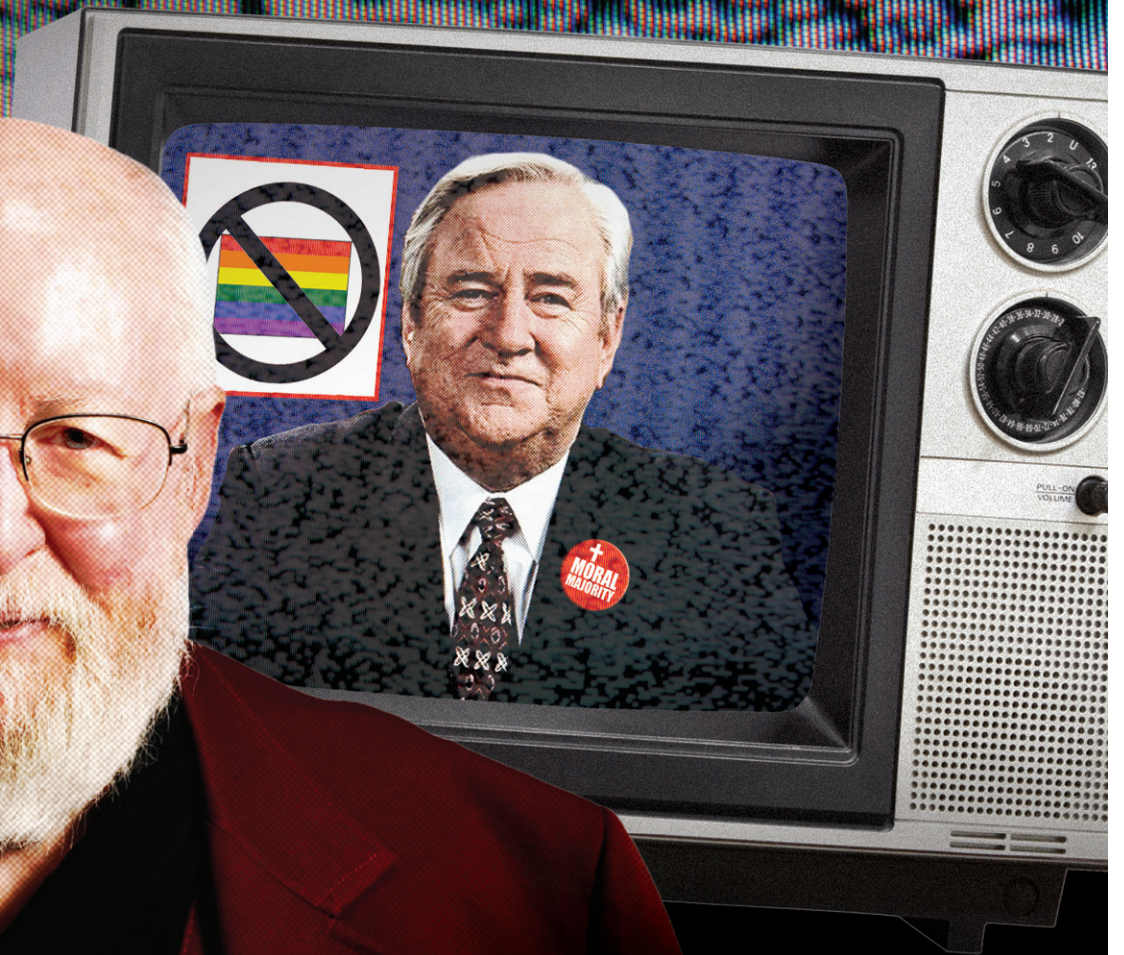


sac pride News

LGBTQ Issues & Lifestyle in Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Su
Sept. 26, 2013 · Vol 2, Issue 9

Coming Soon: SIGLFF pg. 4



JERRY SLOAN VS JERRY FALWELL

How Falwell's folly led to the
creation of the Sacramento
Gay & Lesbian Center

Page 5



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Editor's Note

SacPride News celebrated a milestone this month by publishing for one year

Gay in Sac, the predecessor, was first published in the 2012 "Best Of" issue of Sacramento



Tyler Edwards

News & Review as a single page. Gay in Sac Media Group, Inc., the parent company, has most certainly come a long way in its first year.

We are witness to a community in change with landmark businesses closing,

the changing face of "Lavender Heights," and our community's history, seen fading on the gracefully aging faces of our senior leadership.

We know we're on to something good when we have the opportunity to hear rich community history from our senior leadership. It's not until you've had the chance to sit down with Jerry Sloan a few times that you get the full range of his personality and history.

I am proud to provide a voice to those issues that need to be heard. Just as important are those community and individual stories that may otherwise remain unheard without SacPride News. As journalists, it is our responsibility to report, record and improve the community which we proudly serve.

SacPride News

A division of Pride Media



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Produced in association with Sacramento News & Review

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NEWS SHORTS

Read the full-length version of these stories and more on sacpridenews.com

Gay-Sino Royale

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce seated its new board in spectacular fashion on Sept. 17 at Vizcaya Event Center. Its most recent event, "Gay-sino Royale," served many purposes; celebrating the past year and the good it has done, introducing the new board members, providing a forum in which local business owners could network and raise funds for their internship/scholarship program for local students.

Girl Power

Talk about girl power! Sept. 14 was the "Rosie the Riveter Look-A-Like Contest" hosted by 3 Women and an Armoire. Rosie the Riveter is a cultural icon of the United States, representing the American women who worked in factories during World War II. The winner of the contest received a \$500 gift certificate to the lovely 3 Women and an Armoire furnishing store. 3 Women and an Armoire is a high-quality furniture store located at 304 N 12th St. that sells new and antique items at affordable prices.

Sacramento Red Dress Party

Come support HIV/AIDS awareness and wear your favorite red frock at the Red Dress Party on Oct. 5 at Badlands. The event is for attendees to unite to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic and facilitate proactive change in all communities. It is sponsored by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. VIP tickets are \$80 and general admission tickets are \$45. Proceeds go to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and Sunburst Projects. Red dresses are required. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, 1927 L St., Sacramento.

3 For Free

Participating shelters around the world will be providing free rabies vaccinations to dogs and cats on World Rabies Day, Sat., Sept. 28. This year the Sacramento Valley Veterinary Medical Association, sponsored in part by generous donations by their partners, will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for microchipping in a single day. Bring your pet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to get them microchipped, licensed and vaccinated for free at one of 11 locations around the Sacramento Region. For more information or to donate, visit svvma.com.

Let's Dance!

Capital City Squares, Sacramento's LGBTQ square dancing group is in full swing celebrating their 32nd year. The group meets every Wednesdays at the Fruitridge Community Center, 4000 Fruitridge Road, for class instruction. New classes have already started, but if you're a member who has not been in a while, why not come on by and dust off those do-si-dos and promenade with us again!

NorCal AIDS Cycle

It's time to start training for 2014's NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC). From May 15 to May 18, 2014, cyclists will ride 330 miles to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS service providers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond. But participants are being urged to start training for the event now. Last year NCAC distributed \$220,000 to its beneficiaries, making NCAC the largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser in the Sacramento and Northern California area. Get involved at norcalaidscycle.org.

Jammin' Jo Presents: Comic Suzanne Westenhoefer

Local event coordinator, Jammin' Jo, is bringing nationally renowned funny lady, Suzanne Westenhoefer, to Sacramento on Fri., Sept. 27. Suzanne is an openly gay comedian and was the first ever to appear as such on television. Her notable appearances include David Letterman, HBO, GSN, Logo and Bravo. For more information and where to buy tickets, go to jamminjo.com.



Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Nikki Whitfield and immediate past President Dr. Darrick Lawson at the Gay-Sino Royale fundraiser.

Photo courtesy of Pride Media



Rocco DeMarco, Jovi Radtke, Gregg Rasmussen and Debi Smith, employees of Pride Media, enjoy the roaring '20s vibe of Gay-Sino Royale.

Photo courtesy of Pride Media



Participants in the 2012 Red Dress Party supporting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Photo by Ryan Greenleaf

Women's Health Specialists New Location

by Jerri Cuerden

Abortion protesters attempting to prevent the Women's Health Specialists (WHS) clinic of Sacramento from relocating to a newly renovated location in the Arden area are now attempting to overturn a city ordinance that keeps them at least 20 feet away from the clinic entrance.

Despite this, WHS Director of Public Policies, Eileen Schnitger, and the WHS staff are very happy with their move. The new facility offers a more convenient location, ample parking and, most importantly, more time slots to offer clients a more efficient experience.

WHS began in 1979 when a group of 9 women in Chico, CA set out to create a women's health facility where all women would be treated with respect and dignity.

Despite being largely advertised as a women's health facility, WHS offers care to patients regardless of gender identification.



The front of the Women's Health Specialists (WHS) new clinic in Sacramento.

Photo courtesy of Women's Health Specialists

"We are welcoming of all our trans community members," Schnitger says. "Our core mission has been to share information so that nobody grows up in shame being born female."

For more information go to womenshealthspecialists.org

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Photo courtesy of SIGLFF

Open relationships are explored in *The Happy Sad*, written by Ken Urban, who will attend this year's Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Filmmaker to Attend Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

by Jovi Radtke & Matthew Burlingame

Get your tickets and grab your popcorn! The Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (SIGLFF) is back! Celebrating its 22nd annual showing of the latest and greatest in LGBT feature films and shorts, this year's festival promises to be one of the best yet!

SIGLFF was founded by Allen Cole, based on the student-run gay and lesbian film festival at Fresno State University. Cole, along with festival organizers, joined forces with students from California State University, Sacramento's Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the brothers of the Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity. Together they received grant funds from CSUS Associated Students Inc. to use as seed money to get the first Festival started.

The inaugural event, which played to a sold out house at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento, was held on Oct. 8, three days before National Coming Out Day. Over the past two decades, the festival has evolved into a three-day event containing two main features, a documentary matinee and an evening of short films.

Each year brings more growth and opportunities to show more films, give more money to community beneficiaries, and, most importantly, to support our newest program — providing completion grants to filmmakers.

Grants like these are essential to filmmakers like Kate Logan, whose documentary *Kidnapped for Christ* will be presented as a "first-look focus study." The film is in various stages of completion and the director has asked for feedback from Sacramento audiences.

When Logan first heard about a Christian reform camp for teenagers while working as a Christian missionary in the Dominican Republic, she thought it was a program for troubled teens getting a second chance. It came as a

shock to Logan when she realized the reform camp was nothing like what she had been led to believe. The documentary also features LGBTQ teens sent to the Christian Camp for conversion therapy.

"It's always great to have people associated with a film in attendance," says Michael Dennis, SIGLFF's Programming Chair. "This year we will have Ken Urban, screenwriter for *The Happy Sad* and director Kate Logan of *Kidnapped for Christ*. We also may have other directors and cast in attendance."

This year's festival will be held Oct. 10-12 at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. An "All Festival Pass" is \$40 and includes early nightly entry with doors opening at 6 p.m. and complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine and first choice of

seating. Audience members with \$10 General Admission tickets will be ushered in beginning at 6:45 p.m. with the nightly feature program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available in Sacramento at The Gifted Gardener, 1730 J St. in Midtown and at the Crest Theatre Box Office. Tickets can also be purchased online at Tickets.com.

For more information and a full listing of the films visit siglff.org.

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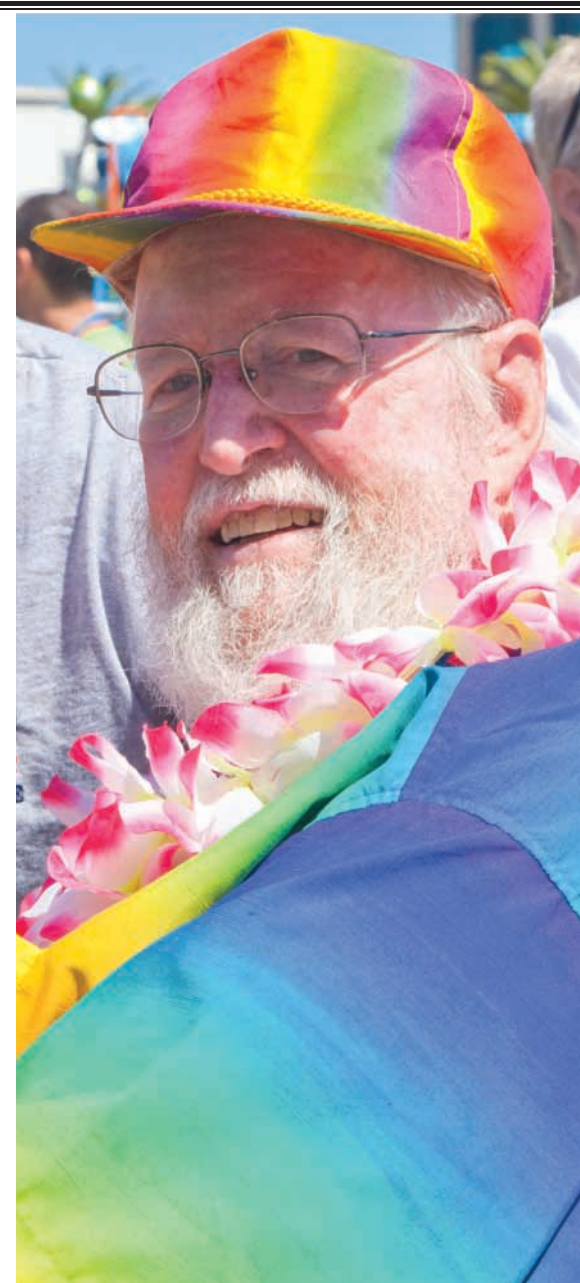


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Jerry Sloan and Rosemary Metrailler pose with the check they received from Jerry Falwell as a result of Falwell's remarks made about the Sacramento Metropolitan Community Church.

Photos courtesy of Jerry Sloan



The Fall of Falwell

Being gay and Christian in a post-Moral Majority America

by Mike Blount

Depending on who you talk to in the religious community, the two identities are either mutually exclusive — or they're not.

The struggle within individual denominations and churches to accept members of the LGBT community is ongoing, but that hasn't stopped religious leaders from taking a stance on the issue. Jerry Falwell, the former fundamentalist pastor and leader of the Moral Majority religious/political movement of the early '80s, was famously anti-gay — even going as far as deriding the children's educational program Teletubbies because he deemed one of the mascots to be a "gay role model."

But even at the height of Falwell's crusade against gays, there were religious leaders who spoke out in support of gays and welcomed them into the fold. Sacramento Metropolitan Community Church Pastor Jerry Sloan confronted Falwell on live television for remarks Falwell made defaming the Sacramento church. That confrontation eventually led to a lawsuit which Sloan won, and the money was donated toward the establishment of the Lambda Community Center (renamed the Sacramento LGBT Community Center).

"It all goes back to my hero Harvey Milk and his plea to 'Come out, come out wherever you are,'" Sloan says. "I came out at a time when all the books and everyone told you you were a pervert and degenerate. ... I'm amazed at the progress we've made since then."

"If Christians and spiritual leaders of all stripes would love one another and stay true to that, then a lot of this would go away."

Phil Konz,
pastor of Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ

Because of gay activists like Sloan and Milk, being openly gay and religious today isn't necessarily an automatic invitation to condemnation, says Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor Phil Konz. In fact, many churches celebrate the diversity that comes from a wide range of life experiences and backgrounds.

Konz became pastor of Pioneer UCC in 2010 after leaving his home state of Texas, and brought with him over 30 years of pastoral

leadership. Konz says the courage of gay activists and members of the LGBT community coming out has helped contribute to a more welcoming environment for gays in the religious community.

"A lot of my generation ended up in the closet because it wasn't something you could address," Konz says. "But the more people who have had the courage to come out publicly has made it harder for someone to say they don't know any gay people. Once you do know someone who is gay — they are your friends and you realize they are just normal people — it becomes difficult to maintain those homophobic emotions and the rationality of needing to keep [gays] separate and subdued."

But simply finding a church isn't the only issue. Members of the LGBT community may find a church is willing to accept them, but with the caveat that they must change or be willing to change. Certain churches even offer "conversion camps" designed to turn gay people straight. Konz says members of the LGBT community should be welcomed where they worship as they are.

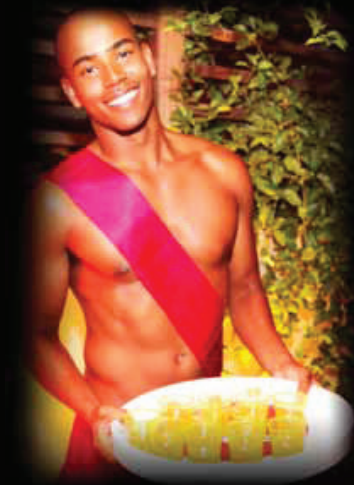
"Within most of the major denominations,

there are groups that are truly accepting — open and affirming," Konz says. "Other denominations may have their own code words for it, but this is a group within the church that has ascribed to being truly accepting. ... I have to give credit to anyone who has continued to try to find a church and has been burned before because there are too many that think they can still change you, but it doesn't work that way."

As members of the Pioneer UCC congregation, Margaret Sheridan and her partner Lynette Baugh say they are happy to be able to worship freely. "[Pioneer UCC] has provided for us a spiritual avenue to practice important family values like love, passion, community and inclusiveness," Sheridan says.

Looking forward, Konz says he is cautiously optimistic about the future of gays in religion. While the current climate is one of tolerance, he says he knows the pendulum can swing the other way just as quickly. But he is hopeful.

"If Christians and spiritual leaders of all stripes would love one another and stay true to that, then a lot of this would go away," Konz says.



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EVENT CALENDAR

Drag Queen Bingo

Thurs., Oct. 3, 6 p.m.; 1930 K St., Sacramento

Sacramento Red Dress Party

Sat., Oct. 5; VIP 8 p.m., General 9:30 p.m.;
Badlands, sacmentoredressparty.org

23rd Annual Curtis Park Wine Tasting

Sat., Oct. 5, 4 p.m.; Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.,
Sacramento, 916-452-3005; sierra2.org

Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

22nd annual film festival; Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 10-12;
Crest Theatre, 916-304-FILM, siglff.org

River City Sparkle – Sapphire Soiree

Sat., Oct. 12; 6 p.m.-midnight; Suite #302,
Red Lion Hotel Woodlake, rivercitysparkle.org

34th Annual Sacramento Women Take Back the Night Rally and March

Sat., Oct. 12; 5:30 p.m., Sacramento Native
American Health Center, sactakebackthenight.org

RAW Artist Showcase: Encompass

Wed., Oct. 2; 7-11 p.m., District 30,
rawartists.org/sacramento

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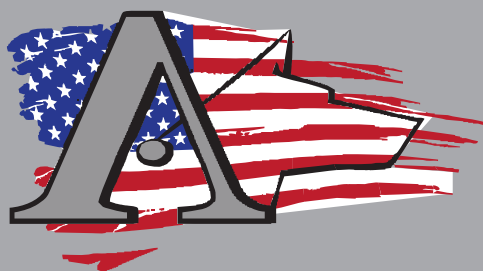


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SIGLFF

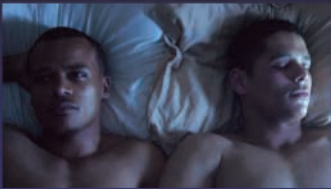
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Visit SIGLFF.org for Festival details, times and shows.