

outWord

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Historic LGBTQ+ Special Pride Month Issue

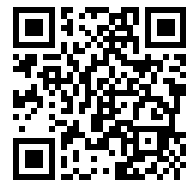


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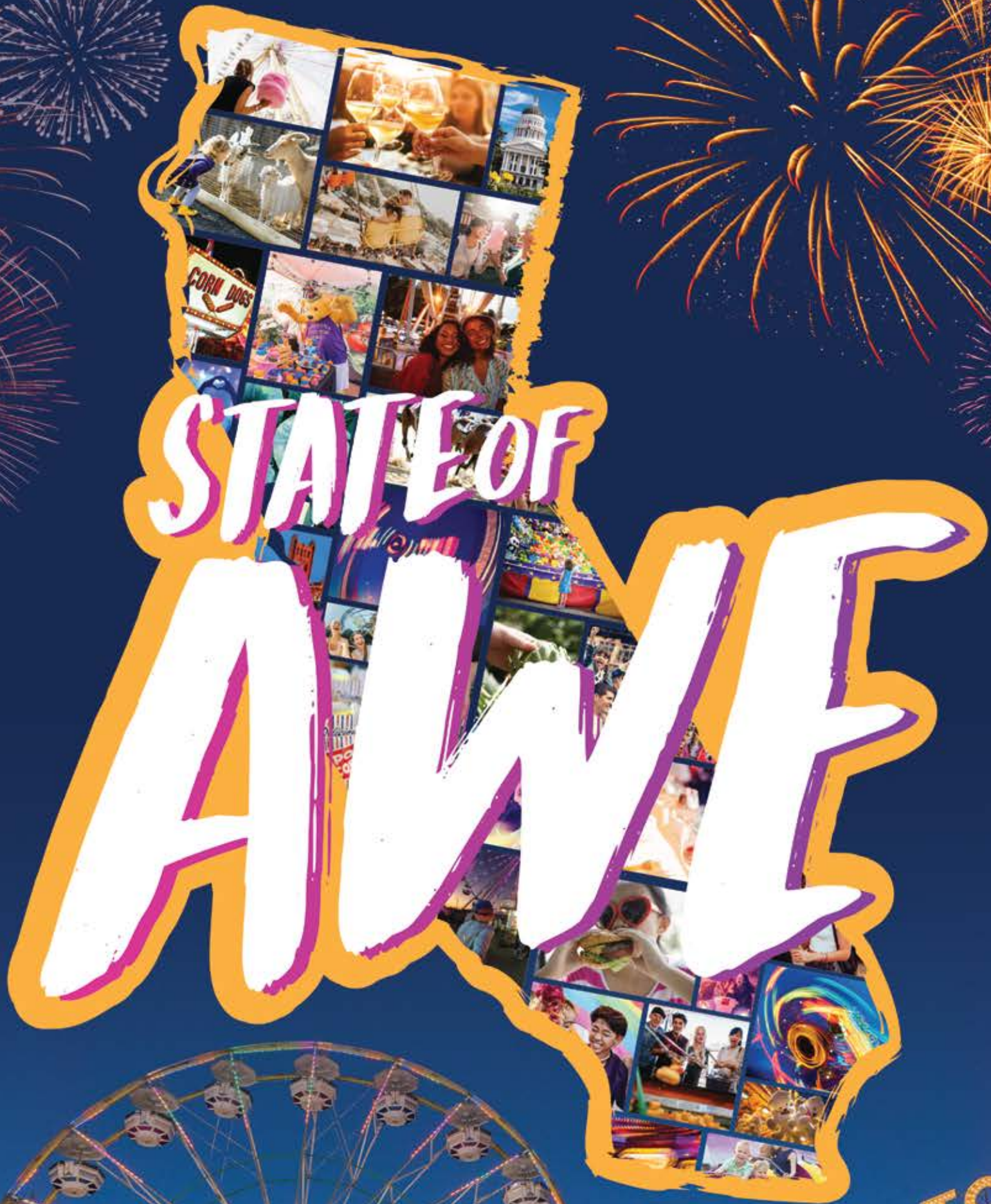
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Attorney General Bonta: Supreme Court Ruling on Medication Abortion a Victory, But Fight for Reproductive Rights Continues

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has issued a stark warning that the fight for reproductive rights is far from over, despite the recent Supreme Court decision overturning a previous ruling on medication abortion. The Supreme Court's decision, which many see as a setback for women's rights, has reignited the debate over reproductive freedoms and the ongoing battle to ensure access to safe and legal abortion services.

The recent decision by the Supreme Court has overturned a lower court's ruling that had placed restrictions on the use of mifepristone, a medication commonly used in medical abortions. These restrictions included limitations on how the medication could be prescribed and dispensed, making it harder for women, particularly those in rural and underserved areas, to access this essential healthcare service. By lifting these restrictions, the Supreme Court has reinstated broader access to medication abortion, a move celebrated by reproductive rights advocates.

However, Attorney General Bonta emphasizes that this victory is only a part of a much larger struggle. "The Supreme Court's decision is a positive step, but it does not mark the end of our fight," Bonta said. "We must remain vigilant and continue to push for comprehensive reproductive health protections at all levels of government."

The backdrop of this decision is a broader assault on reproductive rights across the United States. Several states have enacted



California Supreme Court

laws aimed at severely restricting or outright banning abortion, forcing many women to travel long distances to find clinics willing

and able to provide the care they need. In response, California has positioned itself as a sanctuary for reproductive rights, with state leaders, including Bonta, pledging to safeguard access to abortion services.

The Supreme Court's decision underscores the importance of the judiciary in shaping reproductive rights policy. It highlights the need for continued advocacy and legislative action to protect these rights. Bonta and other advocates are calling for federal legislation that would enshrine the right to abortion into law, ensuring that no future court decisions can undermine this fundamental right.

In conclusion, while the Supreme Court's ruling on medication abortion is a significant victory, the fight for reproductive rights is ongoing. Attorney General Bonta's message is clear: continued vigilance, advocacy, and legislative action are crucial to safeguarding these rights for all women. The battle is far from over, but with persistent effort, the goal of comprehensive reproductive freedom remains within reach.

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Voter Sentiment Is Shaped By Economic Concerns, Healthcare, Democracy, And Social Issues

Navigator Research's latest update highlights significant trends in American public opinion across a range of critical issues, providing valuable insights for progressive advocates and policymakers. The findings from the June 2024 wave of polling reveal a nuanced landscape where voter sentiment is shaped by economic concerns, healthcare, democracy, and social issues.

Economic Concerns and Corporate Accountability

A major theme in the latest Navigator Research report is the widespread concern about economic inequality and corporate greed. A substantial portion of Americans express a desire for more stringent regulations on corporations, reflecting a growing frustration with perceived corporate exploitation and economic disparities. This sentiment is particularly strong among Democrats and Independents, who largely support policies aimed at holding corporations accountable for their role in economic inequality.

Healthcare and Social Support

Healthcare continues to be a top priority for many Americans, with the majority supporting increased government intervention to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare. This includes support for policies that expand healthcare coverage and reduce drug prices. Additionally, there is a strong consensus on the need for better family support programs. Many Americans believe the government is not doing enough to support families, particularly those with children, indicating a demand for enhanced social safety nets and family assistance programs.

Democracy and Voting Rights

Navigator Research's findings underscore a deep concern about the state of democracy in the United States. Many respondents are worried about threats to democratic institutions and the integrity of the electoral process. There is significant support for measures that protect voting rights and ensure fair elections. This includes backing for policies that expand access to voting, combat gerrymandering, and prevent voter suppression.

Reproductive Rights and Gender Equality

Reproductive rights remain a contentious issue, with a clear majority of Americans identifying as pro-choice. This aligns with the growing coalition of pro-choice Republicans and Independents who support progressive messaging on abortion rights and court expansion. The data suggests that Americans are increasingly supportive of policies that protect reproductive rights and promote gender equality, highlighting a shift in public opinion towards more progressive stances on these issues.

Climate Change and Environmental Protection

Environmental concerns also feature prominently in the latest Navigator Research update. There is strong support for policies aimed at combating climate change and protecting the environment. This includes backing for renewable energy initiatives, regulations to reduce carbon emissions, and measures to preserve natural resources. The polling data indicates that a significant portion of the American public views climate change as an urgent issue that requires immediate and sustained action from policymakers.

Implications for Progressive Messaging

The insights from Navigator Research provide a roadmap for progressive advocates looking to craft effective messaging strategies. The key to winning public support lies in framing these issues in a way that resonates with voters' concerns and values. By focusing on economic fairness, healthcare access, democratic integrity, reproductive rights, and environmental protection, progressives can build a compelling narrative that addresses the pressing needs of the American public.

Navigator Research serves as a vital resource for understanding public opinion and shaping policy debates. The latest findings highlight the importance of responsive and adaptive messaging that aligns with the evolving priorities of voters. As the political landscape continues to shift, staying attuned to these trends will be crucial for advancing progressive agendas and achieving meaningful change.

For more detailed insights and the complete findings of the June 2024 wave of polling, visit Navigator Research's website: <https://navigatorresearch.org/>



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Little Activisms

Join a Sidewalk Assembly

by Judy Saint

When I see 15 or 20 people standing at a busy intersection holding signs my brain goes into immediate “friend or foe” identification. (Your brain probably does, too.) Once that is decided I respond accordingly. Let’s not go into what those responses are – use your imagination.

But what if that was you on the sidewalk? How would you feel about being there, part of that group, all trying to get a message across to the public? That’s what I’d like you to consider doing – join a gathering on some sidewalk letting your views be known. Wait, don’t hang up. It’s not that scary. Read on.

Remember all those anonymous “Little Activisms” I’ve been suggesting over the last year or so? You can leave pens lying around with printed messages, or have your favorite magazines or newspapers sent to old folks’ homes anonymously, and so many other “secret” activisms that keep you hidden. No confrontation needed. And now this – oh my lordy, talk about being out in public! It’s your face right there! But, you can do it!

Once you are with 10 or 20 like-minded people, you become part of a crowd. It’s fairly anonymous once you’re out there actually walking the sidewalk with everyone else. Even if you stand on a corner, being in a crowd helps you feel almost invisible.

Just holding your sign is enough interaction. You don’t need to speak to anyone. It’s really quite simple to do.

It’s highly rewarding, too, when a car honks and gives your crowd a thumbs-up. (The thumbs down are good news, too, actually. It confirms they saw you.)

To find a group, try Google, ask organizers who you can meet at festival booths or special events (like Mama’s Makin’ Bacon!), or business locations operated by your favorite cause. Or, next time you see a group you would like to join, pull over and get some information.

Maybe you’d feel better if you knew some facts about being on the sidewalk, public park, in front of government buildings, or any public space. OK, this is for you:

1. You are entitled to be in any public space as long as you don’t block access. You do not need a permit. (A permit is needed if you do block access, such as a march.)
2. You may photograph anything in plain, public view. No problem.
3. Expressing opinions is protected. Threats, libel, slander, and obscenity are not.
4. You may use amplification for your message, but not if only to disturb the peace.
5. You may approach people to talk, hand out pamphlets, or ask for a signature.
6. If you are impaired and need to sit, you may, as long as you don’t impede traffic.
7. You may bring tables or news racks, but again, not if they impede traffic.

You can see there are lots of protections to make sure you and your like-minded people can wave signs, shout your message, and generally interact with the public. It’s what public spaces are made for. It’s part of America.

What would you most like to tell the public, right now?

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help 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.

U.S. Federal Judge Strikes Down Anti-Trans Law

A federal judge in the Northern District of Florida (USA) this week struck down the state’s law prohibiting transgender care for minors, declaring the law unconstitutional.

“At last, someone with judicial authority has recognized the egregious overreach of legislation like this, which is popping up around the world,” said Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches worldwide.

In his ruling, Judge Robert Hinkle wrote, “Transgender opponents are of course free to hold their beliefs. But they are not free to discriminate against transgender individuals just for being transgender,” Hinkle writes. “In time, discrimination against transgender individuals will diminish, just as racism and misogyny have diminished. To paraphrase a civil-rights advocate from an earlier time, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

The law, passed last year amid opposition from transgender rights supporters,

including all 14 of MCC’s Florida-based churches, would have prohibited the use of puberty blockers and hormone treatment, among other restrictions.

“It is no surprise that the current governor of Florida is planning to appeal this decision to a higher court, but he will do so with the continued opposition of our churches in Florida and around the world,” Eggleston said. “Discrimination against transgender persons has no place in a free society nor, indeed, in the dominion of a God who created all beings free and unique – including, absolutely, transgender souls.”

MCC is the world’s oldest LGBT-affirming Christian denomination, with churches in 25 countries around the world. For more information or to find the nearest congregation, visit: www.VisitMCCChurch.com.



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The FBI Recognizes Pride Month And Thanks You For Your Partnership

In support of Pride Month, the FBI is providing the following guidance to help ensure the safety of everyone participating in Pride Month celebrations.

They are committed to protecting the LGBTQIA+ community from threats, especially hate crimes – which is among the highest threat priorities. The FBI takes very seriously the charge to defend constitutional guarantees of free expression. They will continue to use all the tools in their investigative toolbox to hold people accountable who use fear and violence to stop others from living their lives freely.

As the lead federal agency charged with investigating hate crimes, these cases are at the very core of what we do here.

You can find more information on hate crimes and the FBI using the following link: Hate Crimes – FBI

Additionally, you can find the Hate Crimes Threat Response Guide in English using this link: Hate Crime Threat Response Guide – FBI.



The FBI also published a toolbox to help first responders engage with the LGBTQIA+ community to counter violent extremist threats. That toolbox is attached.

As always, the FBI encourage any of you to contact local law enforcement or 911 immediately in the event of an emergency.

To report a threat, contact your local FBI field office (<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>) or closest international office (<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/international-offices>) or call 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324). Be aware of your surroundings at all times and report suspicious activities to the authorities.

Together, we can mitigate this threat and keep each other safe.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our common cause: keeping people safe. The work you are doing is truly making a difference in your communities.

National LGBTQ Wall of Honor 2024 at the Historic Stonewall Inn Announces Honorees

The International Imperial Court Council and the National LGBTQ Task Force celebrate six new inductees into the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor at the historic Stonewall Inn. This annual event, held at 53 Christopher Street, New York, NY, honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the LGBTQ movement.

The National LGBTQ Wall of Honor, located at one of the most historically significant sites for LGBTQ rights, celebrates trailblazers and activists who have impacted the fight for equality and liberation. Past ceremonies have honored a diverse array of LGBTQ legends across various fields, including advocacy, politics, literature, science, and the arts.

Nicole Murray Ramirez, founder of the LGBTQ Wall of Honor and City/County Commissioner, emphasized the importance of remembering the past to guide the future. Ramirez, known as Empress Nicole the Great, Queen Mother of the Americas, stated, "As a Latino and LGBTQ activist for over 55 years, I strongly believe that any community, indeed any civil rights movement, that doesn't know where it came from and whose shoulders it stands on doesn't really know where it's going."

Kierra Johnson, Executive Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force, highlighted the impact of the new honorees. She remarked, "Seeing the names of Sakia Gunn, Cecilia Gentili, and ABilly S. Jones-Hennin on the

Wall of Honor reminds me that courage is the lifeblood of our movement. Their legacy inspires us to continue fighting for our right to exist freely and authentically."

2024 Honorees

Cecilia Gentili
David Mixner
Sakia Gunn
ABilly S. Jones-Hennin
Charles Cochran Jr.
Larry Baza

These honorees exemplify the courage, resistance, and dedication that drive the LGBTQ movement forward, inspiring future generations to continue the fight for equality and liberation.

For more information and for details about each honoree, please visit:

<https://www.thetaskforce.org/press-releases/national-lgbtq-wall-of-honor-2024-at-the-historic-stonewall-inn-announces-additions/>

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The History of the Stonewall Riots: A Pivotal Moment in LGBTQ+ Rights

The Stonewall Riots, which took place in the early hours of June 28, 1969, mark a watershed moment in the history of LGBTQ+ rights. These riots, occurring at the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village, are widely considered the spark that ignited the modern LGBTQ+ liberation movement. The events of that night and the days that followed galvanized a community that had long been marginalized and oppressed, leading to the formation of numerous advocacy organizations and setting the stage for decades of activism.

In the 1960s, the Stonewall Inn was one of the few places where LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly those who were poor, effeminate or from minority backgrounds, this included drag queens, could gather without facing the extreme levels of discrimination that were prevalent in society at large. Operated by the Mafia, the bar was far from a safe haven in legal terms, often subject to police raids due to its unlicensed sale of alcohol and association with illegal activities. Despite this, it provided a critical social space where the community could express themselves openly and find solidarity.

The 1960s were a tumultuous decade in America, marked by significant social upheaval and civil rights struggles. The LGBTQ+ community faced pervasive discrimination and hostility. Homosexual acts were illegal in almost every state, and LGBTQ+ individuals could be arrested simply for congregating in bars. Police harassment was routine, and raids on gay bars were a common occurrence. Those arrested often faced public shaming, job loss, and ostracism from their families and communities.

On the night of June 27, 1969, New York City police conducted yet another raid on the

Stonewall Inn. Unlike previous raids, this one provoked a different response. As the police attempted to arrest patrons, the crowd outside the bar grew increasingly restless. Witnesses recall that the atmosphere was charged with anger and frustration. When a police officer struck a lesbian woman being arrested, she cried out for help, prompting the crowd to retaliate. Lesbians and trans women of color were some of the key people involved in the first act of resistance, including Stormé DeLarverie, Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. Johnson was a gay activist and self-identified as a drag queen, and she was also known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights.

The initial confrontation quickly escalated into a full-blown riot. Patrons and bystanders fought back with anything they could find - bottles, bricks, and even coins. The police, unprepared for such resistance, retreated into the bar, barricading themselves inside. The rioters then attempted to set the bar on fire, forcing the police to call for reinforcements. The clashes continued for several hours, with the crowd only dispersing in the early morning.

The riot did not end with that night's confrontation. Over the next several nights,



protests and clashes with the police continued in Greenwich Village. The riots drew considerable media attention, with various publications covering the events with varying degrees of sympathy or condemnation. What was clear, however, was that a new sense of empowerment and solidarity had taken hold within the LGBTQ+ community.

In the weeks and months following the riots, the LGBTQ+ community in New York City began to organize more formally. Activists established groups like the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), which focused on advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and visibility. These organizations adopted the confrontational and outspoken tactics that had characterized the Stonewall Riots, pushing for legal reforms and greater societal acceptance.

One of the most significant legacies of the Stonewall Riots was the annual Pride marches that began in 1970 to commemorate the

anniversary of the uprising. These marches, initially known as Christopher Street Liberation Day, have since grown into a global phenomenon, celebrating LGBTQ+ pride and continuing the fight for equality.

The Stonewall Riots are often cited as the catalyst for the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. The events of June 1969 inspired generations of activists to challenge discrimination and fight for equality. Over the decades, the movement has achieved significant milestones, including the decriminalization of homosexuality, the legalization of same-sex marriage, and increased protections against discrimination.

In 2016, President Barack Obama designated the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area as a national monument, recognizing its importance in American history. Today, Stonewall stands as a symbol of resistance and a reminder of the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ rights around the world.

The Stonewall Riots were not the beginning of LGBTQ+ resistance, but they were a pivotal moment that transformed the fight for LGBTQ+ rights into a widespread, organized movement. The courage and defiance shown by those at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 continue to inspire and energize the quest for equality and justice. As society progresses, the legacy of Stonewall reminds us of the power of standing together against oppression and the enduring importance of fighting for a world where everyone can live freely and authentically.

This overview of the Stonewall Riots was compiled using several sources including: Wikipedia, History.com, the Library of Congress and Harvard.edu.

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Profiles In The Past: Remembering Lambda Letters Project Founder Boyce Hinman

by Matthew Burlingame

Boyce Richard Hinman, an unyielding advocate for LGBTQ and human rights, was born December 10, 1938, in New York, NY and dedicated his life to fighting against political injustices and social disparities.



Boyce Hinman

A graduate of Middlebury College with a degree in Psychology, Hinman's life was a journey of resilience and activism. He faced numerous challenges in his young life including being outed as gay during his college years and experiencing discrimination in the workplace. But it only motivated him to remain steadfast in his commitment to acceptance and equality.

Throughout his life, Hinman was a pioneer in the advocacy landscape. He founded the Lambda Letters Project in 1988 and the California Communities United Institute in 2008. These organizations were dedicated to empowering individuals to engage in legislative and policy matters concerning civil rights and social justice. Through these initiatives, he provided a platform for marginalized voices to be heard and pushed for legislative changes for people living with HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ community, people of color, women, and those on limited incomes.

"I deeply care about civil rights and social and economic justice," he once shared.

But Hinman's activism extended beyond the confines of his organizations. He actively lobbied at the California Legislature, and inspired many in the Sacramento community to join him in letter writing campaigns advocating for needed legislation on the issues he held so close to his heart. His tireless efforts left an indelible mark on our community, inspiring others to fight for equality.

In addition to his advocacy work, Hinman cherished his relationship with Larry Beaty, whom he met in the 1970s when the two became roommates. After realizing there was more to their relationship than simply sharing a place to live, the two embarked on their life together as a couple. Their partnership was a true testament to love and resilience, enduring through decades of societal challenges. Together, they celebrated significant milestones, including registering their marriage on the historic day when same-sex marriage became legal in California.

Hinman's legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched and the progress he championed. His passion for civil rights and social justice serves as a beacon of hope for future generations, reminding us of the power of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Hinman died at the age of 83 on October 29, 2022, in Carmichael, California. He is survived by his husband, Larry Beaty, owner of Auburn Needleworks, and created a legacy of advocacy in Sacramento that continues to inspire needed change in the communities he so tirelessly worked for.

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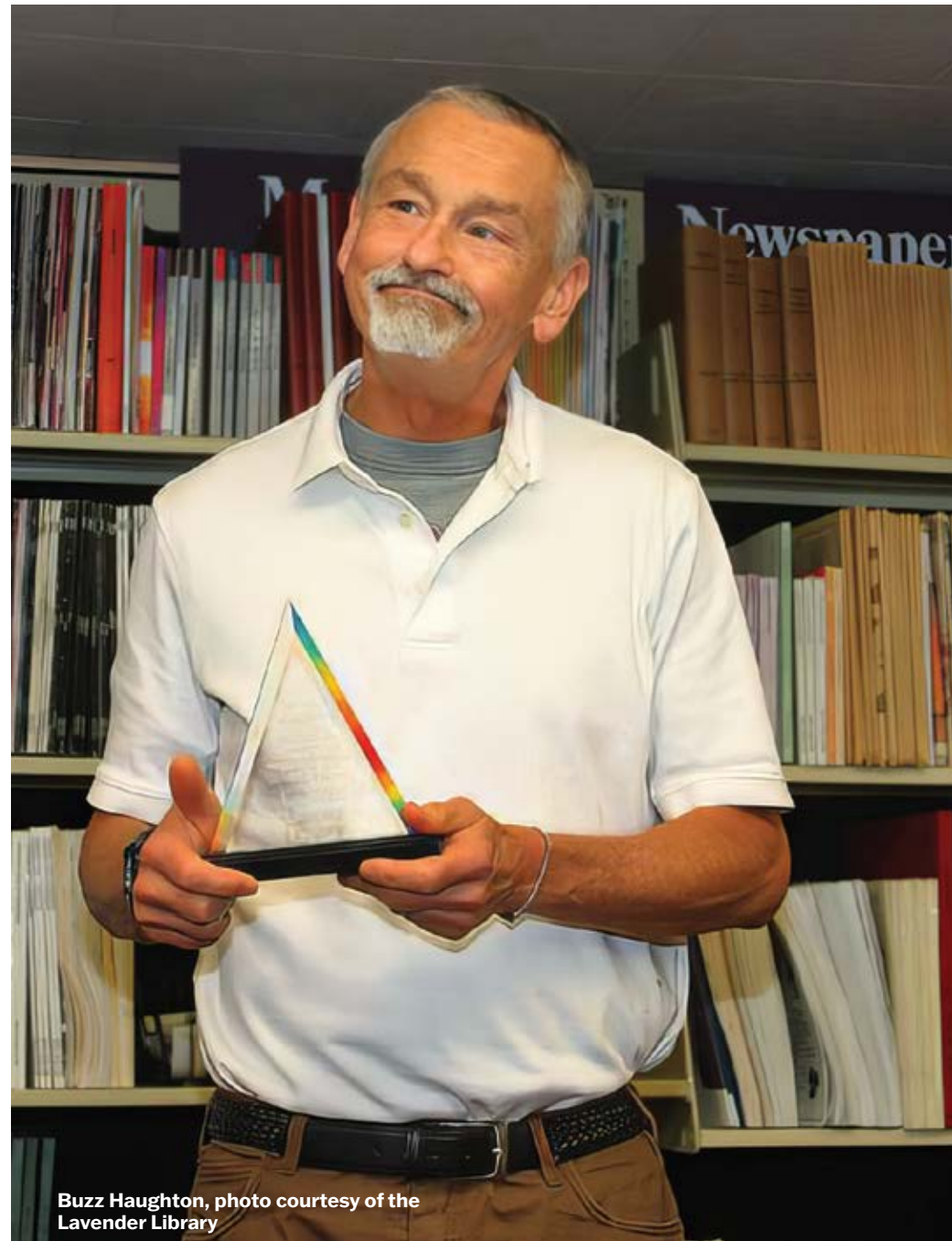
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Profiles In The Past: Remembering Lavender Library Archivist Buzz Haughton

by Matthew Burlingame

For over a decade anyone who was part of the Lavender Library, Archives, and Cultural Exchange, even in passing, knew Buzz Haughton as he served as both board member and archivist. His work, among others at the Sacramento nonprofit, lives on in the bibliophilic world as it was adopted into the official Dewey Decimal system cataloging of LGBTQ literature and archiving.



Buzz Haughton, photo courtesy of the Lavender Library

“Buzz was our polymath,” says Clint Vigen, former resident of the Lavender Library who worked with Haughton for much of his tenure at the library. “His impressive mind was only matched by the size of his heart.”

Haughton was born on December 26, 1948 in Australia. He spent his early years in Paris instilled in him a fluency in French before moving to Los Angeles. He would later add a mastery of the German and Spanish languages to his extensive font of knowledge.

Completing his undergraduate studies at UC Santa Barbara and earning an MA in library science from UC Berkeley led Haughton on to a distinguished career, including 36 years as a university library cataloger at UC Davis. Although the Lavender Library was where he considered himself at home, he also shared his cataloging talents with the Yolo County Library in Woodland and the UC Davis Marine Lab in Bodega Bay.

Outside of his professional life Haughton’s commitment to community extended beyond his professional duties, as he supported causes close to his heart, including the Stonewall Democratic Club.

Haughton died on April 20, 2023 and will forever be remembered by those whose lives he touched with his passion for knowledge and his gentle spirit, including that of his husband, Sam Catalano, whom he married in July, 2008.

“He was the sweetest man I have ever met,” said Catalano, remembering his late husband. “He was all heart.”

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Governor Newsom & Legislative Leaders Announce Agreement On PAGA Reform

Governor Gavin Newsom, in partnership with legislative leadership and business and labor groups, announced an agreement on needed reforms to the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) that avoids a contentious ballot measure campaign.

“We came to the table and hammered out a deal that works for both businesses and workers, and it will bring needed improvements to this system. This proposal maintains strong protections for workers, provides incentives for businesses to comply with labor laws and reduces litigation.”

Governor Gavin Newsom
“This package provides meaningful reforms that ensure workers continue to have a strong vehicle to get labor claims resolved, while also limiting the frivolous litigation that has cost employers billions without benefiting workers,” said Jennifer Barrera, President & CEO, California Chamber of Commerce. “We thank Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore McGuire and Assembly Speaker Rivas for navigating this agreement, and we encourage the legislature to pass this package quickly.”

“We are happy to have negotiated reforms to PAGA that better ensure abusive practices by employers are cured and that workers are made whole, quicker,” said Lorena

Gonzalez, principal officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. “PAGA is an essential tool to help workers hold corporations accountable for widespread wage theft, safety violations, and misclassification. We appreciate the work of the Governor’s office and Legislative Leadership to help us reach agreement with the Cal Chamber of Commerce to protect this innovative law and strengthen labor law enforcement.”

“Today’s agreement is critical to the long-term success of workers and businesses here in the Golden State,” said Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast). “Commonsense reform of PAGA has been discussed for years, and thanks to the collaboration of all sides, including the work of the Governor, this agreement will continue to provide strong worker protections and implement long talked-about reforms. Next steps include working with Speaker Rivas to move legislation forward in the days to come.”

“This agreement is important because it

protects working people, who are the real engine behind California’s economic strength,” said Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas (D-Salinas). “It also recognizes companies that follow labor laws, and it puts more muscle into enforcement. I grew up watching farmworkers and employers find common ground, so it means a lot to me that so many groups came together and found consensus. This is a hard-earned agreement, and that makes the positive outcomes we’ll see for businesses and workers even better.”

Once the legislation reflecting this agreement is passed and signed into law by the Governor, proponents of the PAGA ballot initiative eligible for the November ballot have agreed to withdraw their measure.

Here’s what this PAGA reform proposal would do:

- Reform penalty structure
 - Encourages compliance with labor laws by capping penalties on employers who quickly take steps to fix policies and practices, and make workers whole, after receiving a PAGA notice, as well as on employers that act responsibly to take steps proactively to comply with the labor code before even receiving a PAGA notice.
 - Creates new, higher penalties on employers who act maliciously,

fraudulently or oppressively in violating labor laws.

- Ensures that more of the penalty money goes to employees by increasing the amount allocated to employees from 25% to 35%.
- Reducing and streamlining litigation
 - Expands which Labor Code sections can be cured to reduce the need for litigation and make employees whole quickly.
 - Protects small employers by providing a more robust right to cure process through the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) to reduce litigation and costs.
 - Codifies that a court may limit both the scope of claims presented at trial to ensure cases can be managed effectively.
- Improving measures for injunctive relief and standing
 - Allows courts to provide injunctive relief to compel businesses to implement changes in the workplace to remedy labor law violations.
 - Requires the employee to personally experience the alleged violations brought in a claim.
- Strengthening state enforcement
 - Give the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) the ability to expedite hiring and fill vacancies to ensure effective and timely enforcement of employee labor claims.

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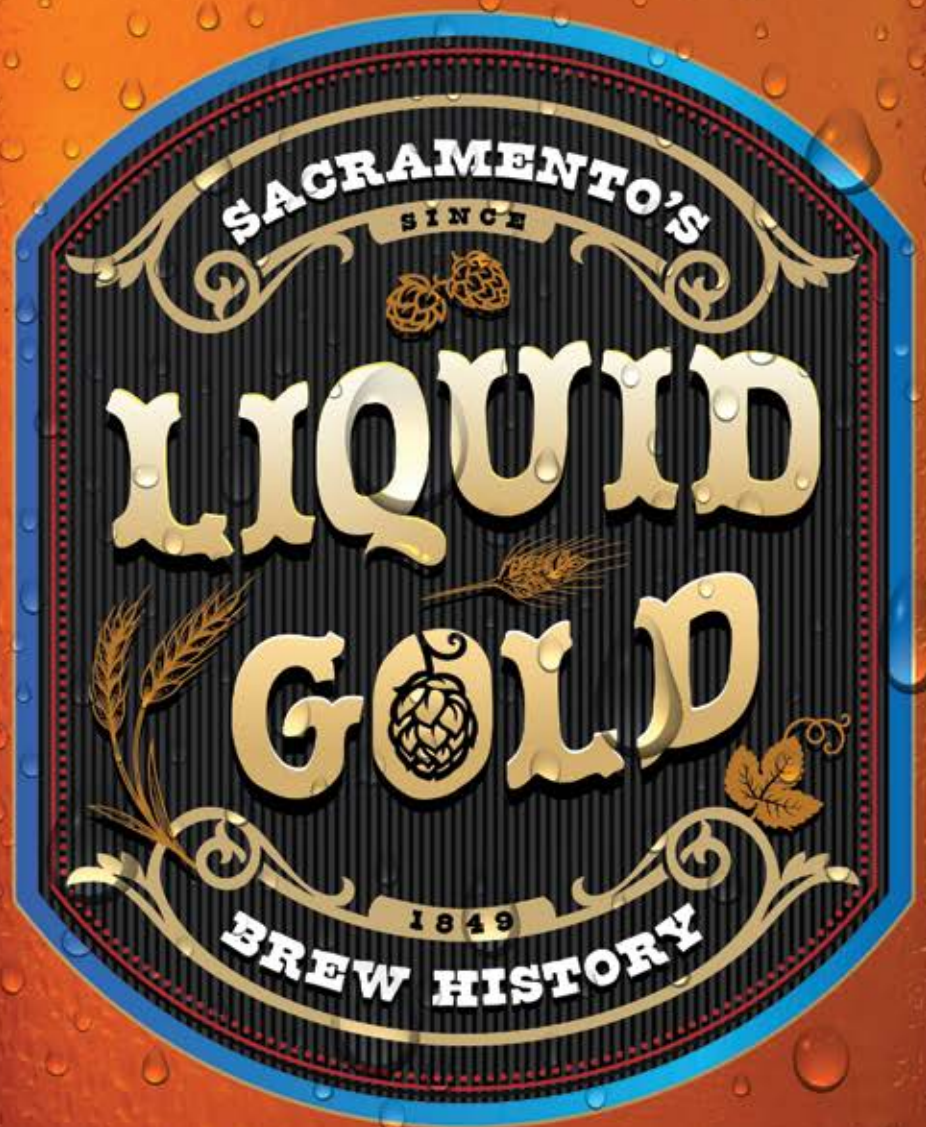
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New Exhibit Ends July 28



Transforming Trans Health and Community: Prioritizing Gender-Affirming Care for Prevention and Substance Use Support

by Lu Orona (he/they),
We Breathe Communications Intern

In a world where only a limited number of spaces are well-prepared to support the needs and well-being of Transgender, Gender-Diverse, and Intersex (TGI) individuals, accessing affirming care can be a daunting task due to high demand and limited availability. The dilemma of whether to see my primary doctor now or wait an estimated three months to consult with a doctor who specializes in LGBTQ+ and trans* inclusive care is one that many transgender individuals, myself included, grapple with.

The hurdles to accessing care can feel unattainable for many trans* folx, particularly amidst prevailing political and social struggles. This hurdle is exacerbated when overcoming addictions such as tobacco use, which is 5 times higher amongst trans* folx in comparison to cis-gender usage. The path to seeking and continuing recovery becomes even more daunting in the absence of educated, supportive, and affirming healthcare providers who are able to address the unique needs of the TGI community.

According to the most recent study conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality, nearly one-quarter of TGI folx did not see a doctor when they needed to due to fear of mistreatment, and almost half of the respondents experienced at least one negative incident in healthcare the past year alone. These instances range from being denied healthcare due to their gender identity to having a provider be abusive during treatment. These statistics underscore a profound failure in our medical institutions to cultivate inclusive and affirming spaces, further increasing hesitation to seek assistance against issues like tobacco use or receive preventative care such as regular check-up exams and pap smears.

Moreover, the dearth of safe spaces extends beyond healthcare settings and infiltrates our own communities. Recent years have witnessed pushback against TGI and queer folx from within the LGB community. This lack of solidarity leaves trans* individuals feeling unsupported precisely when they need it most, exacerbating feelings of alienation and unworthiness of a healthy and happy life. Trans* people need a world worth living and thriving for, and it's hard to do so when systems in place that were meant to help you, communities raised to uplift you, and a country meant to grant you "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" are consistently striving to erase, limit, and criminalize you. This only further encourages TGI communities to succumb to what is wanted of us by transphobes: early death, endless struggle, and the failure to feel empowered over

those who think they have control, and the best way to do that is through increased usage of harmful products like tobacco use and limited access and comfortability to seek aid against harms like it.

This is not a new phenomenon; it harks back to the struggles of pioneers like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who fought tirelessly for the freedoms we enjoy today as the LGBTQ+ community. Yet, despite their dedication, both Johnson and Rivera were often shunned away from the spaces they built. Both, unfortunately, would pass from the kind of death we still see today within our communities; Johnson would be left as a cold case, and Rivera would pass from liver cancer. To this day, the TGI community continues to face backlash and systemic obstacles that deter them from seeking the care and community support we deserve.

So, how do we chart a path forward? Organizations like We Breathe and the California LGBTQ HHS Network work to reduce LGBTQ+ disparities in issues like tobacco-prevention work and improve standards of care to best serve TGI individuals. By providing a safe space and eliminating the barriers in access to health care and community tools that are necessary to combat tobacco use, TGI folx can feel accepted, encouraged, and supported without fear of judgment or discrimination.

As a current intern for the Network's We Breathe program, I can attest to the transformative power of such inclusive environments. Here, I have found not only solace but also the resources and camaraderie necessary to navigate life as a trans* individual. It's a sanctuary where I can focus on my journey without constantly having to justify my existence or fend off bigotry.

From healthcare facilities to community spaces, we need to foster environments where TGI folx are not just tolerated but fully embraced and supported. Only then can we begin to dismantle the barriers that stand between TGI folx and the healthy, fulfilling lives we deserve.



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Honoring LGBTQ+ Organ, Eye & Tissue Donation Heroes

by Kyla Aquino Irving

Sierra Donor Services (SDS) is celebrating Pride Month by sharing stories of LGBTQ+ people in the greater Sacramento area who have a connection to organ and tissue donation. SDS has launched the campaign on several social media channels.



"We are proud to launch this campaign in honor of Pride Month and to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community," said Sean Van Slyck, Executive Director of SDS. "These stories and others are powerful reminders of the lifesaving importance of organ and tissue donation regardless of the donor's sexual orientation or gender identity, and the strong show of support from our local LGBTQ+ community."

Featured donor heroes and champions of donation include:

- Avery Monedero, organ, eye and tissue donor hero
- Beverly Kearney-Ybarra, a Sacramento LGBTQ+ community advocate and donor hero
- Leanne and Erica Jones, parents of pediatric liver recipient Davan
- GaNeane Lewis, a tissue recovery coordinator at Sierra Donor Services
- Nico and Mark Buan-Lagazo, nurses and members of the Philippine Nurses Association
- Reyna Portillo-Marzocca, nurse and president of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses - Sacramento
- Michael Coleman, External Affairs Director at Sierra Donor Services

Donor Hero, Avery

One story features a 21-year-old trans woman, Avery Monedero, who passed away in 2021 and donated her organs, saving 6 lives, tissues that healed several people, and corneas that gave the gift of sight to people in California and Nevada.

"Avery's right kidney saved the life of a young boy; her liver saved a woman in her fifties; her intestine saved a young woman in her twenties. Both of her strong, healthy lungs went to a woman in her fifties," said Monica Monedero, Avery Monedero's mother. "I also received a letter from a woman who could now walk and run with her grandchildren due to receiving her meniscus."

In her grief, Monica Monedero also connected with her daughter's heart recipient, Chris. Both were astonished to discover that they both had a connection to the trans community. Chris has a trans granddaughter.

"My hope is that Chris, having the heart of a trans person, will bring her closer to her new granddaughter," said Monica Monedero. "It's just one of the beautiful gifts given to the world by Avery."

Barriers to Saving Lives

Organ donation is a vital decision that can save up to eight lives, while tissue donation can improve the lives of 75 people, despite the sexual orientation or gender identity of the donor or recipient. Over 20,000 Californians are currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant. Sadly, the demand for organs exceeds the supply.

Contrary to widespread belief, LGBTQ+ people can and do donate. Common myths about organ donation in the LGBTQ+ community are not true. LGBTQ+ people are eligible and face no increased risk. Their organs are as healthy as anyone else's. Anti-discrimination laws protect donors, and their families have the same rights to make decisions.

And being HIV positive does not disqualify you from becoming an organ donor. Thanks to The HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE Act) signed into law in 2013, organs from HIV-positive donors can be transplanted into HIV-positive candidates. This change has opened the door for more HIV-positive candidates to receive life-saving transplants.

Sierra Donor Services encourages everyone to reshare their Pride social media stories via Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn and to register as an organ and tissue donor online through donatelifecalifornia.org.

And for more information about Sierra Donor Services and organ donation, please visit www.sierradonor.org.

Sierra Donor Services is a federally designated, mission-driven nonprofit organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to saving and improving more lives by connecting organ and tissue donations to the patients who need them. Sierra Donor Services serves more than 2.7 million people across 13 counties in Northern California and Nevada and is a part of a larger organization that serves Tennessee and New Mexico. For more information, visit SierraDonor.org.

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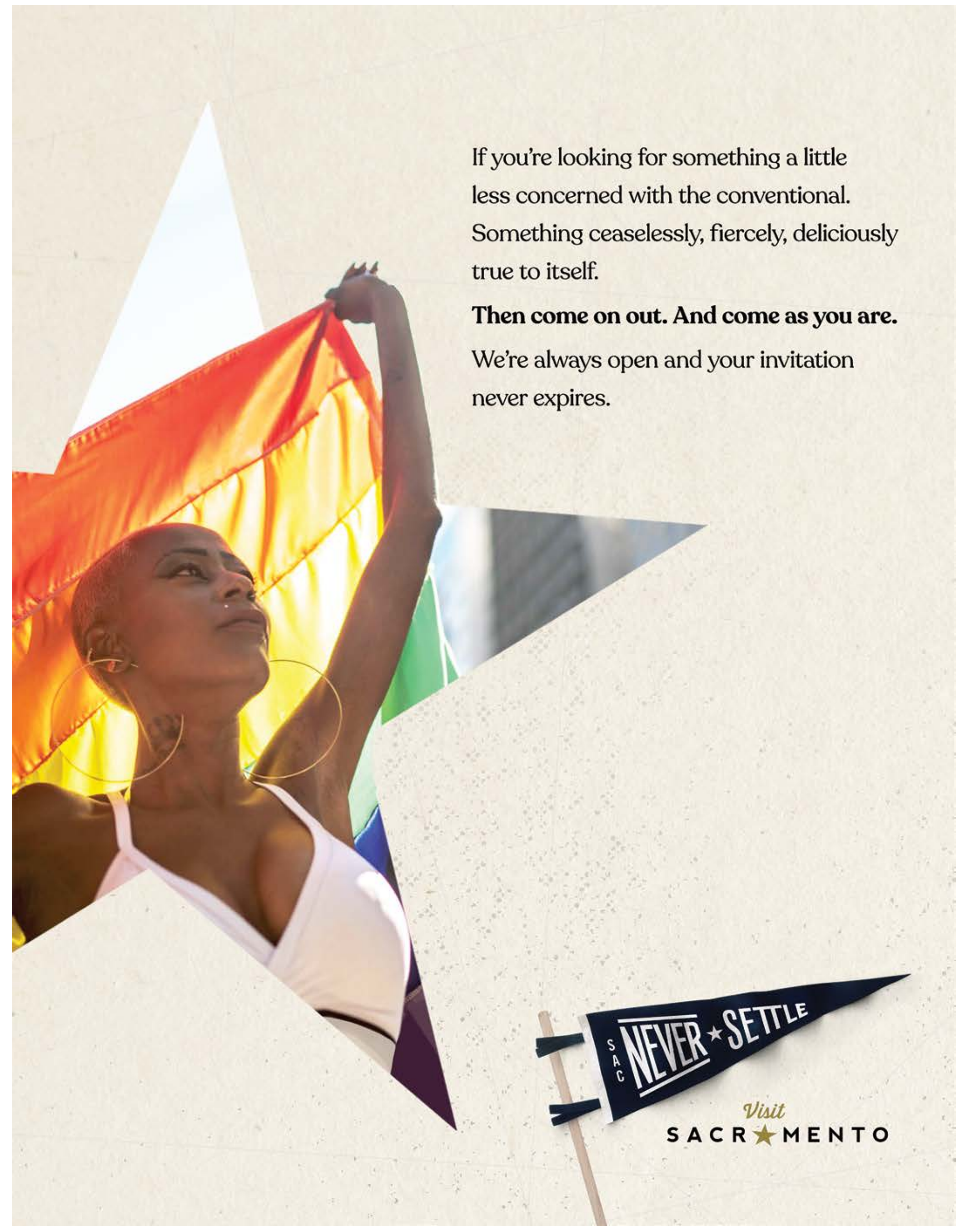
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A woman with short hair and large hoop earrings is shown from the chest up, holding a large rainbow flag high above her head with her right arm. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a white wall with several triangular cutouts.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

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The LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project Is Working To Solidify A Diverse Narrative Of Sacramento's Queer History

by Hannah Ross

The first draft of the LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project Historic Context Statement (HCS) was unveiled online and at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's booth at Sacramento Pride June 8. The document offers the public a preliminary look at the findings of a year-long historical investigation underway with the City of Sacramento's Community Development Department's Historic Preservation program.

Similar to the city's African American Experience Project, conducted last year and recently awarded a California Preservation Foundation award, the LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project seeks to solidify the presence and impact of a historically marginalized community in the mainstream of Sacramento history.

Henry Feuss, preservation planner for the City of Sacramento, says this document will serve as a framework for future preservation work, providing an important overview of an under-documented history that highlights key sites in local queer history like the headquarters of "Mom, Guess What..." — Sacramento's gay and lesbian magazine of the '70s and '80s.

"We cannot forget the history that went into getting us to where we are now," Feuss said, noting that the current climate for LGBTQ+ rights has faced a recent backswing amid a polarizing political climate. As a wave of anti-LGBTQ+ laws have rolled out across the country, Feuss emphasized the importance of solidifying a historic precedent of presence and activism in Sacramento's history.

"As young people, I feel like so many of us don't know a lot about our local history ... especially as the capital of California, so much happened here. ... We have to keep that information alive," Feuss says.

The HCS will be used to bolster the city archives' LGBTQ resources, support curriculum building and architectural preservation of landmark buildings across the city, including designating a potential historic district in the Lavender Heights neighborhood if enough material is found to support its geographic significance. It is also an opportunity to diversify a traditionally white-male historical perspective — the project is actively seeking to spotlight a diversity of queer narratives in its HCS.

Crafting a local history for a community that often worked to cover their presence in society has posed many challenges for building a diverse and wide-reaching survey, according to Feuss. To broaden its reach, the Historic Preservation Program has partnered with the Lavender Library, Sacramento's volunteer-run LGBTQ+ library and community center, to offer stipended research positions conducting oral history interviews, scholarly research with pre-existing archival material, and multimedia production for the project.

Mauricio Torres, vice president of the Lavender Library, says the project offers an exciting opportunity to create a more accessible and "comprehensive" queer history for the whole of the community.

"We have a lot of collections [at the Lavender Library], but where do you start when you just want to learn more about Sacramento's queer history? ... Unless you really spend the time doing all of the background research, and also talking to people, it's difficult to get a sense of what it was like to be a member of the [LGBTQ+] community at different points in time," Torres says.

Torres is excited about the energy it will provide the community, recognizing the importance of key spaces and building on an important legacy. "I see this as the first step towards more civic investment in infrastructure that serves the LGBTQ+ community," he said.

One community volunteer, Carson Anderson, who previously served as the director of the Historic Preservation Program for the City of Sacramento's Community Development Department before retiring, believes this project is an important effort to "define community" in Sacramento.

In his research, he has found how "fragile and fractious" queer life has been in Sacramento until recently. "People were highly closeted here. ... So many people were working in civil service and state and local government and they felt that their jobs were at risk if they came out."

Often people of color and the transgender community have been left out of queer narratives and history as they faced additional cultural pressures of conformity, according to Anderson who added that this makes it difficult to track down their stories when building historical narratives.

Filling this gap has been a central priority for the project. Anderson, Torres and Feuss all echoed the need for more oral history from queer elders in the community to help bolster these underreported corners.

In addition to flyering, word of mouth, and collaborating with local LGBTQ+ organizations, the project has hosted two community outreach meetings this year, with their next slotted for June 20 at Roscoe's Bar & Burgers. These meetings create opportunities for community members to provide feedback on the project's progress and get involved with the work.

"We wanted to make sure that we were capturing the stories that weren't being told, that hadn't been told already," Feuss said. "We fully recognize that there are probably things missing from [the HCS]. ... We absolutely want the public to chime in and tell us exactly where we should be looking and filling in those gaps for us."

Anderson agreed and offered hopes that more people will get involved with the project as volunteers, or in sharing their stories with the community.

"They might be sitting on their own personal stories, thinking them unimportant, but sharing those stories could be so helpful to the team and enriching the historical narrative," Anderson said. "Sacramento has an interesting history of LGBTQ engagement with civil liberties, public outreach and education, socially and culturally, that needs to be more broadly understood and appreciated. ... [We want] people to understand they have a role here, that they might be able to contribute."

This story is part of the Solving Sacramento journalism collaborative. Solving Sacramento is supported by funding from the James Irvine Foundation and the James B. McClatchy Foundation. Our partners include California Groundbreakers, Capital Public Radio, Outword, Russian America Media, Sacramento Business Journal, Sacramento News & Review, Sacramento Observer and Univision 19.

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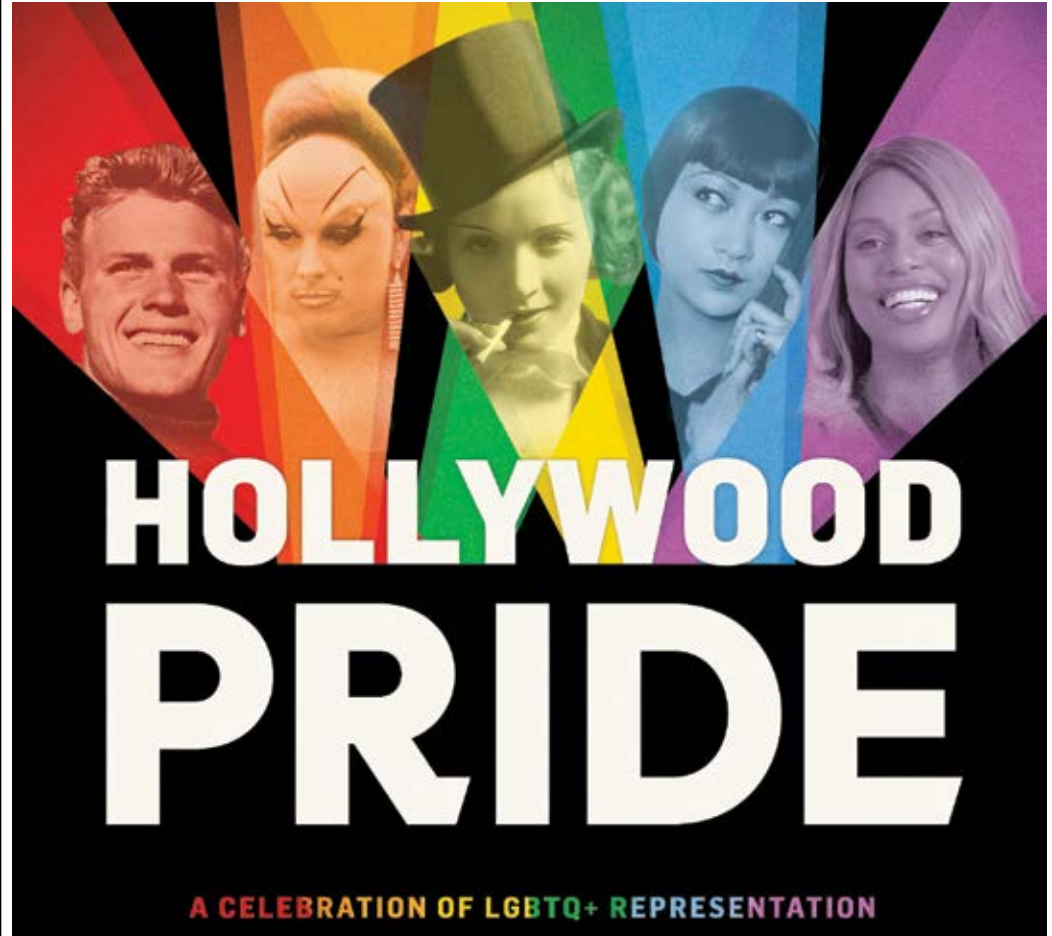
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“Hollywood Pride: A Celebration of LGBTQ+ Representation and Perseverance in Film” by Alonso Duralde *reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer*

You plan to buy lots of Jujubes. They’ll stick to your teeth, but whatever, you’ll be too busy watching to care. You like the director, you know most of the actors as first-rate, and word is that the newcomer couldn’t be more right for the role. Yep, you’ve done your homework. You read Rotten Tomatoes, you’ve looked up IMDb, and you bought your ticket online. Now all you need is “Hollywood Pride” by Alonso Duralde, and your movie night is complete.



William Kennedy Laurie Dickson likely had no idea that what he’d done was monumental. Sometime in the very late 1800s, he set up a film camera and a wax cylinder to record a short dance between two men, hands around one another’s waists, as Dickson played the violin. It “was one of the very first movies ever shot,” and probably the first film to record men dancing rather intimately alone together.

Back then, and until well into the twentieth century, there were laws against most homosexual behavior and cross-dressing, and very rigid standards of activity between men and women. This led to many “intense relationships... between people of the same gender.” Still, in World War I-era theaters and though LGBTQ+ representation “was somewhat slower to get rolling” then, audiences saw films that might include drag (often for comedy’s sake), camp, covert affection, and “bad girls of the era.”

Thankfully, things changed because of people like Marlene Dietrich, Ramon Novarro, Claudette Colbert, George Cukor, Alfred Hitchcock, and others through the years, people who ignored social mores and the Hays Code to give audiences what they wanted. Moviegoers could find LGBTQ+ actors and themes in most genres by the 1940s; despite politics and a “pink scare” in the 1950s, gay actors and drag (still for comedy’s sake) still appeared on-screen; and by the 1960s, the Hays Code had been dismantled. And the Me Decade of the 1970s, says Duralde, “ended with the promise that something new and exciting was about to happen.”

So have you run out of movies on your TBW list? If so, get ready... You never want to start a movie at the end, but it’s okay if you do that with “Hollywood Pride.” Flip to the end of the book, and look up your favorite stars or directors. Page to the end of each chapter, and you’ll find “artists of note.” Just before that: “films of note.” Page anywhere, in fact, and you’ll like what you see.

In his introduction, author Alonso Duralde apologizes if he didn’t include your favorites but “Hollywood has been a magnet for LGBTQ+ people” for more than a century, making it hard to capture it completely. That said, movie-loving readers will still be content with what’s inside this well-illustrated, well-curated, highly-readable historical overview of LGBTQ+ films, and of the people who made them.

Come to this book with a movie-lover’s sensibility and stay for the wealth of photos and side-bars. If you’re up for binge-reading, binge-watching, or Date Night, dig into “Hollywood Pride.” Popcorn not necessary, but welcome.

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Music Circus

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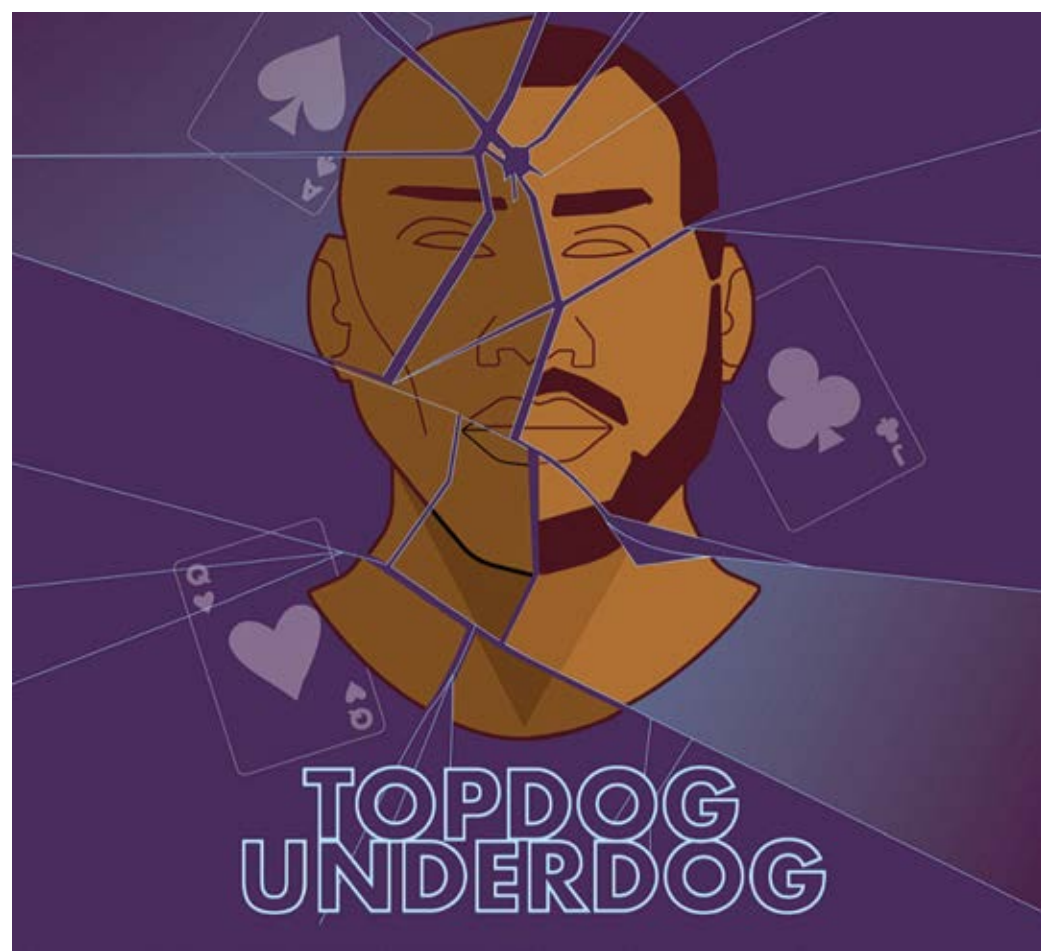
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Celebration Arts

If you’ve never seen Suzan-Lori Parks’ masterful play “Topdog Underdog,” now is your chance, thanks to Sacramento’s premier Black theater and its current production of the iconic work that won Parks the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The play is a riveting tale of sibling rivalry, survival, betrayal, and identity between two brothers, Lincoln and Booth, whose names were given to them as a joke by their father. The pair are haunted by their past and by an obsession with the street con game three-card monte.

“Topdog Underdog” performs through June 30 at Celebration Arts. Please visit: www.celebrationarts.net

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FOR THE

LGBTQ+ HISTORIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

City of
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Community Development

**LGBTQ+ history is best told
by those who lived it
firsthand.**

The City of Sacramento's Historic Preservation Office is seeking public input on the first draft historic context statement before July 7th.

A second draft will be released later in the summer for public review. Sign up on our website for updates!



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July 7th, 2024

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- Lavender Library, 1414 21st Street
- LGBT Community Center, 1015 20th St
- Marsha P. Johnson Center South, 7725 Stockton Blvd Suite O
- North Sacramento - Hagginwood Library, 2109 Del Paso Boulevard
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A Sequel For "Inside Out" Fans Plus, June Squibb is "Thelma"

by Chris Narloch

Two of the movies reviewed below feature June Squibb, an actress in her '90s who is shattering the "grey ceiling" in Hollywood by working nonstop. Both of her latest films, "Inside Out 2" and "Thelma," are must-see movies.

Inside Out 2

The new emotions added to Pixar's "Inside Out" sequel are even funnier than the returning ones from the original movie, and they include Anxiety (voiced by Maya Hawke), Ennui (Adele Exarchopoulos), and Embarrassment (Paul Walter Hauser). Holding it all together is Amy Poehler, who is once again a joy to behold (as Joy).

Our clever heroine, Riley, is 13 now and about to enter high school, with all the emotions that entails. She looks back on her childhood with Nostalgia (June Squibb) but learns to not let Fear (Tony Hale) get the best of her. "Inside Out 2" is the rare sequel that is as good or better than the original. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Thelma

I hope people discover this little gem of a movie, either in theaters or when it arrives to streaming. The wonderful June Squibb gets her first starring role on the big screen at the ripe old age of 94, and she is more than up to the task.

Squibb plays a pensioner who falls for a telephone scam that robs her of \$10,000. Determined to get her money back, she teams up with a retirement home resident played by the late, great Richard Roundtree (the original star of "Shaft"), and together they find the bad guys and get even.

"Thelma" is a delightful dramedy that addresses issues around aging, loneliness, and family dysfunction with heart and humor. Don't miss it. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Tuesday

I tend to want to cut a director some slack when the person clearly has their heart in the right place and especially when he or she attempts something risky. So, I really wanted to like this movie, but I can't quite recommend it unless you're in the mood for something truly bizarre and very sad.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus plays the in-denial mother of a dying daughter (Lola Petticrew) who is visited by a size-shifting, talking bird that helps the girl -- and eventually her mother -- prepare themselves for the inevitable. Louis-Dreyfus gives it her all, and the CGI bird is visually and vocally startling, but the movie tries to be profound and ends up being depressing instead. "Tuesday" was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press but may be gone by the time you read this.



Kinds of Kindness

I was unable to screen this one before Outword's deadline, but I will be anxious to see what Yorgos Lanthimos has up his sleeve this time, after hitting it big with "Poor Things," "The Favourite," and "The Lobster."

The director's muse, Emma Stone, is back on board for what sounds like another wild ride, consisting of three stories and costarring Willem Dafoe, Keke Palmer, Hong Chau, and the always-great Jesse Plemons. "Kinds of Kindness" is scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on June 27.

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Free Concerts Return to the CA State Fair

Get ready for the Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage at the 2024 California State Fair!



Patti LaBelle will perform at this year's State Fair.

All Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage shows are free with a California State Fair admission ticket, and the always-eclectic lineup of performers this year includes country king Cole Swindell, country queen Mickey Guyton, British rockers Bush, and the greatest surf band of all time, The Beach Boys.

But wait, there's more, including rappers Vanilla Ice ("Ice Ice Baby") and Flo Rida ("Low"), soul queen Patti LaBelle ("Lady Marmalade"), pop trio Wilson Phillips ("Hold On"), and the reggae band UB40 ("Red Red Wine").

Fairgoers are welcome to line up at the back of the Golden 1 Stage venue starting at 5 p.m. for first-come, first-served seating in the free area behind the General Admission seating. (Please note that the free seating area is limited to the first 700 guests, so come early.)

If you want to be up closer to the action, reserved seats for the Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage are available, and they start at just \$25. The 2024 CA State Fair runs July 12 - 28, with a different performer each night.

For more information and the complete lineup of performers, go to <https://caexpstatefair.com/event/california-state-fair>

John Legend: A Night of Songs & Stories

The San Francisco Symphony will join forces with the superb soul singer John Legend this summer for two evenings of his greatest hits ("All of Me," "Ordinary People," "Tonight"), unexpected stories from Legend's life and career, and selections from his most recent release, *Legend* ("Nervous," "Wonder Woman.")



John Legend

"John Legend: A Night of Songs & Stories with the SF Symphony" will pair the 12-time Grammy Award-winner with conductor Anthony Parther and the SF Symphony, for an unforgettable musical journey at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco.

Don't miss the phenomenal John Legend when he brings his sexy, silken soul to the symphony for two nights only, this July 23 and 24. To purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.sfsymphony.org>



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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.



Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Happy Independence Day! I've heard from some that they no longer fly our country's flag on national holidays as they feel right-leaning wing nuts have coopted the meaning of doing so. That makes it even more important that we hang those flags as proudly as we do our rainbow flags in June. The American flag is a symbol for all of us! Also, use that independence to come out and enjoy some of the below events.

Join the fun at Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, July 11, from 7-9 p.m. at Mangos, 1930 K St. All seating is first come, first served, with the game starting at 7 p.m. A \$20 cash donation to play benefits CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. Don't miss this exciting and charitable event! Rainbowchamber.com

The Sierra Foothills will host its premiere pride party July 12-14 at Teneral Cellars, 19890 Shenandoah School Rd., Plymouth. Celebrate love, diversity, and fabulousness with drag queens, comedy, dance parties, and fine wines. Performances by Mona Pulciano, and Trish Suhr and Karen Mills. Join us for a toast to inclusivity in wine country! Grab your tickets ASAP! Prideinthevines.fun

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center will host a Trans Support Group on July 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 1015 20th St. The group, meeting on the first and third Tuesdays, welcomes anyone under the trans umbrella seeking community. For more information, contact andy.cha@saccenter.org

Boys Of Summer Eagles Experience will perform at Crawdads On The River, 1375 Garden Hwy., on June 28 at 9 p.m. The top Eagles tribute band will play hits like "Hotel California," "Take It Easy," and "Desperado." Experience a night of nostalgia and timeless music. Eagles fans won't want to miss this show. Saccrawdads.com

The Witching Hour returns Saturday, July 6, 12-5 p.m. at the Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J St. Join the Seven Veils Society for a mystical market featuring 60+ vendors, live artist demonstrations, tarot readings, and unique magical treasures. VIP early admission at 11 a.m. All ages welcome! Lace up your boots and grab your broom! Thesevenveilsociety.com



Catch a special showing of "Purple Rain" (1984) at Crest Sacramento, 1013 K St., on Saturday, June 29, at 8 p.m. Watch Prince star as a young musician navigating rivalry, romance, and band turmoil as his career takes off. Don't miss this iconic film on the big screen! Crestsacramento.com



Paula Poundstone Courtesy Photo

Iconic comedian Paula Poundstone will perform at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, 1010 Ulatis Dr. in Vacaville, on Friday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. Known for her smart, observational humor and spontaneous wit, Poundstone hosts the podcast "Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone" and is a regular panelist on NPR's "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me." Vpat.net

"Fiddler on the Roof" will run from July 9-14 at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. Experience Tevye's poignant struggle between tradition and love for his daughters in this beloved Broadway musical. Enjoy timeless songs like "Tradition," "Matchmaker," and "If I Were A Rich Man." Don't miss this heartwarming and humorous classic! BroadwaySacramento.com

Join SactoMoFo's Food Truck Mania at Tahoe Park, 3501 59th St., on the 4th Friday of every month from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of delicious food and family fun. This community event offers a safe and positive space to create lasting memories with family and friends. All food trucks comply with health standards. Don't miss out!

The Emo Night Tour is coming to Sacramento! Join the 21+ event on Friday, July 5 at 8 p.m. at Harlow's, 2708 J St. The Emo Night Tour Band will play hits from Taking Back Sunday, Fall Out Boy, Panic! At The Disco, My Chemical Romance, and more. Enjoy a night of nostalgic emo anthems in a dance club atmosphere. Harlows.com



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The Queer History of Disco by Chris Narloch

PBS is rerunning several wonderful, gay-friendly documentaries during Pride month, including profiles of rocker Little Richard, writer James Baldwin, and playwright Terrence McNally. My favorite new queer PBS doc, however, is "Disco: Soundtrack of a Revolution."



I just watched the final episode of that 3-part documentary, which details the misunderstood and often maligned history of the 1970s disco period: its origins, its triumphs, its fall, and its legacy. Told by the original musicians, promoters, and DJs – as well as modern day musical icons – the series charts disco from its inception in the early '70s and its global domination in the latter part of that decade to its violent end in the summer of 1979.

Many people who were alive during that period only remember the crass commercialization of disco that followed the classic 1977 movie "Saturday Night Fever," the film that made John Travolta (and his all-white suit as Tony Manero) a movie star.

Yet in between the Stonewall uprising in June of 1969 and the 1980s (when AIDS decimated the queer community), the '70s were a halcyon period of sexual liberation and musical innovation that was originally fueled by gay folks and POC who created their own raves and dance parties in urban areas like New York City and San Francisco.

The disco scene emerged from one-off events that queer folks put together on the fly in basements and warehouses like the famed Paradise Garage in NYC. After it caught on with the public, disco eventually came to embody the height of 1970s glamour: a dancefloor culture born in the U.S. that became a global phenomenon.

Yet disco originally belonged to the marginalized and dispossessed: gay, black, and Hispanic people and women. It was their weapon in a battle for community, identity, and inclusivity; and once unleashed, it took on a life of its own. Inextricably bound up with the major liberation movements of the 1970s, disco speaks to some of the biggest issues of today, like LGBTQ+ identity and female empowerment.

But if disco shone brightly, it also shone briefly. Sensing profits, greedy record companies co-opted disco's success and flooded the market with increasingly inferior dance records. The subsequent hate-fueled backlash is one of the most extraordinary instances of artistic cancel culture in recent history.

'70s dance culture was essentially destroyed by disco-phobic (and probably homophobic) white music fans who participated in a vinyl disco demolition night at Comiskey Park in Chicago, Illinois on July 12, 1979, that was organized by a local rock radio station. The promotion turned into a violent, record-burning riot, and widely reported footage of the event was the last nail in the disco coffin.

Yet the story of disco is also a survival story. The music and its ethos simply went back underground, where it evolved into the techno and house music of the '80s and eventually laid the foundations for electronic dance music (EDM) and contemporary dance culture.

Disco had its last dance at the end of the '70s, but dance music in some form or another will never die, and I have no doubt that the creativity of the queer community will continue to be instrumental in its success.

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- 7/20 San Diego Pride
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- 10/31-11/3 Palm Springs Pride ✨

June

- 6/28 PrimeTimers Soul Food Dinner
- 6/25-30 Broadway Sacramento - *Spongebob Musical* ✨

July

- 7/4 Pool/BBW/Potluck with PrimeTimers @12 noon
- 7/9-7/14 Broadway Sacramento - *Fiddler on the Roof* ✨
- 7/10 Fine Dining @6 pm
- 7/11 Drag Queen Bingo at Mango's @7 PM
- 7/12 Outwards Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands @5:30 ✨
- 7/16 Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer
- 7/18 Dinner at River City Brewing Co. with PrimeTimers @5:30



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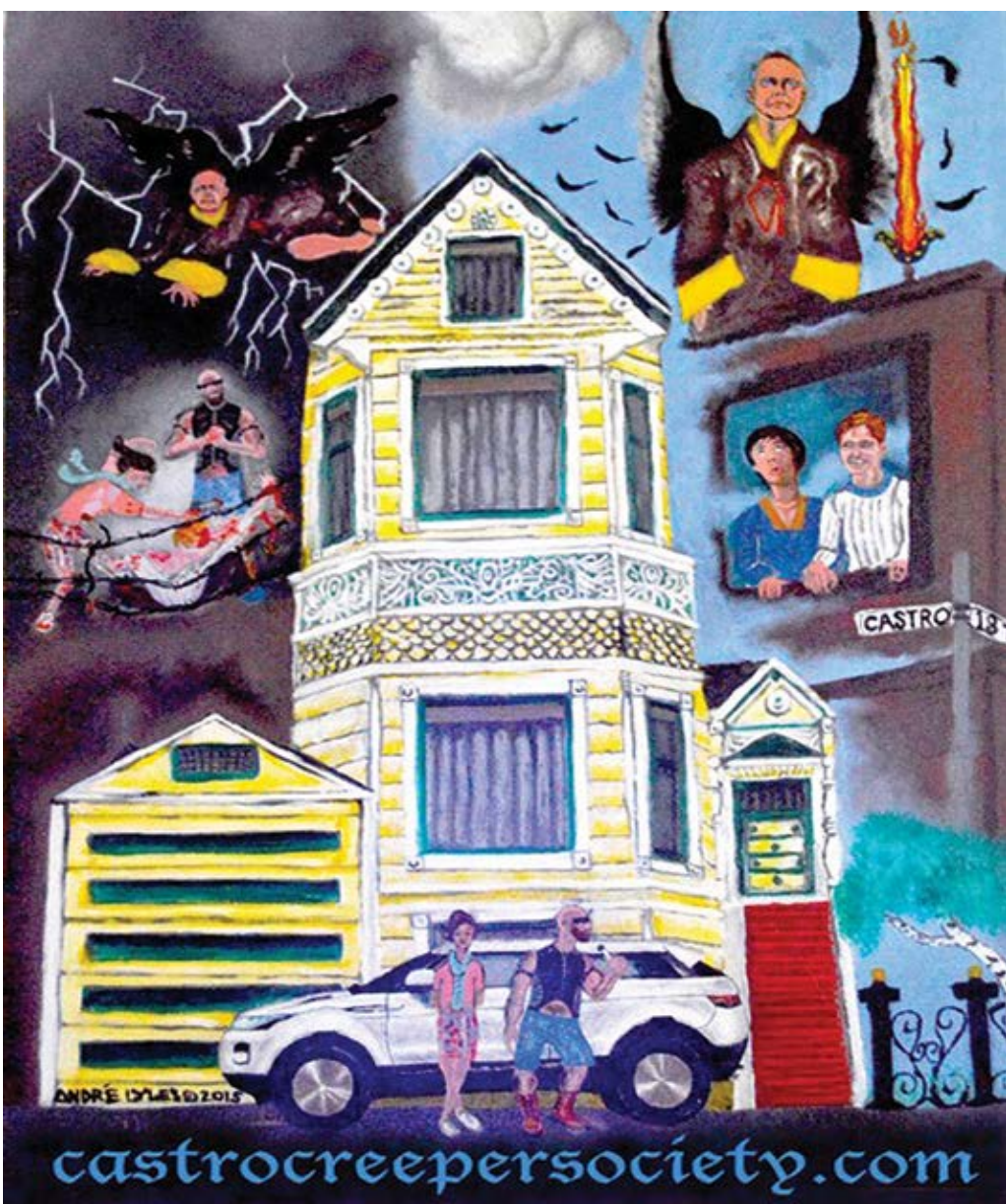
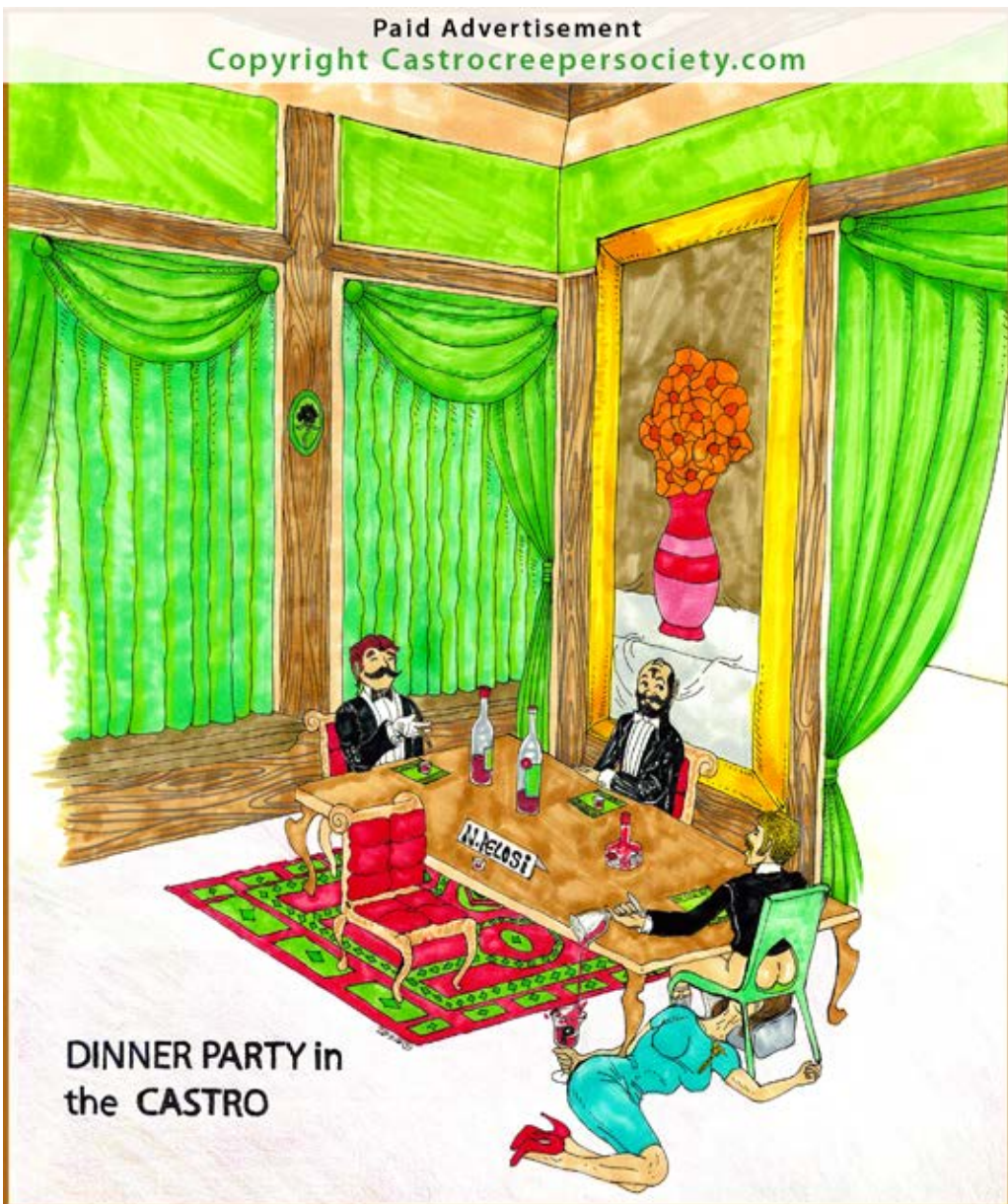
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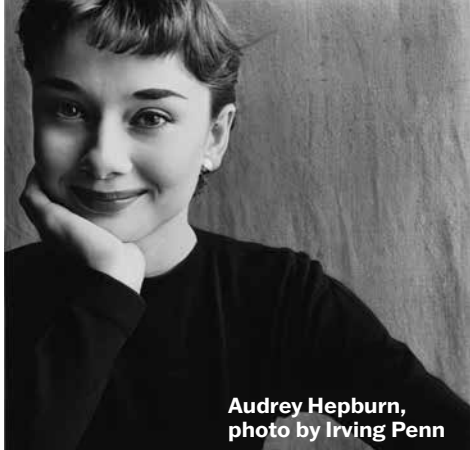
Don't Miss Irving Penn's Photos

The world-renowned *Vogue* fashion photographer and still life master Irving Penn revolutionized fashion photography in the postwar era. You have until this July 21st to catch a terrific survey of his work, now on exhibit at San Francisco's de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Using neutral backgrounds, Penn emphasized models' personalities through their gestures and expressions. As a result, he became *Vogue's* longest-standing contributor.

The wide-ranging exhibition includes approximately 175 photographs, spanning every period of Penn's nearly 70-year career. The works range from early documentary scenes, celebrity portraits, and workers with the tools of their trades to abstract nudes and fashion studies.

To purchase tickets, visit:
www.famsf.org/exhibitions/irving-penn



Audrey Hepburn,
photo by Irving Penn



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