

Special Issue

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outWord

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Asking For Your Support

During COVID we started up the Outword Rainbow Fund, asking for financial donations to help keep things moving along during a shutdown of the country, and the world, for that matter. While our current situation is different, the fact remains that many print media outlets are finding it more difficult to keep the doors open. *Outword* is feeling the pinch as well. We have been supporting and entertaining the Sacramento, Northern California region for 30 years. Since 1995. And would like to continue for years to come.

Right now our sole source of income is generated from ad sales. So far we have managed to make this model continue to work, but we fear that with all the attacks and changes our community is being forced to endure, the time has come to ask for community support. (Most remaining LGBTQ+ publications have already enacted similar donation models to help in keeping the word out to their respective communities.)

With the help of several talented people, we are officially re-launching the Outword Rainbow Fund. This time we are using DonorBox to take the donations and they are then being processed by PayPal to ensure ease and security. The process is simple and streamlined, and only takes a few minutes. The system is set up to allow a one-time donation, or set up a subscription, paying a certain amount monthly. The dollar amount of your support is set by you.

Our intention is to continue to offer the LGBTQ+ centric news, information and entertainment that we have been known for during the past 30 years. However, we are also implementing some new ideas, and even bringing back some old ones. If you are on our email blast list, you may have noticed a newsletter style email that we sent out. This is indeed new for us. It will allow us to highlight a couple of the stories you will find

in the current issue and if you are looking for new advertising venues, the newsletter offers advertising and information options.

different ways to help make your advertising reach more community members, all while keeping your costs down. So don't be surprised if you see an *Outword* mini reel on our social media sometime in the future... or something like that.

We also plan to continue doing events that help bring people together, because we like to see you all out and about, and we think it helps maintain a sense of community bonding.

On that note, maintaining our LGBTQ+ community is what this is all about. Whether you read us every two weeks or just know we are there in case you need a LGBTQ-friendly realtor or other professional, we want to be supporting you here in Sacramento. Remember, Diversity is our Superpower! Here is the direct link to Rainbow Fund:



Our first cover, 1995



<https://outwordmagazine.com/rainbow-fund/>

You may have also noticed some new ad placements on our web site, on the story pages. Nothing over the top, just another way for us to help you get your info out.

We are actively looking at new and

As always, thank you for picking us up and please know that any support that you are able to offer is greatly appreciated and will be well managed. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

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Renaissance

by Ann Hennessey

Former California state legislator Denny Mangers received an intriguing invitation to coffee recently. The leadership of the Renaissance Society, a public lifelong learning program tied to Sacramento State, wanted his guidance in reaching out and including more of the region's LGBTQ community, and Mangers, a key LGBTQ activist, agreed.

"They recognize that there are a number of members of the LGBTQ community that believe in lifelong learning," Mangers explained.

As a Renaissance Society member and occasional lecturer himself, Mangers respects the Renaissance program as a place where "anyone who has the time" can attend classes and seminars given by subject experts on a variety of topics, participate in social events, take weekly group walks around town, or gather with others to focus on shared interests such as gardening, book clubs, or digital photography. In fact, so many offerings exist, the Renaissance Society publishes a booklet each semester listing opportunities. The program fulfills a personal need, "something to do just for you," Mangers said. "We've been called to serve others all our lives, sometimes forgetting we personally have needs, too."

"It was started 39 years ago by some retiring college professors who didn't want to stop learning and sharing," Renaissance Vice President Deanna Hanson said. Since its origins in 1986, Renaissance has evolved into a multi-faceted program with quite literally something for everyone, taught by experts in their fields.

"Renaissance Society is science-based," Mangers said. "These are serious people who don't believe in propaganda and crap."

A belief still exists that the Renaissance program is for older, retired people only, and the membership's median age is in the 70s range, but it's actually for anyone who wants to join, Hanson said. There's no age restriction, no need to have attended college in the past, no prerequisites, and – perhaps most appealing – no homework or tests. Many classes are offered on Zoom as well as in person for people who can't get to campus or who can't walk far. An entire

year's membership is only \$120, but scholarships exist for people who can't afford that amount. The cost is \$60 for those who join mid-year.

Some Renaissance classes run an entire semester, but several one-shot seminars are also offered. Last year, Mangers gave a popular seminar in which he talked about his own "personal coming out story" when, in his 40s, he began questioning his sexuality. He was in a marriage with a woman he loved and father to two children he wanted to protect. He was also an elected official, a Democrat assemblyman serving in a staunchly Republican district in Orange County "with its terrible implications," elected by constituents who viewed Mangers as a former educator and a family man.

"Yes, it was terrifying on a number of fronts," he recalled. He didn't want to lose his family or his career, very real possibilities, but he also didn't know how to navigate the new-to-him LGBTQ culture, dating men instead of women, in an era where the mere whisper of anything non-heterosexual could put someone in harm's way.

On April 11, Mangers will give another seminar, this time telling a bit about his own life story but also providing data and research to help others navigate through theirs.

"It's designed to be inspirational," he said. Mangers intends to focus on the positive, letting people know they are not alone. "It's all right to be who we are. That's what a democracy is all about. It isn't easy but it can be well worth it."

To learn more about the Renaissance Society, or to become a member, go to the website at www.csus.edu/remsoc. Registration is ongoing. Discounted parking passes and access to the Sac State library are available for additional charges.

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Attacks on DEI Are Attacks on Kids *by Angel Vogel (She/Her/Ella)*

Every trans and queer person I know has experienced harassment and discrimination - bullying - at some level during different points in their lives. I recall feeling uneasy in elementary school when I was split up from the other girls. Later on, in high school, people questioned my sexuality and gender and bullied me for my queerness.

Some kids, like Nex Benedict from Owasso Oklahoma and Jayden Tkaczyk from Gloucester Massachusetts are physically harmed. In fact, anti-LGBTQ+ hate and hate crimes have risen steadily, according to FBI hate crime data. The Trevor Project also released its 2024 US National Survey on The Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People which found that nearly half of LGBTQ+ teens reported being bullied within the past year, and those who reported had higher rates of suicidal attempts within the past year. LGBTQ+ adults face cissexism and heterosexism in social settings and in the places they learn and work in, leading to a low sense of belonging and mental distress. Bullying has very real public health consequences.

I had the opportunity to learn about those consequences from Adrian Shanker, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy and Senior Advisor on LGBTQI+ Health Equity at HHS in the Biden-Harris administration. Adrian and his colleagues were just some of the federal employees who were affected by the current President's

executive order that directed all federal DEIA offices to put their employees on paid leave, pending layoffs. During Shanker's time working in the Biden-Harris administration, Health and Human Services expanded access to preventative care like PrEP, strengthened protections for marginalized communities. According to him, "rolling back DEIA initiatives doesn't just undermine progress; it exacerbates inequities and leads to worsened health outcomes," especially for kids and the most vulnerable communities.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility work was in part a reaction to the othering and mistreatment of marginalized people, the manufactured social outcasting of people like us. DEIA efforts were born in the 1960s to address race and gender-based discrimination in the wake of the ratification of Title VII of the Civil Right Act that effectively protected against workplace discrimination. Efforts have since evolved to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized people. Government departments, private businesses and universities hired on DEI professionals to see this work through.

By focusing on education, the work highlighted the importance of diversity in fostering successful businesses and organizations. Students and employees began to see ourselves reflected in leadership - queer teachers, latine CEOs, Black teachers, trans support specialists. Queer and trans people could for the first time exist openly and with low barriers in public and private spaces.

As efforts to foster healthier school and workplace environments are under attack the effects on the LGBTQ+ community are clear, so what can organizations and businesses do to strengthen their support for marginalized people? Adrian Shanker says they can prepare, "by grounding their efforts in clear, evidence-based goals, . . . demonstrating the tangible benefits of these initiatives. . . invest[ing] in inclusive workforce training, strengthen[ing] protections against discrimination, and establish[ing] clear commitments to health equity. Partnering with community-based LGBTQI+ organizations and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities are also critical steps. By embedding DEIA into their core values and day-to-day operations, organizations can better serve patients and employees while making the case for these initiatives as essential, not optional."

LGBTQ+ rights do not exist in a vacuum. How the government is choosing to use its influence is affecting LGBTQ+ kids' and

adults' lives. Let's do our part to build healthier communities.



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Activist Pastor Takes On New Role

words by Chris Allan, photo courtesy of Loomis Basin UUC

After 13 sometimes grueling years in the region, Casey Tinnin is moving on. Tinnin is the lightning rod of a pastor who was targeted in 2023 by Project Veritas for his work with queer youth. After the attack, he faced months of investigation from three different school districts, though he was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing in his work with The Landing Spot, a program for LGBTQ youth who were meeting on various high school campuses.



"I need a break, I need to grieve, I need to process," says Tinnin. Most recently serving Loomis U.C. where he started The Landing Spot, Tinnin's new position is as the Director of Community Outreach and Impact with SunSource. He'll be helping churches and other non-profits achieve energy self-sufficiency by working with 501c3 lender RE-volv to purchase solar equipment. His work will also be with Grey Snow Sovereign Solutions, a company focused on providing sustainable microgrid and other energy projects to empower tribal nations.

"The sky's the limit when you have access to your own energy solutions," says Tinnin. Tinnin is of Chickasaw ancestry and was inspired during his sabbatical when he visited traditional Chickasaw lands. Last summer, he heard Rev. Senator Warnock (GA) talking about healing the land at the National Democratic Convention.

"I really took that to heart and the reconciliation that needs to happen between tribal people, indigenous people and churches and Christianity," says Tinnin. When he was approached for his current position, it seemed like the perfect fit. "It felt like we have done so much good in Placer County, and I know how to network and build relationships. It felt like the right next step."

While his work will take him around the U.S., Tinnin is not moving out of Placer County and will continue to support queer causes. "The Landing Spot is thriving," he says, "... and I will continue to support the efforts of Placer County for LGBTQ justice and rights. There is, you know, so much work that needs to be done to protect our kids out there."



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50501 Protest Draws Huge Crowd

words and photos by Chris Allan

Sacramento joined the rest of the country last Wednesday, February 5, in a large demonstration against the Trump administration's early actions.

Estimated at over 1,000 attendees by some news sources, the large crowd filled the West

steps to 10th Street and the lawn areas of the Capitol, with an intersection of issues ranging from immigrant and transgender rights, to the President's work with Elon Musk to disband various governmental agencies, to the proposal to forcibly relocate Palestinians from Gaza.

Angry chants of "Lock him up!", "Deport Elon now!" and "Do your job, Congress!" erupted from the crowd at the

event, which had no formal program. Activists waved their flags and homemade signs and talked with their neighbors about the issues that most concerned them.

Mason Rivera came from Santa Rosa for the day wearing a "Save Trans Lives" shirt. "I came to fight for my rights and to stand up to fascism!" said Rivera.

The event was part of a grassroots effort

organized online under the hashtags #buildtheresistance and #50501 to encourage 50 anti-Trump protests in the 50 states on one day: February 5.

According to the Build the Resistance website, "#50501 is a decentralized rapid response to the anti-democratic, destructive, and, in many cases, illegal actions being undertaken by the Trump administration and his plutocrats."



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Five Things to Do to Ensure a Great LGBTQ+ Wedding

A wedding is a celebration of love, unity, and commitment, and for LGBTQ+ couples, it can also be a powerful statement of authenticity and pride. Planning a wedding that reflects the unique personalities and love story of the couple is essential to creating a memorable and meaningful day. Whether the ceremony is grand or intimate, there are key factors that can ensure a joyful, inclusive, and seamless experience. Here are five crucial things to do to guarantee a great LGBTQ+ wedding.

Find LGBTQ+ Friendly Vendors

One of the most important aspects of wedding planning is choosing vendors who respect and celebrate LGBTQ+ love. From the venue and officiant to the photographer and caterer, working with inclusive professionals ensures a stress-free experience. Research vendors who have experience with same-sex weddings and check reviews from other LGBTQ+ couples. Many wedding websites now offer directories of LGBTQ+-friendly businesses. Having a supportive team of vendors will help create an environment where the couple feels comfortable expressing their love without hesitation.

Personalize the Ceremony and Traditions

Traditional weddings often follow heteronormative customs, but LGBTQ+ couples have the freedom to redefine traditions in ways that reflect their values and identities. Some couples incorporate cultural or spiritual elements that hold significance to them, while others create new rituals that symbolize their union. Personalizing the ceremony ensures that it feels authentic and meaningful rather than forced into outdated traditions.



Create an Inclusive Guest Experience

A great wedding is not just about the couple but also about ensuring their guests feel welcome and included. For LGBTQ+ weddings, it is especially important to set a tone of acceptance and celebration. Invitations and programs should use inclusive language, and seating arrangements can be thoughtfully planned to avoid any uncomfortable situations. If there are guests who may not be familiar with LGBTQ+ weddings, gentle guidance through the event's structure can help everyone feel comfortable. Additionally, ensuring that all aspects of the event—including restrooms, pronoun recognition, and speech etiquette—respect all identities makes for a more inclusive experience.

Choose a Supportive Officiant

The officiant plays a significant role in setting the emotional tone of the wedding. Whether the couple chooses a religious leader, a civil officiant, or a close friend, it is important to select someone who embraces and supports their love fully. Some LGBTQ+ couples prefer non-traditional officiants who can create a deeply personal and tailored ceremony. If opting for a religious ceremony, finding an affirming religious leader who respects and values LGBTQ+ relationships is crucial.

Celebrate in a Way That Feels Right

LGBTQ+ weddings do not have to fit any mold—they should reflect the couple's unique journey and joy. Whether it's a black-tie affair, a casual beach wedding, or a themed celebration, embracing what feels right ensures that the day is truly special. Music, entertainment, and decorations should be chosen based on what brings the couple happiness rather than external expectations. Ultimately, love is the heart of the wedding, and celebrating it in an authentic way will make the day unforgettable.

Planning a wedding is a momentous journey, and for LGBTQ+ couples, it is an opportunity to celebrate love without limitations. By choosing LGBTQ+-friendly vendors, personalizing traditions, ensuring an following these simple guidelines couples can create a wedding that is both beautiful and meaningful.

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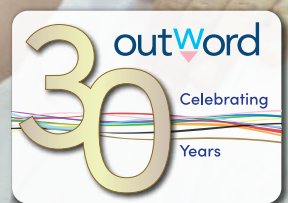
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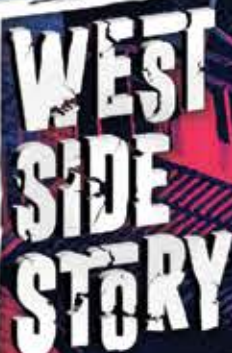
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Pickleball, Community, and Celebration: Why the Celebrity Pickleball Bash is a Must-Attend Event for Sacramento's LGBTQ+ Community

Pickleball isn't just the fastest-growing sport in the country - it's also one of the most inclusive. Whether you're a seasoned player or just picking up a paddle for the first time, pickleball welcomes everyone with open arms. And now, it's getting a major upgrade with the Celebrity Pickleball Bash presented by DoorDash, happening February 15-16, 2025, at The Warfield Theatre in San Francisco.

For Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, this is more than just a sporting event - it's a celebration of connection, inclusivity, and fun in a space where everyone belongs.

Plus, with Sacramento's own Urijah Faber hitting the court, Sacramento-based Baker Family Wines serving as an official partner, and NBA Hall of Famer Mitch Richmond reuniting with Run TMC, the 916 will be well represented on and off the court!

Pickleball: A Game That Welcomes All

As Forbes recently highlighted, pickleball has become a haven for LGBTQ+ players, offering a space that prioritizes community over competition and camaraderie over exclusion. Unlike some sports that have long-standing barriers to entry, pickleball is accessible, easy to learn, and designed for players of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels. It's this very spirit of inclusivity that makes pickleball such a perfect fit for diverse communities, including Sacramento's vibrant LGBTQ+ scene.

The Celebrity Pickleball Bash presented by DoorDash is embracing that same energy by creating an event where athletes, celebrities, and fans come together, not just for the love of the game, but for a shared experience that's equal parts sport and entertainment.

We call it Pickletainment.

A Connected Community: More Than Just a Game

At its core, the Celebrity Pickleball Bash is about bringing people together. Sports events like this have a way of bridging gaps, creating spaces where people from all walks of life can share in the excitement. Whether you're cheering from the stands, meeting your favorite celebrity, or simply soaking up the festival-like atmosphere, CPB is designed to connect people through the power of sport and entertainment.

For Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, that sense of belonging and connection is invaluable. Pickleball is already a sport that fosters friendships, teamwork, and inclusivity, and CPB is taking it to the next level.

It's not just about the game - it's about the people, the moments, and the shared joy of being part of something special.

And what's a great event without great wine? Baker Family Wines, founded by MLB legend Dusty Baker and based right here in West Sacramento, will be serving up premium pours all weekend long, adding to the elevated yet welcoming atmosphere of CPB.

Run TMC Reunites on the Pickleball Court!

One of the most exciting storylines of CPB? The reunion of Run TMC! Golden State Warriors legends Chris Mullin and Tim Hardaway are teaming back up with NBA Hall of Famer Mitch Richmond, who made his mark with the Warriors before cementing his legacy as a Sacramento Kings icon. Now, they're bringing their competitive fire to the pickleball court! Whether you're a lifelong Warriors or Kings fan, or just love witnessing sports history, this is a moment you won't want to miss.

An All-Star Lineup & Unforgettable Entertainment

The Celebrity Pickleball Bash isn't just about the sport - it's also a star-studded entertainment spectacle. The event will feature sports icons like Terrell Owens, Hunter Pence, and Brandi Chastain, alongside top PPA pros Christian Alshon, Hayden Patriquin, Parris Todd, and Jessie Irvine.

But CPB is more than just matches - it's a full entertainment experience. TV Actor Mario Lopez and Formula DRIFT Driver Amanda Sorensen will be hosting, and fans will get to enjoy live performances by Niko Moon, Terrell Owens, and Sharmaine. Whether you're a die-hard sports fan or just looking for a fun weekend with friends, CPB has something for everyone.

Why Sacramento's LGBTQ+ Community Should Be There

As Sacramento continues to grow as a hub for LGBTQ+ inclusivity and community engagement, events like CPB offer a unique opportunity to come together in a welcoming, high-energy environment. This isn't just about watching a game - it's about being part of an experience that celebrates diversity, connection, and fun.

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Come for the game, stay for the Pickletainment - and most importantly, celebrate community in a space where everyone belongs.

"The Loves of My Life: A Sex Memoir" by Edmund White

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

These days, you're awfully distracted. You can't think right, can't stay focused, you daydream and fantasize and imagine. You're completely twitterpated and feeling the best kind of despair and happiness together. Face it: you're hopelessly in love - again - and as in the new memoir, "The Loves of My Life" by Edmund White, it's glorious.

When an accomplished novelist reaches the middle of his eighth decade, he should state what's been most important in his life. For Edmund White, it's the "thousands of sex partners" he's had since he was a mere child.

He was ten years old or thereabouts when he fell in love with a boy he alternately calls Nick and Cam. They spent a lot of after-school time together, wrestling and roughhousing, as boys do, and it eventually became sexual.

Six years later, White was working for his father and making enough money to hire men for sex, mostly straight men who hailed from Kentucky, just across the border from White's Ohio home. Sometimes, doing so put him in danger because being gay then was something shameful and undiscussed.

At around this time, he met an older, "camp" man who taught him the slang of gay life.

He met some of his lovers on Craigslist and some while traveling with a man he calls his "first husband." He sought therapy, hoping to be "cured" of homosexuality, and he briefly fell in love with a woman, thinking he'd get married and raise a family. He loved younger men and older men, from Madrid, Boston, Scotland, at bathhouses, at parties, and he's had several love-of-his-life romances. Sex, says White, was always linked with love.

He's watched too many men die of AIDS. He had "AYOR" sex ("at your own risk"). He's slept with men around the world and once, he got poison ivy for it.

All this was fun then, he says, but "Now in the cold polar heart of old age," he looks back at it all "as comical and pointless, repetitious and dishonorable."

Considering that "The Loves of My Life" is subtitled as it is, it's not as explicit as you

The Loves of My Life



might think it would be. Yes, this memoir will steam up a window right quick, but the heat is tempered by author Edmund White's sense of humor and wry outlook.

Those two aspects tend to give a reader a break in what would otherwise be a long string of fast-and-furious romps and a litany of randiness. Break intact, stories connect but you can enjoy each for its own merits of exploration and joie de vivre, accompanied by straightforwardness and what feels like honest soul-searching without much gratuitousness. White also freely admits to a few mistakes in his lifetime, further endearing himself to readers.

It shouldn't need to be said that there's profanity inside this book - you should expect it from its subtitle - but beware, if you're looking for pearls to clutch. For readers who don't care about that and want a decent memoir, "The Loves of My Life" is a very pleasant distraction.

Spend Valentine's Day with Cheyenne Jackson

Emmy- and Grammy®-nominated actor and singer Cheyenne Jackson brings his infectious charm and powerhouse vocals to The Chan National Queer Arts Center in San Francisco with "Signs of Life," a musical meditation on art, love, fatherhood, and the cosmic twists that have shaped his remarkable path.

In "Signs of Life," Cheyenne invites audiences on a deeply personal and uproariously funny exploration of the universe's subtle cues. From toe-tapping melodies to saucy showbiz anecdotes, prepare for an unforgettable evening filled with whimsy, laughter, and the sheer joy of a perfectly imperfect night of shared experience, this Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2025.

For more information, please visit: www.sfgmc.org





Don't Miss This Year's Jewish Film Fest

by Chris Narloch

The Sacramento Jewish Film Festival returns to the Crest Theatre for its 26th event this February with 10 titles over four days, followed by 14 different movies that will be available to stream for two weeks. There are at least three queer-friendly films among the 24 titles being shown.



"Janis Ian: Breaking Silence"

Janis Ian, whose timeless 1975 hit "At Seventeen" kicked her music career into high gear, is still going strong at 73, and she will be celebrated at this year's Festival with the full-length, 2024 documentary, "Janis Ian: Breaking Silence." Ian overcame homophobia, music industry misogyny, and a life-threatening illness to produce an indelible body of work. This title will screen at the Crest on Thursday evening, Feb. 20.

Also at the Crest, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23, is the 2024 docudrama "Midas Man," about Brian Epstein, who masterminds The Beatles' meteoric rise. A Jewish, closeted 26-year-old running a Liverpool record store when he first saw the band perform in 1961, Epstein's journey is a rollercoaster of ambition, passion, personal demons, and the relentless pursuit of greatness.



"Unspoken"

The 2023 drama "Unspoken" is centered around Noam, a closeted teenager in a religious community who discovers that he might not be alone when he finds a love letter written to his grandfather by another man before the Holocaust. "Unspoken" is among the titles streaming from Feb. 24 - March 9. The Festival at the Crest is scheduled for Feb. 20 -23.

For more information, please visit: www.sacjewishfilmfest.org
outwordmagazine.com

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Einar and Jamex de la Torre (born Guadalajara, Mexico, 1963 and 1960, respectively), Nueva Generación, 2021. Blown-glass, mixed-media sculpture, 22 x 10 x 22 in. Courtesy of Einar and Jamex de la Torre and Koplin Del Rio Gallery.



Coming Soon

Our Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Special Issues

1. Senior Pride
Special Issue
Hits on May 8, 2025

2. California Pride
Special Issue
Hits on May 22, 2025

3. Sacramento Pride
Special Issue
Hits on June 12, 2025

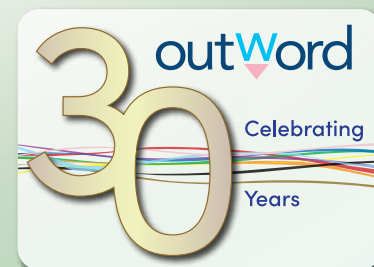
4. LGBTQ+ History
Special Issue
Hits on June 26, 2025



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Theater For Days In CA by Chris Narloch

From Capital Stage and Broadway On Tour in Sacramento, to BroadwaySF and Center Theatre Group in SoCal, Outword has you covered with the latest and greatest productions now playing (or coming soon) to theatrical stages across the Golden State.

The Broadway tour cast of "Mean Girls"



Mean Girls

Tina Fey's very funny Broadway musical of her hit movie from 2004 will grace the stage of Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center this February with its story of a naïve newbie who falls prey to ultimate mean girl Regina George and her cult of lionized frenemies. From the talented folks who brought you "30 Rock," "The Book of Mormon," and "Legally Blonde," the "Mean Girls" musical is a colorful, tuneful, and snarky good time. The show performs Feb. 18–23 in Sac. For more information, go to: www.broadwaysacramento.com

English

I recently had the pleasure of seeing the 2023 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "English," and I highly recommend this funny and very timely tale of a classroom where four Iranians assemble triweekly in Karaj, Iran to learn English. Their teacher is an anglophile who disallows Farsi in her class and insists that the three women and one man speak only English while under her watch. Before long, the quartet of learners are translating Ricky Martin songs and mispronouncing English to hilarious effect. Do not miss your chance to see the Sacramento production of this highly acclaimed play, which is also being performed on Broadway currently. "English" performs at Sacramento's Capital Stage through March 2, 2025. For tickets, visit: <https://capstage.org>

JCPenney

The stars of "Back to the Future: The Musical"



Back to the Future: The Musical

The beloved 1985 Michael J. Fox movie has been turned into a hit Broadway musical, which makes its Northern California premiere this month at San Francisco's Orpheum Theatre, courtesy of BroadwaySF Winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, and the Broadway World Award for Best New Musical, "Back to the Future: The Musical" is adapted for the stage by the iconic film's creators, Bob Gale, and Robert Zemeckis, and directed by the Tony Award®-winner John Rando. Join Doc Brown, Marty McFly, and that souped-up DeLorean on stage through this March 9. Go to: www.broadwaysf.com

Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends

I am dying to see this pre-Broadway engagement of the new production of Stephen Sondheim's "Old Friends," starring Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga. The great Matthew Bourne returns to the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles to direct a production devised by Cameron Mackintosh that was a highly acclaimed hit in London's West End. Celebrate the life and work of the late, great Stephen Sondheim with Tony Award winners Lea Salonga and Bernadette Peters through this March 9. For more information, please visit: www.centertheatregroup.org

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Say Goodbye to Your PrEP, and... *by Mark Segal*

If that headline shocked you, it should have. The executive orders that Trump has been signing may very well affect your health. Oh, you thought Trump was only attacking the "T" in our community? Nope. He's targeting the "L," the "G," and the "B" as well. Let me give you some critical facts that explain why you should be alarmed – very alarmed.

Point one: There are health disparities in the LGBTQ+ community. Some diseases disproportionately affect certain populations – sickle cell anemia primarily impacts Black individuals, and Tay-Sachs is more prevalent among Jewish communities. Similarly, there are health concerns that disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ people. Are you surprised? While you may be aware of HIV and AIDS as health issues in our community, there are other needs that are less discussed. For instance, certain cancers occur more frequently in LGBTQ+ individuals than in heterosexual populations.

Now, here's the kicker: one of Trump's executive orders will halt studies investigating why this happens. In some cases, it will also hinder treatments and restrict access to information that could be vital to you if you're affected. This is more than a health issue – it's an attack on our ability to protect ourselves.

Point two: Let's talk about PrEP. The United States is involved in a program that helps provide PrEP to approximately 26 million individuals in Africa. Our government has been underwriting the costs to pharmaceutical companies. Well, thanks to Trump, that program just ended. Do you think pharmaceutical companies will absorb the loss? Highly unlikely.

Here's what that means for us: if you're on a government-assisted program to access PrEP, especially through an LGBTQ+ clinic, you could lose access. For those with insurance, brace yourself for significantly higher co-pays. The pharmaceutical industry isn't known for prioritizing affordability over profits.

Point three: Funding for LGBTQ+ health clinics is at risk. You might think living in a blue state protects you, but think again. States often rely on federal block grant funds to support these clinics. Without those funds, many clinics – especially those providing HIV/

AIDS services – will be forced to shut down or reduce services. The ripple effects could be devastating.

Point four: Conversion therapy bans and book bans. Another executive order has halted government efforts to fight conversion therapy, and yet another has stopped federal agencies from opposing book bans. These policies actively harm our community by erasing protections and silencing vital education.

Point five: The end of federal DEI programs. Think diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives don't affect you? Many of these programs fund schools and nonprofits, often training future leaders in advocacy and health care. Under Trump's orders, funding for programs deemed "politically disagreeable" can be cut, forcing schools to drop related courses and initiatives. The long-term impact on our community could be severe.

Point six: International consequences. Remember Uganda's "kill the gays" law? The Biden administration successfully pressured Uganda to back down by threatening to withhold foreign aid. Now that Trump has removed that leverage, what do you think will happen next?

To my fellow journalists: I understand that it's sensational to focus on what Trump is doing to the transgender community, but it's irresponsible not to inform the entire LGBTQ+ community about these broader attacks. We must prepare ourselves and our readers for what lies ahead.

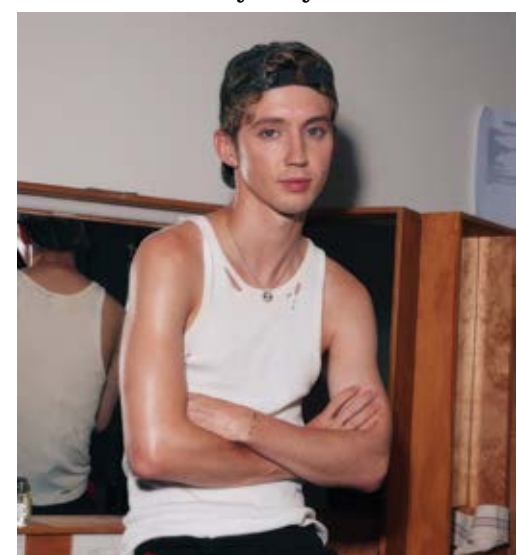
Mark Segal is an American journalist. He is the founder and publisher of Philadelphia Gay News and has won numerous journalism awards for his column "Mark My Words," including best column by The National Newspaper Association, Suburban Newspaper Association and The Society of Professional Journalist.

Troye Sivan Teams With Grindr

Grindr has just launched TAP or BLOCK in collab with our favorite terrifically-talented twink, Troye Sivan. Joined by the singer's internet-famous backup dancers, this bold new social campaign puts Grindr at the forefront of conversations about queer sex, dating, and hook-up culture, blending humor, intimacy, and cultural relevance in a way only Grindr can.

Here's what Troye had to say about TAP or BLOCK: "Dating and hooking up can be complex, sexy, messy, intoxicating, and confusing - I love how Grindr and this campaign celebrate all of this with humor, honesty, and through community. It's refreshing to show these conversations in an authentic way."

Filmed backstage before the final show of Troye's "Something to Give Each Other Tour," the campaign channels the iconic intimacy of Madonna's Truth or Dare documentary. In TAP or BLOCK, Troye and his dancers get candid in honest conversation about queer dating culture. You can read more about the project at: <https://www.grindr.com/blog/introducing-tap-or-block-with-troye-sivan>



A “Paddington in Peru” Review Plus, Three Oscar Nominees

by Chris Narloch

Oscar season is in full force, with nominations already announced and final voting now underway, leading up to the 97th Academy Awards ceremony scheduled for Sunday evening, March 2 on ABC. Below, I review three of the nominated films from 2024, and offer my thoughts on the latest “Paddington” movie, just out in theaters.



I'm Still Here

I'm Still Here

This powerful true story was Oscar-nominated in both the International Feature Film and Best Picture categories, which rarely happens. The Brazilian movie was directed by Walter Salles and features a superb performance by Fernanda Torres, who could win the Oscar as Best Actress this year, if Demi Moore, who is favored to win for “The Substance,” loses that award. Torres plays Eunice Paiva, who must keep herself and her family together after her husband disappears following his detainment in 1971 during a period of military dictatorship in Brazil. “I’m Still Here” was still playing at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre as we went to press.

The Apprentice

This movie received nominations for two terrific, Oscar-worthy performances, from Sebastian Stan as Donald Trump, and Jeremy Strong as Roy Cohn. Cohn was a despicable, closeted gay man who was a mentor to Trump during the early ‘80s before dying of AIDS in 1986, and Ali Abbasi’s brave biopic pulls no punches in depicting the moral rot of both men. Not surprisingly, the movie bombed in theaters, probably because the MAGA crowd doesn’t want to know the truth about Trump, and the rest of us are sick to death of him. “The Apprentice” is now streaming via Amazon Prime Video and Fandango at Home.

Nickel Boys

This film received two Oscar nominations recently, for Best Screenplay and Best Picture. “Nickel Boys” is RaMell Ross’ ambitious adaptation of Colson Whitehead’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about two Black boys who become close friends while enduring abuse from the sadistic staff at a real-life reform school in 1960s Florida. The movie’s frequent use of subjective camerawork is at first disorienting, but once you get used to that device, the film is a powerful portrait of friendship and survival. “Nickel Boys” will return to several local movie theaters on Saturday, Feb. 22.



Paddington in Peru

Paddington in Peru

I don’t see many family films, unless the movie was made by Pixar or Disney, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the big-screen series of titles based on the “Paddington” books for children. The first two pictures were stellar, and the third film is another home run that can be enjoyed by the entire family, thanks to a fine, funny script and a talented director (Dougal Wilson). Some scenes were indeed shot in Peru, and the mostly British cast includes terrific actors like Hugh Bonneville, Julie Walters, Olivia Colman, and Emily Mortimer, with Ben Whishaw returning as the voice of Paddington. “Paddington in Peru” is currently in wide theatrical release.

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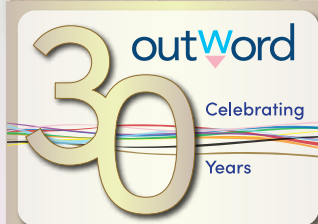
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Saturday Night Live Turns 50

by Chris Narloch

I grew up watching SNL in the late '70s, so I am old enough to remember the show's original cast which included the late, great Gilda Radner and John Belushi, plus Chevy Chase, Jane Curtin, Dan Aykroyd, and others.



Well, the classic sketch comedy show has finally caught up with Molly Shannon's iconic character, Sally O'Malley, and it will celebrate its 50th year with a star-studded special, live from New York, featuring musical performances, former cast members, special guests, and all-time favorite sketches.

SNL has announced the first round of guests for its 50th anniversary special, and it features several frequent hosts, including Tom Hanks, Steve Martin, Scarlett Johansson, Paul Simon, Martin Short, and Woody Harrelson.

Also set to appear on the three-hour, primetime show: Adam Driver, Ayo Edebiri, Bad Bunny, Dave Chappelle, John Mulaney, Miley Cyrus, Paul McCartney, Pedro Pascal, Peyton Manning, Quinta Brunson, Robert DeNiro, Sabrina Carpenter, and many more.

Don't miss the fun on NBC when SNL turns 50, on Sunday evening, Feb. 16.

Upcoming events. 2025

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Next Theme Issue: *Traveling*
Artwork deadline: **March 3**
Street date: **March 13**



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**FEB
16**

PRIMETIMERS

Joint Lunch with Active Mature Gay Men at Aviator's @1PM. you can check out this event and others online: <https://chapters.theprimetimersww.com/sacramento/event/joint-event-with-active-mature-men-aviators/>

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20**

CROCKER ART MUSEUM- ANYTHING BUT BRUSHES EVENT

Unleash your inner artist and explore your limitless creative potential in a playful and expressive acrylic painting class. Set aside traditional brushes and use only hands and everyday objects to create spontaneous, abstract works of art in a fun, supportive atmosphere. Learn more and get tickets here: <https://www.crockerart.org/events/3195/anything-but-brushes>

**FEB
21**

SUNBURST PROJECTS- LOVIN' BUBBLES 2025

At this exclusive fundraiser, guests will blind-taste six premium champagnes, putting their taste buds to the test to determine the best bubbly. Each champagne will be paired with expertly selected sweet and savory appetizers designed to complement the flavors of the sparkling wines. More information and tickets here: <https://secure.givelively.org/event/sunburst-projects/lovin-bubbles-2025-a-blind-champagne-tasting>

**FEB
28**

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS & EXPO

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

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

In today's world it's crucial to check the facts behind what we hear and read, and avoid the trap of sensationalized narratives that distract us from understanding the real issues shaping our world. We must stay informed and empowered. At the same time, it's essential to take moments to create joy during challenging times. We must continue creating happy memories, spending time with loved ones and enjoying the simple pleasures that remind us of the beauty in life.

Join us Feb. 14 from 5:30-7 p.m. at *Outword's* monthly happy hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. for a dose of Liquid Therapy! Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun, with chances to win prizes and enjoy drink specials. Reconnect with old friends and make a new connection this Valentine's Day! Badlandssac.com

Menopause The Musical 2 sets sail at the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom Feb. 20-23. This Broadway Series sequel delivers six performances packed with laughter, friendship, and parodied hits from the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Don't miss this heartfelt, hysterical cruise through "the change"! Harriscenter.net

Celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusion at the Business & Community Excellence Awards on Friday, Feb. 28 at The Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St.. The free expo runs from 10-11:30 a.m. followed by the awards lunch and ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

Bacon, takes over the iconic Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J St. on Sunday, Feb. 23. Doors open at 11 a.m. with the show starting at noon. Enjoy lively drag and burlesque performances while supporting the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. Early bird pricing ends Jan. 15—secure your tickets now! Saccenter.org

Experience the Sacramento premiere of "English," the 2023 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Sanaz Toossi, running through March 2 at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. Set in a 2008 TOEFL class in Iran, the play explores language, identity, and the sacrifices of self-expression in pursuit of a new tongue. Capstage.org

Celebrate the legendary Queen of Soul with R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: A Celebration of the Music of Aretha Franklin on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway, Folsom. Experience iconic



Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through 'The Change'® New Hope 2023 Cast: Kimberly Ann Harris, Teri Adams, LaDonna Burns, and Katie Karel. Credit: Mark Garvin.

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hits performed by powerhouse vocalists and a live band. Harriscenter.net

Get ready for Crabaret, Sacramento's most unique crab feed, on Saturday, Mar. 1 at Turn Verein, 3349 J St. The evening kicks off at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m., live music by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, exciting games, raffles, and a dessert dash. All proceeds support SGMC's mission to foster pride and enhance lives through song. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of food, fun, and community spirit! Sacgaymenschorus.com

The Broadway hit Mean Girls takes the stage Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St., Sacramento. From Tina Fey and an award-winning creative team, this hilarious musical explores high school drama with unforgettable humor and heart. Tickets available online or at the venue box office. Meangirlsmusical.com

Award-winning actor, comedian, and art collector Cheech Marin will share insights on leadership and the arts at the Crocker Art Museum on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m. Hosted with YDN Creciente Latinx Leadership Program, the event offers an intimate conversation with the legendary Cheech and Chong star. Crockerart.org

Experience the legendary Harry Connick Jr. live on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at 8 p.m. at Thunder Valley Casino Resort, 1200 Athens Ave., Lincoln. The Grammy and Emmy-winning performer brings his signature charm and talent to the stage for an unforgettable evening. Tickets available online or at the venue. Harryconnickjr.com

Sacramento's Biggest Drag Brunch Fundraising Extravaganza, Mama's Makin'

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

Activating Taste Buds (ATB) submitted by Ron Tackitt

For those of you that have been around the Midtown area for a while, you might remember the Lucky Café on 21st Street, near K Street. Well, that spot is now held by Morning Fork. Their web site describes them as, "A mom & pop, retro, art forward, one of a kind diner!" We heard good things about it, so we dropped in for an early morning, hearty breakfast. Since we were wanting to sample, we ordered way too much food, but were very pleased with the quality, portion size and, of course, the taste. If you get there early enough, check out the Early Bird Special on sides. (Choose three sides for \$13) Along with our main breakfasts we indulged with this as well. Again, plenty of food, with great diner flavor. Their biscuit and gravy is the bomb. www.themorningfork.com



Corned Beef Hash - \$20
House ground and seared well, with bell pepper, onion, yellow and red potatoes and two eggs.



Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs - \$22
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In this 12-26-24 issue we take a look back at the 23 issues that came out during 2024. If you see anything you missed, or want to take a second look at, remember that they are all available online, for free, either as PDFs or online flip versions hosted by ISSUU.
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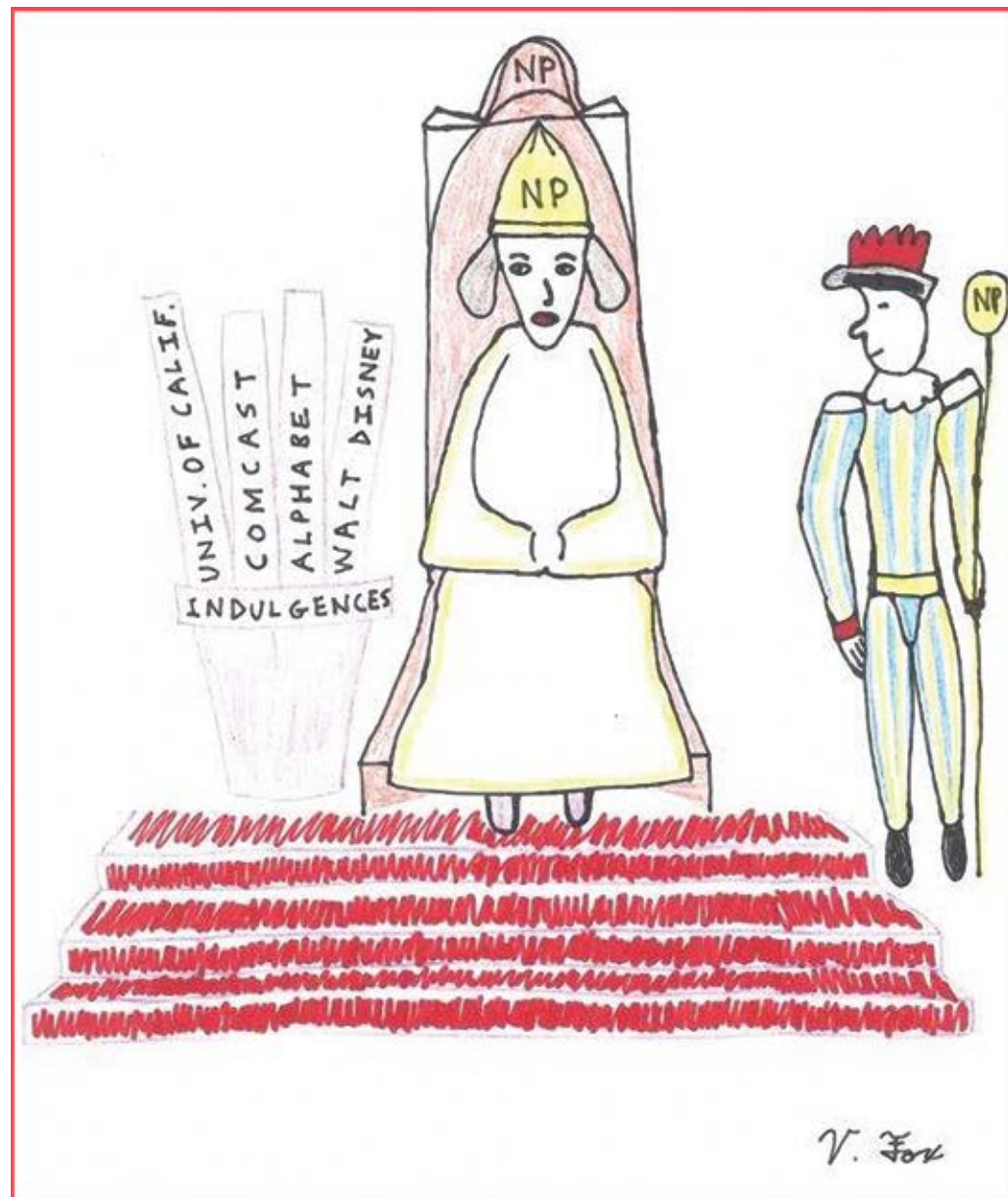
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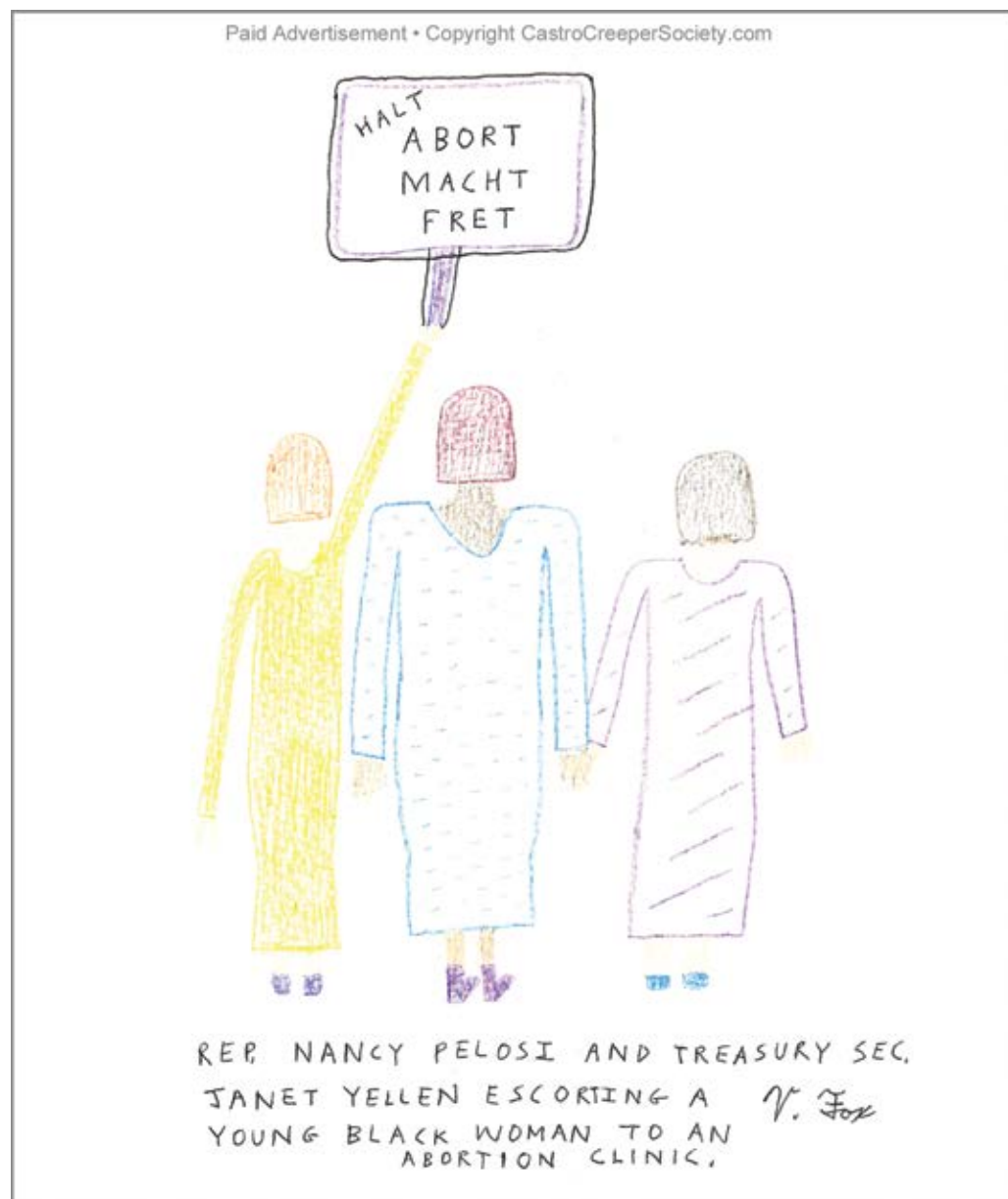
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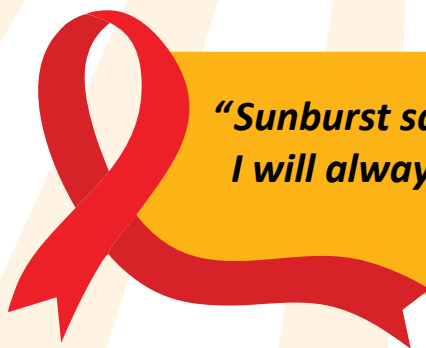


SUNBURST
projects

A RAY OF LIGHT IN THE HIV COMMUNITY SINCE 1982

Dedicated to serving adults, children, & families living with HIV/AIDS

Sunburst Projects promotes health, wellness, and social justice for marginalized and underserved populations in the Sacramento area. Our clients include long-term HIV survivors and their families, members of the LGBTQ community, the elderly, and the unhoused. Sunburst Projects is committed to ending the HIV epidemic through wrap-around services and care.



“Sunburst saved my life. I have an HIV treatment plan and a place to live. I will always need help, but I am doing better than I thought I ever would.”

— Jose K., Sunburst Client

A MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jake Bradley-Rowe
Executive Director
Sunburst Projects

As Executive Director of Sunburst Projects, I've always believed our organization's heart lies in its people—the clients we serve, our dedicated employees, and our supportive community. Since stepping into this role, I've witnessed remarkable growth, both in our reach and in the profound impact we make daily. With increased community support, we've expanded our services significantly, providing vital resources like mental health care, case management, and free, confidential HIV testing to more clients than ever before.

Each day, I'm inspired by our clients' stories—from young people taking their first courageous steps through our doors to mothers balancing HIV care while caring for their families. Their resilience fuels our mission. At Sunburst Projects, we're not just offering services; we're providing hope, dignity, and a path forward. This is what drives our work every single day, as we continue to touch and transform lives in our community.



Scan the QR code or visit
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SERVICES PROVIDED TO HELP END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

HOW WE SERVE THOSE WITH HIV/AIDS



HIV Case Management



Mental Health Services



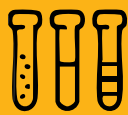
Social Support Services

Sunburst Projects' comprehensive and innovative model serves as a national example of how a Ryan White Care Program can address complex public health challenges. The Ryan White Care Continuum is a nationally regulated protocol, which recognizes that HIV care extends beyond medicine. Services like housing, mental health care, food access, and transportation ensure patients can adhere to their treatment plans and achieve better health outcomes.

Each year Sunburst Projects provides:

- 21,000 hours of specialized case management
- 12,000 hours of mental health care
- \$71,500 in housing and utility bill assistance
- \$58,000 in food cards
- \$81,000 in transportation vouchers issued

HOW WE SERVE THOSE NEEDING PREVENTION SERVICES



Free HIV/STD Testing



Access to PrEP & PEP



Condom Distribution



As part of this effort to end the epidemic, our “Know Your Status” public awareness campaign emphasizes the critical importance of HIV testing. The Sunburst Clinic offers barrier-free, walk-in HIV/STD testing services, ensuring accessible care for all individuals seeking to know their status. For those who test negative, we facilitate connections to PrEP/PEP services, empowering individuals with preventive care options.

Each year Sunburst Projects provides:

- 7,100 free HIV, HCV, and STI tests, more than any other clinic in Sacramento
- 50,000 condoms through education outreach & prevention programs
- 2,500 hours of health sexual education and counseling delivered
- 200 PrEP kits, a preventive HIV medication

Attorney General Bonta Has Been Busy

Attorney General Bonta: California Schools Will Remain a Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe Place for All

California Attorney General Rob Bonta strongly denounced President Trump's executive order targeting transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming students. In his statement, Bonta reaffirmed California's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive educational environment, emphasizing that the state's civil rights protections extend beyond those provided by federal law. He asserted that the right to equality in education is enshrined in both the U.S. and California Constitutions, with California explicitly recognizing transgender and gender nonconforming individuals as a protected class.

Bonta condemned the executive order for attempting to undermine this fundamental right by threatening to prosecute educators who uphold their duty to provide equal educational opportunities. He accused the administration of targeting one of the nation's most vulnerable student groups and seeking to instill fear rather than ensuring fairness and safety in schools.

He further emphasized that California schools operate under state and local authority, rejecting any federal attempts to dictate curriculum. State law mandates that K-12 schools provide an inclusive curriculum reflecting the diverse contributions of individuals across gender, racial, disability, ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Bonta credited this culture of inclusion as a key factor in California's status as a global economic and innovation leader.

Reaffirming his commitment to defending the rights of all California students, Bonta

He further emphasized that California schools operate under state and local authority, rejecting any federal attempts to dictate curriculum.

voiced strong support for educators who work to create safe and inclusive classrooms. He accused the President of using executive power to intimidate and discriminate against marginalized groups, but reassured Californians that state protections remain unchanged. Bonta vowed that California would not comply with the administration's discriminatory agenda and would not allow state resources to be used against teachers and school officials for following the law.

Bonta Reminds Hospitals and Clinics of Anti-Discrimination Laws Amid Executive Order on Gender Affirming Care

California Attorney General Rob Bonta reaffirmed that California hospitals and federally funded healthcare providers must continue offering gender-affirming care despite confusion caused by President Trump's directive to freeze federal funding. Bonta specifically addressed Children's Hospital Los Angeles after reports that it paused hormonal therapies and surgeries for transgender minors, reminding the institution of its legal obligations under state anti-discrimination laws.

Bonta emphasized that California remains committed to protecting transgender youth and that state law has not changed. He reassured healthcare providers that they are legally required to provide equal access to gender-affirming care, regardless of federal actions.

Concerns arose after the federal government attempted to restrict funding related to gender-affirming care. In response, Bonta, along with 22 other state attorneys general, sued to block these efforts. On January 31, 2025, a federal court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) preventing federal agencies from freezing, canceling, or restricting funding for gender-affirming care. The U.S. Department of

Justice confirmed it would comply with the court order, stating that federal agencies cannot revoke funding based on the President's executive order.

Bonta further cited California's anti-discrimination laws, including the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which prohibits denying healthcare services based on gender identity. He warned that refusing care to transgender individuals while providing similar services to cisgender patients constitutes discrimination. Bonta assured California families and healthcare providers that legal protections remain in place and that the state will not waver in upholding gender-affirming care rights.

Attorney General Bonta Sues Trump Administration Over DOGE's Unlawful Access to Americans' Personal Information

California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's decision to expand access to data maintained by the Treasury Department's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS). In the lawsuit, 19 attorneys general argue that this executive action has allowed people associated with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to access Americans' personal and private information, including bank account and social security numbers. The lawsuit seeks to immediately halt improper access to this sensitive information while litigation proceeds.

"President Trump's and the Treasury Department's actions to allow DOGE access to Americans' private information is chilling and unconstitutional – and Americans are paying attention," said Attorney General Bonta. "Millions entrust the federal government to carry out vital operations that people rely on every day. In doing so, we also entrust them with our sensitive and personal information. This week's action is a breach of that trust and a gross and blatant power grab. The President does not hold the power to give Americans' bank account and social security numbers to anyone he'd like. I am proud to stand with attorneys general around the country to demand the immediate halt to this violation of both trust and law."

Since Inauguration Day, DOGE has infiltrated executive agencies with the goal of eliminating federal funding, services, and personnel. Starting last week, there have been reports of billionaire Elon Musk and his DOGE associates gaining an unprecedented level of access to vital payment systems of the U.S. Treasury, which provide access to Americans' extremely sensitive information, like social security numbers.

The Treasury Department payment systems – managed by BFS – are responsible for trillions of dollars in U.S. government payments. Millions of Americans rely on the support of these payments for services like health care, childcare, and other

essential programs, like Social Security, Medicare benefits, veteran's benefits, salaries for federal employees, and tax refunds. The Treasury Department's payment systems are critical, sensitive, and incredibly vital. Given their critical importance to U.S. government operations, these systems have been highly regulated and tightly guarded – but with the election of Donald Trump, are no longer safe.

In the complaint filed today, the attorneys general allege the Trump Administration has no constitutional, statutory, or regulatory authority to widen access to the BFS payment system for political appointees or special government employees, including members of DOGE. As such, the attorneys general seek both a temporary restraining order to immediately stop this practice and a permanent injunction barring political appointees, special government employees, and any government employee from an agency outside the Treasury Department from accessing BFS systems and Americans' private personally identifying information.

In filing the lawsuit today, Attorney General Bonta is joined by the attorneys general of New York, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Bonta Issues Statement on Trump Administration's Anti-Abortion Actions

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued the following statement in response to President Trump pardoning 23 individuals convicted under the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, his U.S. Department of Justice limiting enforcement of that law, and the President issuing new Executive Orders targeting abortion rights:

"President Trump may say that he cares about law and order, but his recent pardons tell a very different story. He has pardoned over 1,500 individuals who stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Not only did those individuals try to stop the peaceful transfer of power, many of them violently assaulted law enforcement officers. Now, he has pardoned people whose actions threatened, harassed, and harmed abortion patients, providers, and clinics.

California has been and will continue to be a safe haven for reproductive rights. With the

news that the Trump Administration will also be limiting enforcement of the federal FACE Act and that the President has signed Executive Orders targeting abortion rights, we will not hesitate to take up the mantle of safety and access that they are abandoning. State law – specifically, the California FACE Act – requires that people have access to abortion care safely, confidentially, and in a timely manner. If any person infringes on that right, they can and will be held accountable by my office or local prosecutors."

Equality California on Trump Executive Order Banning Transgender Athletes

Equality California released the following statement from Executive Director Tony Hoang in response to Trump's executive order banning transgender girls and women from school sports and athletics more broadly:



"Donald Trump has issued his fifth executive order targeting transgender Americans—who make up less than 1% of the U.S. population—since taking office in order to distract from his inability to address issues like lowering costs for working families and making our communities safer. This time, he is targeting transgender girls and women who simply want to play sports alongside their teammates—yet another blatant attempt by him and his administration to systematically erase transgender and gender non-conforming people from every facet of public life.

Local schools and athletic associations are the ones who should be handling these issues, and they are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students. A federal ban that overrides those rules could require young girls to answer inappropriate personal questions or even be subjected to genital inspections by strangers if they want to

participate in sports.

The head of the NCAA, himself a former Republican Governor, recently told a U.S. Senate panel that he knew of less than 10 out transgender athletes among the 510,000 currently competing in college sports—less than .002 percent of all NCAA athletes.

Studies confirm that participation in sports provides kids with invaluable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, discipline, and cooperation—fundamental lessons that every young person deserves the chance to experience. Beyond the field, sports also contribute significantly to students' overall well-being, fostering better mental health, boosting academic performance, and enhancing self-esteem and confidence.

As with Trump's previous executive orders, this will take time to implement and could face legal challenges. We will consult with our state and national partners regarding the implications of this executive order and will continue to update our community."

California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus Condemns Trump's Modern-Day Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Targeting of Transgender Service Members

Assemblymember Chris Ward and Senator Caroline Menjivar, Chair and Vice Chair of the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, released the following statement condemning President Trump's modern-day Don't Ask, Don't Tell, targeting of United States transgender service members:

"An individual's identity should not bar them from taking on the brave and selfless call to serve in our military. We affirmed this after the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) – which similarly and explicitly targeted lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer service members – and must once again affirm this due to President Trump's second introduction of a modern-day DADT arbitrarily targeting our transgender, gender nonconforming/non-binary, and intersex (TGI) service members. We are still working to undo the harms of the decades-old DADT and will need to do so for this reintroduced, discriminatory iteration.

Anyone who meets the standards and is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to safeguard our country and protect all Americans should be able to serve – this is a core value of our military. President Trump's reintroduced modern-day DADT policy arbitrarily targets a specific portion of service members who have already met such standards and more than proven themselves fit and ready to take on the call to serve. His

singling out of valiant service members is unwarranted and will put our national security at risk by indiscriminately creating gaps in crucial positions, reducing our readiness, and increasing the burden on remaining service members.

The notion that TGI service members are less-than is not only false, but also disrespectful to those who valiantly took up the call to duty and have been serving our country and its citizens for years. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of the brave individuals who serve our nation and uphold our national security, and will always support their freedom to authentically serve and their right to receive the benefits they have earned."



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NEW: French President Macron slams Trump's plan to kick all the Palestinians out of Gaza:



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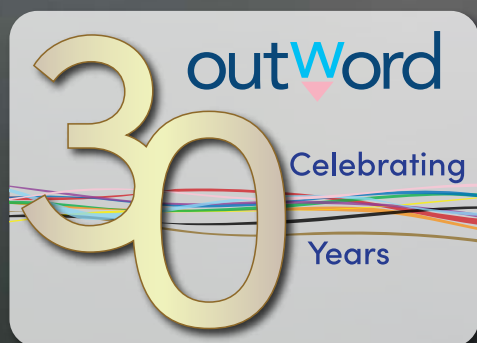
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What We Know To Be True

Equality Federation

This moment is unfathomably hard. There is absolutely no way to get around that. At Equality Federation, we envision a world where all LGBTQ+ people can thrive in the communities they call home. We believe in fairness and treating each other with dignity and respect. Yet, in an alarmingly short amount of time, we've seen the Trump administration issue a number of executive orders that directly target and attack LGBTQ+ people – especially trans and non-binary communities – immigration, DEI programs, and access to critical funding for HIV research and prevention.

To be clear, executive orders are not law. They are meant to create chaos and fear. Some will go into effect immediately, while many will be challenged in court. But these wishlists from the President have already impacted our communities.

Trans youth are losing access to life-saving, medically necessary care.

LGBTQ+ and progressive organizations' programs are facing funding threats.

Trans people have even more barriers to obtaining accurate identity documents.

Our state partners are feeling the impact the hardest. As leaders and activists on the ground, their local communities are turning to them for answers. And they are doing everything they can to provide clarity, care, and concrete actions for their people to take.

This is why state-based advocacy is critical to the bigger picture—the fight for LGBTQ+ liberation, immigration rights, and bodily autonomy doesn't just happen in D.C.; it happens in every city, county, and statehouse across the country. It is in your local community where the greatest impact of these federal actions will be felt.

Now is the time to get engaged. Find your state LGBTQ+ organization and get involved today.

Our team is doing what we were built to do: build capacity within LGBTQ+ state-based advocacy organizations and alongside strategic leaders to advance systemic change. We remain steadfast in our commitment to enacting change through capacity building and leadership development of those who are closer to the problem and the solutions.

Please hold strong. We've fought tyrants hungry for power before, but it is going to take more of us this time to fight the villains we are up against. Time and again, when our community's rights are threatened, we have resisted, organized, and built an intersectional movement that refuses to be ignored. We can do this.

We're grateful you're here with us, it's needed now more than ever. We've got this. We've got us.

Together,

Fran "Hutch" Hutchins
Executive Director
Equality Federation

Jan. 6 Video Evidence Has 'Disappeared' From Public Access

resource: NPR.org

A coalition of media organizations, including NPR, has raised concerns over missing video evidence from the Justice Department's case against Glen Simon, a participant in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack. In a legal filing on Tuesday, the coalition stated that nine video exhibits used during Simon's sentencing had "disappeared" from a government online platform. Simon pleaded guilty to "Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds," admitting he pushed against police officers using a metal bike rack and stormed the Capitol. He recorded himself declaring, "this is what a revolution looks like," and emphasizing the need to instill fear. Prosecutors had used images and video footage as evidence, including Simon wearing a plated vest inside the Capitol Rotunda. The missing video raises concerns about public access to government records and transparency in Jan. 6 prosecutions. The media coalition has requested clarity from the government regarding the disappearance of the files.

Sacramento's First Hi-Fi Bar Debuts With Tracks Pressed To Vinyl *by Katerina Graziosi*

It's a quarter to 2 p.m. when Purple Disco Machine's "Devil in Me" fills a bar on the corner block of 4th and L Streets in Downtown Sacramento with a rhythmic funk-house beat.

The sound is crisp, enveloping a growing crowd with a quality and precision rivaled by live music. This marked the opening of Legend Has It, the city's first hi-fi bar.

Short for hi-fidelity audio, hi-fi bars are spaces that prioritize the listening experience, particularly of pressed music, over all else. Popularized in Japan during the 1940s and '50s, these intimate venues made use of postwar goods entering the country by sourcing top-notch audio systems and curating "cultural lifelines" for audiophiles and community alike to gather in the wake of a shortage of social events and the shuttering of businesses forced by World War II.

The concept of a Japanese jazz kissa, or kissaten, is mirrored here at 410 L St. with its cozy, modern furniture, custom blonde-wood millwork and Klipsch La Scala speakers that flank the booth — some of the clearest in the game, according to co-owner and DJ José Medina.

"We curated this equipment to make sure it fits our space," Medina says. "You'll hear things that you haven't heard before on an album, especially when it's been reproduced on a vinyl."

Medina and his wife, Victoria, co-own the bar at the former location of Whired Wine with business partners and friends Jin and Michael Juliano. Inspired by their shared love of music, craft beer and natural wine, the two couples dreamt of fusing it all together. While the four previously floated ideas of opening such an establishment, it was a visit to a listening bar during a joint trip to Seattle in late 2022 that moved the needle.

"I still remember the conversation that basically sparked it," Medina says. "We saw a vinyl bar [in Seattle] and we were captivated, but at the same time we were like this is something we could do, to an extent, in Sacramento."

A Hub To Call Home

For co-owner Juliano, whose background is in audio engineering and radio, his travels with wife, Jin, to visit family in South Korea and the hi-fi bars they experienced there, as well as in Japan, highlighted a different and special kind of DJing culture.

"In my mind back in the day, [a] DJ was always in a tower somewhere like dance club sort of stuff," Juliano says, "so seeing a DJ just spin vinyl in soul, funk, jazz — it blew my mind." The more relaxed setting and the audio focus is a concept he says was missing in Sacramento.

It's a sentiment shared by Eric Sasz, who goes professionally as DJ Saurus. Sasz has been involved with the local music scene for over 25 years and currently books DJs for San Francisco's Exploratorium After Dark hours. He now helps book the talent at Legend Has It and says he's well-connected and poised to highlight a diverse repertoire of turntablists.

"A lot of local DJs get overlooked in Sacramento, especially vinyl DJs, because the younger turn-up culture is really big right now," Sasz reflects. "But with vinyl culture, there's a lot of folks here that we wanted to shine the spotlight on because they're just not getting that."

In addition to the limited opportunities for a niche subset of DJs, lasting impacts of the pandemic continue to affect nightlife economy and the music scene as a whole, according to Medina, who has held residencies locally at B-Side and Bottle & Barlow. He adds that while many businesses turned to live entertainment as a way to entice patrons back through their doors, many of them couldn't pay DJs pre-pandemic rates while sustaining higher overhead costs.

Audrey Esperanza, who spins as DJ Ink Fat around town in places like Darling Aviary and The Flamingo House, was in attendance to support the launch. She stresses the need for cities to have spaces dedicated to preserving the art of analog mixing and to "keep this kind of culture alive and thriving for the younger generations."

The Sum Of Parts

When the co-owners moved to the River City from San Francisco — the Julianos in 2021 and the Medinas in 2022 — it was through networking with the community that solidified Sacramento as a good home for the project, according to Juliano.

In addition to a selection of California-produced natural wines, the bar boasts a large selection of local craft beer from Porchlight Brewing Company, LogOff Brewing, Alaro Craft Brewing and others, according to Juliano. He adds that everyone they've worked with to complete the project from the electrician who wired the impressive set up, to the graphic designer, the breweries supplying the craft beer and the interior designer, all are locally based businesses.

"Keeping things really Sacramento is really important [to us]," co-owner Victoria Medina says. "We want this to be a staple in the community and continue working with more folks in the community and putting our roots there downtown."

Not unlike the revitalization of communal gatherings brought about by jazz kissaten in Japan, José Medina hopes to carry on expanding avenues of creation and collaboration for the region.

"The hope is to continue to innovate and continue to bring growth to Sacramento," he says. "I think it's safe to say we are heavily invested [here]."

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



Attendees hear sets from DJs during the grand opening of Legend Has It in Downtown Sacramento. Photo by Steve Martarano



Legend Has It co-owners (from left) Michael and Jin Juliano, and José and Victoria Medina stand behind the bar during the grand opening of Legend Has It on Sept. 14. Photo by Steve Martarano



Abs One plays the second set of the day during the grand opening of Legend Has It. Photo by Steve Martarano



Stacks of vinyl line the wall behind the bar at Legend Has It in Downtown Sacramento. Photo by Steve Martarano

20+ Local Museums Participate in Free Museum Weekend – March 1-2

More than 20 Sacramento Area Museums are collaborating to present a Free Museum Weekend on March 1-2, 2025. This is the 27th consecutive year the local museum community has presented a free museum experience. Similar to the past few years, the popular community event is free but requires advance registration and capacity will be limited for each museum.

Nearly 30,000 tickets will be available across all participating destinations but will fluctuate by museum and/or by day. Advance registration is required to participate in the 2025 Free Museum Weekend. New this year, the event is proudly sponsored by Jimbo's Tacos, a locally owned company in business for 70+ years.

To make the event accessible to underserved community members, pre-selected nonprofit organizations will have the opportunity to secure tickets early in mid-February. Then, free ticket registration for the general public will be available on February 24 beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until all tickets have been secured.

To reserve free entry on either day, interested community members should visit this user-friendly webpage. With limited availability, event registration is expected to be secured quickly. Should more free event tickets become available, announcements will be made on SAM social channels (Facebook & Instagram) @SacMuseums.

Local museums participating in the 2024 Free Museum Weekend include:

Aerospace Museum of California
California Automobile Museum
California Museum
California State Library
California State Railroad Museum
Capitol Park at California State Capitol Museum
Crocker Art Museum
Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum
Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park
Locke Boarding House Museum
Maidu Museum & Historic Site
Museum of Medical History
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Sacramento Children's Museum
Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
Sacramento History Museum
Sacramento Regional Fire Museum
SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity
Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum
State Indian Museum
Sutter's Fort State Historic Park
Verge Center for the Arts



On display at California Automobile Museum, 1915 Dodge Brothers Touring Car

All participating museums will be open at 10 a.m. both days and the last entry is one hour prior to museum closing time (which could differ slightly by museum). Free tickets are available only for regular admission during March 1-2, 2025.

And, to make visiting local museums accessible to everyone on Free Museum Weekend, SacRT is offering a free ride flyer valid for on March 1 or 2, 2025, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. Riders can visit www.sacrt.com/freerideflyer to print or screenshot the flyer to present bus operators and light rail fare inspectors the day of their ride.

For more information about the 2025 Free Museum Weekend, Museum Membership Month and other upcoming activities offered by Sacramento Area Museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and X @SacMuseums or visit www.SacMuseums.org.

Sacramento History Museum Offers Two Exciting Ways to Celebrate Black History Month

The Sacramento History Museum is excited to offer two engaging ways the community can celebrate Black History Month, by experiencing a limited-time exhibit of triumph, and by enjoying a lively evening of Sacramento jazz and blues blended with Black history.

A History of African American Educators Exhibit – Now through March 30

In proud partnership with Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum, the Sacramento History Museum has a special exhibit on display titled "A History of African American Educators." The culturally rich exhibit features two 19th century teachers who prevailed against racial discrimination by breaking down discriminatory barriers to equal education. The exhibit provides a unique opportunity for visitors to experience what it may have felt like sitting in an early 20th century classroom, to discover the challenges of segregated schools, and to learn about the triumphs of educators such as Elizabeth Thorn Scott Flood and Sarah Mildred Jones who broke barriers to provide free public education to all ages and races. This limited-time exhibit is included with Museum admission.



A Sacramento Jazzstory: West End Blues – Thursday Evening, February 27, 6-8 p.m.

To close out Black History Month, the Sacramento History Museum is pleased to present an evening of entertainment from the Harley White Jr. Orchestra, called "The West End Blues," offering an incredible blend of history and music. Guests will enjoy a lively evening where the sounds of big-band jazz fill the air, setting the stage for a journey into Sacramento's West End. In addition to the powerful music, Sacramento historian William Burg will weave in captivating tales from the lost neighborhood, bringing the stories of its vibrant community to life. With a mix of live music, captivating narratives, and historic photos, the event will highlight the triumphs, struggles, and untold stories of Sacramentans who have faded from memory. Tickets cost \$50 for adults; \$35 for members and \$35 for youth (under 21) and include appetizers and nonalcoholic drinks plus adults (ages 21+) will receive two free drink tickets for wine. Tickets are limited and available here.

More information about the Sacramento History Museum, its mission, and upcoming events and activations is available at www.SacHistoryMuseum.org

Photography Month Sacramento Returns in April 2025

Photography Month Sacramento, a month-long celebration of the visual arts, will take place in April 2025. Organized by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center, this grassroots collaboration brings together various partners, including the City of Sacramento, Inside Publications, and local museums and businesses. Since its launch in 2018, the event has featured diverse exhibits, workshops, lectures, photo meet-ups, and more, providing a platform for artists, institutions, and photography enthusiasts to showcase and celebrate photography.

Numerous organizations have already committed to participating, including the California Museum, Crocker Art Museum, MOSAC, and Sacramento Fine Arts Center. Businesses, museums, and organizations can easily get involved by incorporating photography-related programming, hosting special events, or featuring visual exhibits.

Open to both professional and amateur photographers, Photography Month Sacramento offers opportunities to display work, organize exhibits, and collaborate with local venues such as coffee shops and restaurants. Participants are encouraged to submit event details to Sacramento365.com to be included in the community-curated calendar.

Don't Miss A Thing

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