 600 F St. Visit bit.ly/2wNLrbV.

Monday, Sept. 4

Transgender Coming Out Group: This weekly group supports transgender people in all stages of exploring gender identity. Open to transgender women and men, genderqueer/gender non-conforming people, people who are intersex and those questioning their gender identity. Significant others, friends, family and allies are welcome to attend with their transgender loved ones. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Center, 3909 Centre St. Email trans@thecentersd. org, call 619-692-2077 x109 or visit thecentersd.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Bubbles and Cupcakes - AIDS Walk Fundraiser: The Young Professionals Council will host a fundraiser to support their #AIDSWalkSD team. Enjoy cupcakes, Champagne, great company, prizes and more. Join the YPC's AIDS Walk team at tiny. cc/YPCAidsWalkSD and get into the event for free. Suggested donation \$10. This is a 21+ event. 6-8 p.m. at Babycakes, 3766 Fifth Ave. Visit bit.ly/2vbPkCL.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Art with Abner: Local band Abner will host an art show with artists Dustin McDuffie and Todd Emde. DJ Rock Ro will also perform. This is a 21+ event. \$5 pre-sale tickets or \$7 at the door. 9-12 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2wQ24U6.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Suzanne Westenhoefer in 'Irresistible Humor': Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer will perform "Irresistible Humor" at \$35 plus a \$15 per person food or drink minimum. Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Martinis Above Fourth, 3940 Fourth Ave. in Hillcrest. Visit bit. ly/2xtxOuz.

Friday, Sept. 8

Dinner in the Library: International best-selling author Ann Patchett will speak at an annual benefit to support the UC San Diego Library. She will share her life and work as a New York Times bestselling author and literary advocate. The event features a cocktail reception, dinner, drinks and dessert. Tickets are \$300. 6-9:30 p.m. at Geisel Library, UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. RSVP at lib.ucsd.edu/dinner or call 858-534-7021.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Spin-raiser for AIDS

Walk and Run: Come sweat for a cause at Cyclebar in Hillcrest. Reserve your bike at bit.ly/2uQDYVq for a \$25 donation that will go straight to AIDS Walk & Run San Diego. Shoes, water

bottle and towel provided. All riders will receive a drawing ticket for prizes. 1:45-2:45 p.m. at Cyclebar, 1040 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2iv8bah.

South Bay Pride: Join South Bay Alliance for their 10th annual celebration of South Bay Pride. The art and music festival features live music and DJs, artisans, food trucks, beer and spirits, kayaking and exhibitors. Free. Suggested donation \$10. Visit bit.ly/2vc7k00.

LGBT Horror Showcase - Horrible Imaginings Film Festival: It's going to be one hell of a show! See feature film "B&B" playing with "Creatures of a Whitechapel" at the Horrible Imaginings Film Festival. Tickets start at \$25 at bit. ly/2wNZrSS. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 1649 El Prado. Visit bit. ly/2vkBxKs.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Picnic with Progressives: Hungry for equality? Join San Diego Democrats for Equality and the San Diego Progressive Democratic Club for a picnic with Progressives. 1-3 p.m. at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park, 5077 Soledad Road. Visit bit.ly/2xK1weX.

Monday, Sept. 11

Reproductive Justice and the Politics of Women's Health: Nora Vargas will be leading a discussion on the status of reproductive rights and the best ways activists can have an impact at the local, state, and federal level. Free. RSVP at bit. ly/2xJXiUP. 6:15-8 p.m. at San Diego Democratic Party Headquarters, 8340 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., #105. Visit bit.ly/2xKk9PI.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Sips & Civility

- Fighting Fake News: League of Women Voters of San Diego invite you to an evening of drinks and civil political conversation about how to fight fake news. Brooke Binkowski-Snopes.commanaging editor – will be the featured speaker. Free. RSVP on Facebook for two free drinks. 6-8 p.m. at San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2xJUlmP.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Live music - Indigo Girls: Grammy-winning folk duo Indigo Girls will perform with Amythyst Kiah. Tickets start at \$45 at bit.ly/2wQ84fQ. 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Humphreys Concerts By the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. Visit bit.ly/2xahdfY.

FilmOUT - 'Cherry Pop' screening: Come see "Cherry Pop" – a film about a crazy night in the life of a small local bar's drag show. A Q&A with director Assaad Yacoub will follow. Tickets are \$15 at filmoutsandiego. com. Unrated. 7-9:30 p.m. at Landmark's Hillcrest Cinemas, 3965 Fifth Ave. Visit bit.ly/2xwVf64.

Thursday, Sept. 14 Comerica Bank's Work-

Life Balance presentation: Learn how personal passion can contribute to your business success. The evening features networking, a presentation, and a panel discussion. Mike Sington and Maylen Calienes will be the featured speakers. Cocktail reception to follow. The event is presented by Comerica Bank's LGBTQ Initiative and Comerica Merchant Services and Retail Division. 4-7 p.m. at The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Ave. Visit bit. ly/2wNUae2.

Benefit for **Hurricane Harvey**

Join local musicians who wish to raise funds for the victims of tragic Hurricane Harvey this past week in Houston, Texas. Attendees will enjoy live music and raffles with great prizes and from local businesses and other music makers. Organizers are also looking for items to raffle. If you wish to donate a gift card or other raffle item, email JenEve1983@gmail. com. Cover and proceeds from the raffle will benefit the United Way of Greater Houston. The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Visit themerrow.com.

Friday, Sept. 15

Girl's Night Out: Gather your ladies and go dance at the monthly women's dance every third Saturday. 7-10

p.m. at The Rail, 3796 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest. Visit bit. ly/2xKhtSu.

Saturday, Sept. 16

Lambda Archives 30th Anniversary: Lambda Archives turns 30! Come celebrate three decades of preserving the pearls of our history. Intersex and non-binary activist Hida Viloria will be the guest speaker. VIP reception starts at 5 p.m. followed by the dinner and program from 6–8 p.m. Mississippi Room in the Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit. ly/2vlYkon.

Hillcrest Classic Car Show: Roll down your windows, crank up the tunes and cruise on down for this fabulous new monthly event. Fabulous Hillcrest, MO's Universe and Great Autos of Yesteryear present the Hillcrest Classic Car Show, Each event. will feature at least 20 car collectors. Free and family-friendly. 1-4 p.m. at Pride Plaza on Normal Street. Visit bit.ly/2w5hxiX.

33rd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day: Join I Love A Clean San Diego for San Diego County's largest cleanup of the year. All ages and ability levels are welcome to register. Bring a reusable item and download the Ocean Conservancy's mobile data collection app to reduce waste. 9 a.m.-noon at various locations. Visit CleanupDay.org.

RECURRING EVENTS

Cinema Under the Stars: Films presented at an outdoor viewing space on various nights of the week.

Upcoming films:

• "Casablanca" – Friday, Sept. 1 to Sunday, Sept. 3

• "The Big Lebowski" -Thursday, Sept. 7 to Saturday,

• "Notorious" – Thursday, Sept. 14 to Saturday, Sept. 16

Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

-To get your event into our calendar email info@sdcnn. com.

Q PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- 1 Fig part over a private part 5 Porter's fuel?
- 9 Smart-ass output 13 Scat gueen Fitzgerald
- 14 Parrot in "Aladdin"
- 15 "Is so!" rebuttal 16 Apple Store buy
- 17 Moby Dick chaser
- 18 Examine anally, perhaps
- 19 Start of a saw by Oscar 22 Use a pattern
- 24 Oscar of this puzzle's quote
- 27 Denial to a dominatrix 29 Poe poem
- 30 Drop from a duct
- 31 "At Swim, Two Boys" is set in this land 34 "Hollaback Girl" singer Stefani
- 35 Takes away
- 41 Cannot bear
- 38 Where to look for the "gay gene"
- 42 Writer's dea.
- 55 "Aren't ___ lucky one?" 56 Don't go straight
 - 57 Sea eagles 59 Panic place for Jodie

45 More of the Oscar saw

50 End of the Oscar saw

48 Holes entered by Minutemen

49 Wife and wife, for example

- 60 Man, as a cruising goal 61 Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things
- Not 62 Surrealist Jean
- 63 Like Scar in "The Lion King"
- 64 High-speed connection

DOWN

- 1 Bloomers worn around the neck
- 2 Tree on a shady street 3 Jim Nabors' home state
- 4 Queen, for example
- 5 "See you later"
- 6 Island of Diamond Head Beach
- 7 It makes gelatin get hard 8 High tennis shots from Mauresmo
- 9 Young ones in an orchard
- 10 Concern for 39-Down
- 11 Winter product prefix, in ads 12 Rubber avoidance danger
- 20 Voice vote option
- 21 Mary's little lamb, perhaps 22 USA rival
- 23 Kind of deer
- 25 Anal insertion procedure (abbr.)
- 26 Fabric name ending
- 28 "Let's make it a threesome!"
- 29 "Milk," when it plays in Mexico?
- 32 Nation on the Persian Gulf
- 33 Rex Reed does this to movies
- 40 Tim Roth in "Four Rooms" 42 Like most cabs 43 Ralph of "Shakespeare in Love" 44 Buffoon 46 "Air Music" composer Ned 47 "For heaven's ____!"
 51 Word on a map of Israel 52 Lover of Lucille Ball's 53 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g. 54 Family diagram 55 "I Got Rhythm" writer Gershwin 58 Trump-mocking comedy

36 Meredith's "Family Ties" role

37 Hopkins of "Bosom Buddies"

39 Amelia Earhart, for example

38 Amazon, for short

FROM PAGE 7 LGBTBE

important component, in order for you to bid your products or services properly and succeed in the execution of the contract.

Step two: Financial assessment or contract accounting

Keep reading, as I know this is not most business owner's strong suit or interest.

In the world of contracting and procurement, it is crucial to know your numbers. They do not lie. This will prevent you from contracting a job you cannot fulfill due to undercapitalization.

Getting your company's financial ducks in a row before you start to participate is crucial, to avoid problems in the future. Also, understanding how to use your financial reports to bid or to manage these contracts will help to avoid cash flow issues in the future. It can also help you determine which tier would be a better starting point.

Step three: Managing your customer relationships

After you have targeted a market, or have done a few projects, or are filling that pipeline for more jobs, the question becomes how to manage all of this data. This is the last training module, which addresses not only how to promote your company as a certified business to prospective clients, but also, how to keep in touch with these clients, how to manage the follow-ups with your new supplier diversity contacts, and how to keep your customers coming back for more.

There are many customer relationship management (CRM) options available to help you become more efficient in staying in touch, but choosing the correct one for this new target market is key.

This is the point where you will need to think ahead before you choose the right system. You will also have to determine who is going to manage the system once it is set up and running.

You may know your business, but you need to get an expert to help choose and implement a good CRM system.

There are two Let's Work It! training modules being presented in September, and depending upon where your business is located — whether in south or north county — you can pick the SBDC closest to you.

- South San Diego module one bit.ly/2vB3wEK; module two bit.ly/2vtXHtG
- North County module one bit.ly/2vB3wEK; module two bit.ly/2wTQgzq

Acronyms to remember

B2B — Business-to-Business commerce exchange

CPUC — California Public Utilities Commission

GSDBA — Greater San Diego Business Association (San Diego's local LGBT Chamber of Commerce and NGLCC affiliate)

LGBTBE — Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (relates to being a LGBT Certified business)

NAVOB — National Association Veteran-Owned Business

NGLCC — National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

NVBDC — National Veteran Business Development Council

SBA — Small Business Administration

SBDC — Small Business Development Center

SDI — Supplier Diversity Initiative

SDIV SBDC — San Diego/ Imperial Valley Small Business Development Center Regional Network

You can sign up for each class by following the links. Remember, you can start the certification process or participate in the trainings in any order. We want to help you succeed.

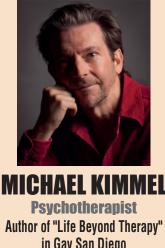
The LGBTBE certification movement is gaining steam daily. The latest report from the NGLCC celebrated the fact that LGBT-, disabled-, and veteran-owned businesses have now been added to the "billion dollar roundtable," which is for those corporations that spend at least \$1 billion annually with diverse business owners.

So do not miss out ... do biz with pride, get certified!

—Michelle Burkart is the program coordinator for the SDIV SBDC Regional Network LGBTBE. Reach her at mburkart@swccd.edu or michelle@diversitysupplieralliance.com. For more information on the SDIV SBDC LGBTBE programs visit sdivsbdc.org/lgbtbe-biz-builder.



Those wishing to become certified should attend the SDIV SBDC Regional Network LGBTBE's "Let's Work It" training modules. (Courtesy Michelle Burkart)



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FROM PAGE 17 **BRIEFS**

MAKER FAIRE 'LAST CALL' FOR ARTISTS

San Diego Makers Guild's two-day, family-friendly Maker Faire event will take place Oct. 7 and 8 in Balboa Park. While organizers are still looking for those passionate about their creations to register and participate, the deadline is rapidly approaching.

"Maker Faire is not designed like any standard trade show or conference it's a fun, interactive maze of demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, and displays," said Cody Nelson, director of events and public programs with the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. "Imagine the historical state fairs where everyone arrives with their wares and sets up their exhibit. We have different kinds of exhibit areas to accommodate the diversity of projects, and

we encourage makers to create their own look and feel."

Maker Faires are celebrated around the world and have become part of pop-culture, offering a place for experiential marketing, debuting new technologies and inventions, and celebrating geekdom.

Entry to this year's San Diego Maker Faire is open to individuals, groups, schools and hobby clubs, but the closing date for all entries is Friday, Sept. 8. bit. ly/2x621mu.

They are looking for these types of entries: artists; robotics; hacked or homebuilt drones; Arduino projects; raspberry Pi; space projects; food and beer makers (not concessionaires); artisanal and traditional handcrafts; conductive materials projects; kit makers; interactive art projects; 3D printers and CNC mills; textile arts and crafts; home energy monitoring; programming languages (for games, apps, etc.); rockets and RC toys;

sustainability and green technology; radios, vintage computers and game systems; electronics; electric vehicles; science, biology, biotech and chemistry projects; puppets, kites or other "whimsical" creations; large-scale art; shelter (tents, domes); musical performances; unusual tools or machines; how to fix things or take them apart (vacuums, clocks, washing machines, etc.).

For more information, visit sdmakersguild.org.

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	BREWINGO	21st Amendment Blood Orange Brew Free! Or Die	\$9.99 +CRV 6pk Cans
	CENTA ISLANDED	Avery White Rascal	\$10.99 +CRV 6pk Can



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