

No. 750 • August 8, 2024
www.outwordmagazine.com

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Nat. Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
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California News Publishers Association

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Kim Davis Files Legal Challenge to 2015 SCOTUS Same-Sex Marriage Ruling

by Chris Walker, TRUTHOUT

Kim Davis, the infamous Kentucky county clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples nearly a decade ago following the Supreme Court ruling making marriage equality the law throughout the U.S., filed a legal challenge against fees she has to pay because of her refusal to comply with the law.

In doing so, Davis's lawyers argue that Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court ruling in question, was made in error. They're seeking to have the fees she owes tossed, and the decision recognizing marriage equality similarly reversed.

Obergefell was narrowly decided in 2015 in a 5-4 decision acknowledging that several states' laws were discriminatory and violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Far right conservatives have sought to challenge that ruling ever since.

Shortly after the ruling was made, a same-sex couple sought to get a marriage license in the county where Davis had recently been elected clerk. She refused to issue the license, citing her far right Christian views, though she had never refused to issue a license before for any reason other than her prejudice against LGBTQ people.

Subsequently, Davis lost her legal challenge, and was eventually ordered to pay \$360,000 in damages and legal fees. On Tuesday, lawyers from Liberty Counsel, a far right legal group that is representing the former clerk, submitted a challenge to those fees to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Attorney Daniel Schmid, discussing the challenge in a radio interview this week, denies that Davis was trying to "discriminate against anyone."

"She was trying to protect her own religious rights. In a country born on the will to be free, we ought to be able to respect those," Schmid contended.

As a public figure duty-bound to provide government services to everyone equally, Davis undoubtedly discriminated against the same-sex couple based on her own religious prejudices.

The legal challenge portrays Davis as being "one of the first victims" of the Obergefell decision. It seeks to have that ruling re-examined, to determine whether the "right to marry for same-sex couples...instantly overrode the constitutional right to religious



accommodation under federal and state law." Public government figures are barred from using their own beliefs to make life-altering decisions for people whose beliefs may not align with their own. Davis seeks to become an exception to that standard through this legal filing.

Notably, the challenge from Davis cites the concurring opinion authored by Justice Clarence Thomas in 2022's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* ruling, which upended nearly half a century of abortion protections in the U.S. Thomas wrote that the Court's decision in that case didn't go far enough, and that cases protecting birth control access, the right of LGBTQ people to be free from persecution for engaging in consensual sex, and the ability for same-sex couples to wed, should be reexamined by the conservative Supreme Court.

"Obergefell was wrong when it was decided and it is wrong today because it was based entirely on the 'legal fiction' of substantive due process, which lacks any basis in the constitution," one heading found within Davis's challenge reads.

Citing Thomas's concurring opinion, Davis' challenge states that, "[b]ecause the Due Process Clause does not secure any substantive rights, it does not secure a right to [same-sex marriage]; and especially not a right to receive a same-sex marriage license from a specific government official, regardless of that individual's religious convictions."

Importantly, there is no distinctive "same-sex marriage license." Same-sex couples use

the same marriage license application forms that opposite-sex couples use.

Davis's challenge concludes that this is a "unique opportunity" to "revisit" the Obergefell decision – claiming that it should be overturned partly because acceptance of LGBTQ people "was not grounded in the nation's history or traditions," a bizarre standard that conservatives on the Supreme Court created to justify ending protections for reproductive rights.

Davis' demand for Obergefell to be overturned is opposed by the vast majority of Americans. According to a Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) poll published in March, 67 percent of Americans back same-sex marriage rights.

That same poll found that 76 percent of Americans favored legislation to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation – the very type of discrimination that Davis engaged in when she utilized her office to subject residents of her county to her personal religious views in 2015.

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Chris Walker is a news writer at Truthout, and is based out of Madison, Wisconsin. Focusing on both national and local topics since the early 2000s, he has produced thousands of articles analyzing the issues of the day and their impact on the American people. He can be found on most social media platforms under the handle @thatchriswalker.

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Hate On The Ticket

By now you all have heard, former President Donald Trump has selected US Senator JD Vance as his running mate for the upcoming election. To be very clear, this choice signals a continuation of Trump's previous administration's policies, particularly its stance on LGBTQ+ issues, which has been widely criticized as the most anti-LGBTQ+ in American history. The selection of Vance, a known MAGA supporter, underscores a firm commitment to the same divisive and controversial policies.

Kelley Robinson, President of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), expressed strong opposition to the ticket, highlighting the stark contrast between the two major political camps. Robinson emphasized that the election is more than a contest between two campaigns; it represents a choice between two fundamentally different visions for America's future. On one side, Trump and Vance embody a vision where rights and freedoms, especially for marginalized communities, are under threat. On the other, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris offer a path toward greater equality and inclusivity.

JD Vance's record as a politician includes a history of making anti-LGBTQ+ statements and opposing reproductive rights. He has been vocal against the Equality Act, labeling its provisions as an "assault," and has expressed disagreement with protecting LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination. Vance's legislative actions include opposition to a bill that would secure access to in vitro fertilization (IVF), introducing legislation to criminalize healthcare for transgender youth, and advocating for a national abortion ban. These positions align closely with the Trump administration's previous stances, reinforcing a platform of limiting rights for certain groups.

In stark contrast, the Biden-Harris administration has been noted for its proactive approach to equality. Since taking office in 2021, the administration has implemented numerous measures to protect and advance the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Notable achievements include the signing of the Respect for Marriage Act, which codified protections for same-sex and interracial marriages at the federal level. Additionally, the administration has introduced regulations to safeguard LGBTQ+



youth from discrimination in schools and the foster care system, as well as measures to prevent discrimination in healthcare settings. The Biden administration has also made a historic number of appointments from the LGBTQ+ community, with over 200 individuals serving in various governmental roles, including judges.

In response to the upcoming election, the Human Rights Campaign has launched a campaign titled "We Show Up: Equality Wins," aimed at mobilizing 75 million Equality Voters to support Biden and Harris's reelection. This initiative includes a substantial \$15 million investment in key battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Nevada. The HRC has been active in these states for years and plans to expand its efforts by hiring additional staff to strengthen its ground game. The organization also plans to support pro-equality congressional candidates in states like California, Texas, New York, and Delaware, aiming to secure a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives that aligns with pro-equality values.

This election represents a critical moment for the United States, as it faces a choice between two contrasting visions for the country's future, with significant implications for LGBTQ+ rights and broader social justice issues. Information from www.hrc.org.

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Commentary My Harris/Trump Prediction

by Mark Segal, philadelphia Gay News

You might have thought the headline meant I'd predict who would win the November election, but sorry. It's way too early for that. However, I do have another Kamala Harris and Donald Trump prediction for you.

As you know, I enjoy sharing predictions, and most of them have come true. So, we're going to take another chance and make a prediction. Here it is: Former President Trump will not debate Vice President Harris. And there's a very good reason for that:

He's frightened of her. I mean, really frightened.

After spending so much time in courtrooms over the past year, Trump is literally frightened by prosecutors, and that's exactly who Harris is. She made her name as a formidable prosecutor, first as a district attorney and then as California Attorney General. She has an impressive record of convictions.

Trump knows she'd approach a debate as a prosecutor ready to face a convicted felon. This is why he didn't take the stand in many of his trials—he's afraid of being questioned by a professional prosecutor, and Harris is one of the best. She's also an eloquent speaker. During a July 22 event at her campaign office in Wilmington, Delaware, Harris delivered her first campaign speech. Here's what she said:

"As many of you know, before I was elected as vice president, before I was elected as a United States senator, I was the elected attorney general, as I've mentioned, to California. Before that, I was a courtroom prosecutor. In those roles, I took on perpetrators of all kinds," Harris said. "Predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters, who

broke the rules for their own gain. So, hear me when I say I know Donald Trump's type."

As the saying goes, she's taking no prisoners...or felons.

Besides being a prosecutor, she's also a Black woman. We know that Trump has no respect for women, and there's the issue of his dog-whistling racism. He's never had to face a Black person one-on-one in a debate before. He seemed to have been so freaked out that he'd be running against Harris that within 24 hours, he posted on his social networking site, Truth Social, that she was as "Dumb as a Rock."

During a campaign stop before Biden stepped down from the race, Trump also took aim at her laugh.

"I call her 'Laughin' Kamala.' Have you seen her laughing? She is crazy. You can tell a lot by a laugh. She is nuts," Trump said.

Did I mention he has no respect for women? And she's convicted people like Trump who have committed sexual assault.

Over the last few months, we've characterized this race as a contest between a friendly, loving grandpa and a mean, nasty grandpa. Guess we should update that. This race is now between a mean, nasty grandpa and a decent, hard-working woman.

She's going to prosecute his lies one by one, and as she does, he's going to become more agitated. Expect him to not only be a nasty old man but to reveal himself as the real Donald Trump—a racist, sexist man in plain sight.



LET'S DO OUR PART TO HELP ELECT
KAMALA HARRIS

“White Dudes for Harris” was an online fundraising rally that raised more than \$4 million for the presidential campaign of Vice President Kamala Harris on July 29. Their invite stated, “We are honest, open and ready to support our first Black woman President.” More than 150,000 joined the online streaming event, which was broadcast on YouTube. Speakers during the session included U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

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Kamala Harris For President Endorsements Human Rights Campaign Joins President Biden in Endorsing Kamala Harris for President

President Joe Biden announced his decision to exit the 2024 presidential race, as well as his support for Vice President Harris for president. Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Kelley Robinson issued the following statement in response:

“We are deeply grateful to President Biden for his more than 50 years of public service and his longtime support for the LGBTQ+ community. Today’s announcement reflects what President Biden has done his entire career and will be core to his legacy: putting the needs of Americans and his country above his own. We owe the Biden-Harris team a debt of gratitude for leading the country out of a state of chaos and constant crisis under former President Trump. And the Human Rights Campaign endorses the tough, formidable, and experienced Vice President Kamala Harris for president. Vice President Harris has the support of millions of Americans, as primary voters have already made the decision to put her on the ticket.

“Vice President Kamala Harris is a trailblazer and has been a champion for LGBTQ+ equality for decades: from leading the fight in San Francisco against hate crimes and her work in California to end the so-called gay and transgender “panic defense” to her early support for marriage equality and her leadership serving as our Vice President.

“Convicted felon Donald Trump has already shown that he aims to destroy democracy and divide the country in his quest for power. Vice President Kamala Harris is a true champion of unity and accountability – and will fight for a country where no one is above the law and “justice for all” means something.

“The Human Rights Campaign could not be prouder to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris and commit to channeling our resources and supporters to work to elect the first Black and South Asian woman president of the United States.”

National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund Endorses Kamala Harris

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for President. The organization has not endorsed a presidential candidate since its founding in 1973, when they endorsed President Jimmy Carter.

“Our decision to endorse Kamala Harris is not simply historic, it is a bold statement about what this election means for the future of LGBTQ+ people in America. It is also a call to action. The equity, health and safety of our communities, the hard-fought progress we have made, and the work that still needs to be done are all at stake. Our communities are under attack on many fronts – from access to trans affirming care to immigration, bodily autonomy, in schools, libraries and more – including many issues at the intersections of our multiple identities.

The Biden/Harris administration advocated for progress on all the issues the Task Force Action Fund focuses on – not simply ‘LGBTQ rights’ but the many ways our diverse communities are impacted by attacks on labor, reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, immigration, voting rights, the education system, health care and more.

We are witnessing an almost unmatched coalescing of people across the country that is inspiring - young voters, individuals who are now re-energized to engage in our democratic process, countless people who now feel hope – and an energy that is crossing all political and cultural boundaries. We also see those who are taking to the streets, organizing and advocating to continue to speak out and hold all elected officials accountable to move our communities forward.

Not only is this a passing of the torch from President Biden to a new generation, it is the passing of the baton in a generations-long, hard-fought relay of groundbreaking presidential candidates and extraordinary humans – from Shirley Chisolm, to Pat Schroeder, to Barack Obama, to Carol Mosely-Braun, to Eleanor Holmes-Norton, to Hillary Clinton...and now to Kamala Harris.

This extraordinary coming together has a single-minded purpose: elect Kamala Harris and not allow extremism and authoritarianism to win.

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund – or as we like to call our re-invigorated c4 – Task Force AF – is all in for Kamala Harris, all in for democracy and all in for the liberation of our community.”

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund builds political power, takes action and creates change to achieve freedom and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and their families.

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Kamala Harris For President Endorsements



Harris for President of the United States

Equality California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, and Silver State Equality, Nevada's statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights advocacy nonprofit, announced the endorsement of Kamala Harris for President following the announcement that President Joe Biden would not seek reelection. Equality California Executive Director Tony Hoang and Silver State Equality State Director André Wade offered the following statement:

"We are eternally grateful to President Joe Biden for putting what is best for America above all else, and opening the door for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the presumptive Democratic nominee. This announcement has energized voters in California and Nevada, and we are proud to join the rapidly-growing chorus of voices endorsing Kamala Harris for President.

Equality California has a long and fruitful relationship with the Vice President, dating back to her time as San Francisco's District Attorney where she worked with then-Mayor Gavin Newsom to clear the way for the first same-sex marriages in the nation to be performed at SF City Hall. Throughout her political career – from District Attorney, to California Attorney General, to United States Senator and Vice President – she has consistently worked for the betterment of the LGBTQ+ community.

We have seen her commitment to LGBTQ+ equality firsthand – from her decision not to defend Proposition 8 to her work to ban the "gay and trans panic" defense to her work in the Senate to enact a federal lynching ban and expand access to life-saving HIV prevention medications PrEP and PEP. Throughout her career, Vice President Harris has exemplified what it means to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community

Our primary objective must be defeating Donald Trump and J.D. Vance this November. Both candidates pose an existential threat to democracy, evidenced by their support of extremist agendas such as Project 2025 – which spells out in chilling detail processes to dismantle governmental checks and balances, reverse all progress made by LGBTQ+ people, and threaten reproductive choice and bodily autonomy.

At a time of unprecedented anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and hate violence directed at our community, it is more important than ever before to have strong champions for LGBTQ+ equality in the White House. Equality California and Silver State Equality are committed to getting out the vote for presumptive nominee Harris this fall and ensuring that pro-equality champions are elected up and down the ballot to continue building a world that is healthy, just, and fully equal for all people. We look forward to making history and electing the nation's first female and first Indian-American President in November."



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Little Activisms Keep Them Honest About Our Kamala

by Judy Saint

We know Kamala Harris. She was ours for many years here in California. She has an awesome record we can share with pride.

Since she is such a force, her opponents are using shock value statements made up out of thin air which are often the exact opposite of the truth, sometimes projecting their own devious intentions, and sometimes just ridiculous. If your friends are repeating these lies, you need to know the truth so you can speak up. Let's check Kamala's record so you can be quick to counter the prolific disinformation and propaganda.

Made Big Corp Pay:

- Forced banks to pay \$26 Billion in fines for ripping off homeowners, after her shocking refusal of their initial \$4 Billion offer
- Forced oil companies to pay \$24.5 Million in penalties
- Forced scamming for-profit colleges to pay \$1.1 Billion in penalties and made them forgive \$5.8 Billion in student loans

Equal and Compassionate Treatment:

- The first statewide agency to adopt body cameras and equality training
- She defied pressure to give favorable treatment to cases involving police criminality, treating them just the same as

everyone else

- Opposes the death penalty but appealed "cruel" delays in standing cases
- Developed "Back on Track" program to assist first-time nonviolent offenders with personal development and grants as an alternative to incarceration

"For The People" Community Focus:

- Appealed the repeal of Prop 8 to the CA Supreme Court, which reversed it
- Ordered all CA counties to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses even before the CA Supreme Court finalized its repeal of Prop 8
- Co-sponsored a bill to outlaw the "gay panic defense"
- Developed a program to keep kids in school, lowering the truancy rate
- Opened criminal justice data to the public for transparency and trust
- Announced more protections from foreclosures in the "Homeowner Bill of Rights"
- Gave community organizers and groups a seat at the table in her decision-making

Her supporters affectionately call

themselves the "K-hive". She collects Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers as her travel shoes. She opened a Tik-Tok account because people loved seeing her dance with groups of kids she was visiting. Her joy for life is infectious.

She described herself as California's "top cop" and a "get-it-done progressive prosecutor", out to bring law and order to the streets. She is not the fist-raised, fear-mongering naysayer but rather someone who knows how to professionally and ethically enforce our Constitution and puts doing so above her own ambitions or opinions. She is truly all about law and order, in that order. She does her job.

So, if you hear ridiculous claims that she kills newborn infants, wants to hurt seniors, that she has anything to do with Trump's criminal consequences, or that she hates Jews (like her hus-band, I guess)... it's because they have nothing real to say, so they're just making it up. It's all baloney. We can, at least, know the truth and speak up.

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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Kamala Harris For President Endorsements

Miss Major Endorses Kamala Harris for President

Miss Major, a Stonewall veteran, and activist who has been fighting for the rights of transgender people for over 50 years, will be joining her friends at the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund today in endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris for President of the United States.

Kamala Harris collaborated with President Biden during her term as vice president to establish strong support for transgender Americans. Their administration immediately started on day 1 issuing a ban on workplace discrimination for TLGBQ citizens. Side by side, they have been the most pro-equality team in our nation's history, implementing significant measures since the inauguration.

Together they enabled U.S. citizens like Miss Major and others to choose the gender marker "X" on their passports, expanding access to accurate and affirming identification documents for transgender and non-binary Americans.

Kamala Harris' record clearly shows that she was instrumental in enhancing the availability of federal services for transgender people. This was achieved by establishing pathways to retirement savings, streamlining the process for lodging employment discrimination complaints, removing obstacles to obtaining federal student aid, and modernizing the White House Office Visitor Entry System.

Vice President Kamala Harris has been a strong advocate for TLGBQI+ equality for many years. She has shown her support by leading efforts against hate crimes in San Francisco and working to abolish the so-called gay and transgender 'panic defense' in California. Harris has consistently supported marriage equality and continues to advocate for the TLGBQI+ community as Vice President.

A Harris Administration would uphold and expand the protections for transgender Americans established by the Biden Administration. Her leadership promises to fortify and enhance the efforts to address and meet the needs of transgender people, ensuring continued progress in our nation's history of civil and trans rights.

Miss Major is confident that Vice President Harris can build upon the achievements of the Biden-Harris Administration, creating a solid framework for a future where trans people are not considered less than equal. Her administration will eradicate Project 2025 in its tracks because its very existence destroys the fabric of humanity and free will for all people.

Miss Major will be fighting hand and hand with the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund to make sure that we get this done and we get it done right... vote like your life depends on it: Because It Does!!

Black Women Organized For Political Action Are All In For Kamala Harris

Black Women Organized For Political Action joined thousands of Black women, elected officials across California and allies to give Vice President Kamala Harris more than enough delegate votes she needs to secure the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Vice President Harris stands on the precipice of making history as the first Black and South Asian woman to secure the nomination of a major political party. Thanks to you and our statewide coalition, we will win this election and shatter the highest glass ceiling in this country.

Make no mistake: There is only one choice in this race. And that choice is Kamala Harris. Will you join us in fighting back against Donald Trump, JD Vance and their extreme MAGA right-wing agenda?

We cannot take this election for granted. With a little more than 100 days left until Election Day, we must work and fight hard like never before to protect our democracy. Will you join BWOPA PAC and fight back between now and November?

What's at stake this election: From defending abortion rights and protecting voting rights to combatting climate change and building a strong and inclusive economy that far too often leaves so many struggling Black and brown communities behind. The choice is clear.

We cannot let Donald Trump, a convicted felon, win this election. He, JD Vance and and their extreme right-wing MAGA allies are working hard to undo all the progress we have made. They want to remake the federal government and pack the Supreme Court with far right conservative judges to further take away our most cherished rights and civil liberties.

With your help, we can seize this historic moment and win this election. We can build a future that is far from the chaos and division of the Trump administration.

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District Court Judge Issued Nationwide Preliminary Injunction

A District Court judge has issued a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking the enforcement of non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ individuals under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a prominent LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, strongly criticized this decision, emphasizing its potential to exacerbate healthcare disparities faced by LGBTQ+ Americans.

Section 1557 is a crucial provision of the ACA that prohibits discrimination in healthcare on various grounds, including gender identity. The recent rule, finalized by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2022, aimed to reinforce these protections, ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals receive equitable healthcare. However, this recent judicial decision halts the enforcement of these protections, creating a significant gap in legal safeguards against discrimination in healthcare settings.

The HRC expressed concern that without the enforcement of Section 1557's protections, healthcare providers receiving federal funding may feel empowered to discriminate against LGBTQ+ patients. This could manifest in the denial of essential medical services, such as hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for transgender individuals, which is often more accessible for cisgender patients. Additionally, the injunction may lead to increased verbal or physical abuse from medical providers toward LGBTQ+ patients and even the refusal of emergency care based on gender identity.

HRC President Kelley Robinson condemned the court's ruling, stating that it is both morally wrong and bad policy. Robinson argued that the decision sides with extremist groups and politicians who seek to marginalize the LGBTQ+ community. She emphasized that all people deserve access to necessary healthcare services and the ability to make informed decisions about their own bodies. The HRC views this injunction as a setback in the fight for equitable healthcare and plans to continue advocating for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.

The legal battles surrounding Section 1557 have a complex history. The provision, as

originally implemented during the Obama administration, offered broad protections against discrimination based on gender identity. However, these protections were rolled back during the Trump administration in 2019, prompting HRC and other advocates to sue to block these changes. A preliminary injunction was granted at that time, preventing the rollback from taking effect. The recent injunction represents another twist in the ongoing legal struggles over LGBTQ+ rights in healthcare.

The broader implications of this injunction could lead to a worsening of healthcare disparities for LGBTQ+ individuals, potentially leaving them vulnerable to discrimination and denial of necessary medical care. As the legal and political landscape continues to evolve, the protection of LGBTQ+ rights in healthcare remains a contentious and critical issue. The HRC and other advocacy groups are poised to continue their efforts to ensure that all individuals, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, have access to safe and equitable healthcare.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ+ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.

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](#).



KAMALA HARRIS HAS NOW BEEN ENDORSED BY EVERY LIVING DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT: JIMMY CARTER, BILL CLINTON, BARACK OBAMA, AND JOE BIDEN. TRUMP HAS NOT BEEN ENDORSED BY ANY PRESIDENT IN HIS OWN PARTY. NOT EVEN HIS OWN VICE PRESIDENT IS SUPPORTING HIM.

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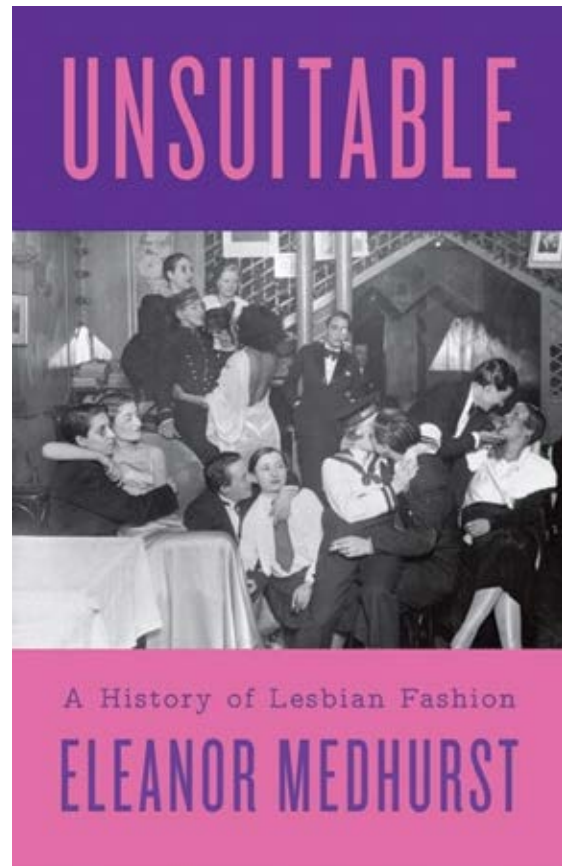
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“Unsuitable”

Author: Eleanor Medhurst

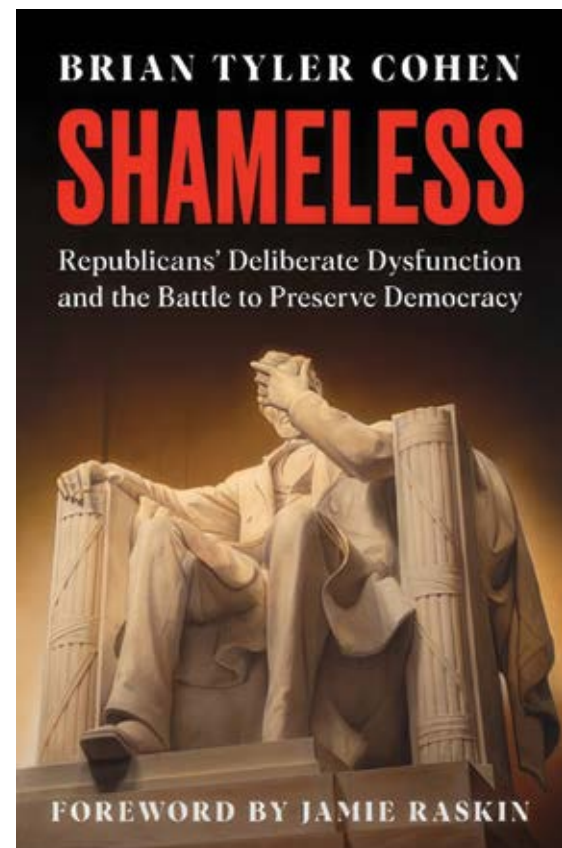
Paris, known for its arts, culture, and fashion, has also been a significant hub for the queer community, with a rich history dating back centuries. The 1920s, in particular, saw a vibrant lesbian scene where trends like fresh violets, monocles, and sailing uniforms emerged and influenced mainstream fashion. Historian Eleanor Medhurst’s book “UNSUITABLE: A History of Lesbian Fashion” explores these often overlooked stories, celebrating the culture and style of queer women throughout history. The book features vibrant anecdotes and beautiful color photos, highlighting the rich cultural history of Paris and the global impact of lesbian fashion from the 1920s to today. Available now at your favorite book sellers.



“Shameless: Republicans’ Deliberate Dysfunction and the Battle to Preserve Democracy”

Author: Brian Tyler Cohen

In Shameless, Brian Tyler Cohen, a prominent progressive commentator, critiques the modern Republican Party, exposing their use of misleading tactics, empty slogans, and deceptive branding. With a foreword by Congressman Jamie Raskin and insights from figures like Pete Buttigieg, Mehdi Hasan, and Jen Psaki, Cohen argues that Republicans have manipulated their historical image to justify behavior that contradicts their stated values. He also critiques the mainstream media’s complicity, particularly in the era of sensationalist MAGA politics. Cohen calls for Democrats to recognize the realities of this political landscape and outlines necessary steps to restore balance and safeguard democracy.



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AUGUST 15, 2024

The Spinners are one of the most iconic and enduring groups in R&B history. The group created and came to define the smooth sound of Philadelphia Soul with smash singles like, "I'll Be Around," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," "Then Came You," "The Rubberband Man," "Working My Way Back To You," and many more – earning six Grammy nominations, 18 Platinum and Gold Albums, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and selling millions of records worldwide in the process.



MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

BECAUSE OF YOU: MY TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT FEATURING THE CARNEGIE HALL ENSEMBLE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Award winning and Grammy nominated recording artist **Michael Feinstein** has partnered with Carnegie Hall to entertain and educate through his latest live touring show, paying tribute to American Songbook master Tony Bennett and created specifically for this musical partnership. Feinstein's close friendship with Tony Bennett will add a profound layer to this tribute.



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Karla Bonoff and **JD Souther** promise an evening of musical magic, where the beauty of storytelling through song takes center stage. Souther is a luminary of the L.A. music scene of the '70s collaborating with the Eagles & Linda Ronstadt and Bonoff's timeless songwriting has touched everyone from Bonnie Raitt to Linda Ronstadt to Wynonna.



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OCTOBER 8, 2024

Here is your chance to see two legendary performers: Music icon **Herb Alpert** and his wife **Lani Hall**, Grammy-winning vocalist and former lead singer of Brazil 66 with Sergio Mendes, perform an eclectic mix of American standards, Brazilian jazz, some Beatles, some classic Tijuana Brass and Brazil '66 songs, as well as many surprises.

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Midtown Farmers Market Voted No. 1 Farmers Market in California

The results are in...Sacramento's popular and lively Midtown Farmers Market was just voted as the No. 1 farmers market in California and now ranks 3rd in the nation as part of the 16th Annual America's Farmers Market Celebration™ (AFMC) by American Farmland Trust. This is the only annual ranking of the top farmers markets in the United States as voted on by the public. Since 2008, the annual ranking has highlighted the important role farmers markets play in communities across the nation, while celebrating the farmers, staff, and volunteers that make markets happen and recognizing that farmers markets are essential businesses that power farmers and communities to thrive. For the ranking, Midtown Farmers Market will receive a \$1,500 reward to be used towards marketing, communications, and other needs that help expand the market's reach and impact

"We're incredibly honored our amazing shopping community has voted the Midtown Farmers Market as No. 1 in the state and No. 3 in the nation," said Emily Baime Michaels, Executive Director of the Midtown Farmers Market. "Taking the top spot is especially rewarding for our dedicated staff who are passionate and work so hard to make it happen every week. Ever evolving, our Midtown Farmers Market has its own unique vibe due to all the amazing farmers, talented creatives, culinary artists, and imaginative and innovative vendors who show up and share their offerings with a community hungry to experience and enjoy every Saturday, year-round."

"Sutter Health's partnership with Midtown Farmers Market aligns perfectly with our mission to support the wellbeing of the communities we serve," said Ryan Loofbourrow, Government Affairs Director, Sutter Health Valley Area. "This recognition is not only well deserved, but it highlights the crucial role that farmers markets play in enhancing community health by providing access to fresh, local produce. We applaud the

dedication of the farmers, artisans, and vendors who create a vibrant and health-focused experience for everyone each weekend in the heart of Midtown."

With deep roots in the community, the Sutter Health's Midtown Farmers Market presented by SMUD is bursting with fresh fruit and produce, gourmet or locally made products and artisan goods. Now in its 11th year, the open-air market is available year-round and lies in the heart of Midtown at 20th & K streets with spring/summer hours in effect from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Owned and managed by the Midtown Association, the Golden State's favorite weekly market has 200+ vendors and continues to grow and reflect the thriving and eclectic tastes of the surrounding neighborhood. More detailed information about the Midtown Farmers Market plus a regularly updated market map are available at www.midtownfarmersmarketsac.com. And, more information about the American Farmers Market Celebration is available here.

In addition to offering numerous public transportation options, Midtown Sacramento



is walkable and bike/scooter/car-share friendly with plenty of parking available in nearby garages plus various lots throughout Midtown. For more information about Midtown Sacramento in general, special events and activities, and the Midtown Association, please visit www.exploremidtown.org or follow on social

media - Facebook at www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/ and @ExploreMidtown on Instagram and X.

Midtown Association: The mission of the Midtown Association (MA) is to create a center for culture, creativity, and vibrancy in Sacramento's urban core. For more information visit: www.exploremidtown.org.

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CROCKER art museum

Raul Gonzo (American, born 1979), Pan Am, Part I, 2018. Digital print on archival paper, 26 x 20 in. Crocker Art Museum, gift of the Artist, 2021.23.2





“Jersey Boys” & Lynn Nottage Return *by Chris Narloch*

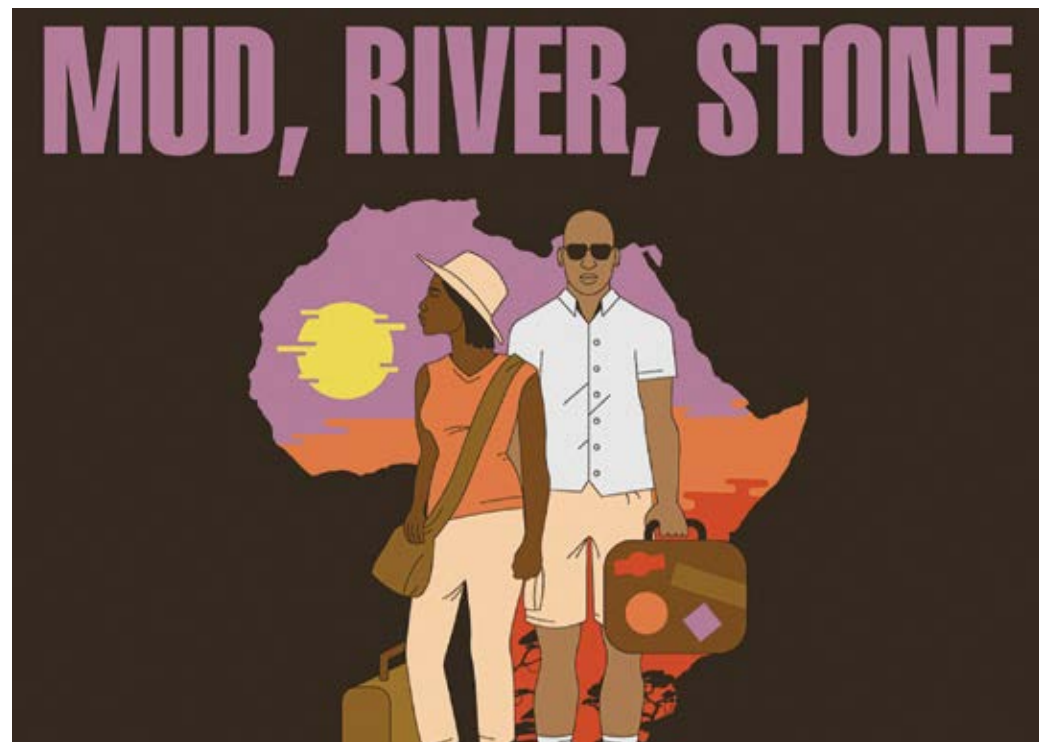
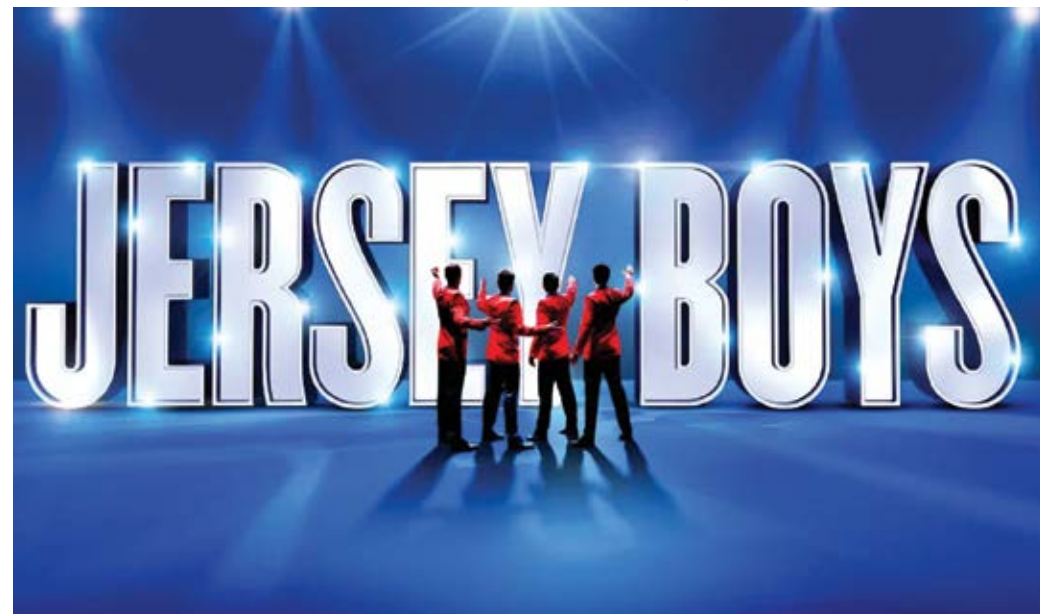
Must-see theatre this August includes an iconic modern musical about a beloved guy group, and an early work by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Lynn Nottage.

Jersey Boys

Singer Frankie Valli is 90 now and has been performing since the early 1950s. He is currently on his farewell tour with The Four Seasons, but the Broadway musical about his life and career shows no sign of slowing down.

“Jersey Boys” is considered the gold standard for jukebox musicals with good reason. The show contains hit after hit, and it also has a dramatic story to tell, about fame and family and the perils of success.

The musical’s unforgettable score includes “Sherry,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Walk Like a Man,” “My Eyes Adored You,” “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” and many more hits. The Broadway At Music Circus premiere of “Jersey Boys” performs August 20 – Sept. 1 at Sacramento’s UC Davis Health Pavilion. Go to www.broadwaysacramento.com



Mud, River, Stone

After – or before – you’ve seen the final Music Circus show of the summer, you can check out this play at Sacramento’s Celebration Arts.

Written by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage, who made history as the first, and still the only woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama twice, “Mud, River, Stone” brings her unique voice and perspective to the story of a successful Black couple who travel to Africa to reconnect with their roots – and each other – and find themselves stranded in the remnants of an abandoned grand hotel during the rainy season.

The couple’s comic and romantic adventure takes on absurd and dangerous dimensions when the hotel guests are taken hostage by an angry bellhop. “Mud, River, Stone” plays through this Sept. 1. Go to: www.celebrationarts.net

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(Wait! We Never Left!)

Dear Friends and Customers,
Our plea to “Tear down this wall, Mister Army Corps!” has been heard. The levee project to save lives and property has been completed.

We gladly and proudly await your return—and can’t begin to express our appreciation to those of you who continued to dine with us during the past year-and-a-half.

The river’s back (it, too, never left)! Please come enjoy the region’s finest, locally sourced seafood, entrées, imaginative appetizers, desserts, wines and full bar.

Your view awaits. It’s missed you.

Sigrid and Alan Irvine
Owners
Scott’s Seafood on the River



Classic Films at The Crest & Tower Plus, “The Fabulous Four” Review

by Chris Narloch

I wish I had a review of the new “Deadpool” movie for you, but the press screening was in San Francisco, and I wasn’t willing to drive that far for Ryan Reynolds’ snarky sarcasm. That film is doing just fine without me, however, breaking box office records right and left.

Nobody really cares what reviewers think about films like “Deadpool” anyway – Marvel movies are largely critic-proof – so I am going to use this space to give some love to several classic films that deserve to be seen on the big screen and are returning to local theaters.



Seven Samurai

The Tower Theatre is the only Sacramento screen playing the 70th Anniversary restoration release of one of the finest films by the late, great master of Japanese cinema, Akira Kurosawa. Starring the brilliant Toshiro Mifune, “Seven Samurai” is the often imitated but never surpassed story of a samurai (Mifune) who helps a village defend itself against bandits, resulting in an epic battle.

In glorious black-and-white, with a run time of more than three hours, this is one of the finest foreign films ever made. If the movie is still playing at Tower when you read this, don’t miss your chance to see “Seven Samurai” on the big screen. For more information, go to: <https://angelikafilmcenter.com/tower>



Donnie Darko

This cult classic helped make Jake Gyllenhaal a star in 2001, but the version showing at Sacramento’s Crest Theatre this month is the superior Director’s Cut from 2004 which restores 20 minutes of footage to the bizarre and fascinating film. Gyllenhaal is terrific as a suburban teen who survives a freak accident and then develops the power to alter time and destiny.

The movie’s excellent supporting cast includes Jake’s sister, Maggie Gyllenhaal, plus Drew Barrymore, Jena Malone, Patrick Swayze, Katharine Ross, and Mary McDonnell. “Donnie Darko” plays one night only at Sacramento’s Crest Theatre, this August 20th. Visit: <https://crestsacramento.com>



Cool Hand Luke

The late, great Paul Newman, one of the most beautiful men to ever grace the silver screen, received Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for his superb performance in this classic 1967 drama about a convict who refuses to play by the rules of a Florida prison farm, despite his repeated stints in the prison’s dreaded solitary confinement cell, known as “the box.”

Oscar winner George Kennedy and the hilarious Strother Martin costar in the film, which produced this famous catchphrase: “What we got here is a failure to communicate.” “Cool Hand Luke” screens at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Monday evening, August 26. For more information, go to: <https://angelikafilmcenter.com/tower>



The Fabulous Four

I would love nothing more than to report that this new comedy with a dream cast that includes Bette Midler, Susan Sarandon, Megan Mullally, and Sheryl Lee Ralph is a side-splitting laugh riot. Alas, “The Fabulous Four” is unfortunately another underwhelming example of the recent big screen genre I like to call “senior sisterhood cinema” which includes all of Jane Fonda’s recent films and most of Diane Keaton’s.

A weak cross between “Bridesmaids” and “Girls Trip,” the film follows three female friends who travel to Key West to be bridesmaids in another girlfriend’s surprise wedding. Midler and Mullally give the movie their all and have the funniest moments, while Sarandon and Sheryl Lee Ralph underplay nicely.

Rivalries resurface and catfights occur, but not enough of the sitcom-like script results in hilarious hijinks. “The Fabulous Four” was still playing (but probably not for long) at two area theaters as *Outword* went to press: Country Club Cinema in Sacramento and Palladio 16 Cinema in Folsom.



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ARTHOUSE Presents Steve Memering

Any artist who brings attention to cinemas and movie marquees is alright in Outword's book, but there is much more to Steve Memering's work than just that. You can check out a range of his art this August at ARTHOUSE on R Gallery in Sacramento, through Sept. 9, 2024.



ARTHOUSE is proud to present "Moods and Memories," an exhibition of oil paintings by Mr. Memering that includes an opportunity to meet the artist at the show's opening reception, on Saturday evening, Aug. 10.

Steve received his formal education from UC Berkeley and did graduate work at Carnegie Mellon. He also taught art for 30 years in the Folsom Cordova School District. Memering is a longtime favorite of Sacramento art enthusiasts, and this new collection will include local landscapes as well as those of other areas outside Sacramento.

When discussing his art process, Steve emphasizes the importance of using memory instead of photographic realism. "What I remember of a subject or location is far more interesting to me than simply trying to record what I'm seeing at a certain time and place," said Memering.

In addition to the Gallery Show, ARTHOUSE resident artists will open their studios to the public for Second Saturday, August 10, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

To learn more about Steve Memering, please visit:
<https://fireandraingalleries.com/product-category/paintings/steve-memering>

Sacramento's Race for the Arts Turns 25

Run, walk, or come out and cheer at the 25th Annual Race for the Arts in Sacramento's beautiful, shady, and scenic William Land Park, this August 24th. Come for the 5K & Kids Fun Runs and stay for the free Arts Festival.

Runners/walkers receive a Race for the Arts T-shirt, Finisher's Medal, and complimentary food sampling. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. on the 24th. Please note that pledges are separate from the entry fee.

You can make pledges in any amount to your designated nonprofit California visual, cultural, performing, culinary, literary arts organization or school program, and they will receive 100% of the pledges designated to them on the pledge form.

For more information, please visit:
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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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Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Whether enjoying the summer Olympics, braving the heat for the California State Fair, or attending those yearly salacious pool parties, there's been a lot happening this summer. And there is more post-Lughnasadh fun on the way. Check out the upcoming art, theater and events on the horizon!

Just a quick reminder that you can apply to register to vote online. Your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Oct. 21. sos.ca.gov

Join us Aug. 9 at *Outword's* monthly happy hour at 2003 K St. for a dose of Liquid Therapy! Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun from 5:30-7 p.m., with chances to win prizes and enjoy drink specials. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Badlandssac.com

and Joel Murray. Audience participation is key, so bring your suggestions! Experience classic and new improv games with musical direction by Bob Derkach. Whoselive.com

Don't miss The Spinners on Aug. 15 at the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy, in Folsom. As one of the most iconic groups in R&B history, The Spinners defined the smooth sound of Philadelphia Soul with hits like "I'll Be Around," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," "Then Came You," and "Working My



"Dirty Dancing" will be playing at the Crest Theatre

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber's August 2024 Networking Mixer will be held on Tuesday, August 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Children's Museum, 2701 Prospect Park Dr., Rancho Cordova. The event is free for members. Join us for a social evening of networking and community building.

ArtMix: Pajama Party, Thursday, Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m. at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Break free at the Crocker's fun-filled evening with live performances, DJed music, festive food and drinks, and art activities. Don your wackiest pajamas for blanket forts, board games, and snacks. Dance and shop from 50+ vendors. For ages 18+. Crockerart.org

"Jersey Boys" runs from August 20 to September 1, 2024, at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. This Tony, Grammy, and Olivier Award-winning musical tells the true story of The Four Seasons: Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito, and Nick Massi. Experience their rise from blue-collar kids to Rock and Roll Hall of Famers. Don't miss this Broadway at Music Circus premiere! Broadwaysacramento.com

"Whose Live Anyway?" comes to the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway, Folsom, on August 20-21. Enjoy 90 minutes of hilarious improvised comedy and song with Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Jeff B. Davis, outwordmagazine.com

Way Back To You." Enjoy an unforgettable evening of timeless classics! Harriscenter.net

On Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m., enjoy the classic movie "Dirty Dancing" (1987) at Crest Sacramento, 1013 K St. Starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, the film follows Frances "Baby" Houseman as she spends the summer at a Catskills resort and falls in love with the camp's dance instructor. Crestsacramento.com

Immerse yourself in a magical weekend of enchanting Celtic and folk music at the Midsummer Fairytale Festival, Aug. 10-11, at the Amador County Fairgrounds, 18621 Sherwood St., Plymouth. Enjoy traditional Celtic melodies, foot-stomping folk tunes, delicious food, artisanal crafts, and whimsical attire. Saturday runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your friends and family for an unforgettable celebration!

Happy birthday on Aug. 8 to Richard Hernandez, Aug. 11 to Clarmundo Sullivan, Aug. 18 to Tom Swanner, and a very happy 75th birthday to former *Outword* editor Charlie Peer who is happily enjoying his retirement. Happy anniversary on Aug. 23 to Tom Swanner and Sean Wade.

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthewburlingame@gmail.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.

Should you wish to support us please click on this ad and go to:

OutwordRainbowFund.com.

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2024

»»» SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1 2024 «««

INTERSECTION OF K & 20TH STREETS

»»» 11AM - 10PM «««

ALL DAY LGBTQ+ ENTERTAINMENT - DRAG SHOWS

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Activating Taste Buds (ATB)

Always on the search for authentic, delicious Mexican food, Alexander H. happened upon Algo Bueno on Northgate Blvd. in South Natomas. He was blown away by the creative, hand-crafted flavors, the hospitality, and he very enthusiastically recommends stopping by if you are in the mood. Delicioso! Thank you, Alexander, for sending us your beautiful food pics! And, if you would like to share some with *Outword* readers, all you have to do is email them, with short descriptions, to: graphics@outwordmagazine.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 8/9 Outwards Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands @ 5:30 ✨
- 8/10 Sacramento Medical Museum with PrimeTimers
- 8/15 Harris Center - *The Spinners*
- 8/20 Rainbow Chamber's Monthly Networking Mixer - Sacramento Childrens Museum
- 8/20-9/1 Broadway Sacramento - *Jersey Boys* ✨

September

- 9/5 Drag Queen Bingo @ Mango's
- 9/13 Outword's Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands @ 5:30
- 9/12 Farm 2 Scholar Dinner Hosted by The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber
- 9/15 Harris Center - *Michael Feinstein - Because of You: My Tribute to Tony Bennett*
- 9/17 Sacramento Rainbow Chamber's Monthly Networking Mixer
- 9/17-22 Broadway Sacramento - *Company*

Contact Julie Ebe to get your events on the Calendar: Julie@Outwordmagazine.com

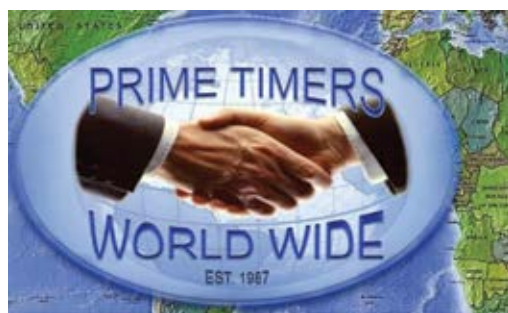
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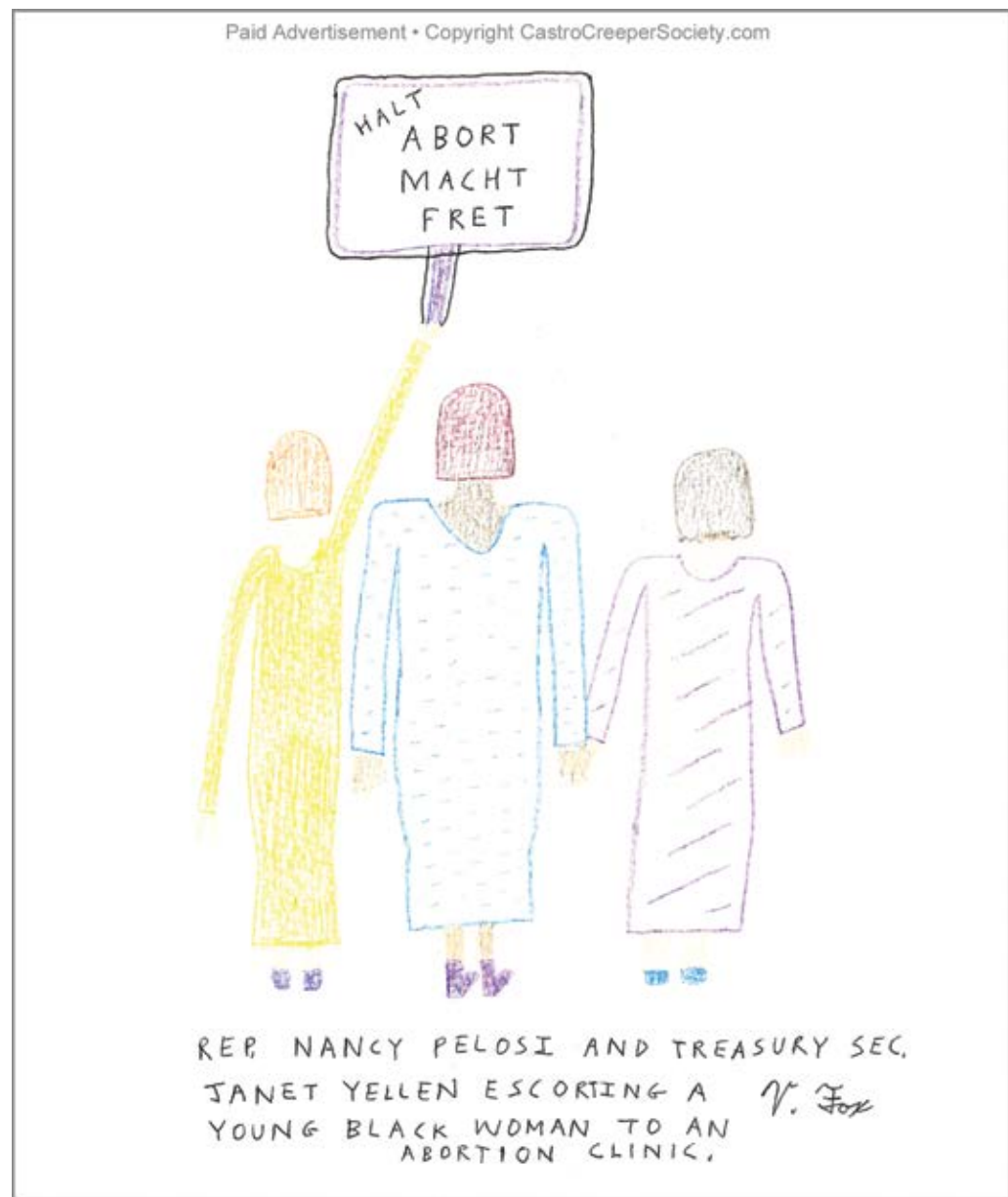
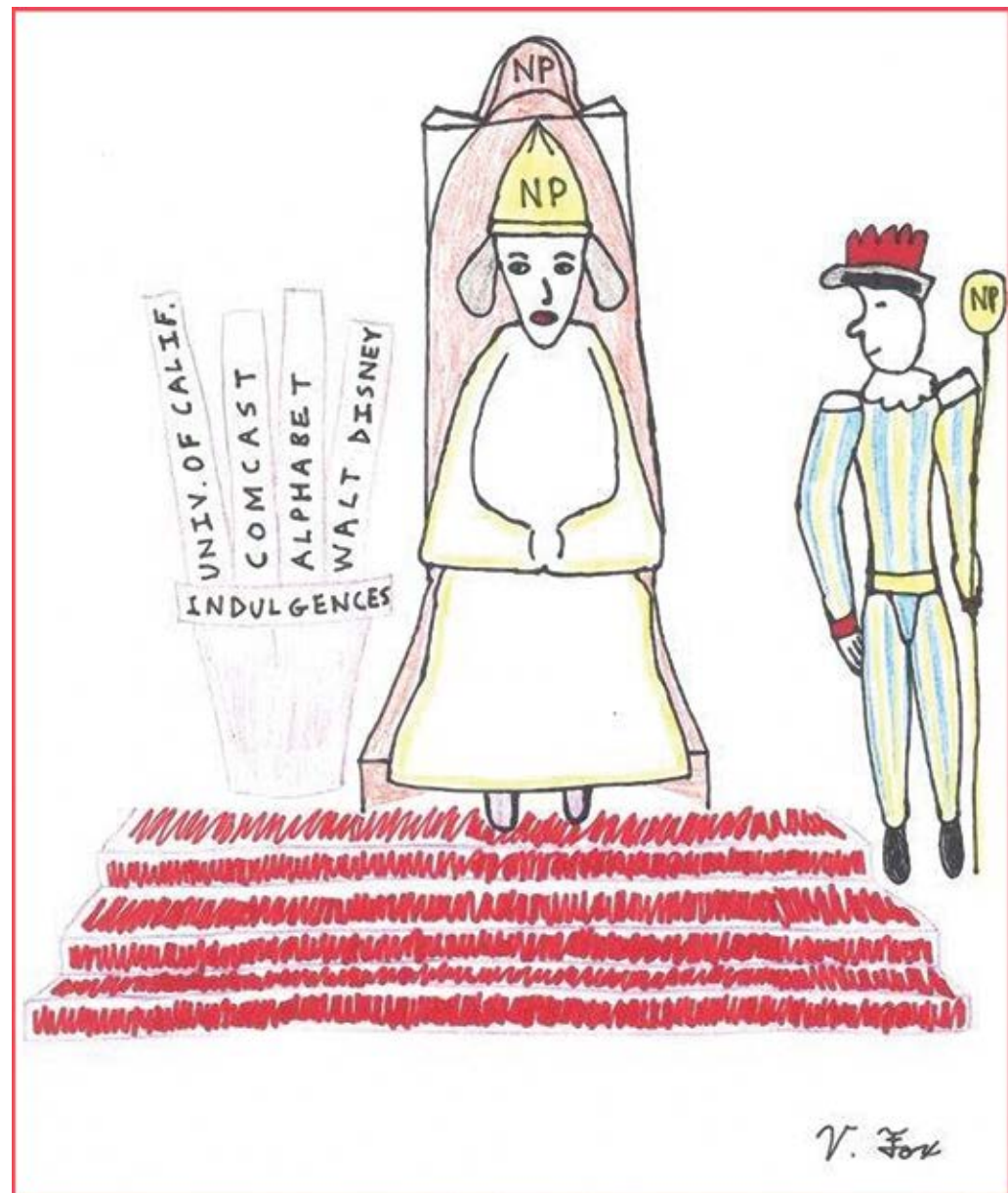
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The Drive-in is a Summer Ritual *by Chris Narloch*

Living in Rancho Cordova as I do, I make it a point at least once every summer to visit the West Wind Sacramento 6 Drive-in, which is the only cinema inside Rancho city limits (and one of the last drive-ins in Northern California).



The sprawling West Wind drive-in had a fire a few years back, but the theater is back in business and better than ever, with a completely remodeled concessions area that now includes a cute little diner plus every kind of movie snack imaginable. In addition to popcorn, soda, candy and hot food, beer and cocktails are also on the menu now.

The screens all have digital projection, the audio comes through your stereo, and you can have pizza delivered to the car if you don't want to walk to the snack bar.

There is always at least one horror movie playing at the drive-in, plus family films and the latest first-run blockbusters. The new "Deadpool" and "Despicable Me" movies are now showing, as well as "Twisters" and "Trap."

Be sure and arrive early because the place is packed during the summer, especially on the weekends. For more information and current movie titles, please visit: www.westwinddi.com



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