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Outword

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Landmark Legislation to Protect Youth Online Passes the Senate

In a significant move to bolster online safety for minors, California has passed a groundbreaking piece of legislation through the Senate, championed by Attorney General Rob Bonta. The bill, designed to create a safer digital environment for young users, underscores a significant shift towards prioritizing the well-being of children in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The legislation, which now moves to the Assembly for further deliberation, aims to implement stringent regulations on how digital platforms interact with users under 18. Key provisions of the bill include stringent restrictions on data collection practices, a ban on targeted advertising directed at minors, and the requirement for digital services to default to the highest privacy settings for users identified as young.

Attorney General Bonta has been a vocal advocate for this legislation, emphasizing its necessity in protecting the vulnerable demographic of young internet

users from exploitation and privacy breaches. "Today, we take a monumental step forward in the fight to safeguard our children from the hidden dangers of the digital world," Bonta remarked following the Senate's approval. He stressed the importance of adapting legal frameworks to keep pace with technological advancements that influence the daily lives of millions of young Americans.

The bill also proposes the establishment of a Digital Safety Commission, tasked with overseeing compliance and ensuring that digital businesses adhere to the new regulations. This body will be pivotal in

enforcing the law and adjusting guidelines as technology and social media landscapes evolve.

Supporters of the bill laud it as a pioneering approach to child safety online, potentially setting a template for other states to follow. Critics, however, raise concerns about the feasibility of enforcing such regulations and the potential burden on tech companies.

As the legislation heads to the Assembly, all eyes will be on California's efforts to redefine digital responsibility and protect its youngest citizens in an increasingly connected world.

HRC's "We Show Up: Equality Wins" Campaign Aims to Mobilize 75 Million Equality Voters

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, has announced the launch of its ambitious 2024 public education and engagement initiative, "We Show Up: Equality Wins." This campaign is set to reach an unprecedented 75 million identified Equality Voters across the United States. With a substantial \$15 million investment, HRC aims to make significant impacts through field programs, events, and advertising in six key battleground states, enhancing efforts that began as far back as 2017.

HRC's campaign comes at a crucial time when the rights and visibility of LGBTQ+ individuals are increasingly under threat. Recent polling indicates a strong favorability for HRC, with nearly 70% of respondents viewing the organization positively, underscoring its pivotal role in mobilizing voters. The campaign's title, "We Show Up: Equality Wins," embodies a clear rejection of the intimidation tactics aimed at silencing the LGBTQ+ community. It celebrates the community's resilience and history of securing legislative and societal victories.

Under the leadership of HRC President Kelley Robinson, the campaign is a direct response to the divisive and discriminatory



like California, Texas, New York, and Delaware.

The Equality Voters targeted by this campaign represent a diverse, multiracial, and multigenerational coalition, now 75 million strong and growing. This group, which has increased significantly from 62 million in 2022 and 52 million in 2016, is characterized by a commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ equality. They tend to be younger, more racially diverse, and predominantly female compared to the general electorate.

Data from a 2024 Equality Voter Survey by GQR highlights that 80% of Equality Voters are highly motivated to vote, though more efforts are needed to engage younger people, less educated individuals, and people of color. The survey also reveals that while 22% of Equality Voters might consider a third-party candidate, half of them would support President Biden to prevent a Trump victory, illustrating the critical need for strategic voter outreach.

"We Show Up: Equality Wins" is more than just a political campaign; it's a movement to safeguard the progress made under the Biden-Harris administration against the regressive and exclusionary policies promised by Trump and his supporters. As anti-LGBTQ+ legislation creates a hostile environment for the community, HRC's campaign is a vital effort to uphold and advance the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals nationwide, emphasizing that when they show up at the polls, equality wins.

rhetoric from figures like Donald Trump and his allies. Robinson emphasizes that the LGBTQ+ community and its supporters are crucial to tipping the scales in the 2024 elections, particularly in re-electing President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, and supporting pro-equality candidates throughout the ballot.

The urgency of this campaign is magnified by the ongoing rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, which HRC aims to counteract through comprehensive voter education and mobilization strategies. This includes significant field efforts and grassroots engagement in pivotal states such as Pennsylvania, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Nevada. In addition, HRC plans to bolster the election efforts of historic LGBTQ+ congressional candidates in states

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Little Activisms by Judy Saint Join Your Library

You can party and pair up for weekend hiking trips, but when you have a moment to catch what's going on across the country, do you sense a real fear around the next US election in November? Do you want to do something to help secure our freedoms? If you've been watching what lawmakers have been doing – that's doing, not saying – then some part of you should be thinking yes to both questions.

As it says in the small book that Rachel Maddow says she carries with her at all times, *On Tyranny* by Tim Snyder, when threats to freedom strike, pick an institution that you love, and support it. Let's do that right now.

Today I'd like to suggest supporting the library system by becoming a member. It's more consequential than you might think. Our libraries and our librarians are a bedrock of our democracy.

When democracies are overrun by authoritarian figures, one immediate change people see is a disappearing, jailing, or restrictions imposed on groups of citizens who could threaten the new structure. They go after scientists, lab technicians, doctors, teachers, professors, researchers, and librarians. Yes, librarians.

Librarians help preserve democracies and our freedoms. In normal times, they offer internet access, meeting places for the community, homework help, job searching, literacy, job training videos, entertaining movies, story hours, online books, and more. They promote equality, inclusivity, accurate information, equal access, research tools, entertainment, and a safe space. Not to mention physical books to borrow.

In abnormal times, they are one of the front lines of communication, accurate information, true historical records, and social services. They are a bulwark against cults, misinformation, censorship, hatred, and division. Don't mess with librarians. They will uncensor your ass.

When you join your local library, even if you never check out a book or video, you are showing your support for one of our remaining true American institutions protecting a free world.

But don't just take my word for it.

"The Battle to Save Democracy Starts at the Local Library. As efforts to ban books in the US grow, so do attacks on libraries." (Bloomberg)

"Libraries offer a counter to tyranny and to

the growing divide between the wealthy and the others." (St. Cloud Times)

"For years, libraries have been called the cornerstone of democracy" (Intellectual Freedom)

"[G]roups are hellbent to abolish the American child's freedom to read, rallying to remove library books about everything from sex education to the Holocaust and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... Public libraries provide numerous social services such as information on health care, housing, finding jobs and using technology to help shrink the digital divide. Public libraries are a bulwark against censorship and a bastion of knowledge. Our public libraries stand as antidotes to book banning and other threats to democracy." (The Hill)

"The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity, and its existence indicates the extent to which a democratic society values knowledge, truth, justice, books, and culture." (Reading Rockets)

- Be proud of your library card.
- Use it.
- Stop by to look around.
- Reserve a common room to hold a community event of some sort.
- See what they offer online. ...

Or just grab a coffee and sit in the comfy surroundings for a while, appreciating the serene bastion of thinking and truth surrounding you.

Thank a librarian for defending that space for you.

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon. She and her wife live in Roseville, CA.

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California Advances Bill to Boost Access to Gender-Affirming Care Amid Nationwide Restrictions

In a significant legislative move, Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur of California has successfully advanced a bill aimed at improving access to gender-affirming care. Known as AB 2442, the bill has passed through the California State Assembly and is now headed to the Senate, backed by bipartisan support. This legislation is particularly notable for its focus on expediting the medical licensure process for providers specializing in gender-affirming care, an essential service that supports the transgender community.

AB 2442, endorsed by prominent organizations such as Equality California and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, seeks to prioritize licensure applications for healthcare providers in this field. The primary goal is to cultivate a robust network of qualified medical professionals in California, ensuring they can adequately meet the increasing demands of out-of-state transgender patients. These individuals often seek care in California due to restrictive laws in their home states, making California a vital refuge for those in need of such services.

The urgency of this bill is underscored by a distressing trend observed nationwide: over 40 states have introduced more than 500 legislative proposals this year alone, aiming to curtail the rights of transgender individuals in several areas, including healthcare, education, and public existence. Assemblymember Zbur highlighted the critical nature of the situation, stating, "As bans on crucial services like healthcare go into effect, California must be prepared to provide this vital care and serve as a beacon of hope to LGBTQ+ and transgender communities experiencing discrimination and cruelty."

By facilitating a quicker licensing process, AB 2442 ensures that California not only remains a safe haven but also enhances its capacity to offer high-quality, accessible gender-affirming care. This initiative is a testament to California's commitment to inclusivity and support for the transgender community at a time when many are facing increased hostility and legislative barriers elsewhere.

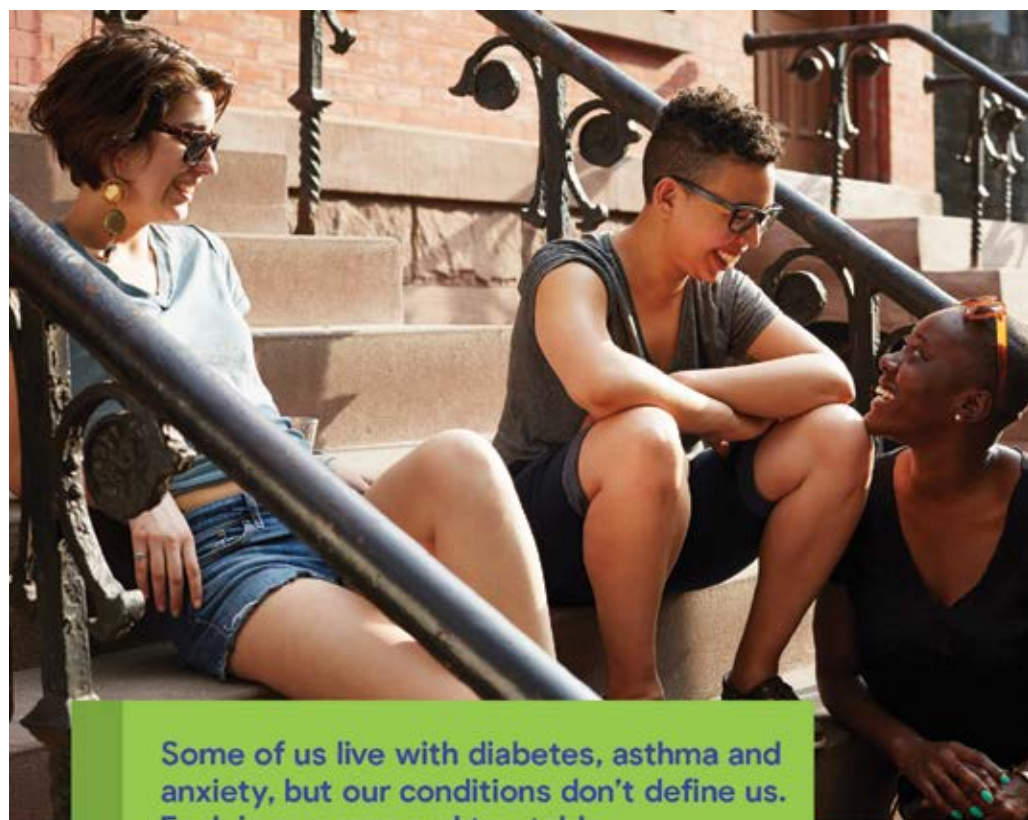
The passage of AB 2442 through the



Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur

Assembly marks a crucial step towards safeguarding and expanding healthcare access for transgender individuals, both residents and visitors, who turn to California for its progressive and supportive healthcare policies. As the bill moves to the California State Senate, it carries the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of many, reinforcing California's role as a leader in LGBTQ+ advocacy and healthcare provision.

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, who represents the 51st Assembly District, continues to be a prominent advocate for equality and inclusivity, embodying the progressive spirit of the communities he serves, including Hollywood, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica. The progression of AB 2442 is a clear indication of his commitment to enhancing the well-being of transgender individuals across the state and beyond.



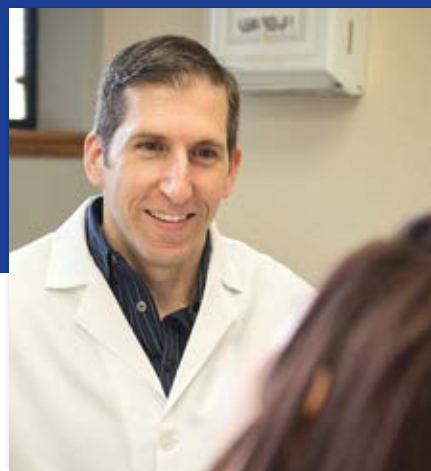
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California Democratic Party Unanimously Endorses Rent Control in Bold Move to Tackle Housing Crisis

In a landmark decision, the California Democratic Party has officially endorsed rent control measures with a unanimous vote. This move comes as a significant response to the state's escalating housing crisis, which has seen rental prices soar, leaving many residents struggling to afford basic housing.



The endorsement was announced following a gathering of party leaders and stakeholders, who emphasized the need for immediate action to stabilize the rental market and protect tenants from exorbitant rent increases. "We are committed to making California a more affordable place to live for everyone," stated one senior party official. "This endorsement of rent control is a critical step towards achieving that goal."

Rent control laws typically limit how much landlords can increase rent each year and are seen as a tool to help keep housing affordable for low and middle-income residents. Advocates argue that without such regulations, renters are vulnerable to being priced out of their homes, contributing to the state's already severe homelessness crisis.

However, the decision has not come without its critics. Some argue that rent control could discourage developers from building new housing units, further

aggravating the housing shortage. Others caution that such measures might lead to reduced maintenance and upgrades on existing properties, as landlords may find it economically unfeasible to invest in their properties under strict rent caps.

Despite these concerns, the party's endorsement has been welcomed by numerous tenant groups and housing advocates, who see it as a pivotal moment in the fight for more equitable housing policies. The California Democratic Party's backing gives significant political momentum to legislative efforts aimed at implementing rent control measures statewide, setting a precedent that could influence other states facing similar issues.

As California continues to grapple with its housing challenges, the endorsement by the Democratic Party marks a potential turning point, highlighting the growing recognition of the need for systemic solutions to ensure housing affordability and stability.

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HRC's Welcoming Schools Program Reaches 750,000 Students, Combats Anti-LGBTQ+ Bullying Amid Rising School Hate Crimes

The Welcoming Schools program, an initiative by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC), has reached a new milestone by impacting over 750,000 students through its anti-bullying efforts. This program is dedicated to creating supportive educational environments for LGBTQ+ students by providing necessary tools and training to pre-K-12 school communities. Amid the current wave of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and increased hate crimes in schools, the relevance and urgency of such programs have never been clearer.

Recent data reveals a worrying increase in hate crimes and bullying incidents in schools, with reports more than doubling nationwide between 2015 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022. This rise correlates with the sharp spike in anti-LGBTQ+ bills, many of which target transgender and non-binary students, further marginalizing this vulnerable group. The Welcoming Schools initiative aims to counteract these negative trends by educating and empowering school staff to foster a more inclusive and safe environment for all students.

In the fiscal year 2024, Welcoming Schools conducted 180 training sessions for 13,000 educators across the country. These training sessions are crucial as they equip educators with the skills and knowledge to support LGBTQ+ students effectively.

Feedback from these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive; prior to the training, less than half of the educators felt confident in their ability to support LGBTQ+ students. Post-training, this number soared to 89%, demonstrating the effectiveness of the program in boosting educator confidence and competence.

The increase in school-based hate crimes and the legislative attacks on LGBTQ+ inclusion have made the support from programs like Welcoming Schools more critical than ever. Kelley Robinson, President of the Human Rights Campaign, emphasized the importance of continuing these efforts despite the challenges. "While a fringe, right-wing minority in this country is fixated on creating barriers to learning, teachers and families are pushing back, wanting to expand their support for LGBTQ+ youth," Robinson stated. She highlighted the significant impact of reaching a record number of students this year, underscoring

the program's role in ensuring every student can pursue their dreams and receive acceptance in their educational journey.

Cheryl Greene, Sr. Director of the HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools program, noted that the initiative is more robust than ever in its 16th year. "Amidst challenges to LGBTQ+ inclusion in education, Welcoming Schools has remained steadfast in its

commitment to empowering educators and creating affirming spaces for students," Greene said. She also pointed out the heartening trend of families moving to more accepting states to find safe educational environments for their children, illustrating the program's vital role in these transitions.

The top three trainings requested this year included Creating Gender-Inclusive Schools,

Embracing All

Families, and Preventing Bias-Based Bullying. These sessions highlight the program's comprehensive approach to tackling various aspects of school culture that can impact LGBTQ+ students. From developing gender-inclusive policies to embracing diverse family structures and actively preventing bullying, Welcoming Schools is at the forefront of creating educational spaces where every student can thrive.

To access Welcoming Schools' free resources, visit www.welcomingschools.org/resources.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the [California State Library](#) in partnership with the [California Department of Social Services](#) and the [California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs](#) as part of the [Stop the Hate](#) program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to [CA vs Hate](#).



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Stand Up, Speak Out: An Urgent Call to Support Our Community

op-ed by Matthew St. Amant

As the winner of the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community Leader of the Year in 2024, I am compelled to speak up in response to increases in hate speech, hurtful messaging, and misrepresented information in social media—while it affects the LGBTQ+ community, it more specifically targets the Transgender and Non-Binary (TGNB) community. In a world where our differences should be celebrated, standing with the LGBTQ+ community, especially our TGNB siblings, is more crucial than ever. This isn't just about kindness—it's about justice, equality, love, and community. It's about being there for each other, no matter what.

I call upon everyone to rise up, speak out, and be present as allies or members of the community. I call on you to march for your rights and the rights of others because while I see you every day for who you are and who you want to be, I also feel for those people who I can't see yet—for their fear of retaliation, hate, and hurt for being authentic to themselves.

Being an ally means more than just saying you support the LGBTQ+ community or just attending the Sacramento Pride Festival and March. It means showing up, listening, and learning actively every day. It means recognizing the bravery it takes for transgender and non-binary individuals to live authentically in a world that often misunderstands them, hurts them, and creates active barriers to their authenticity and vulnerability. We need to support them

uncomfortable by using your privilege to raise awareness of inequities, hurt, and discrimination.

Creating safe spaces is essential. These are places where transgender and non-binary individuals can express themselves freely without fear of judgment or harm. Whether in schools, workplaces, or community centers, we can all contribute to making these spaces welcoming. Advocate for policies that promote inclusivity, like gender-neutral restrooms and anti-discrimination protections. Make it clear that everyone is welcome and respected. Be a true champion of this—if you see someone singled out or alone, make yourself available to be with them if that's what they're looking for. Use your light to brighten a person's darkness.

Kindness can be as simple as a smile, a supportive comment, or standing up for someone when they need it most. Small acts

The Stonewall riots were a moment when the LGBTQ+ community and allies stood together and fought together—it was a time when allyship refused to accept the mistreatment of the LGBTQ+ community.

actively in their journey, not just with words but with actions.

The Stonewall Uprising of 1969 was a powerful turning point in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Brave individuals like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera fought back against oppression, sparking a movement that continues to inspire us today. Our fight for equality is interconnected; we cannot rest until every member of our community is free. Free from judgment, hurt, and the pain of not being accepted for who they truly are. The Stonewall riots were a moment when the LGBTQ+ community and allies stood together and fought together—it was a time when allyship refused to accept the mistreatment of the LGBTQ+ community. This refusal spurred growth and created change.

Allyship starts with education. Take the time to learn about the experiences of transgender and non-binary people. Understand the significance of using correct pronouns, respecting chosen names, and acknowledging the unique challenges they face. Speak out against transphobia whenever you encounter or witness it, whether it's a casual comment or a policy that discriminates. Use your voice to amplify theirs—be

of kindness can make a world of difference. These small acts can be lifesaving—and you might never know it. Studies show that 40% of transgender adults in the US have attempted suicide, while an astonishing 81% have contemplated it. (<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transpop-suicide-press-release/>)

So, what can you do today to make a difference? Start by educating yourself and others. Speak out against injustice. Create and support safe spaces. Show kindness and build trust. Celebrate the uniqueness of every individual. These actions, though they may seem small, are the building blocks of a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Together, we can create a future where everyone can live authentically and without fear. As pioneers before us have shown, true liberation comes when we stand together, united in our fight for equality and justice. Let's make sure that hope and love are never silent. Stand up, speak out, and be an ally. Your support can change lives, save lives, and help build a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are.

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Angie P., age 62, and her wife Catharay

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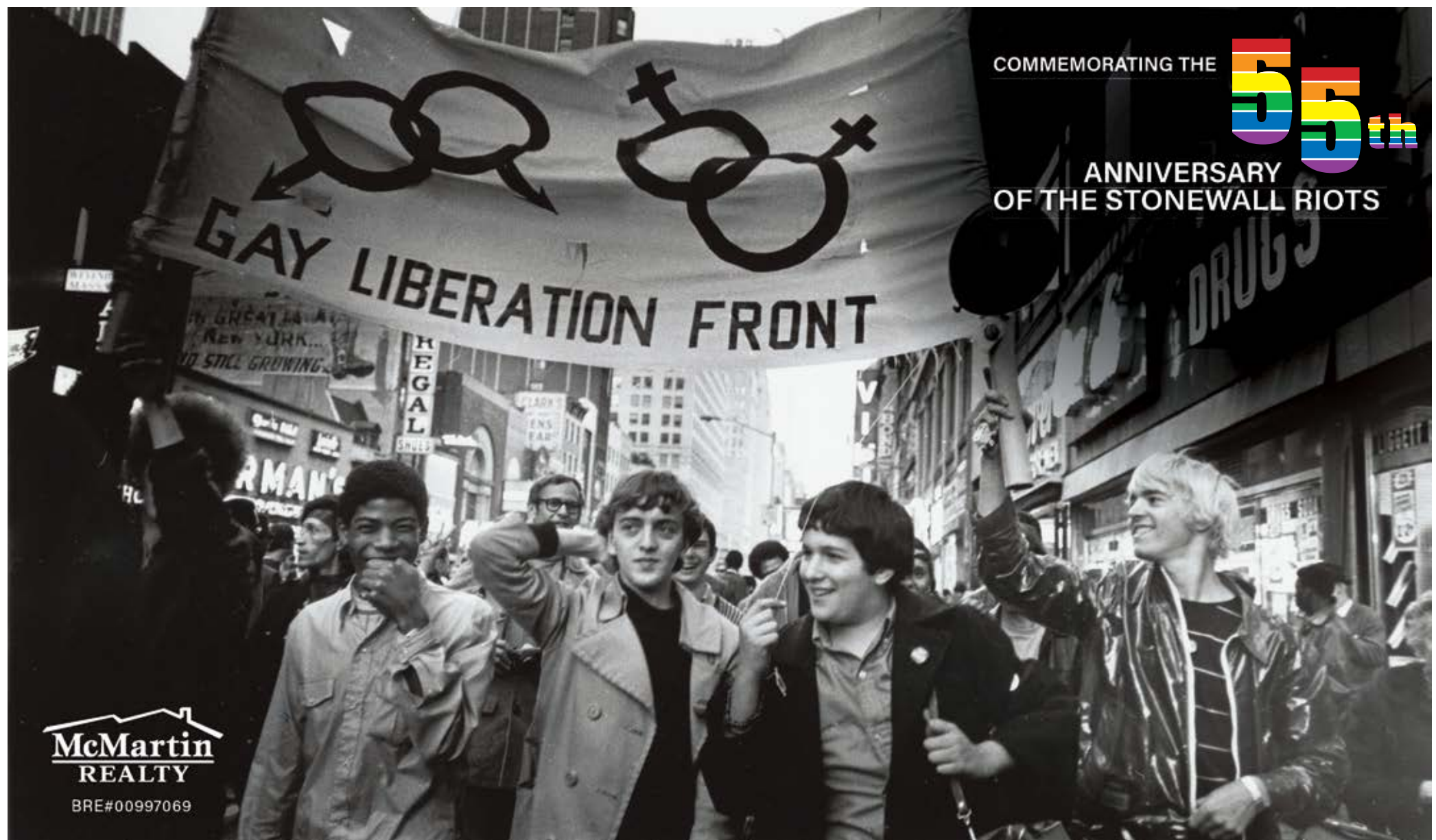
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Don't Miss Redding's 2024 Pride Events!

When this year's Redding Pride planning committee sat down to pick a theme, everyone had the same thought... we've found ourselves in a new era. 2024 marks fifteen years of Redding Pride, and to celebrate the occasion while recognizing our changing city, we chose New Beginnings.



Thanks in part to our partner Viva Downtown, huge changes have been made to the heart of our city including remodeled streets and structures, brand new buildings, new housing, and new store fronts. Redding Pride has its roots on Market Street in downtown, and for the first time in years we're back. Few in town would disagree that the Market Street Promenade is absolutely gorgeous, and we believe there is no better place to host a Pride festival, so we are.

A new era is upon us on another front as well. As one prominent local leader put it, cultural climate change is happening within the city. It's no secret Redding is rural and is known for a small town vibe. With that, we've faced a good amount of resistance to progress, gaps in equality, and outright discrimination and violence toward the LGBTQIA2s+ community. But things are changing. With our exciting new plan for Redding Pride we hope to nudge progress even further.

The founders of Nor Cal Outreach Project (the non-profit steward of Redding Pride) and the original Redding Pride planners were some of the first to take steps toward equality in tangible ways here. Fifteen years later we may not be where we should be, but because of those fearless ground breakers we're now hosting a bonafide Pride Festival that we hope will rival bigger municipalities.

This year's fest will feature beefed up stage

entertainment, street performers in the main section, food trucks, cocktails & beer by Redding's newest queer bar The Vault, and a diverse group of vendors from business, non-profit, education, health, spiritual and maker spaces. The youth team has even secured it's own street!

Redding Pride Month activities also include lighting the famous Sundial Bridge in rainbow, a youth prom and an all ages Pride pool party, both at the YMCA. For adults looking for nightlife fun two official after parties are on the calendar as well.

As for the crown jewel of Redding Pride: New Beginnings we are proud to announce Let There Be Light A Drag Showcase happening at downtown Redding's historic Cascade Theatre. Last year was the first time we held a show like this in our city. People are still talking about it. The house was sold out, there was a line around the block to get in, and our performers absolutely DID NOT disappoint.

We've retooled Pride in such a way we hope it honors those who laid the foundation and sets the stage for unforgettable Redding experiences every year forward. We'd be thrilled if you joined us for pride on the promenade in Redding, CA on June 22nd.

For calendar, show tickets, sponsor and vendor opportunities, as well as continued updates, go to www.reddingpride.org.



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For more information about Davis Pride 2024 events, sponsors, and exhibitors, please visit

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Happy Pride Sacramento!

Napa Valley Pride 2024: Embracing Love, Light, and Liberation

For the month of June, Napa Valley is set to celebrate Pride Month with a vibrant array of events under the theme “Embracing Love, Light, and Liberation.” This theme captures the spirit of inclusivity and celebration that characterizes the global LGBTQ+ community and highlights the ongoing journey towards equality and acceptance.

The festivities will kick off with the opening ceremony in downtown Napa, where community leaders and activists will gather to raise the Pride flag and speak on the significance of Pride Month. This symbolic start sets the tone for a month-long celebration that promises to engage both locals and visitors from around the world.

Throughout the month, attendees can look forward to a diverse lineup of events designed to cater to a wide range of interests and ages. The calendar includes everything from wine tasting tours at LGBTQ+-owned vineyards to educational workshops that focus on the history and future of LGBTQ+ rights. A highlight of the celebration will be the “Love and Light Art Exhibition,” which will showcase works by local LGBTQ+ artists.

The pinnacle of Napa Pride 2024 will be the Liberation Parade, a colorful and exuberant event that will wind its way through the heart of wine country. Featuring floats, live music, and dance performances, the parade not only serves as a celebration of love and freedom but also as a powerful reminder of the community’s journey towards liberation.

As Pride Month progresses, Napa Valley’s restaurants, bars, and public spaces will host a variety of events, including drag brunches, live concerts, and quiet gatherings, ensuring that there’s something for everyone. These events not only foster a sense of community and fun but also support local LGBTQ+ businesses and artists.

Napa Valley Pride 2024 is more than just a celebration; it’s a vibrant declaration that in Napa, love, light, and liberation are at the heart of the community. Whether you’re a local resident or a visitor, participating in Napa Pride not only offers a chance to celebrate but also to reflect on the strides made towards equality and the work that still lies ahead. This June, Napa invites one and all to come together and embrace the joyous spirit of Pride. napapride.com



Yountville Pride Celebrations: A Colorful Affair Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce

Nestled in the heart of Napa Valley, Yountville is known for its scenic beauty, world-class cuisine, and now, its vibrant Pride celebrations. This year, the Yountville Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted a series of events that painted the town in the rainbow colors of inclusivity and diversity. The celebration will span from Monday, June 17 – Sunday, June 23, 2024.

The festivities kicked off with a sparkling evening reception at a local winery, where members of the community and visitors alike gathered to celebrate love and equality. The highlight of the evening was a heartfelt speech by a prominent LGBTQ+ activist, inspiring attendees with stories of resilience and community support.

Throughout the week, the streets of Yountville buzzed with activities. Local businesses participated enthusiastically, adorning their storefronts with rainbow flags and offering special promotions. A family-friendly Pride parade, the centerpiece of the celebrations, featured colorful floats, music bands, and dancers, creating a festive atmosphere that brought smiles to faces of all ages.

Educational workshops and panels were also a significant part of the celebrations, providing valuable information about LGBTQ+ history and ongoing rights movements. These sessions, led by experts and community leaders, were well-attended, demonstrating the community’s commitment to learning and growing together.

The Yountville Chamber of Commerce ensured that the Pride events were not only a celebration but also a platform for raising awareness about important issues facing the LGBTQ+ community. The inclusive nature of the events fostered a sense of belonging and pride in Yountville’s diverse community, setting a benchmark for future celebrations.

As the week concluded, the impact of Yountville’s Pride celebrations resonated beyond the festivities. It was a vivid reminder of the town’s inclusive spirit and the Chamber of Commerce’s dedication to creating a welcoming community for everyone, regardless of their background or identity. This annual event continues to be a beacon of hope and joy, promising to draw even larger crowds in the years to come.

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Past Honored in 10th Year of Davis Pride

by Wendy Weitzel

As the Davis Phoenix Coalition marks its 10th year of Davis Pride activities next month, its members also want to honor those who painted that rainbow road.

Pride celebrations in Davis go much deeper than a decade. Every June from 1996 to 2006, local LGBTQ+ activists Shelly Bailes and Ellen Pontac coordinated the Yolo County Lesbian and Gay Picnic Day. After it took a hiatus, the event was revived in 2015 by the nonprofit Davis Phoenix Coalition, which rebranded it as Davis Pride. Rising from its origins as a single-day event with 500 participants in the 1990s, it has become a monthlong June celebration, drawing close to 10,000 people. These participants come from all segments of the local population, happy to gather in support of LGBTQ+ rights.

This year, highlights include the Davis Pride Community Fair and Music Festival, an after party, a fun run, skate night, comedy night, and plenty of drag.

Gloria Partida founded the Davis Phoenix Coalition in 2013 after her son, Lawrence “Mikey” Partida was brutally beaten in an anti-gay attack. She and other organizers started Davis Pride with the idea of a fun run, and added a family-friendly festival for the whole community.

Despite successes like the federal legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015, they knew Davis Pride would be controversial. She saw what Bailes and Pontac went through. “They had a lot of pushback when they were doing the work,” Partida said.

Bailes and Pontac were the first gay couple to legally marry in Yolo County in 2015, a ceremony happily performed by then County Clerk/Recorder Freddie Oakley. Pontac died in 2020 but her wife, now 83, was honored with the city’s 2024 Brinley Award for service to the community.

Same-sex marriage is no longer as controversial. Today, the attention is on transgender people, with right-wing groups protesting drag shows, public bathroom access and more. “Now we see that we’re in this spot basically 20 years later, and we’re still fighting the same fight,” Partida said. “We are seeing those same things – but in the trans community.”

This year’s theme is “Davis Pride – Because Yolo County is for Everyone!” It follows the Davis Phoenix Coalition’s recent lawn sign messages “Davis is for Everyone” and “Yolo County is for Everyone,” to counter the far-right actions experienced in the community.

The 10th annual Davis Pride Community Fair and Music Festival has a new location this year: Civic Center Park, at Sixth and B streets. The community-focused, family-friendly event includes a music festival, resources, vendors, food, drinks and more – from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 1.

Headlining the musical lineup is Davis native and vocal percussionist Butterscotch, a Season 2 finalist on NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.” They will perform at 3:15 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., co-headlining the Sutter Health Main Stage will be Willie Gomez, from Season 24 of NBC’s “The Voice.” Gomez is an accomplished Latin music artist and has been a backup dancer for Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, among others.

Other performances include Silicon Valley’s Josh Diamond, the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus, Team Davis Singers, and the always popular Drag Revue. There will be activity zones for children, teens and seniors.

After the festival wraps up at 5, revelers are encouraged to continue to the inaugural Davis Pride After Party, which will be from 6 to 11 p.m. on G Street, between Second and Third streets, downtown. That portion of the street is a pedestrian zone. DJ Mellax of Davis Rave Co. will spin dance tunes. Patrons may purchase food and drink from downtown Davis establishments.

The next day is the Run for Equality, starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 2. It includes a 5K and 1K run/walk from Central Park, at Fourth and C streets. The run is the fundraiser that makes the festival possible. Registration is \$25 until May 28 and \$30 after. Visit <https://www.davispride.org/run>.

Davis Pride events are coordinated by an all-volunteer community formed by the Davis Phoenix Coalition, a nonprofit that works to foster diversity, eliminate intolerance, prevent hate-motivated violence, and support LGBTQ+ youths in Davis and surrounding communities. Proceeds fund the coalition’s anti-racism and anti-bullying campaigns, support to LGBTQ+ youths and their families, and outreach with area police departments, churches and schools. To donate, go to <https://davisphoenixco.org/donate>.

For more information about all the pride events, visit <https://www.davispride.org/>.



Davis Pride
June 1, 2024



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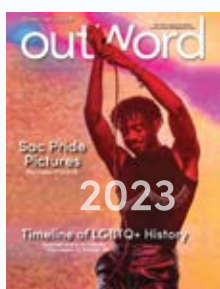
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“On Bette Midler: An Opinionated Guide” by Kevin Winkler

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Superb. That word's appropriate in this situation. Fantastic, that's another. Transcendent or celestial, if you're of that mind, or perhaps anointed. There are many adjectives you can use for a performer who transports you, one who sings to your soul. Sensational, breathtaking, outstanding, or – as in the new book “On Bette Midler” by Kevin Winkler – another, better word may be more suitable.



Born in Hawaii a few months after the end of World War II, Bette Midler was named after film star Bette Davis. It was a perhaps auspicious start: despite a minor disparity (Midler's mother thought the movie star's first name was pronounced “Bet”), young Midler seemed at a young age to want to follow in her almost-namesake's footsteps. By age 11, she'd won accolades and prizes for her performances and she “yearned to be a serious actor...” As soon as she could, she headed for New York to seize her career.

Alas, her “unconventional” looks didn't help win the roles she wanted but she was undeterred. Unafraid of small venues and smaller gigs, she “just blossomed” in New York City. Eventually, she landed at the Improv on 44th Street; the owner there helped her negotiate some minor work. Another man became her manager and secured a job for her at the Continental, a New York bath house strictly for gay men. She was hired for eight summer nights, Friday and Saturdays only, for fifty bucks a night.

Almost immediately, her authenticity, her raunchy language, and her ability to relate to her audience made her beloved in the gay community. Midler's tenure at the Continental expanded and, though legend points to a longer time, she worked at the bath house for just over two years before moving on and up, to television, recording

studios, movies, and into fans' hearts. Still, asks Winkler, “Did it really matter what stage she was on? She touched audiences wherever she performed.”

In his earliest words – and, in fact, in his subtitle – author Kevin Winkler reminds readers that “On Bette Midler” is a book that's “highly opinionated, filled with personal contemplations...” He is, in other words, a super-fan, but that status doesn't mar this book: Winkler restrains his love of his subject, and he doesn't gush. Whew.

That will be a relief to readers who wish to relish in their own fervor, although you'll be glad for Winkler's comprehensive timeline and his wide, wide look at Midler's career. Those things come after a long and fascinating biography that starts in 1970, takes us back to 1945, and then pulls us forward through movies, television appearances, stage performances, and songs you might remember – with appearances from Barbara Streisand, Barry Manilow, and Cher. It's a fun trip, part confidential, part charming, part nostalgic, and very affectionate.

Despite that this is a “personal” book, it's great for readers who weren't around during Midler's earliest career. If you were and you're a fan, reading it's like communing with someone who appreciates Midler like you do. Find “On Bette Midler.” You'll find it divine.

Happy Pride Sacramento!

Out & About

On May 2nd, the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce celebrated Big Day of Giving at RCC's monthly Drag Queen Bingo! With the incredible generosity of our community, Drag Queen Bingo attendees, and community partners we raised over \$30,000 for our Rainbow Chamber Foundation. Proceeds raised surpassed our goal and will continue to support our invaluable LGBTQ+ and ally scholarship program. Because of you, our community can continue to thrive and our next generation of students will be supported on their educational journeys. You can still support this effort by donating to the Rainbow Chamber Foundation by visiting the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber's website.

www.rainbowchamber.com



Happy Pride Sacramento!



Save the Date



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October 10, 2024



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Mark Your Calendar - Coming Out Day 2024

by River District Community Foundation

We invite you to join us at Township 9 Park from 5:30-8:30 p.m. to celebrate National Coming Out Day on Friday, October 11, 2024. Hosted by the River District Community Foundation, this annual event is not just a celebration; it is a powerful affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community's visibility, resilience, and unity. Coming Out Day is an opportunity to honor the courage of those who live authentically and to foster a community that supports one another in every facet of life, especially in health and well-being.

The purpose of Coming Out Day extends far beyond festivity. It is a moment to promote LGBTQ+ visibility while connecting community members with essential health services and support networks. We recognize the unique healthcare needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and are steadfast in our commitment to bridging gaps in care. By forming strategic partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, we aim to ensure that every member of our community has access to resources that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Last year, our event was a resounding success, and we are thrilled to build on that momentum. Attendees enjoyed a variety of offerings, including free STI testing, safe sex resources, free dance lessons by Dance on the Edge, free art supplies, and harm reduction services. The day was brought to life by the vibrant talents of local LGBTQ+ poets, drag performers, dancers, vendors, and musicians who showcased the rich diversity and creativity of our community.

This year, we are excited to present an even more dynamic and inclusive program. From health and wellness services to artistic expressions, Coming Out Day 2024 promises to be an enriching experience for all who attend. We will once again offer free STI testing and safe sex resources, ensuring that everyone has access to crucial health services. Our harm reduction services will continue to provide support and education for safer living. Additionally, this year will feature new interactive elements and surprises that highlight the strength and beauty of our community.

Art and culture remain at the heart of Coming Out Day. We are proud to feature performances from talented LGBTQ+ artists who reflect the diverse voices and stories within our community. Local LGBTQ+ vendors will offer unique goods, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. These performances and activities not only entertain but also empower, reminding us all of the importance of self-expression and the shared joy of community celebration.

Coming Out Day is a call to action. It is a reminder that visibility matters and that every coming out story is a step towards greater acceptance and equality. By attending, you are not only supporting those who are coming out but also standing in solidarity with the entire LGBTQ+ community. Your presence affirms the importance of acceptance, health, and unity.

We invite everyone, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies alike, to come together on this special day. Bring your friends, family, and allies to Township 9 Park to celebrate with us. Let us create a space where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated. Together, we can make a difference by fostering a community that values health, happiness, and the freedom to be unapologetically you.

Join us on October 11, 2024, for an evening of celebration, connection, and empowerment. Together, we can continue to build a community where everyone thrives. See you at Township 9 Park!





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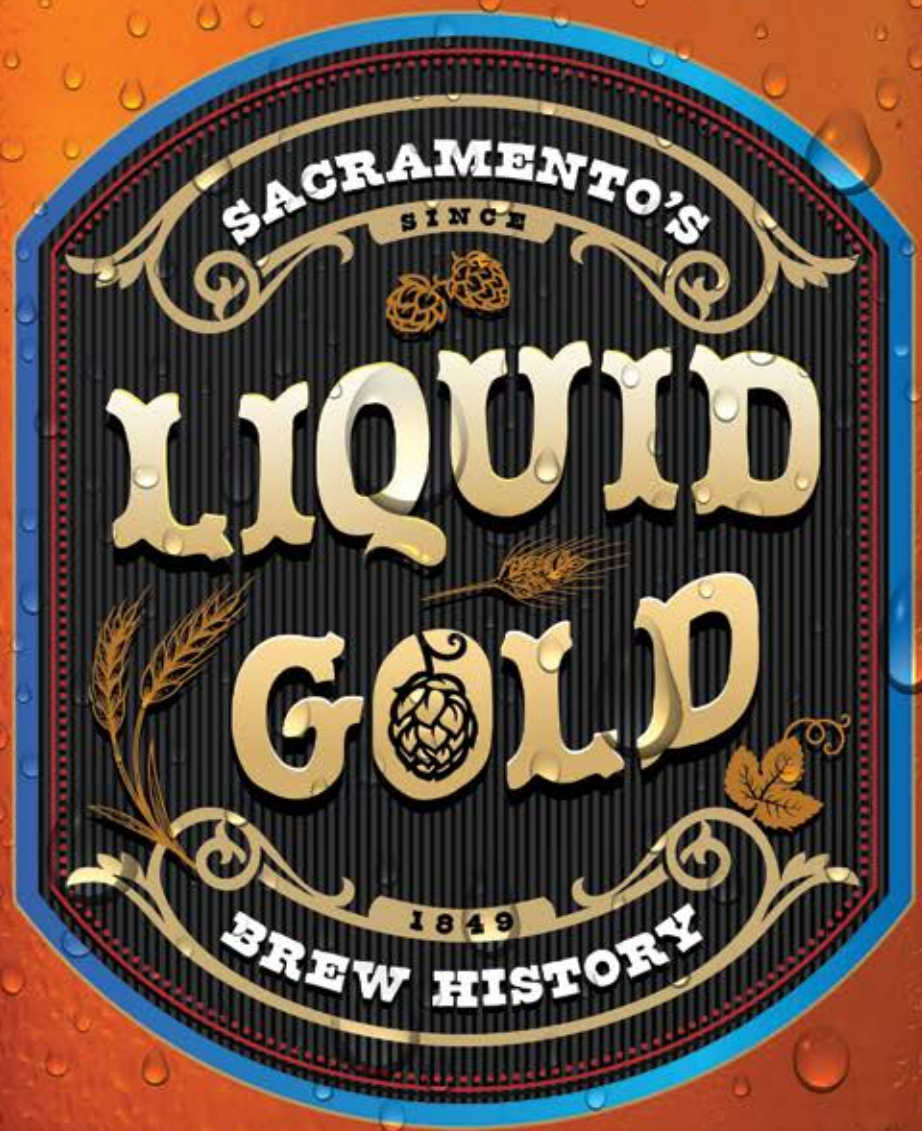
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The Progressive Pride Flag: A Symbol of Inclusion and Diversity

The Pride flag, a symbol of LGBTQ+ community and solidarity, has evolved over the years, culminating in the adoption of the progressive Pride flag. This version not only honors the original values associated with the rainbow flag but also emphasizes inclusion and diversity within the LGBTQ+ community. Here is a breakdown of what each colored stripe represents:

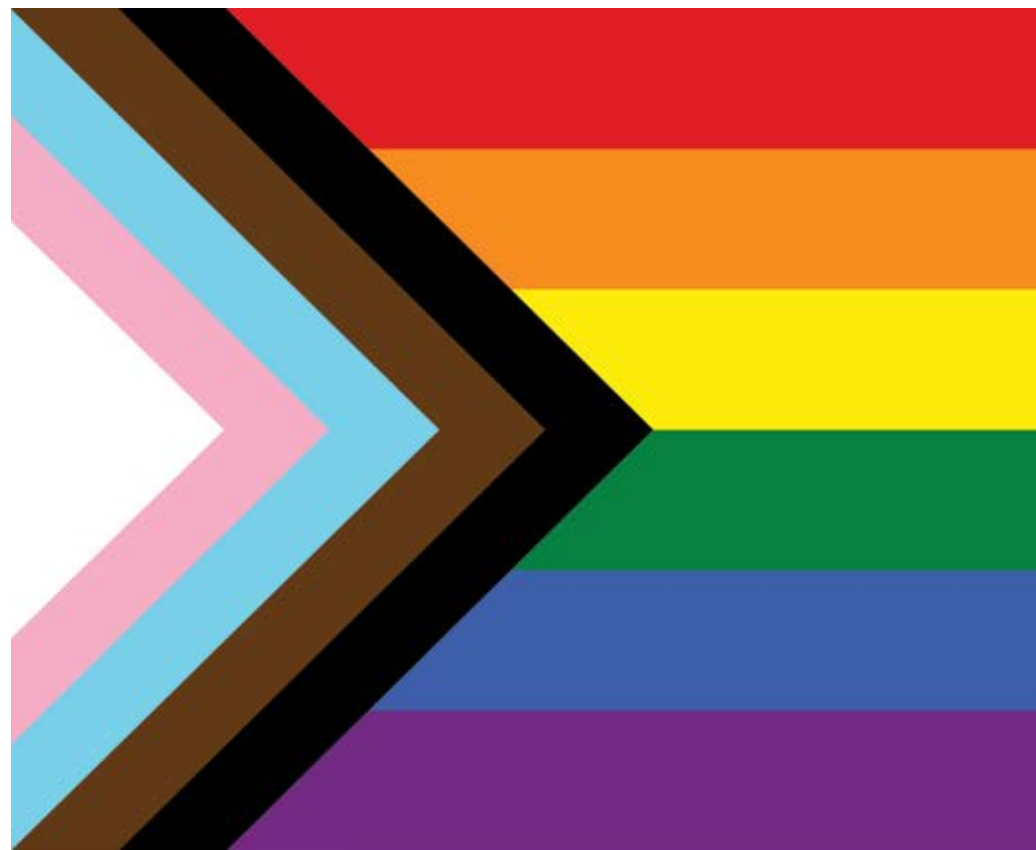
Red: Life – The red stripe represents life, a core component of the human experience, shared universally among people of all sexualities.

Orange: Healing – Following the red stripe, orange speaks to healing, recognizing the need for recovery and reconciliation within and outside the community.

Yellow: Sunlight – The yellow stripe symbolizes sunlight. It's a call to remain visible and true to oneself, an affirmation of being open without fear of reprisal.

Green: Nature – This stripe represents nature, emphasizing the naturalness of one's identity and orientation, countering the narrative that being LGBTQ+ is 'unnatural'.

Blue: Harmony/Peace – Blue signifies peace and harmony, reflecting the serene acceptance of oneself and the integration of the LGBTQ+ community into the broader society.




Purple: Spirit – The final stripe in the traditional six-color flag is purple, which stands for spirit. This encompasses the courage and spirit of the LGBTQ+ movement and community.

Black and Brown – These stripes represent LGBTQ+ communities of color, acknowledging the unique struggles faced by African American, Latino, and other racial minorities within the LGBTQ+ community.

Light Blue, Pink, and White – These colors are taken from the Transgender Pride Flag and are included to specifically represent the transgender community and bring visibility to their struggles within and outside the LGBTQ+ movements. Light blue, the traditional masculine color. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional feminine color. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender.

The Progressive Pride flag is a dynamic and evolving symbol that reflects the current understanding of what it means to be inclusive and supportive of all members of the community. It serves as a powerful tool for dialogue, education, and understanding, promoting a message that every individual is valued and celebrated.

The progressive Pride flag not only honors the history and the hardships of the LGBTQ+ rights movement but also moves forward with inclusion at its heart, making it a true symbol of a diverse and evolving community.

A woman with short hair and large hoop earrings is shown from the chest up, wearing a white halter top. She is holding a large rainbow flag high above her head with her right arm. The background is a white wall with several triangular cutouts. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting.

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Summer Fun at Hard Rock Sacramento Kicks Off in June with Great Shows, Whiskey Pairing Dinners

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain has announced several additions to their Hard Rock Live lineup through November 2024. It currently has 32 shows announced and on sale. Hard Rock just celebrated its 150th show on May 18th with Latin artist Alicia Villarreal. In addition to great shows, Hard Rock features incredible cuisine and will be hosting spirit pairing dinners with Nikka Whisky and Maker's Mark Whisky.

Diana Ross makes her return to Hard Rock Live Sacramento in August after a triumphant show last summer. Other top headliners coming soon include one of Skid Row's limited shows featuring Lzzy Hale, Rock the Dock with Ambrosia & Friends, Jewel + Melissa Etheridge, Night Ranger, Pretenders, Babyface, Donny Osmond, and Foreigner.

The Totally Tubular Festival featuring a packed 1980s lineup including favorites like the Romantics, Modern English, Men Without Hats, Tommy Tutone, Bow Wow Wow, Thomas Dolby, and The Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey.

Latest additions to the concert lineup are bolded below:

- The Australian Pink Floyd Show, May 31
- Skid Row, June 1
- Taking Back Sunday, June 2
- Rock the Dock - Ambrosia & Friends: Al Stewart, John Ford Coley, and Peter Beckett (The Voice of Player), June 7
- Los Tucanes de Tijuana, June 9
- Stayin' Alive: One Night of The Bee Gees, June 15
- Tank - R&B Money Tour, June 21
- **Totally Tubular Festival, June 27**
- Chiquis, July 12
- The Event feat. Tyler Rich + special guest Dawson Anderson, July 13
- Jodeci, July 14
- Jewel + Melissa Etheridge, July 19
- Midland, July 27
- Sabaidee Fest 2024 Tour, July 29
- Young Miko, August 3
- Night Ranger, Aug 11
- Donny Osmond, Aug 15
- Diana Ross, Aug 25
- Babyface, Aug 30
- Stephen Sanchez, Sept 7 - from Eldorado Hills
- The Temptations & The Four Tops, Sept 19
- George Lopez, Sept 21 (2) Shows
- Wynonna Judd, Sept 28
- Bronco, Oct 5
- Los Angeles Azules, Oct 6
- Dashboard Confessional, Oct 9
- Alec Benjamin, Oct 16
- Foreigner, Oct 18
- Russell Peters, Nov 23



Jewel + Melissa Etheridge, July 19

Make it a complete date night with a meal at one of Hard Rock Sacramento's fine restaurants including Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, YouYu Asian Bistro, the iconic Hard Rock Café, and Fresh Harvest Buffet and great snacks at Constant Grind, unless you'd prefer room service in a luxurious hotel room. Hard Rock also hosts monthly wine and spirit dinners in both Council Oak and Hard Rock Café. YouYu will be hosting a multi-course Nikka Whisky pairing dinner on June 6th and Hard Rock Café Sacramento will be hosting a multi-course pairing dinner with Maker's Mark Whisky on June 13th.

Council Oak Steaks & Seafood recently released their revamped Farm to Fork summer menu. Enjoy stunning classics and innovative spring delights with locally sourced ingredients. For reservations visit <https://casino.hardrock.com/sacramento/restaurants>.

Happy Pride Sacramento!

Local Non Profit Helps Homeless Sacramento Youth

by: Miren Hower, Chief Executive Officer
Lauren Anderson, Data & Compliance Manager

Jim arrived at Wind Youth Services' Drop-in Center in the summer of 2021. The Drop-in Center is located in Downtown Sacramento and is a resource center where transitional aged youth (aged 18-24) experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness can go to for linkage to resources, including emergency shelter. Jim was new to the Sacramento area and had recently been kicked out of his parents' home for telling them he identified as gay.

Although he was 19 years old, his parents refused to let him continue to live in their house, due to his sexuality. Jim came to the Drop-in Center with two bags, a skateboard and a broken spirit. During his Center intake, Jim spoke very little, could not make eye contact, and reported feelings of shame and confusion. Jim was having difficulty coming to terms with the withdrawal of his parents' love. He felt guilty, as if he had done something wrong. Jim had been sleeping in a tent under the X Street Bridge, a place where youth experiencing homelessness often congregate.

Despite the number of people at the location, this site is known to be dangerous. Predators are very aware that vulnerable youth gather in locations like this and rape, violence, human trafficking and drug peddling, as well as everything that goes along with those activities, are common occurrences. Offering Jim a path to a safe living situation was of paramount importance. The onsite case manager completed Jim's intake and patiently sat with him while they called the emergency shelter number to see if there were any available



beds.

That night, Jim was able to check in to Wind's emergency shelter, Common Ground, and no longer had to sleep in his tent under the X Street Bridge. As the days progressed, Jim was able to get some much-needed sleep in a safe and secure environment, and his basic needs were being met. Jim's healing process began.

Gradually, his bright and creative side began to emerge. Jim started to display leadership qualities and set a positive example for his peers at the shelter. While at Wind's Drop-in Center, Jim worked diligently with his case manager on creating a resume and developed a strong interest in graphic design. With the support of Wind staff, Jim secured a part-time paid internship, allowing him to further explore his newfound passion.

As his time, at our Emergency Shelter, Common Ground, ended, Jim progressed to our Transition Aged Youth Shelter, which provides transitional housing to youth who are employed or in school. As Jim grew into himself, his identity began to shine, and his soul started to flourish. He reported feeling safe enough to dress in ways his parents would never have allowed and to express himself in ways he had never felt comfortable doing before. Jim was living his authentic life. Over 50% of the transitional aged youth Wind services report that they identify as part of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Wind Youth Services is a proud supporter of this diverse segment of our community, it is a place of inclusion, compassion and acceptance. <http://www.windyouth.org>

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Happy Pride Sacramento!

Broadway At Music Circus Returns to Kick Off Summer

Set in 1933 during the Great Depression, the classic story of “42nd Street” involves a young woman in the chorus who becomes a Broadway sensation overnight after the leading lady breaks her ankle.

“42nd Street” recalls both the classic days of Broadway and the golden age of movie musicals. With one sensational, show-stopping, finger-snapping tap number after another, the joyful energy never lets up.

It will be hard to pick your favorite from hit songs that include “We’re in the Money,” “Shuffle Off to Buffalo,” “Lullaby of Broadway” and the immortal title tune. Few theatre experiences can match the bliss this jubilant musical provides.

“42nd Street” kicks off the 2024 Broadway At Music Circus season this June 11-16 at Sacramento’s UC Davis Health Pavilion. For more information, please visit: www.broadwaysacramento.com



Broadway Sacramento Teams with True Tickets: Partnership Takes Center Stage in Elevating Digital Ticket Delivery

True Tickets, a secure digital ticket delivery service, has announced a partnership with Broadway Sacramento, Northern California’s leading producer and presenter of musical theatre. This collaboration aims to enhance the patron experience and streamline ticketing operations for Broadway Sacramento’s popular productions.

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO



Established in 1951, Broadway Sacramento is known for its Broadway At Music Circus and Broadway On Tour series, drawing over 250,000 patrons annually. The organization is also committed to the preservation and growth of American musical theatre through its notable theatre education programs.

Scott Klier, President and CEO of Broadway Sacramento, emphasized that the partnership with True Tickets is aligned with their goal of delivering excellent theatrical experiences while maintaining high ticketing security standards. The upcoming season includes major productions like “42nd Street,” “Sunset Boulevard,” and “Jersey Boys,” with a special anticipation for the return of “Hamilton” next January.

True Tickets will provide Broadway Sacramento with a robust, secure ticketing platform that ensures a personalized experience for patrons, enhancing satisfaction and control over ticket distribution and security, especially for in-demand shows. For more information about True Tickets and Broadway Sacramento, including their programs and upcoming seasons, visit their respective websites.

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Daya to Headline Sacramento Pride Festival

A Grammy Award winner before the age of 20, Daya virtually grew up onstage. She was a synth-pop innovator from the start, earning a double-platinum hit with “Hide Away” – her self-empowered debut single, co-written when Daya was still in high school – and teaming up with the Chainsmokers for “Don’t Let Me Down,” a dance anthem that sold more than 10 million copies in America alone. Then, at the height of major-label success, she threw the rulebook out the window and reclaimed her independence. Daya is her own boss these days, and her unique pop music – dreamily ethereal one minute, rhythmically kinetic the next – has never sounded brighter or bolder.



Daya

“Creative control means everything to me,” says the Pittsburgh native. “I’ve been writing since I was very young, and it feels so validating to now have the autonomy to truly represent who I am as an artist. I can record any song I want. I can work with whomever I want. It’s been important to me to take the reins back.”

The process of regaining control began with records like *The Difference* and *In Between Dreams*, two critically-acclaimed EPs that blended pop, R&B, and electronic influences together. Both records arrived in the wake of Daya’s gold-certified debut album, *Sit Still, Act Pretty*, and they doubled down on her sparkling synth-pop sound while also representing something new: a willingness to explore, experiment, and embrace the full range of her interests. After all, Daya had evolved as a person since her teenage years. Shouldn’t her music do the same?

“I left school and entered the real world when I was 16,” she explains. “I was so excited at the time, but I do think I missed out on some fundamental developmental things. Instead of having the freedom to mess up, like most kids do, I was taking two flights a day, getting up at crazy hours to go to the next city for another show. It was a lot, all at once, and it was great for what it was. But now, I’ve started to revitalize my teenage self and get in touch with what that person would have wanted.”

“Maybe it’s a little backwards,” she adds with a laugh, “but it’s me.”

A songwriter since the age of 12, Daya has spent more than a decade sharpening her ability to balance euphoric melodies with beat-driven bounce. That ability hasn’t just earned her a number of gold- and platinum-certified singles; it’s also resulted in collaborations with artists from across the musical spectrum, from hip-hop duos and EDM acts to internationally-celebrated DJs. “Love You More,” a Top 40 hit in Canada, finds her teaming up with electro-house producer Felix Cartal, while “Sometimes...” pairs Daya’s otherworldly vocals with Snakehips’ disco stomp and a coolly kinetic verse from hip-hop duo Earthgang.

There are more collaborations on the horizon, as well as more solo releases from an artist who’s learned to embrace the never-ending journey toward self discovery.

“I’ve been experimenting a lot,” Daya promises. “No songwriting session has been wasted. I’ve written things in the folk space. I’ve written songs in the pop-punk and alternative spaces, too. I feel like a kid again, with a lot of different finger paints laid out in front of me, able to try out new colors and create my own picture. It’s still taking shape, but I know it looks and sounds like me.”

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June 1 & 2 2024



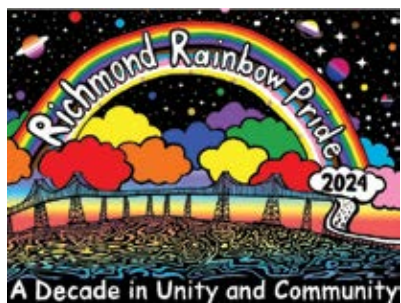
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Santa Monica Pier



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Capital City Squares is an LGBTQ+ organization, dancing in Sacramento.
We are proud to be a founding member of the International Association of Gay Square
Dance Clubs and a member of the Associated Square Dancers of Superior California

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for Sacramento Pride 2024, I am filled with joy and excitement for this year's celebration. Growing up in a rural area, I never imagined a place where everyone could be themselves so freely and joyously. My first Pride March was a revelation—a moment where I found a true sense of belonging, advocacy, and community. That's the magic of Pride, and it's what I hope everyone experiences at Sacramento Pride.

Pride is more than just a party; it's a powerful declaration of diversity, inclusion, advocacy, and love! At Pride, it doesn't matter your background as an LGBTQIA+ person, family member, friend, or ally. You belong, as your authentic self, regardless. You matter and we are here to remind you of that. Pride marks our progress in the fight for equity and justice and highlights the work still to be done at a time when our rights, identities, and joy are under attack. It's a time to celebrate unique LGBTQ+ culture and experiences. From the colorful March to the electrifying performances and community exhibitors at the Festival, Pride is where we come together to honor our collective and individual journeys and support one another.

What makes Sacramento Pride truly special is the deep engagement of our local community. We showcase a diverse array of local artists, businesses, and organizations, making this event a true reflection of Sacramento's vibrant culture. Our entertainment lineup features local LGBTQ+ performers, celebrating the dynamic artistic community here.

Sacramento Pride is also unique as one of the few Pride events across the country organized by their local LGBTQ+ center, with net proceeds funding essential year-round programs. Held at Capitol Mall in the shadow of the State Capitol, it is the largest demonstration of LGBTQ+ activism and a celebration of inclusive queer and trans culture in the region. We invite you to join us on June 8-9 for a SacPride 2024 to remember. Let's create joyous memories, build lasting friendships, and celebrate our vibrant community together. Get your tickets, join as an exhibitor, March contingent, or sponsor at sacramentopride.org.

With Pride,



With Appreciation,

DAVID

David Heitstuman
CEO



SAC PRIDE

JUNE 8-9 2024

SACRAMENTO CAPITOL MALL

OFFICIAL PRIDE GUIDE



SATURDAY JUNE 8
FESTIVAL 12 - 9 PM

SUNDAY JUNE 9
PRIDE MARCH 11 AM - 2 PM
FESTIVAL 12-6 PM

Welcome back to Sacramento Pride!
The Sacramento Pride March & Festival, produced by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, will be back on Capitol Mall on June 8 & 9, 2024! Join us for an exciting weekend, and celebrate community!



Get your tickets now @ sacramentopride.org

@sacpride



FESTIVAL MAP



SATURDAY JUNE 8:

SUNDAY JUNE 9:

MICHAEL MEDRANO

DAYA

SAC PRIDE FESTIVAL 2024



JAIDA ESSENCE HALL

GATTISON



GENERAL & VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE
WWW.SACRAMENTOPRIDE.ORG

JORGEIOUS

VANESSA VANJIE MATEO

*stage schedule subject to change, follow @sacpride for updates

FACES NIGHTCLUB PRIDE STAGE

SATURDAY JUNE 8

DJ LADY CHAR

12:15PM SACRAMENTO GAY MENS CHORUS

1:00PM CULTURES OF PRIDE DANCE SHOW

2:00PM CRE8TIVE CONNECTIONS FASHION SHOW

3:00PM SAC DANCE LAB

3:45PM GLOOMY JUNE

4:30PM DRAG IS NOT A CRIME! SHOW

5:30PM SUPERKNOVA

6:45PM GATTISON

7:30PM MICHAEL MEDRANO

8:15PM DAYA



SuperKNOVA

FACES NIGHTCLUB PRIDE STAGE

SUNDAY JUNE 9

DJ CISCO

TO BE ANNOUNCED

2:30PM MADAME GHANDI

3:15PM KINGQUEEN BAND

4:00PM MAXX DRAG ALL STARS TAKEOVER

4:30PM DRAG SHOWCASE FT. JAIDA ESSENCE HALL JORGEIOUS VANESSA VANJIE MATEO

KingQueen



4TH STREET STAGE

SATURDAY JUNE 8

12:15PM Q RATED DANCE CO.

DJ CISCO

TO BE ANNOUNCED

3:00PM DRAG KING & AFAB SHOWCASE

3:45PM LATINX DRAG SHOWCASE

7:00PM DJ TLDSTR

SUNDAY JUNE 9

DJ LADY CHAR

Our weekend will feature captivating entertainment from local talents in the Sacramento region and the greater LGBTQ+ community! Featured performers from RuPaul's Drag Race includes Jorgeous, Vanessa Vanjie Mateo, and making her Sacramento debut, Jaida Essence Hall! But that's not all, we're thrilled to announce our main headliner this year, DAYA!

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SECOND SUNDAY IN JUNE @ 11 AM
SOUTHSIDE PARK & ALONG 10TH ST



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At a time when lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are under attack in their schools, at work, in their doctors' offices, and even at drag shows across the country, you can show up for the LGBTQ+ community by marching with us on Sunday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m. from Southside Park to the Capitol. The route begins on T & 8th Streets, turns onto 10th St, passing an announcer "grandstand" on R & 10th. The route concludes at Capitol Mall with vehicles turning right onto N St and Marchers turning left on Capitol Mall.

We invite you as an individual, to march with the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's contingent, displaying the power & strength of community support. Visit sacramentopride.org/march for more information.

Funds raised at Sac Pride events directly support year-round programming provided by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.



Happy Pride Sacramento!

Sacramento Pride Information

Sacramento Pride Festival

Date: June 8, 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

June 9, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA between 3rd and 7th Streets

Sacramento Pride March

Date & Time: June 9, at 11:00 a.m.

Start Location: Starting at Southside Park

End Location: State Capitol and festival entrance.

As the largest demonstration of LGBTQ+ activism and celebration of diversity in the region, Sacramento Pride takes center stage at the Capitol Mall. This vibrant festival brings together LGBTQ+ community members and allies of all ages, races, sexual orientations, national origins, gender expressions, abilities, and religions. We unite to celebrate our strides in the equality movement and recognize the ongoing efforts needed to achieve true cultural affirmation and social equity.

Sacramento Pride, organized by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, is one of the few Pride events in the nation produced by a nonprofit LGBTQ+ center. The proceeds from this celebration support our essential programs and services. The two-day festival attracts over 25,000 attendees and continues to grow each year. Join us in celebrating inclusion, diversity, and progress at this incredible event.

Pride March Contingents:

125+ groups will march, showcasing solidarity and support within our community. Expect a dazzling display of community organizations, corporate allies, and advocacy groups.

Vendor Booths:

Explore 200+ booths featuring a variety of vendors, community organizations, and local businesses. Discover unique products, services, and resources that celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Artist/Makers Market:

Support local artisans and crafters at 24 tables, offering unique, handmade items. It's the perfect place to find something special and support small businesses.

Leather Pride @ Sac Pride:

In partnership with the Sacramento Leather & Kink Community, we are proud to present Leather Alley at Sacramento Pride Festival, and the Leather Pride Contingent in the Sac Pride March.

Q Spot Live!:

Presented by the Sacramento LGBT Center's Youth and Family Programs department, Q-Spot Live is a fabulous clubhouse for attendees aged 13-24. The schedule of events will include a youth-friendly drag show each day, and special intimate performances by headlining entertainment followed by Q&A sessions.

Club 55:

Presented by the Sacramento LGBT Center's Health and Adult Services division, Club 55 is a relaxed and shaded respite lounge for attendees aged 55+ and mobility impaired guests needing to enjoy a comfortable place to rest during the exciting festival. While Club 55 will be a nice place to view the 4th Street Stage, the lounge will not feature amplified sound.

A Focus on Accessibility:

We have partnered with Resources for Independent Living, ACC Senior Services, Paratransit and Aging and Disability Resource Connection to improve accessibility at Sacramento Pride Festival and March. Including directional signage, additional ramps, mobility device check out program, and shuttle service to Pride Events.

Equitable Ticket Distribution:

We've partnered with 15 community organizations to ensure everyone can join the celebration. These sites will distribute tickets to underserved communities, making Pride accessible to all.

Featured Performances:

Our entertainment lineup is set to dazzle, featuring talent sourced from the Sacramento region and greater LGBTQIA+ creative economy. The full schedule of performances will be released soon – stay tuned!

Headlining Acts:

- DAYA
- Michael Medrano
- GATTISON
- SuperKnova

RuPaul Drag Race All-Star Showcase:

- Jaida Essence Hall
- Vanessa Vanjie Mateo
- Jorgeous

Multicultural Performances:

• Cultures of Pride Dance Showcase: Featuring a performance by Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro, Crown Jewelz Belly Dance and Samba Da Terra.

• Latinx Drag Showcase: Hosted by community favorite queens Roselia Valentine and Manni Peddi.

• Cre8tive Connections Fashion Show

• Sac Dance Lab

Additional Performers:

- Madame Gandhi
- Heather LaRose

Announcers:

Desiree Sheppard – ABC10, Myki Angeline – 98 Rock,

SMUD Board President Rosanna Herber
www.sacramentopride.org



GATTISON



Vanessa Vanjie Mateo



Jorgeous



Michael Medrano



Leather Pride is thrilled to announce our exciting collaboration with Sacramento Pride for another amazing leather contingent! We have secured a larger space for Leather Alley that is now open to those 18 and older. Whether you are interested in volunteering, showcasing your organization or shop at a vendor table, exploring the pup space, getting your boots shined by bootblacks, or demonstrating your skills in a demo spot, there is a place for you!

On Parade Sunday, we will be marching in the Leather Contingent. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating our visibility together as a community!

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833-8-NO-HATE or visit CAvsHate.org



Anti-Trans and anti-LGBTQ+ hate are on the rise. If you are a victim or witness to hate, you can receive free support from the California vs Hate hotline. We will help identify options for next steps after a hate act and make connections to community-specific resources. Anyone can report anonymously and your report will not be shared with law enforcement without your consent unless required by law.

Happy Pride Sacramento!

Sacramento Pride Goes Green!

Sacramento's LGBT Community Center is launching an initiative to make the Sacramento Pride Festival the most environmentally friendly Pride celebration in the U.S. Scheduled for June 8-9, 2024, the event is expected to draw over 30,000 attendees, celebrating LGBTQIA+ identities while promoting environmental sustainability.

Environmental issues, often impacting socio-economically disadvantaged groups, including LGBTQIA+ communities, are a major concern, especially for young individuals. A survey revealed that 84% of 10,000 youth globally are worried about climate change. In response, Sacramento Pride organizers are working to significantly reduce the festival's environmental impact.

Arthur "Sunshine" Zwern, a key volunteer, has developed an innovative waste management program that could serve as a blueprint for other city events. The festival aims to exceed a 50% reduction in landfill waste through enhanced sorting practices, clear signage, and attendee education. All food service items will transition to organic materials to facilitate composting, eliminating single-use plastics.

Additionally, the festival certifications for exhibitors and standards.

stations will encourage further reducing waste.

Luis P. Cortes, Chief Affairs Officer, expressed new sustainability standard Planet Proud" initiative commitment to environmental

supported by various partners, including

Sacramento Pride is inviting all participants to contribute to creating a greener event. This initiative not only aligns with the festival's celebratory nature but also ensures it leaves a positive legacy of joy and unity, devoid of environmental impact.

For more details on participating or supporting the "Be Planet Proud" initiative, contact Luis Cortes at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, which continues to foster an inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ individuals in the region.



will introduce "Planet Proud" vendors who meet sustainability Complimentary water refill the use of reusable containers,

Development and External enthusiasm about setting a at the festival, with the "Be highlighting the community's stewardship. The effort is SactoMoFo and Republic Services.

Have A Prideful Prom at Ace of Spades by Chris Narloch

If you missed out on prom entirely, or you did the heteronormative thing and took your best friend of the opposite sex to prom (like I did), now is your chance to redo prom your way.



Join other queer folks for the Second Annual Pride Prom, a fire & ice-themed prom party that includes drag performances, live DJ sets, photo opportunities, and more.

This 18+ prom will dance the night away, on Friday, June 7th, from 7:00 to midnight, at Ace of Spades on R Street, in Sacramento. For more information, go to: www.aceofspadessac.com/shows

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Happy Pride Sacramento!

Millennials Lead in Traffic Accidents, New Study Shows

A comprehensive analysis of recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data, conducted by personal injury law specialists John Foy & Associates, reveals that Millennials are the most dangerous drivers on the roads today. The study categorizes drivers by generation and evaluates their involvement in vehicular crashes, offering a stark glimpse into which age groups pose the greatest risks.

Millennials, born between 1981 and 1996, top the chart with an alarming 50,291 drivers involved in crashes per 1 million population, representing 30.26% of all traffic accidents recorded in 2022. This equates to 3,423,414 Millennial drivers in crashes throughout the year, with 18,816 of these incidents being fatal. Within this demographic, 27-year-olds were notably the most prone to accidents, responsible for 247,934 crashes.

Following closely are Generation Z drivers, born between 1997 and 2012, who recorded a rate of 38,221 per 1 million population, making up nearly a quarter of all traffic incidents. This generation saw 2,631,955 crashes, with 19-year-olds experiencing the highest frequency at 299,376 crashes, highlighting a concerning trend among the youngest eligible drivers.

Generation X drivers, those born between 1965 and 1980, also showed significant involvement in traffic incidents, with 36,799

drivers per 1 million population and a total of 2,444,515 crashes. Drivers aged 41 were particularly at risk, involved in 189,205 crashes, reflecting a critical need for targeted road safety measures within this group.

Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation showed relatively lower rates of involvement in crashes. Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, had 22,509 drivers per 1 million population involved in crashes, with 59-year-olds accounting for the most incidents. The Silent Generation, born between 1928 and 1945, recorded the lowest rate of crashes per million, yet 77-year-olds from this cohort were involved in 41,847 crashes.

These findings highlight a disturbing trend among younger drivers, with Millennials and Generation Z leading in crash statistics. John Foy of John Foy & Associates remarks on the study, noting the



necessity of understanding these generational differences in driving behaviors to develop effective road safety interventions.

This study, reflecting data from the NHTSA and population statistics from the US Census

Bureau, underscores the critical need for strategies that address the specific risks associated with different age groups, especially as younger drivers continue to exhibit higher risks on the roads.



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Film Festival Fever Grips NorCal

by Chris Narloch

Whether your taste runs to French films or queer cinema – or both! – Outword has you covered with all the details on Frameline 48 in the Bay Area and the 23rd Sacramento French Film Festival (SFFF).

SFFF

All screenings during this year's Sacramento French Film Festival are at the Tower Theatre, and most of them will be held in that venue's large auditorium. (All are presented in French with English subtitles.)

The 23rd SFFF runs June 7–9 and includes two titles with queer content this year, both U.S. premieres: Pierre Jolivet's environmental thriller "Green Tide" and "Along Came Love," Katell Quillevere's historical melodrama involving a love triangle.

The double bill on Opening Night features two surreal comedies by Quentin Dupieux, "Yannick" and "Daaaaaali." Individual tickets, festival passes, and more information are available at sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org



Frameline 48

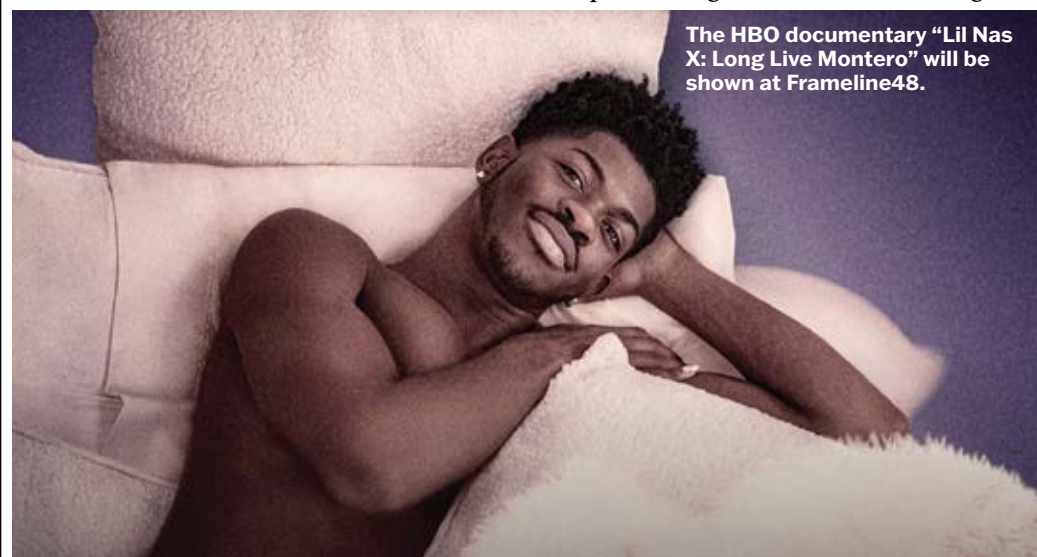
Frameline recently announced the full program for the 48th San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival (Frameline48), the longest-running LGBTQ+ film festival in the world.

Curated from over 1,600 submissions and invitations, the Frameline48 slate will screen from June 19–29 in theaters across the San Francisco Bay Area, including the Roxie Theater, the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, the Herbst Theatre, the Vogue Theatre, and The New Parkway Theater in Oakland.

In centering historic venues throughout the Bay Area, the 11-day celebration of film and queerness will carry on and amplify the spirit of the 2023 Festival's "Neighborhood Nights." In lieu of a traditional opening night show, Frameline48 will commence with the first-ever Castro neighborhood celebration of Juneteenth.

A free outdoor event, the Juneteenth Film and Block Party will feature an evening of music, drag performances from Reparations curated by winner of the Drag Queen of the Year Pageant, Nicki Jizz, as well as a screening of the HBO documentary, "Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero."

By celebrating the intersection of Blackness and queerness, Frameline48 reaffirms its commitment to bringing visibility, joy, and essential stories to the communities it centers. For more information on Frameline48 and the full lineup of films, go to: www.frameline.org



The HBO documentary "Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero" will be shown at Frameline48.



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Blockbuster Season Has Begun

by Chris Narloch

After our last *Outword* “came out,” it was announced that director and producer Roger Corman, who was known as the King of the Drive-in Movies, had died, at the ripe old age of 98.

Corman mentored many famous actors and directors in the ‘60s and ‘70s, including Jack Nicholson, Francis Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Joe Dante, Ron Howard and more. He also made eight films in the early ‘60s that were inspired by Edgar Allan Poe’s tales of terror – all but one starred Vincent Price, and most of them were very good.

Yet Corman was most famous for churning out dozens of low-budget B-movies, many of them now considered cult films, such as “The Little Shop of Horrors,” “The Trip,” “Death Race 2000,” “Piranha,” and “Rock ‘n’ Roll High School.”

Do yourself a favor and have a Roger Corman film festival in his honor, and then you can watch the new movies reviewed below. Two of them are blockbuster franchise films, the other two focus on famous singers, and all of them put women front and center.



Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga

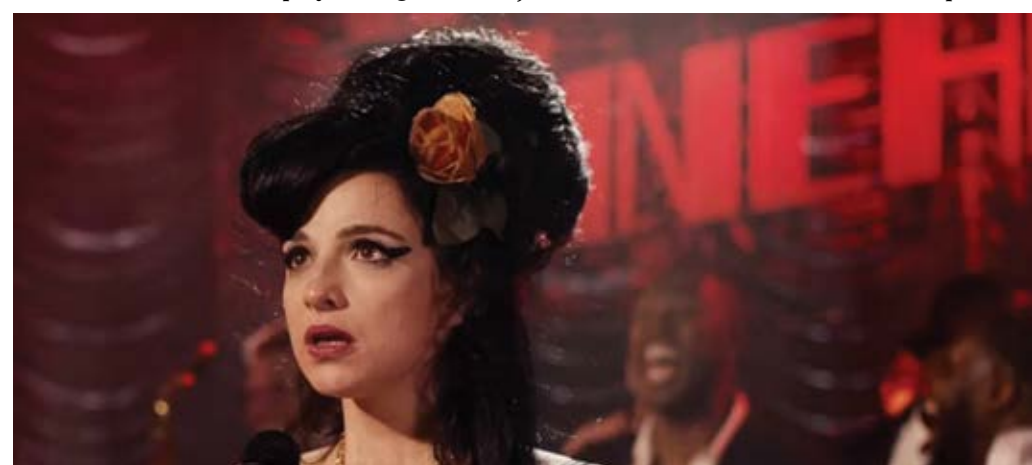
As a devoted fan of George Miller’s “Mad Max” movies, I probably had my hopes up too high for the latest film in the franchise, which is a direct prequel to 2015’s “Fury Road,” a masterpiece that starred two of my favorite actors, Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron.

The first two “Mad Max” movies, with Mel Gibson in the lead, were both a lean and mean 90 minutes give or take, and “Fury Road,” which is my favorite action movie of all time, is two hours long. “Furiosa,” meanwhile, feels overlong at two-and-a-half hours, and I hate to say it, but the film runs out of gas before it’s over.

Anya Taylor-Joy is also no Charlize Theron, and it takes too long for the film to get to its big showdown between Furiosa and her nemesis, played by a deliciously over-the-top Chris Hemsworth.

The action sequences are as brilliant as ever, of course, but after a while, I started to feel like I was stranded in a desert wasteland along with all of Miller’s fantastic freaks.

“Furiosa” is still worth seeing – after all, it’s George Miller – and I recommend that you pay the extra money to watch it on the big screen, at the Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street, where it is scheduled to play through at least June 6. Go to: www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo



Back to Black

The great British singer Amy Winehouse’s career burned so bright and so briefly that she sadly joined the likes of Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain, and Jimi Hendrix, who also died at the tender age of 27.

I loved Winehouse’s music, especially the classic “Back to Black” album that gives this film its name, and it was inevitable that a biopic would be made in her honor, beloved as she was in England and around the world.

Critics have been very hard on Sam Taylor-Johnson’s new feature film about Amy’s spectacular rise and heartbreaking fall, but I enjoyed the movie, which does spend too much time on Winehouse’s personal troubles and not enough on her creative process.

I can recommend “Back to Black” for die-hard fans of Winehouse, mainly because of Marisa Abela’s terrific performance as Amy. The actress does her own singing rather than lip-synching, and she’s surprisingly believable, vocally, and dramatically. In wide release.



Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes

I recently revisited the original 1968 “Planet of the Apes” movie that starred Charlton Heston, and I was surprised how well it held up, despite the primitive practical effects, and ape costumes that were state-of-the-art back in the day but are not now. (There was even a strawberry blond ape among the hairy beasts!)

The CGI in the latest film in the franchise is anything but primitive, to the extent that the main apes now have more expressive features than most of the human-appearing actors in the film, especially the female human lead character, played by Freya Allan, who is given very little dialogue and appears to have been directed to stare into the distance and look stupid.

Aside from Allan’s unfortunate performance, and an awful ending that sets things up for yet another sequel, I enjoyed the new movie, which is action-packed without being overly violent and has stunning special effects. In wide theatrical release.



Let the Canary Sing

The great Cyndi Lauper gets a revealing new documentary with this 99-minute movie, which will begin streaming on Paramount+ this June 4.

I usually don’t care for docs with a lot of talking head commentary, but Lauper is such a fun and forthright witness to her own life that I couldn’t wait for her to get back on screen in between the extensive and entertaining archival footage from her career.

I especially enjoyed the rare clips from Lauper’s early years, before and after she went solo, and a story she tells that inspired the film’s title is classic Cyndi.

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Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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Happy Pride Sacramento!

Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Pride is here and rainbows are shooting out of every queer orifice starting midnight on June 1! We here at Outword have so much pride we have three huge issues packed full of it! We all need to show support for our community this year as our political system is in overdrive trying to strip away our human rights. Placer Pride had haters attempting to disrupt the festival by yelling misquoted scripture. Though they were only using bullhorns, it is a reminder to remain aware of our surroundings and stay safe. Let's kick this off with some local pride events.

June 1 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. for the 40th Annual Sonoma County Pride Parade & Festival! This event invites LGBTQ community members, allies, and supporters to celebrate love, unity, and equality. Taking place at Fourth St. and Mendocino Ave. in Santa Rosa, it will feature performances by Jax from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 15, Kiesza, Rêve, Grant Kocher, Cheer SF, and DJ John Parker. Sonomacountypride.org

Davis Pride Fair and Festival invites you to join their celebration on Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m. Held at Davis Civic Center Park, 6th and B Sts. behind Davis City Hall, this event features 100 local exhibitors, food options, and the electrifying Pride Music Festival showcasing top performers nationwide. The festival is free and open to all with a positive heart and loving mind. Davispride.org

The Sacramento Pride Festival, hosted by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, will electrify Capitol Mall on June 8 from 12

22 open at 6 p.m. with a 7 p.m. curtain, while matinees on June 22 and 23 start at 2 p.m. with a 3 p.m. curtain. This musical romp spans hits from The Drifters to BTS, promising dynamic performances that will leave you saying, "I want it that way." Sacgaymenschorus.com

Outloud Sports Festival returns for its 8th edition on Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1. Registration is currently open with six sports and multiple divisions, including kickball, dodgeball, soccer, volleyball, doubles tennis, and pickleball, the festival promises diverse competition. The festival aims to provide an inclusive space for over 1500 queer friends and allies from across the USA. Outloudsports.com

Join Music Circus from June 11-16 as they present "42nd Street" a jubilant musical that brings back the classic days of Broadway and the golden age of movie musicals. Prepare for an unforgettable experience filled with



Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus performing at Placer Pride

p.m. to 9 p.m. and June 9 from noon to 6 p.m. Expect vibrant entertainment on three stages, diverse food, and hundreds of exhibitors, making it a weekend of celebration, unity, and inspiration for all. Sacramentopride.org

Don't miss the 7th Annual Pride Bar Crawl in Sacramento on Saturday, June 22, starting at 4 p.m. Hosted by Crawl With Us, the event kicks off at The Flamingo House, 2315 K St. Join in for drag shows, inclusive bars, exclusive drink specials, and freebies. Tickets include 2-3 drinks or shots, free cover to the drag show, and more! Come celebrate pride and support local LGBTQ+ organizations! Attendees must be 21+. Crawlwith.us

"Let's Hear It for the Boys!" is set to dazzle audiences June 21-23 at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. Evening shows on June 21 and

sensational tap numbers and iconic songs like "We're in the Money," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," "Lullaby of Broadway," and, of course, "42nd Street." Catch the show at Broadway at Music Circus, located at 1419 H St. Broadwaysacramento.com

Experience the ultimate sibling rivalry in Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize-winning Topdog/Underdog at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St., from June 7 to June 30. Directed by Melinda Wilson Ramey and starring Conrad Crump and Donald Lacy III, this gripping play follows brothers Lincoln and Booth through an electrifying journey of brotherhood and destiny. Don't miss it!

Happy anniversary to Jimmy Short & Markcurtis Otani on June 5.

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthew@hengemedia.com.



Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 28 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the response we have received after returning to print has been fantastic!

However, we are continuing to ask that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our production staff, staff writers and distribution costs among other things.

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* New California law for 2022, requires all insurance to cover the cost of at-home STD testing.



Bay Area Theatre Bonanza

by Chris Narloch

From a power-pop musical about the astronomer and physicist Galileo to a serious dramatic play about The Lehman Brothers' financial collapse, this month's theatre openings might make you want to plan a daytrip to the Bay Area.



Madalynn Mathews and Raul Esparza star in "Galileo." Photo by Kevin Berne

Galileo

Upon seeing this flashy, world-premiere musical about the title character, I realized that I knew next to nothing about the famous mathematician and philosopher who dared to claim that the Earth moves around the Sun rather than the opposite.

Galileo was condemned by the Catholics and the Jesuits and spent the rest of his life under house arrest after being forced to recant his beliefs. This sad tale has somehow been transformed into a rousing rock musical that is currently having its world premiere (through June 23) in Berkeley.

Aside from being packed with fascinating historical detail, the musical is powered by a superb cast that is headlined by the great Broadway actor and singer, Raul Esparza, who gives a vivid, forceful performance as Galileo.

On the downside, the show relies too heavily on bombastic power ballads that sounded strange emanating from the mouths of characters like Galileo and the Pope. There is no denying, however, that the production at Berkeley Rep boasts first-rate set design, costumes, lighting, and video projections.

Finally, I should add that while I am on the fence regarding the musical's merits, I can recommend it for the chance to see Raul Esparza and a terrific supporting cast sink their teeth into a little-known (at least by me) true story. For more information, go to: www.berkeleyrep.org



Howard W. Overshown stars in "The Lehman Trilogy." Photo by Daniel Boud

The Lehman Trilogy

I will not be attending Opening Night of this highly acclaimed drama until after this edition of Outword is "out," but I can at least reveal the subject of the play, which has been described as an "epic" and a "masterwork."

On a cold September morning in 1844, a young man from Bavaria stood on a New York dockside dreaming of a new life in the new world. He was joined by his two brothers, and an American success story began.

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"The Lehman Trilogy" will perform in San Francisco through June 23 at the Toni Rembe Theater. To purchase tickets, visit www.act-sf.org



The Tony Awards Return to CBS

by Chris Narloch

The 2024 Tony Awards, with returning host Ariana DeBose, will be telecast on CBS this June 16, and already the 77th Annual Tonys are breaking Broadway records.

For the first time in Tony history, there are more women than men nominated in the Best Direction category, and “Stereophonic,” which is loosely based on the turbulent recording of Fleetwood Mac’s “Rumours” album in the 1970s, set a new record for the most Tony nominations (13) by any Broadway play ever.

Alicia Keys’ highly acclaimed musical “Hell’s Kitchen,” inspired by the singer’s own experiences as a teenaged music artist in Manhattan, also received 13 nominations this year.

The other four Best Musical nominees this year are “The Outsiders,” “Suffs,” “Water for Elephants” and “Illinois,” a dance musical involving a secret queer crush, based on Sufjan Stevens’ 2005 album, “Illinois.”

Among the starry nominees, many of them likely to appear during this year’s Tony telecast, are Daniel Radcliffe, Liev Schreiber, Jim Parsons, Jessica Lange, Rachel McAdams, Sarah Paulson, Amy Ryan, Kelli O’Hara, Eddie Redmayne, Bebe Neuwirth, Jonathan Groff, Fatboy Slim, David Byrne, and Leslie Odom Jr.

For a complete list of this year’s Tony nominees, visit: www.tonyawards.com

The “Can’t Cancel Pride” Concert Returns on Hulu

Sexy masked man Orville Peck is just one of the talented folks joining forces during Pride Month for the return of “Can’t Cancel Pride” – an evening recognizing the impact that music and LGBTQ+ organizations have on the queer community.



Orville Peck

The fifth annual, special event will feature performances by Elton John Impact Award Recipient and host Billy Porter, Allison Russell, Ben Platt, David Archuleta, Meghan Trainor, Melissa Etheridge, Orville Peck, RAYE, Victoria Monét and more, on June 12 from the iHeartRadio Theater in Los Angeles and remote locations across the country.

“Can’t Cancel Pride” was created during the COVID-19 pandemic when so many Pride events around the world were forced to cancel, limiting LGBTQ+ community visibility and decreasing fundraising activities for critical LGBTQ+ organizations.

In its first four years, Can’t Cancel Pride has raised over 14 million dollars for six diverse LGBTQ+ charitable organizations: CenterLink, GLAAD, National Black Justice Coalition, OutRight International, The Trevor Project and SAGE. In 2023 alone, “Can’t Cancel Pride” reached over 23 million viewers and listeners.

The one-hour benefit special, produced by iHeartMedia and P&G, will stream on iHeartRadio’s YouTube and Facebook pages, Hulu, Revry, and The Advocate Channel, on June 12 at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT and will be available to stream throughout Pride Month.

Go to: www.cantcancelpride.com

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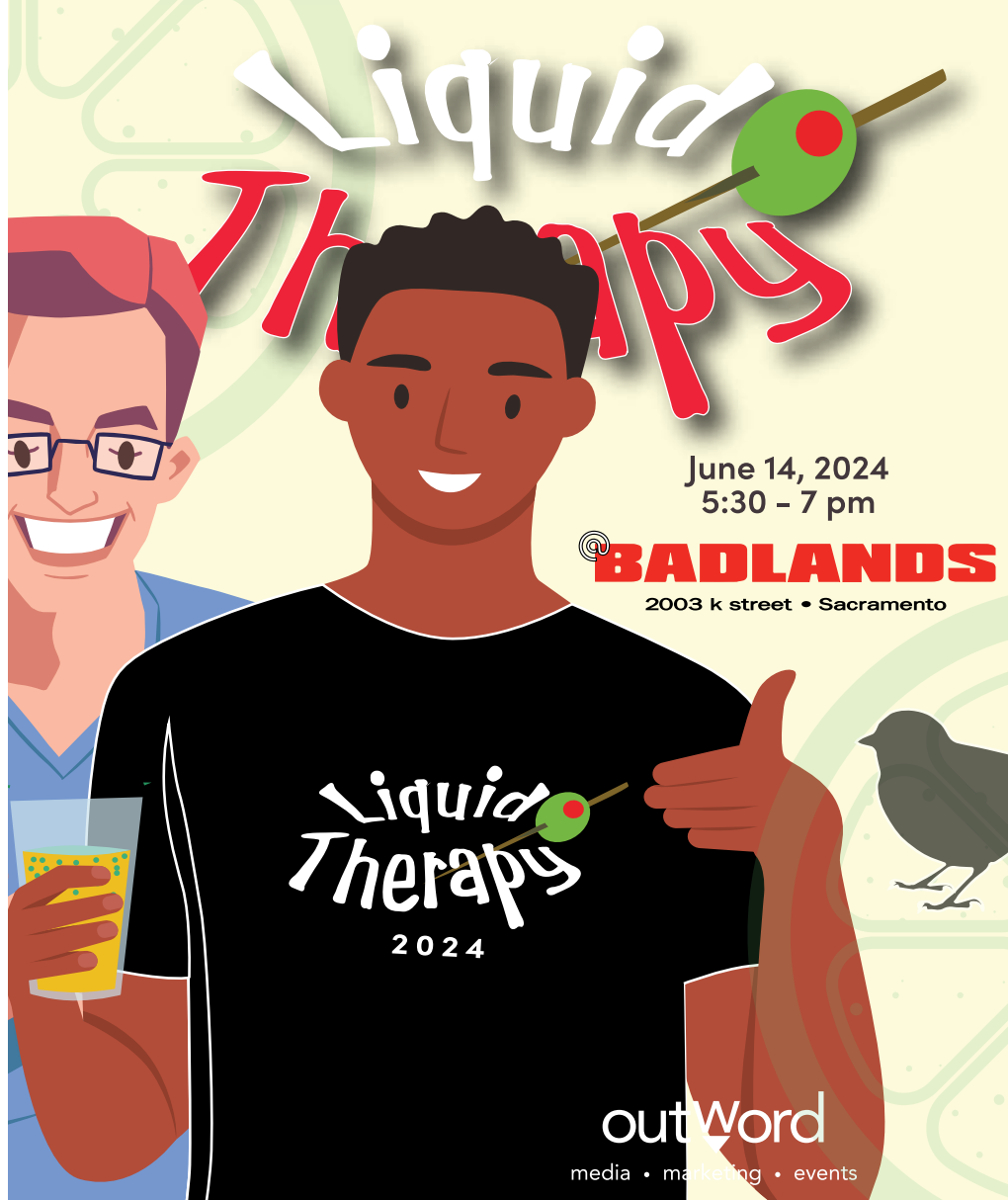
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- 6/8-9 LA Pride
- 6/8-9 Sacramento Pride ✨
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- 6/22 Santa Monica Pride
- 6/22 Elk Grove Pride
- 6/29 San Francisco Pride

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- 6/15 Harris Center - Best of Broadway
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- 6/19 Harris Center - One Night of Queen
- 6/21-23 Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus - Let's Hear It For The Boys
- 6/28 PrimeTimers Soul Food Dinner
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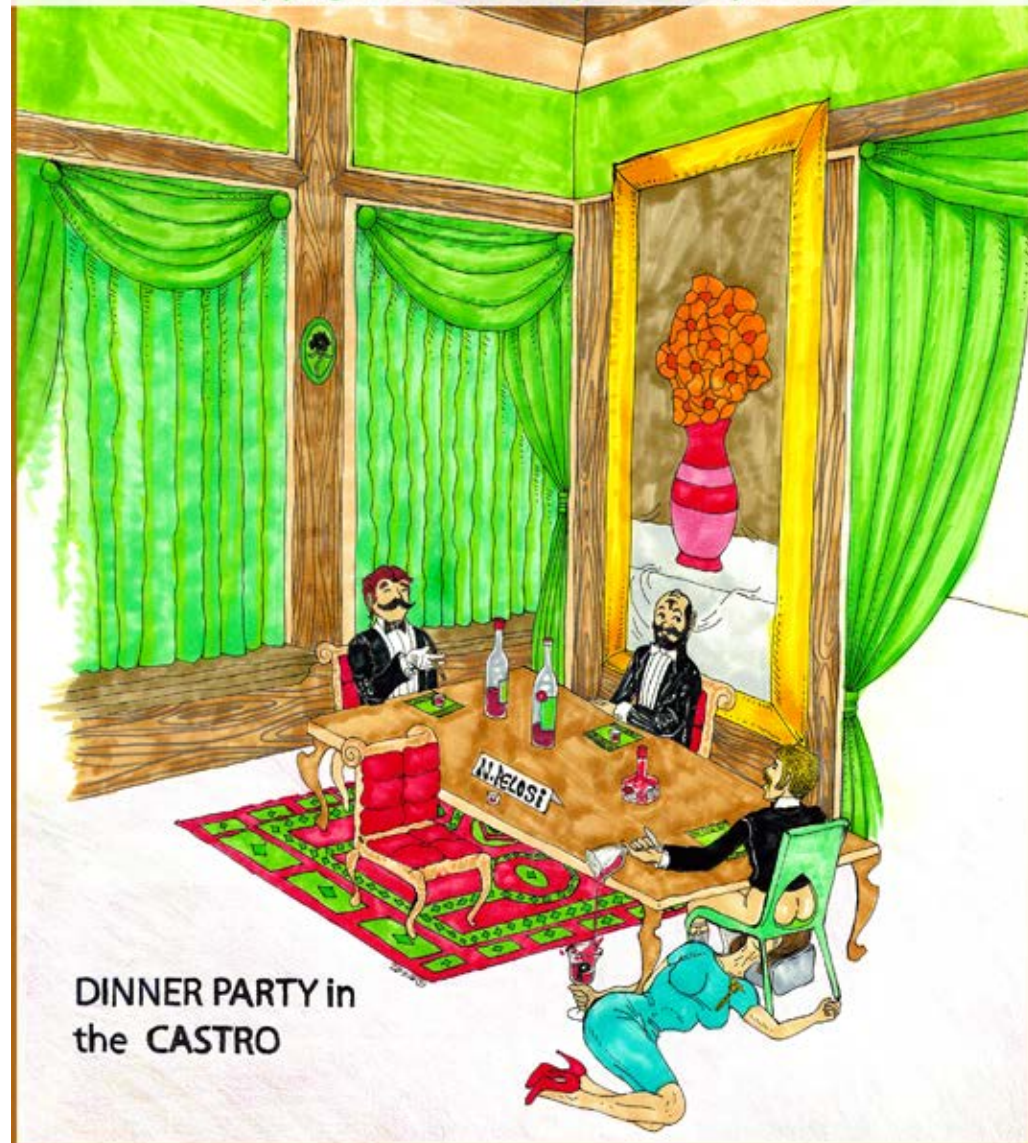
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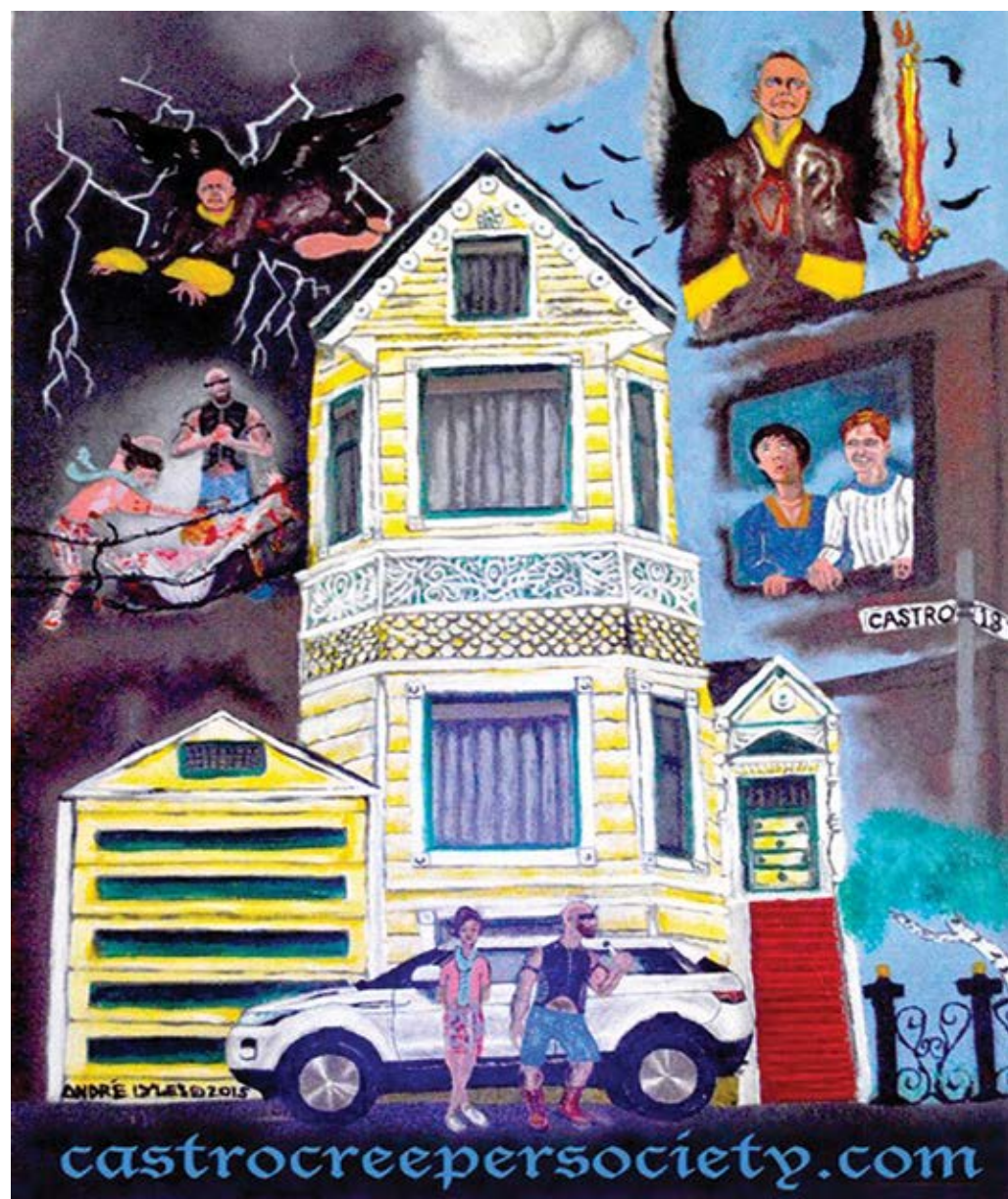
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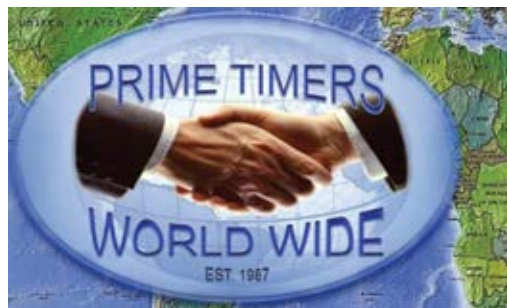
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