

Special Issue

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AHF to Meta: Sexual Orientation is not Mental Illness

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the world's largest HIV/AIDS healthcare nonprofit, is disgusted by the section in Meta's Hateful Conduct Policy Details that explicitly endorses attacks on the LGBTQ community. Meta's guidelines include the following language:

"We do allow allegations of mental illness or abnormality when based on gender or sexual orientation, given political and religious discourse about transgenderism and homosexuality and common non-serious usage of words like 'weird'."

The technology conglomerate also allows intentionally exclusionary and insulting language on its social media platforms "in the context of discussing political or religious topics, such as when discussing transgender rights, immigration, or homosexuality" and approves calls for discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation "when the content is based on religious beliefs."

"Putting forth a hateful conduct policy and carving out exceptions for attacks on people based on gender or sexual orientation is despicable," said Queen Victoria, International President of FLUX, a division of AHF dedicated to creating safe spaces for Trans and gender non-conforming individuals. "Protecting some people and not others – and using religious beliefs as an excuse – is dangerous and carving out a safe space for hate speech online only serves to fuel the flames of further discrimination offline. Meta should reverse this policy and recognize that the LGBTQ community deserves the same protections and respect as any other group of people."

Meta's Rollback of Content Moderation: A Double-Edged Sword

In recent developments, Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, has announced plans to scale back its content moderation efforts. This decision has sparked widespread debate, as it carries profound implications for the safety and integrity of online spaces, as well as the company's role in regulating speech on its platforms.

Content moderation has long been a cornerstone of Meta's operations, designed to combat misinformation, hate speech, and harmful content. Critics argue that its rollback risks creating an environment where harmful content proliferates, potentially endangering marginalized communities and undermining public trust. For instance, the LGBTQ+ community, which often faces online harassment, could experience heightened vulnerability in less regulated digital spaces. Similarly, the spread of false information about critical topics like elections, health, or climate change might escalate without sufficient safeguards in place.

Meta's decision is partly attributed to cost-cutting measures and its pivot towards emerging technologies like the metaverse and artificial intelligence. The company has suggested that AI tools can fill the gap left by human moderators. While AI is a powerful tool for content regulation, it is far from foolproof. Algorithms can struggle to understand nuanced contexts, such as satire or cultural differences, leading to either over-enforcement or under-enforcement of policies.

Supporters of the rollback argue that it could enhance freedom of expression, a principle often cited in debates about internet governance. They contend that excessive moderation can stifle legitimate discourse and censor diverse viewpoints. However, the challenge lies in balancing free expression with the need to maintain safe and respectful online environments.

Meta's rollback highlights the ongoing tension between corporate interests, technological capabilities, and societal expectations. As the digital landscape evolves, Meta's actions will likely serve as a case study in how global platforms navigate the complex interplay of free speech, safety, and profitability. The impact of this shift remains uncertain, but its consequences will undoubtedly shape the future of online discourse.



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President Jimmy Carter (1924 - 2024) *photos and words by Chris Allan*

Our Friend and Ally

This January, I spent a week in Washington, D.C. and Plains, Georgia on the trail of our 39th president. From his funeral procession to his lying-in-state to his hometown return, I learned a lot. It turns out that people of all ages and backgrounds loved the soft-spoken, Levis-wearing dude with the huge grin. It also turns out that Jimmy Carter was more of a friend to the LGBTQ+ community than many realize.

Back in 1976, when gay folks couldn't even get government security clearances, Carter was supporting the Equality Act. This legislation would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. When asked about it at a news conference, the devout Baptist said, "I will certainly sign it, because I don't think it's

right to single out homosexuals for special abuse or special harassment."

Also in 1976, Harvey Milk endorses Carter, who goes on to win the presidential election. Within a year, our national leaders are able to meet with an administration for the first time. Roughly two dozen activists sat down with presidential adviser Midge Costanza to

discuss discrimination protections. While it did not produce any tangible results, it set an important precedent.

A year later, Carter actively urged California voters to defeat the nasty Briggs Initiative. It would have barred gay and lesbian Americans from teaching in public schools. "As long as I am in the White House, our Nation will always be identified as the Nation that will insist and fight for basic human rights," Carter said at a Sacramento "Get Out the Vote" rally. "I also want to ask everybody to vote against Proposition 6."

Fast-forward to the 2000's, when the Nobel Peace Prize winner is justifying gay marriage. In an interview with HuffPost, the popular Sunday school teacher notes, "Homosexuality was well known in the ancient world, well

before Christ was born and Jesus never said a word about homosexuality." In a later interview he clarified, "I think Jesus would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else, and I don't see that gay marriage damages anyone else."

So while James Earl Carter, the kid who went from a tiny whistle-stop town to become a Naval nuclear engineer, peanut farmer, and cardigan-wearing president, might not be the first ally who comes to mind in our struggle, he surely deserves a place in our hearts. And who knows, maybe his daughter Amy, who wore a rainbow Pride pin to her father's Capitol Rotunda service, will one day carry on this part of his legacy.



Body bearers military casket DC



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Navy Chaplain Judy Malana and Rev. Tony Lowden DC



Woman in winter gear, hand on heart DC



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A Special Message...

Robert Kesten, Executive Director
Stonewall National Museum, Archives, & Library

January 9th was a day that showed the stark lines of division in the United States, lines that try to divide and conquer, even seeking to rupture the ties within the LGBTQ+ community.

Speaker after speaker reminded us of the goodness of the late President Carter, and the conflicts we see brewing in Washington, across the nation, and around the world. It is a reminder that our history and culture, collected and protected here at Stonewall, are threads that bind us together, make us stronger, and prepare us to lead towards a more unified community and world.

We are the people of the rainbow, the same rainbow that was presented to Noah after the floods that vanquished the world and served as a promise for a future with the sun and stars as guides and light.

The funeral of a humanitarian took place in Washington with all living presidents and vice presidents in attendance.

Later in the day, it was announced that the woman who led the fight to take away human rights protections from the LGBTQ community had died.

Both considered themselves to be devoutly religious, one taught Sunday School, fed the poor, built houses for the homeless, and served the nation. The other refused to attend her granddaughter's wedding, called people deviants, and created a hostile environment that still exists today, with people using her language and slogans.

One made peace between sworn enemies; the other was fired from selling orange juice.

We have a choice of what kind of person we want to be. We have a choice of what kind of world we want to see. We hope people will be more Jimmy Carter when they make that choice and less Anita Bryant.

Stay safe, learn history, and engage.

Thank you.

Robert Kesten
Executive Director
Stonewall National Museum, Archives, & Library

Ding Dong...



Anita Bryant receiving her now-famous pie in the face.

Anita Bryant, a prominent anti-LGBTQ+ figure of the 1970s, passed away, leaving behind a deeply polarizing legacy. Known for her vehement opposition to gay rights, Bryant spearheaded campaigns such as the "Save Our Children" movement, which sought to repeal anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. Her efforts fueled a wave of legislative setbacks and social stigmatization for LGBTQ+ Americans, causing widespread harm. However, Bryant's actions also galvanized a powerful response, sparking unprecedented levels of activism and unity within the LGBTQ+ community. History will remember not only the damage her rhetoric inflicted but also the resilience, courage, and progress it ultimately inspired in the fight for equality.



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Gays Are Buying Guns

Studies and reports are showing a significant increase in gun ownership among LGBTQ+ individuals in the United States in recent years. This trend has been attributed to fears of rising hate crimes, political violence, and a lack of confidence in being adequately protected by law enforcement or the state.



According to a 2021 study by the UCLA Williams Institute, LGBTQ+ people are more likely than the general population to experience violence and discrimination. In response, some members of the community have turned to firearm ownership for self-defense, particularly following high-profile incidents like the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016 and the increased visibility of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric in certain political spheres.

Groups like the Pink Pistols and Rainbow Reload have also gained attention as organizations advocating for firearm training and self-defense specifically for LGBTQ+ individuals. It's a deeply complex issue reflecting broader societal concerns about safety, trust in institutions, and the politicization of identity. Would you like to explore more about this topic or related political trends?

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U.S. House of Representatives Passes Bill Banning Transgender Youth from Participating in School Sports

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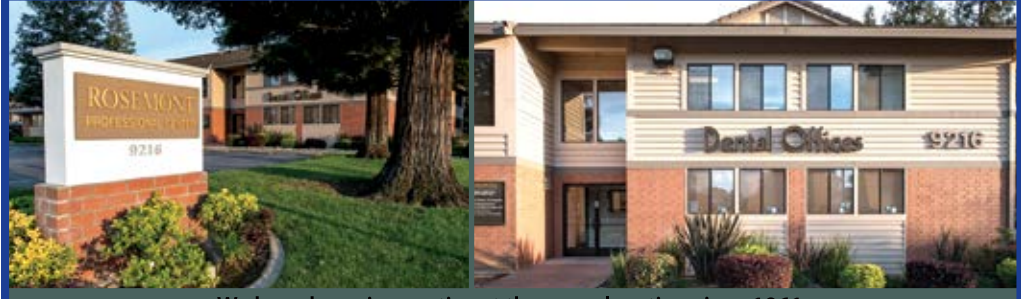
The United States House of Representatives voted to pass HR28, legislation that restricts transgender students from participating in school athletics. The bill amends the Education Amendments of 1972 so that, for the purpose of athletics, Title IX's definition of "sex" only refers to a student's sex assigned at birth. The bill explicitly states that youth assigned male at birth will not be allowed to participate on school sports teams designated for women and girls.

If the bill becomes law, schools that receive federal funding will be forced to exclude transgender young people from school athletics programs. During the House debate today legislators questioned how, exactly, HR28 would be enforced: Would students, for example, be subject to invasive body examinations by adults to determine their eligibility to play? While this bill claims to "protect women and girls", its true impact will be to exclude transgender and intersex women and girls from participation in school sports, and to put pressure on all women and girls to conform to rigid sex stereotypes.

Representatives is a cruel and unjust abuse of power that targets a very small number of young people who just want to play school sports with their friends. It's appalling that one of the first priorities of this new Congress is to bully children with the weight of a federal law. I want to send a clear message to transgender young people and their families: No law can strip you of your inherent dignity and humanity, and we will never stop working alongside you and a huge community nationwide to ensure all people can live authentically and with joy. The Senate should do the right thing here, refuse to exclude and marginalize children, and reject this legislation."

Allison Scott (she/her pronouns), Director of Impact and Innovation at the Campaign for Southern Equality, said today: "The passage of HB28 by the U.S. House of

HB28 now heads to the United States Senate.



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Transgender Bathroom Ban Takes Effect in House-Controlled Capitol Spaces

by Zane McNeill, TRUTHOUT

Under a policy renewed on Friday by House Speaker Mike Johnson, transgender people will be prohibited from using single-sex bathrooms that correspond with their gender in areas belonging to the House of Representatives. The policy, which states that “all single-sex facilities – such as restrooms, changing rooms, and locker rooms – are reserved for individuals of that biological sex,” is now in effect.

Although earlier reports indicated that the policy was not officially part of the House rules package passed on Friday during the first session, the ban was listed among Speaker Johnson’s policies for the 119th Congress, as reflected in the Congressional Record, a daily account of congressional proceedings.

According to the Congressional Record, the policy will be enforced by the sergeant-at-arms and applies to “all areas of the Capitol subject to the Speaker’s general control.” This includes the House chamber, the hallways and pathways in the Capitol designated for House use, and any unassigned rooms in that area, per the House rules.

“While this will be enforced by the sergeant-at-arms, it’s still unclear how they intend to do so,” transgender legislative researcher Allison Chapman told Truthout.

While the policy was first proposed by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-South Carolina) in November to directly target the nation’s first openly trans member of Congress, Rep. Sarah McBride (D-Delaware), it will affect all transgender staff, interns and visitors to the House.

“Transgender people have been working on the Hill for years and their bathroom usage has never been an issue,” Chapman told Truthout. “This rule is clearly an attempt to retaliate against Rep. McBride for her status as a transgender person. Unfortunately, all transgender people working and visiting in the House are now caught in the crosshairs of this hostile rule.”

In November, McBride disappointed many transgender activists by saying she would comply with the anti-trans policy. “I’m not here to fight about bathrooms,”

McBride said in a statement. McBride has a private bathroom in her office and had previously stated that she planned to avoid using multi-stall women’s restrooms, likely to avoid this specific issue.

“No amount of attempting to ingratiate ourselves to the people who would sooner see us dead than happily transitioned is going to lead to our liberation,” Gavin Grimm, a transgender man and activist who sued his high school in 2015 after being banned from using the boys’ restroom due to being trans, wrote for the Bay Area Reporter. “The time for optics over action is over.”

Many transgender people who visit the House have said that they will refuse to comply with the policy. “I will under no circumstances be complying with this ban and intend to use the bathroom matching my gender regardless of cruel and unjust rule and laws,” Chapman said.

About 15 activists, including Raquel Willis and Chelsea Manning, were arrested for protesting the policy in December by staging a “sit-in” in a women’s bathroom across from Johnson’s congressional office in response to the anti-trans policy. The Gender Liberation Movement, which organized the protest, noted that the bathroom ban would affect “trans people at every level of government and in every sector of society,” in addition to “cisgender people who are perceived as gender non-conforming.”

Zane McNeill is a trending news writer at Truthout. They have a Master’s Degree in Political Science from Central European University and are currently enrolled in law school at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. They can be found on Twitter: @zane_crittheory.

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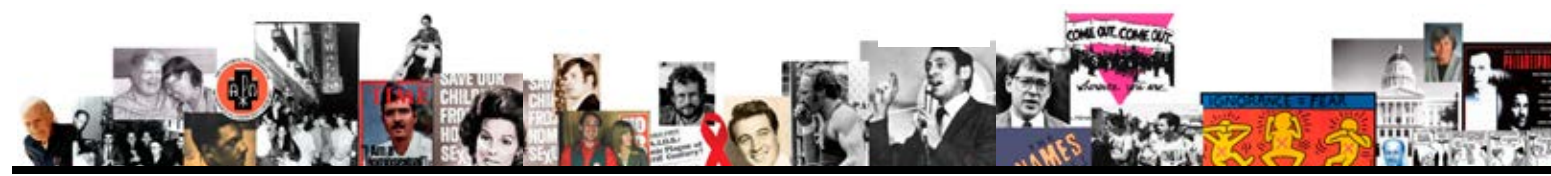
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Today (Jan. 12, 2025) is My Birthday... *opinion by Mark Segal, Philadelphia Gay News*

I'm now 74 years old – not 74 years young. Those years are filled with memories, change, and growth, and to me, age is a celebration. When asked, "Wouldn't you want to be young again?" my answer is always no. As you age, you have the privilege of celebrating the knowledge you've gained and the work you've accomplished.

While it would be easy to sit back and reflect on history, for me, there's still much to accomplish. This year in particular has been pivotal, as I've truly embraced my past and appreciated the journey of 55 years. Yet my sleeves remain rolled up, ready for more.

People often tell me to slow down, but looking back on the last year, it seems I've sped up instead. Here's just some of what I've been working on:

- Ensuring that both individuals and LGBTQ+ organizations are heard and included in government
- Serving as a spokesperson for Pride in various countries through Amnesty International
- Advocating for historians to acknowledge Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a gay man who helped George Washington shape our nation
- Taking early steps to create another LGBTQ-friendly senior affordable housing facility
- Working on LGBTQ+ exhibits in three different museums
- Planning with the Board of the DMH Fund to award grants to LGBTQ+ nonprofits
- Strengthening LGBTQ+ media nationally

through the Local Media Association

Collaborating with Visit Philly to increase LGBTQ+ tourism

- Offering counsel to elected officials who've been allies and friends for years
- Traveling monthly to speak at corporations, universities, and conferences
- Conducting numerous interviews throughout the year
- Supporting my good friend Gov. Josh Shapiro in the national election.
- Becoming a rotating panelist on a TV Sunday morning show
- Serving on the board of the Gay Liberation Front Foundation
- Advocating for LGBTQ+ representation in political and administrative structures
- Managing my role as publisher of Philadelphia Gay News
- Getting invited to the Oval Office by the President of the United States
- Most rewarding of all, mentoring and celebrating the successes of others

However, one project this year eclipsed all the others.

My husband of 20 years, Jason, has worked patiently to free me from the "imprisoned shell" of my past. Then, we met Diana

Rodriguez and Ann Marie Gothard, two women of color who co-founded the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center in the space that was once the Stonewall Inn in New York. Over dinner, they – like Jason – realized that talking about my connection to Stonewall was a delicate subject for me, but they were determined to change that.

They made a point I hadn't considered: there are photos of my activism that document the era but that I've tried to ignore, and while Stonewall is one of the most contentious points in LGBTQ+ history, it's

This project allowed me to ensure that those who were at Stonewall – and the Gay Liberation Front, which emerged from its spirit – are finally brought out of the shadows. By curating an exhibit at the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center, in collaboration with Pride Live and the National Parks Conservation Association, we're reclaiming our history. It's a chance to erase myths, challenge falsehoods, and honor those who fought for our movement.

Over these 55 years of activism, I've been arrested about a dozen times, fighting for

Over these 55 years of activism, I've been arrested about a dozen times, fighting for visibility in media, representation in government, marriage equality, and countless other causes. I've proudly stood on the right side of these battles as a joyous warrior. This latest effort isn't just a fight against misinformation – it's a labor of love.

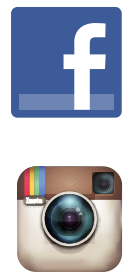
also something you can't escape. In a sense, I've felt shackled to that building for 55 years. Diana and Ann Marie refused to accept my objections, slowly drawing me in with their belief that my story had to be told. It took two women of color to help me embrace what Stonewall represents for our community.

visibility in media, representation in government, marriage equality, and countless other causes. I've proudly stood on the right side of these battles as a joyous warrior. This latest effort isn't just a fight against misinformation – it's a labor of love.

As I celebrate my birthday, I'm looking onward to the next 74 years.

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Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation Appoints New Executive Committee Members

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation Board of Directors has elected its new Executive Committee members for the upcoming term, which will run from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Foundation proudly welcomes Annie Caruso (She/Her/Hers), Chief Administrative Officer at UC Davis Health, Office for Health Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, as the new President. Annie, who previously served as Vice President, succeeds Tyler Thompson (He/Him/His), who led as President since 2023.

"I am incredibly grateful to have had the last two years to serve as Vice President under the leadership of Tyler Thompson as Board President. Tyler has undoubtedly left his mark on our organization and we are so pleased to have him remain connected to our work and community as Past-President. I am committed to continuing work with the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce to assist our members and the Sacramento LGBTQ+ community with accessing the knowledge and resources needed to succeed."

Chamber Foundation. These are difficult times, but they also remind us of the power of collaboration and inclusivity. I'm committed to working closely with our board to ensure that small businesses and students in the LGBTQ+ and allied communities have the resources and support they need to grow and succeed. Together, we can create a more equitable and thriving environment for everyone," said Angelica Sanchez.

Fred Palmer (He/Him/His), Executive Director of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, expressed his enthusiasm for the new leadership team:

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome such a dedicated group of leaders to the Foundation's Executive Committee. Their collective experience, passion, and commitment will be invaluable as we continue to create strategic pathways to serve the Greater Sacramento LGBTQ+ community. With their leadership, we can expand our programs, provide critical resources, and host inclusive, educational events that support businesses and students alike."

The elected Executive Committee members will play a key role in advancing the Foundation's mission to support and empower



Annie Caruso

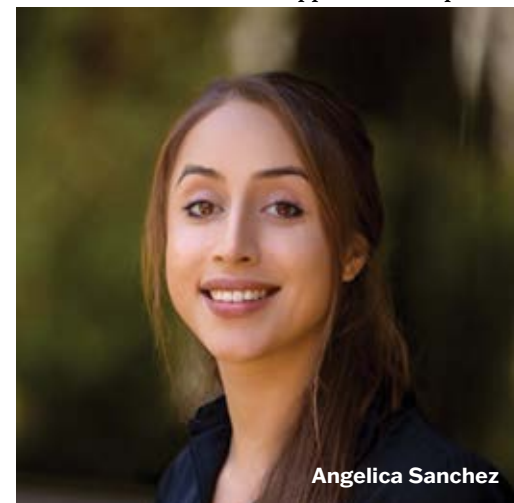


Jesse Beck

Joining Annie in leadership is Jesse Beck, CEO of J. Beck Strategies, as the newly elected Vice President.

Ashley Skeets (She/Her/Hers), Human Resources Coordinator at Build Momentum, will continue in her role as Treasurer, providing continuity and expertise in managing the Foundation's financial operations. Angelica Sanchez (She/Her/Hers), Senior Director of Government Affairs & Compliance at Perfect Union, will also renew her role as Secretary.

"I'm honored to continue my role as Secretary for the Sacramento Rainbow



Angelica Sanchez



Ashley Skeets

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For more information about the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation and its leadership, visit <https://rainbowchamber.com/foundation/rainbow-chamber-foundation/>.

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Los Angeles Fires - Ways To Help

Sacramento SPCA Answers The Call To Support Pets & Shelters In Crisis

The Sacramento SPCA has transferred 34 animals to their location on Florin Perkins Road, to support overburdened shelters in Sacramento and Southern California.



After assisting the City of Sacramento's overcrowded Front Street shelter on Wednesday morning with the transfer of 17 puppies and adult dogs, Sacramento SPCA employees jumped back on the road in two transport vehicles headed to Pasadena.

In response to the ongoing wildfire evacuations in Southern California, the Sacramento SPCA quickly answered the call to assist Pasadena Humane, a shelter currently overwhelmed by a surge of animals displaced by the Eaton Fire. The collaboration comes as the Palisades and Eaton fires spread rapidly, forcing more than 100,000 residents to evacuate their homes, and leaving countless pets in need of immediate shelter.

"After learning that Pasadena Humane was caring for hundreds of displaced animals while also preparing to potentially evacuate their shelter, we immediately reached out to offer our support", said Sacramento SPCA CEO, Jennifer Brent. "One of the best ways we can answer the call in Sacramento is to help clear out the available animals in shelters closest to impacted regions. It was an easy decision to support our friends in Pasadena during this difficult time."

The two transport vehicles completed their 800-mile round trip early Thursday morning, returning to the Sacramento SPCA with 9 dogs, including some with existing medical conditions, the last available cat, and 7 small animals. "Upon arrival, our priority was getting the animals comfortable and settled into their new housing after the long journey," said Sacramento SPCA Director of Animal Services, Jamie Larson. "Health assessments and observation of the animals will continue over the next few days to determine their readiness for adoption."

While animals from the Southern California transport are still being assessed, some of the animals transferred from the City of Sacramento are available for adoption at the Sacramento SPCA today. For a complete list of adoptable animals, visit the shelter's website.

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Providers Across California Offer Pro-Bono Therapy Sessions for First Responders and Fire Victims of the Los Angeles Fires

In the wake of the devastating Los Angeles fires, mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers across California are stepping up to support first responders and individuals directly impacted by this tragedy. Through an unprecedented collaborative effort, providers are offering pro-bono therapy sessions to help those affected process trauma, rebuild resilience, and recover from the emotional toll of the fires.

This statewide initiative brings together over 50 organizations and individual practitioners, ensuring access to crucial mental health support. A full list of participating providers and services can be accessed [here](#).

The California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE) applauds its member organization, CRI-Help, for going above and beyond during this critical time. CRI-Help has opened its facilities to over 150 individuals whose treatment services were interrupted by the fires, providing them with safe shelter and continuity of care.

How You Can Help L.A. CADA

Currently seeking donations to support L.A. CADA patients and staff who have been displaced by the fire.

To donate, please contact Priscilla Rodriguez at prodriguez@lacada.com, or use this link: [Donate via PayPal](#).

Items Needed: Clothing, shoes, and other essentials. You can view and contribute through their Amazon wishlist.

Your contributions will directly support the individuals and families impacted by this crisis. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Be There for Animals in Need All Year Long

The most impactful way to support animals in need throughout the year is by becoming an ASPCA Guardian with an automatic monthly donation. Your consistent support provides the resources needed to respond immediately to animals facing emergencies, whether it's a natural disaster, a case of cruelty, or an urgent medical situation. By becoming a monthly donor, you'll play a vital role in rescuing vulnerable animals, providing them with shelter, medical care, and love, and helping them find safe, forever homes.

As an ASPCA Guardian, your generosity ensures lifesaving work every day—helping countless animals recover and thrive. Your monthly gift, no matter the size, is a reliable source of funding that allows ASPCA to plan ahead and act quickly when animals are in need. Make a lasting difference in the lives of animals who depend on the rest of us. Please make an urgent gift today and start your monthly membership to help save even more lives.

[Donate / Help](#)

INSTACART Can Help



Donate essentials to LA Fire relief now.

Use Community Carts to donate items that LA-based organizations currently need. Your contribution directly supports impacted communities. Delivery & service fees waived.

[Donate / Help](#)



Injured Wildlife Need Rescue In Los Angeles Wildfires

The ongoing wildfires in Los Angeles County have devastated over 37,000 acres, forcing tens of thousands of residents to evacuate and leaving wildlife injured and displaced. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is providing an emergency grant to Pasadena Humane to support their critical wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Pasadena Humane is offering triage, medical care, and arranging long-term solutions for injured animals, such as a baby raccoon highlighted in their work. The grant helps cover extra staffing and medical needs during this crisis. IFAW emphasizes the importance of aiding wildlife and local organizations to ensure recovery and habitat restoration after the fires are extinguished.

[Donate / Help](#)

Los Angeles Fires - Ways To Help

Some Ways to Help With the LA Fire Efforts

As Los Angeles grapples with the devastating fires, people are asking for ways to make a meaningful impact. Below are some trusted organizations and resources for those who want to lend a hand, whether by donating, volunteering, or spreading awareness.

Organizations Accepting Donations:

American Red Cross Los Angeles Region

The Red Cross provides shelter, food, and supplies to displaced families and first responders.

California Community Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund

This fund supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts for wildfire victims.

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation

The foundation equips LA firefighters with the tools and resources they need to combat fires and save lives.

Mental Health Support: The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Los Angeles

NAMI provides mental health resources, support groups, and counseling services for individuals and families affected by disasters

Attorney General Bonta Shares Safety Tips Amid Los Angeles Wildfires

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, alongside local leaders and first responders, addressed impacted families and shared vital safety information as wildfires devastate Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Key updates include:

State of Emergency: Declared on January 7, 2025, activating price gouging protections under Penal Code Section 396. Report violations at oag.ca.gov/report.

Fraud Prevention Tips:

Verify credentials for contractors, adjusters, and charities.

Avoid large upfront payments.

Confirm authenticity of relief efforts.

Monitor financial accounts for suspicious activity.

Report fraud to local law enforcement or the Attorney General's office.

Donation Tips:

Check charity registration via the Attorney General's Registry.

Give to trusted organizations and research before donating.

Be cautious with social network and crowdfunding solicitations.

Watch for deceptive names or URLs mimicking legitimate charities.

Verify if donations are tax-deductible.

For resources and updates, visit www.ca.gov/LAfires. Complaints against charities can be filed at oag.ca.gov/charities/complaints.

Facebook Group Dedicated To Reuniting Families With Their Pets

The "SAVE LA FIRE PETS (Lost & Found Animals of LA Area Fires)" Facebook group is dedicated to reuniting families with their pets displaced by the Los Angeles area wildfires.

The group serves as a platform for sharing information about lost and found animals, coordinating rescue efforts, and providing resources for pet owners affected by the fires. Members post photos and details of missing or found pets, facilitating connections between pet owners and their animals. The community also offers support by sharing updates on local shelters, veterinary care, and fostering opportunities. By fostering collaboration among residents, rescuers, and organizations, the group plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by pets and their owners during wildfire emergencies.

FACEBOOK

[Donate / Help](#)

Help Animals In Emergency Situations

As the worst wildfires in Los Angeles history continue to leave communities destroyed and animals lost and injured, The Humane Society of the United States is working around the clock to help, providing local veterinary clinics and animal welfare organizations with emergency aid. Coordinating with local officials to support on-the-ground efforts, and they are prepared to deploy their Animal Rescue Team. THS plans to provide at least \$1 million for critical services including veterinary care and other recovery efforts.

You can help by rushing your lifesaving gift TODAY and have twice the impact for animals in desperate need of rescue and relief during situations like this!

We never know where disasters will strike or when animals may be in need of urgent rescue, but we know we must be ready. Your support makes our preparedness, rescue, care and relief work possible.

Please support these lifesaving efforts by donating to our Emergency Animal Relief Fund. Your gift today will ensure that our team can continue to answer the call during times of emergency wherever, whenever and however animals need us. (Find out how your one-time donation will be used.) Monthly gifts support our rescue and response efforts as well as our critical work to protect all animals.

[Donate / Help](#)



Donate to World Central Kitchen

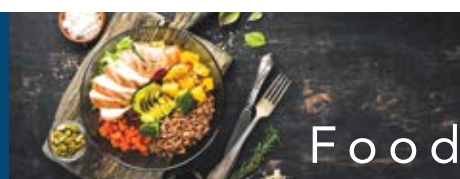
World Central Kitchen's (WCK) Relief Team is in Southern California to support first responders and families impacted by wildfires in the Los Angeles area. Their teams and partners have mobilized across the region to provide meals to people in need.

WCK was one of the first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. When disaster strikes, WCK's Relief Team mobilizes to the frontlines with the urgency of now to start cooking and provide meals to people in need. By partnering with organizations on the ground and activating a network of food trucks or emergency kitchens, WCK provides meals to communities impacted by disasters quickly and effectively. Good food provides not only nourishment, but also comfort and hope, especially in times of crisis.

WCK has provided more than 450 million meals for communities around the world. Your donation today will be used to support our emergency food relief efforts in Los Angeles or in response to other climate disasters.

World Central Kitchen does not rent, share, or sell any donor contact information (address, phone, email) with third-party organizations.

[Donate / Help](#)



Sacramento's Original Drag Queen Bingo

\$20 CASH DONATION to play 8 games.

Sacramento



Hosted by:

Dolme Moore



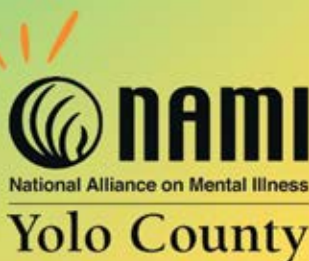
February 6, 2025

7:00 - 9:00PM

mango's 1930 K Street



This Month's Beneficiary:



Sasha Velour Reveals All

Critically acclaimed, gender-fluid drag queen, visual artist, speaker, illustrator and author, Sasha Velour is a force in the international drag scene.



Sasha Velour

Velour will grace the stage of the Mondavi Center in Davis this February with an evening titled "The Big Reveal: Why Drag Matters, Now & Forever."

In her talk, Velour will delve into queer history and the importance of drag as an expression of oneself, as a revolutionary act of visibility for queer culture, and as a rich, multifaceted, and politically charged art form that both delights and disrupts.

Following the talk, Dr. Sheri Atkinson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Campus Community and Retention Services, will moderate a discussion and Q&A.

Sasha Velour will appear on Friday evening, Feb. 7, 2025, at Mondavi Center. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: www.mondaviarts.org

Coming Soon...

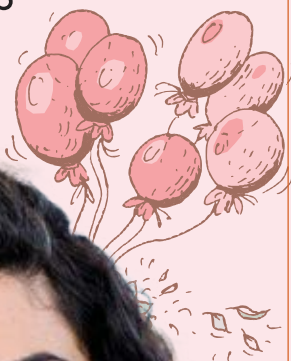
Romance & Weddings

Annual Issue

Artwork Deadline February 3, 2025

Street Date February 13, 2025

Contact Fred Palmer Today to secure your space. Fred@OutwordMagazine.com (916) 329-9280



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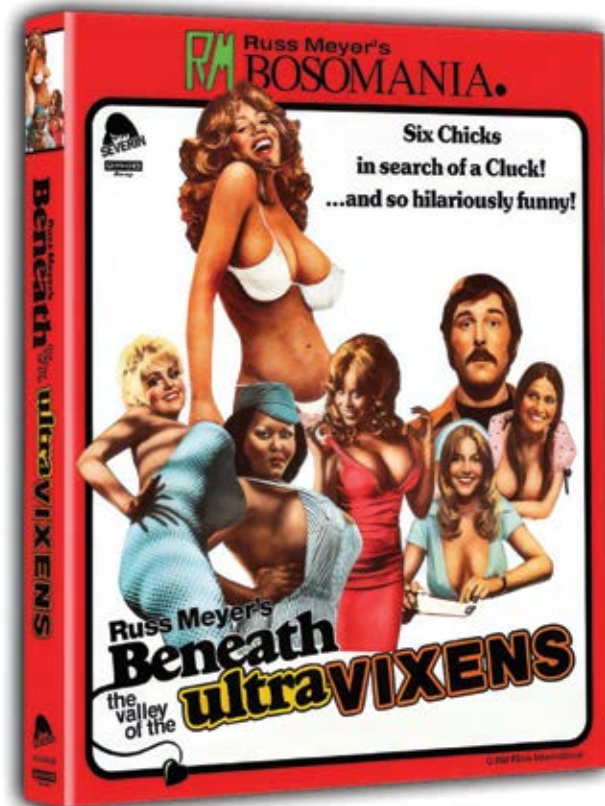
The "Breast" of Russ Meyer by Chris Narloch

No other filmmaker in the history of movies (outside of hardcore porn) celebrated the female breast quite like Russ Meyer, who got rich off a string of lusty movies in the '60s and '70s and beyond, that raised sexploitation cinema to new heights – or depths, depending on your point of view.

Meyer was what used to be referred to as a "breast man," and his most famous (infamous?) films starred a bevy of bosomy beauties who appeared in titles such as "Supervixens," "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls," "Mondo Topless," and "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!"

Meyer died in 2004 at the age of 82, but his legacy lives on thanks to Severin Films' release this January 28 of the newly restored "Vixen" trilogy.

The first three films in this landmark partnership with The Russ Meyer Trust include 9 combined hours of new and archival bonus materials. For more information, visit: <https://severinfilms.com>





Oregon Tastings to Enjoy!

words by Diana Kienle, Certified Specialist of Wine
photo by Cathy Swamberger

The star of our visit to the Willamette Valley was resoundingly Pinot Noir. The valley provides a rich environment for this variety to bloom – in many ways. What is it that contributes to the quality and richness of expression of this wine in the glass?

First, what is important is the soil. The volcanic rock, marine sediment, and loess (loosely compacted windblown sediment), which formed the vineyards of the valley, became marginally fertile, well-drained soils. This translates to vines which need to struggle just enough during the growing season to produce a mature grape with character and complexity.

The other important aspect is the weather. The average temperatures, along with long daylight hours during the growing season and enough annual rainfall, provide an optimal environment for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

The first stop on our tasting journey in Oregon was Lingua Franca in Salem, OR. We were seated in a wonderful open tasting space with wide open views of the vineyards. A gentleman by the name of Jon led our tasting. His passion for wine and the specifics of wine growing was very evident in the way he shared information and painted a picture of each wine. He was well-versed and bright. He readily distinguished AVAs and weather impact by vintage.

At Lingua Franca, we started off with a well-crafted Rosé. It was very refreshing and expressive. I am not one for Rosé yet their Stainless Steel Rosé was captivating. We moved on to Chardonnay and Estate Pinot Noir. The most ethereal wine of the lineup for me was the 2021 Pinot Noir, The Plow. It was rich and plush on the palate, alive with blueberries and soft, well-structured tannins on the finish. Clearly this was a winning lineup.

The next stop was Evening Land, a short drive up from Lingua Franca. The setting was gorgeous as the winery sat perched on a hillside. Our host first took us on a walk to gather in the surroundings and vineyards. It was a glorious view of the area from the vantage point of the slope. On a clear day, one can see the ever-present Mt. Hood in the distance. The winery is in the process of building a structure to capitalize on the view for the express purpose of tastings.



Our tasting at Evening Land was interesting from the beginning. The wine was poured into glasses that were narrow at the top – an effort to focus on the wine’s aroma. It has been said that 80% of what you taste comes from the aroma, so it makes sense to use wine glasses that focus there. The wines themselves were svelte on the palate and very expressive. The approach here was different by starting with a little known wine titled Passetoutgrain. It was quite interesting and distinct. Found in Burgundy, it is essentially a cuvée of Gamay and Pinot Noir. From there we moved to the Pinot Noirs, which were very lovely and expressive. They were both 2022s and distinctively fresh and perfumed. They were excellent wines with great structure. After the Pinots, we then tasted the Chardonnays, which is a twist as most tastings start with the white wines and finish with the reds. The Chardonnays did not disappoint as they were bright yet elegant and refined. The wine kept calling me back for another taste. I can highly recommend the wines from Evening Land.

The final visit of the day was to Cristom Vineyards, also in Salem. Once again, the fall views we were afforded were relaxing and beautiful. The wine was in step with our first two vineyard visits. On this tasting, the standout wine was the 2022 Cristom Vineyard’s Pinot Noir Eileen. There was clearly a core of solid fruit that stood out yet it was sweetly spiced. Another beautiful presentation and collection of quality wines.

These wineries are all excellent examples of what Oregon has to offer the wine lover. Enjoy!!

LGBTQ+ FILMS at the 26TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Inspirational films that tell the Jewish story for audiences everywhere.

JANIS IAN: BREAKING SILENCE
Thursday February 20, 2025 | 6:40pm | Crest Theatre
In the mid-60s, Janis Ian, a teenage Jewish singer-songwriter from New Jersey scores a controversial hit single called "Society's Child," about an interracial love relationship. Janis overcomes a host of obstacles — homophobia, embezzlement, record industry misogyny, and heartbreak — to find love and to produce an indelible body of searingly honest songs.
Proudly sponsored by Barbara Brass & Col. Pat Thompson and media sponsor PBS KVIE

MIDAS MAN
Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 2:45pm | Crest Theatre
Midas Man tells the story of how a young Jewish, gay, furniture and record store owner, happened upon the eventual "Fab Four" at Liverpool's Cavern Club in 1961 and would go on to become the Beatles' manager until 1967.
Proudly sponsored by Marjorie Swartz and Richard Robinson

SABBATH QUEEN
Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 5:10pm | Crest Theatre
This documentary, filmed over 21 years, follows Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's epic journey as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis including the Chief Rabbis of Israel. He is torn between rejecting and embracing his destiny and becomes a drag-queen rebel, a queer bio-dad and the founder of Lab/Shul — an everybody-friendly, God-optional, artist-driven, pop-up experimental congregation.
Post-film discussion with three Jewish rabbis (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox)

sacjewishfilmfest.org

Mondavi Center UC DAVIS
mondaviarts.org

Discover awe-inspiring moves.

Cirque Kalabanté
Afrique en Cirque | February 23
The beauty and artistry of African culture comes to life.

The Oscars Are Coming... by Chris Narloch

Despite the devastating fires in Southern California, the show must go on, and Oscar nominations (which were postponed out of respect for those affected by the disaster) will probably have been announced by the time you read this.

2024 films with Oscar potential continue to make their way to Sacramento screens in early 2025, and a couple of the movies below might end up being nominated.

The Room Next Door

Two of our finest living movie actresses, Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore, team up for this thought-provoking and very moving story of a woman with advanced cancer (Swinton) who asks an old friend (Moore) to stay with her in a secluded rental in the woods until the end of her life.

The dying woman believes that she should be allowed to enjoy what's left of her time without fear of decline and pain. In other words, she wants her death to be on her own terms, and she has the means to make that happen.

Since the director is Spain's Pedro Almodovar, making his first feature-length film in English after a phenomenal career working in Spanish movies, and because Swinton is stunning throughout the movie, I completely bought into "The Room Next Door," which was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press.



The Room Next Door

The Last Showgirl

I never thought I would be reviewing a movie starring Pam Anderson (of "Bay Watch" fame) in these pages, but then I never thought Donald Trump would be back in the White House either. Anderson stars as the headliner of the last old-school Vegas show featuring feathers, sequins, and topless women.

The show in the film looks suspiciously like the Folies Bergere, which ran for almost 50 years and was the longest-running show in Vegas history. Those of us who miss the "old" Vegas can enjoy the inherent nostalgia in "The Last Showgirl," which has a fine supporting cast that includes Dave Bautista and a wild-looking Jamie Lee Curtis.

How does Pamela fare? Well, she is perfectly cast as an aging sex kitten who cannot accept that the long-running show she starred in is closing. Anderson's performance is uneven, but I absolutely rooted for the actress and her character. "The Last Showgirl" is currently in limited theatrical release.



The Last Showgirl

The Brutalist

Every now and then, a highly acclaimed movie arrives that leaves me completely cold, and this year, that film is "The Brutalist," an incredibly depressing epic that is over three-and-a-half hours long and feels even longer.

Adrien Brody stars as a Jewish architect who arrives in America after WWII hoping to rebuild his life and career, only to find that anti-Semitism is also alive and unwell in the States.

Despite several committed performances, I found the movie's length and its abundance of unlikable characters to be punishing, and I learned nothing from watching "The Brutalist" that I didn't already know. This movie was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press and is scheduled to open at the Esquire IMAX on Jan. 24



The Brutalist

September 5

This fact-based drama about a terrifying hostage crisis that unfolded at the 1972 Olympics plays like a pulse-pounding thriller, but it's also a reminder of a very dark episode in world history that was broadcast on live TV (not unlike the Jan. 6 Capitol attack in this country).

Peter Sarsgaard and Benjamin Walker play Boone Arledge and Peter Jennings, respectively, and the film's supporting cast, including Ben Chaplin, John Magaro, and Leonie Benesch, is also first-rate. Despite its heavy subject matter, "September 5" is gripping to watch, and I hope serious moviegoers give it a try. Coming soon to Sacramento theaters.



September 5

Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Our hearts go out to those affected by the fires that devastated parts of Los Angeles. Despite this tragedy California's unique spirit—rooted in resilience, creativity and community—remains unshaken. We will face many challenges as we rebuild, learn how to do better, and again thrive together. Amid recovery, it's essential to prioritize self-care and find moments of joy. Embrace California's vibrant culture with these upcoming events, offering a chance to connect and celebrate the enduring strength of our Golden State.

February 7 marks National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) to spotlight the disproportionate impact of HIV on Black communities. While significant progress has been made, barriers such as racism, discrimination, and mistrust in healthcare continue to hinder access to prevention, treatment, and care. NBHAAD serves as a vital opportunity to promote education, testing, and community action to support health equity and empower Black communities in the fight against HIV. HIV.gov

The wigs will be flying at the Rainbow Chamber's Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, Feb. 6 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. Proceeds go to the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Yolo County. Don't miss this exciting and charitable event! Rainbowchamber.com

The Tony and Grammy Award-winning sensation Dear Evan Hansen comes to the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy., Folsom, from Tuesday, Jan. 28, to Sunday, Feb. 2. This modern musical explores connection in the digital age through hit songs like "You Will Be Found" and "Waving Through a Window." Recommended for ages 12 and up, the show features a score by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and a book by Steven Levenson. Don't miss this critically acclaimed Broadway masterpiece. Harriscenter.net.

While you're at the Harris Center, grab your tickets for the timeless Tony Award-winning musical Annie returns to the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy., Folsom, from Friday, Feb. 14, to Sunday, Feb. 16. With six performances over three days, this beloved production celebrates optimism, family, and the enduring American spirit. Don't miss Little Orphan Annie's heartwarming journey and iconic songs like "Tomorrow." Harriscenter.net.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a darkly delightful twist at My Bloody Valentine Cabaret 2025, presented by Nevermore Gorelesque. Featuring Dragula's Sigourney Beaver, the show begins at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14, at the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of macabre glamour. Lovehorrorrevents.com

Experience the charisma and artistry of Lydia B Kollins on Sunday, Feb. 2, at Faces Nightclub, 2000 K St. Doors open at 6 p.m.



Lydia B Kollins

Nicholas Fry, professionally known as Lydia B Kollins, is an acclaimed drag performer, filmmaker, and model competing in Season 17 of RuPaul's Drag Race. Don't miss this star on the rise! FACES.net

Sweet Relief honors the legendary Joan Baez with an unforgettable night of music on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at The Masonic, 1111 California St., San Francisco. Featuring performances by Emmylou Harris, Hozier, Rosanne Cash, Bonnie Raitt, Tom Morello, and more, plus surprise guests, this star-studded tribute is not to be missed! Sfmasonic.com

Celebration Arts kicks off its 2025 season with Fences, August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, running Feb. 14 through March 2 at 2727 B St. Directed by acclaimed playwright and director Anthony D'Juan, this gripping drama set in 1950s Pittsburgh explores family tensions, deferred dreams, and societal expectations. Don't miss this powerful production.

The Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison St., San Francisco, heats up with the Mr. Lone Star Leather competition on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 4 to 8 p.m. The action kicks off at 5 p.m. with DJ Sergio Fedasz and a beer bust. The winner secures a spot at Mr. San Francisco Leather! Lonestarsf.com

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

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: READ MORE BOOKS!

SAVE THE DATE
ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR
APRIL 27TH, SUNDAY FROM 9-3PM

Visit our web site for upcoming Book Den and Warehouse Sales.

- Store and Warehouse open for shopping Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9am to 3pm. No appointments necessary.
- Donations are taken on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon.
 - Special Members Only additional 10% Discount 1st Friday of every month.
- Special sales during the year will be posted on our website: <http://www.saclibfriends.org>.

If you have any questions, please email bookden@saclibfriends.org. You can also call the Book Den, 916-731-8493 between 9am and 12pm. Please be patient - we are an all-volunteer organization and not in the office past noon most days...



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Drag Bingo Lunch & Brunch

Limited seats. Advanced ticket purchase required



Drag Show & 8 games for ONLY \$25!



March 9, 2025

1 pm to 4:30 pm
come early for best seating!

1930 K Street



Hosted by:

Do Me More & Friends





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4 Person Hours of Cleaning \$170

6 Person Hours of Cleaning \$195

8 Person Hours of Cleaning \$315

Call for details. Restrictions apply. We are also offering first-time booking promotion as well as a Senior discount!

info@house-2-om.com



Gloria Gaynor: She Will Survive

For some of us who were alive during the '70s, disco will never die, at least in our hearts. Dance music provided the soundtrack for the last half of the that decade, and women – especially women of color – ruled the charts and the clubs with thumping anthems like “I Feel Love,” “Don’t Leave Me This Way,” and “Turn the Beat Around.”



Gloria Gaynor had one of the biggest hits of the disco era with her timeless tale of romantic revenge, “I Will Survive,” which included these immortal lyrics: “Go on and go, walk out the door / Turn around now / You’re not welcome anymore.” As it turns out, Gaynor really is a survivor, having overcome childhood sexual abuse, debilitating spinal injuries that required multiple surgeries, a devastating divorce, and financial difficulties.

Lifetime devotes an entire evening to Ms. Gaynor on Feb. 8 with the premiere of her new biopic, “I Will Survive: The Gloria Gaynor Story,” followed by the terrific 2023 documentary, “Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive.” Robin Roberts is one of the producers of the biopic, and that movie stars the powerhouse Broadway singer and actress Joaquina Kalukango as Gaynor.

The documentary follows Gaynor as she embarks on a long and unexpectedly difficult journey to write and record a gospel album. The doc is about reinvention, the power of faith, and a magnificent second act that will inspire audiences to survive and thrive.

Upcoming events. 2025
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Next Theme Issue: Romance & Weddings SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE

Artwork Deadline: February 3

Street Date: February 13



Contact us today!

Fred Palmer - Office: 916-329-9280 - Fred@OutwordMagazine.com

JAN

30

PRIMETIMERS

Meet up for Mexican Happy Hour @330pm. More information and events can be found online @ <https://chapters.theprimetimerswww.com/sacramento/>

FEB

06

DRAG QUEEN BINGO

Brought to you by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber. The first Thursday of EVERY Month. Join us @ Mango's for some bingo fun, all while benefitting NAMI YOLO.

FEB

07

MONDAVI CENTER

Sasha Velour - The Big Reveal: Why Drag Matters, Now & Forever. 7:30 pm @ Jackson Hall. More information online: <https://www.mondaviarts.org/whats-on/sasha-velour/>

FEB

14

HAPPY HOUR

This month is a special Valentine's day Liquid Therapy @ Badlands. Bring your friends, bring your Valentine, or just bring yourself!

FEB

28

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS & EXPO

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Annual awards luncheon & Expo. 10am - 1pm. For more information visit www.RainbowChamber.com

Want to win tickets to see Sasha Velour?

Scan QR code and subscribe to Outword



PRIDE
IS COMING UP SOON!

“YOUR PRIDE EVENT HERE”

Contact Julie Ebe about getting your event on our calendar!

Julie@OutwordMagazine.com



Sunday Funday With the Original Sacramento Drag Queen Bingo - Coming Soon!

Sacramento's iconic Drag Queen Bingo is planning a special Sunday Funday edition. Join the fun on Sunday, March 9, from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM at Mango's in Midtown Sacramento for an afternoon of laughter, fabulous drag, and good eats.



DoMe Moore

Hosted by Sacramento's very own, DoMe Moore, this lively event promises glitz, glamour, and unforgettable fun. Whether you're a bingo pro or a first-timer, the humor and energy will keep you wildly entertained. Mango's on K Street provides the perfect venue, offering indoor and outdoor seating, a special brunch menu and, of course a slew of thirst-quenching drinks and cocktails to enjoy during the show.

More than just fun, this event supports a great cause. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and the Rainbow Chamber Foundation, contributing to the LGBTQ+ business community and funding scholarships for LGBTQ+ youth and allies.

Gather your friends and family for a memorable Sunday afternoon. Whether celebrating a special occasion or just looking for a unique outing, Drag Queen Bingo at Mango's is the perfect mix of entertainment and philanthropy.

Tickets are selling fast, so grab yours soon. Come as you are, but just don't miss this very-special event. See you at Mango's on March 9 for a fabulous Sunday Funday that's sure to leave you smiling! Also, know that if you can't make this event, Drag Queen Bingo will continue to delight on the first Thursday of each month, also at Mango's. Check out their Facebook page for ongoing information.

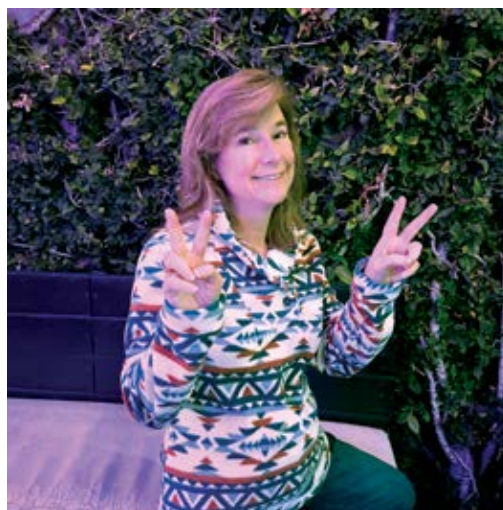
outwordmagazine.com

Question On The Street

It has been years since we included a question on the street in the pages of Outword. So, we felt that now was a good time to bring it back. Just for fun. Just to feel a bit more of a sense of community. (It is good to know that in these times, we are more alike than dissimilar). This question was gathered at the January Drag Queen Bingo that is put on, once a month, by the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, at Mango's on the corner of 20th and K. What was the question? "Did you make a new year's resolution? If so what was it? If not, why not?"



Diana C.
No resolution.
2024 was challenging, so it would be nice if 2025 was more restful.



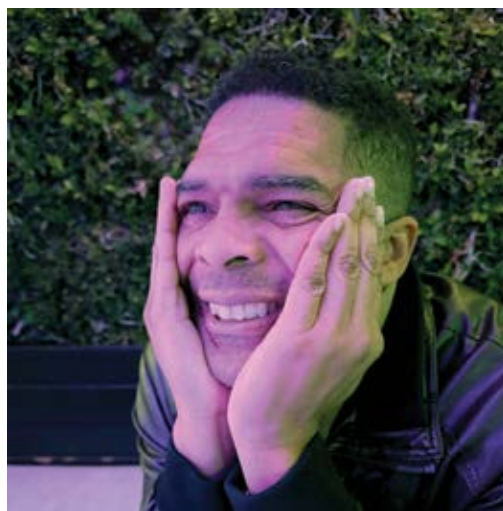
Erin T.
No resolution.
2024 was super tough! Just happy to have survived intact. Looking forward to finding more peace.



Jay S.
Yes resolution.
Read more books and focus on my career.



DoMe Moore
No resolution.
I don't make resolutions. If I do, I don't keep them.



Samuel J.
No resolution.
They don't really work. Why waste time, only to break it two weeks later? Instead, I will strive every day.



Hector T.
Yes resolution.
Read more books, different kinds of books. Spend less time playing video games.

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Activating Taste Buds (ATB) submitted by Ron Tackitt

I finally had a chance to go to Hawks Public House which has been open since 2015, and judging from the crowd has quite a following. The decor is fun, eclectic and comfortable, and the staff was exemplary. Most of the food I tried, including a deviled egg appetizer and Caesar salad, were quite tasty, if a little sparse in portion size. Unfortunately, I was not as impressed with my main dish, Spaghetti Fra Diavolo. It includes homemade spaghetti noodles topped with a spicy lobster sauce, and it sounded really wonderful. In reality, the sauce was, in my opinion, way too spicy and hot. By the end of the dish, I was sweating profusely.

However, that was not the worst part. The homemade noodles, although a valiant effort, were completely undercooked. Al dente is one thing, these were just pretty much raw and chewy. Not something I would expect from a dish that carried such a premium price. I found myself watching some of the other menu items as they passed by, going to other tables, which made me somewhat envious of those customer's options. I will go back and give it another try, but it was just a shame that I found it so disappointing. hawkspubhouse.com



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White Party Palm Springs Takes a Break for 2025

White Party Palm Springs, a celebrated cornerstone of LGBTQ nightlife since 1989, will not occur in 2025. Producers announced a hiatus to reflect and innovate, ensuring the event continues resonating with its diverse audience. The decision aligns with broader shifts in LGBTQ event culture, where attendees increasingly prioritize inclusivity, connection, and varied experiences over traditional dance parties.

The pause comes as circuit party culture evolves, reflecting the LGBTQ community's growing diversity and desire for events that celebrate unique subcultures. Large-scale gatherings like White Party Palm Springs remain iconic but now coexist with smaller, more tailored events. This dynamic growth signals not a decline but an expansion of inclusive celebrations.

Logistical challenges and unpredictable weather have tested outdoor events like White Party Palm Springs in recent years. However, these challenges present opportunities to reimagine and enhance the event's offerings, ensuring it continues delivering unforgettable experiences. The break honors the creative legacy of founder Jeffery Sanker while allowing organizers to explore fresh directions.

Chris Diamond, the event's executive producer, expressed gratitude for the community's decades-long support and optimism for its future. While bittersweet, the hiatus offers space to innovate and adapt to the community's evolving needs. Diamond and the White Party Global team remain committed to creating impactful, vibrant celebrations.

Producers have hinted at a potential return in 2026, marking this pause as a moment of transition rather than an endpoint. The hiatus also sparks a broader conversation about the future of LGBTQ celebrations, emphasizing the importance of innovation and inclusivity in fostering dynamic, meaningful events. White Party Palm Springs' legacy as a trailblazer will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of LGBTQ celebrations.





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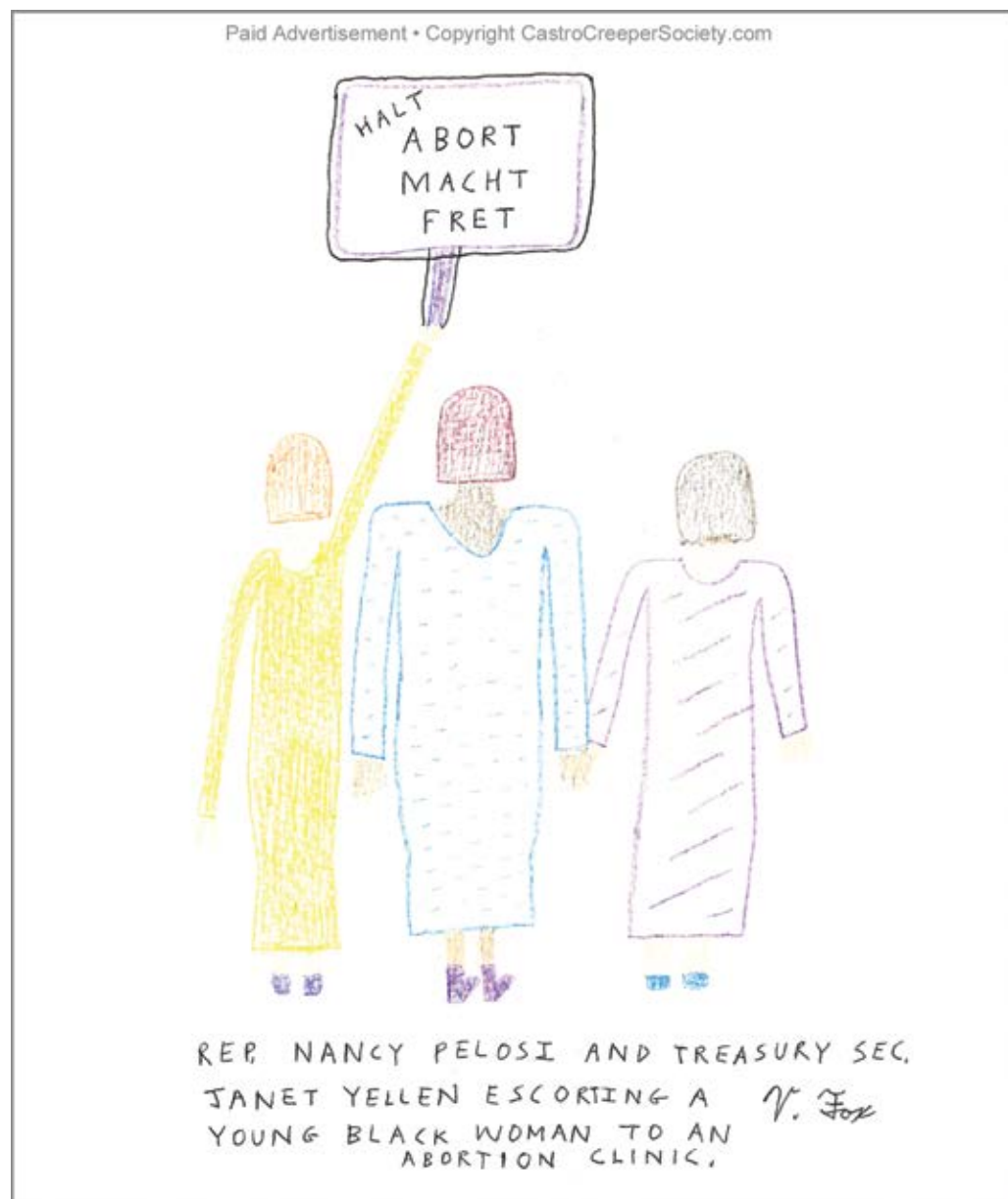
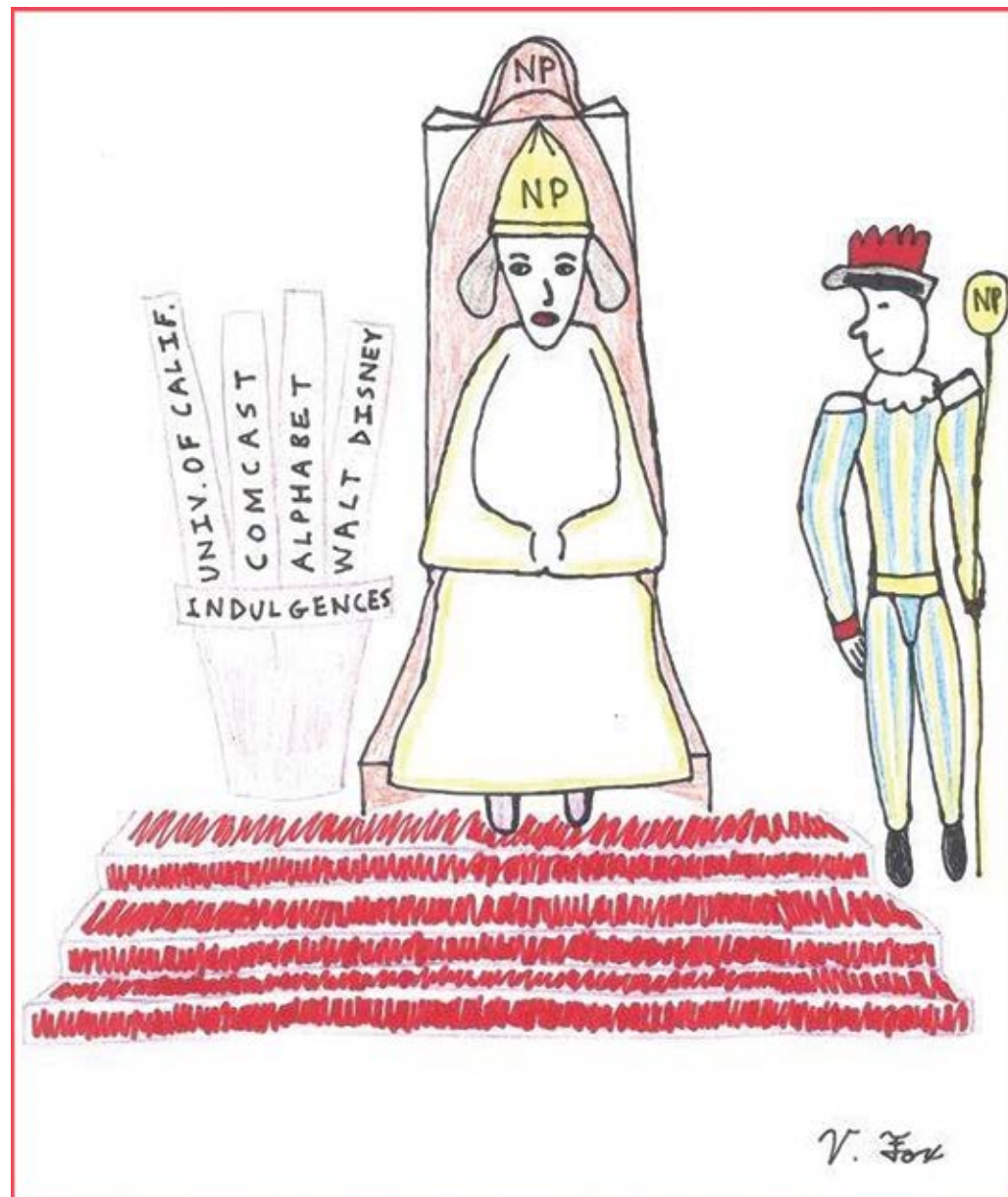
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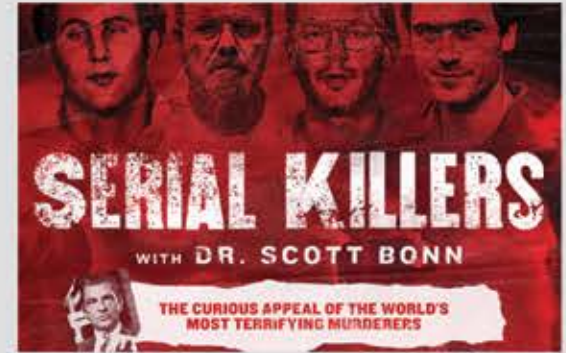
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