

# outWord



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# outWord

digital media 

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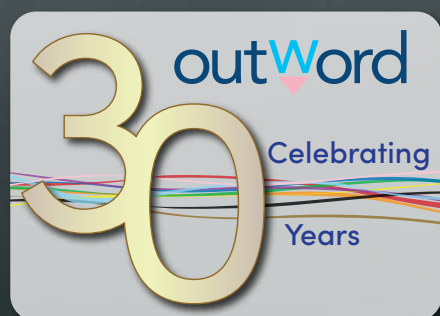
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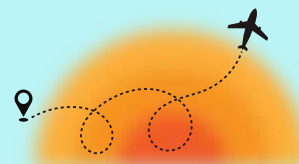
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# Equality California Unveils Bold 2025 Legislative Package to Defend and Expand LGBTQ+ Rights in California

Equality California, the nation's largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, has announced a bold 2025 legislative agenda to expand protections for LGBTQ+ Californians. With a focus on family rights, workplace protections, healthcare access, identity documents, and privacy, the agenda particularly aims to safeguard the transgender community amid rising national hostility.

## Key proposed bills include:

**ID Documents:** AB 1084 (Zbur) streamlines name and gender marker changes; SB 59 (Wiener) ensures confidentiality of related court records.

**Healthcare Privacy & Shield Laws:** AB 82 (Ward) and SB 497 (Wiener) protect transgender healthcare data from hostile state actions; AB 715 (Zbur) shields attorneys aiding LGBTQ+ patients.

**HIV Prevention:** AB 554 (González) ensures insurance coverage for PrEP without cost barriers.

**Safe Schools:** AB 908 (Solache) mandates LGBTQ+ student support as a state priority.  
**LGBTQ+ Families:** SB 450 (Menjivar) strengthens legal protections for LGBTQ+ parents adopting children born in California.

**Workplace Protections:** SB 590 (Durazo) expands Paid Family Leave to include chosen family.

**Housing & Homelessness:** AB 678 (Lee) ensures LGBTQ+ inclusivity in state-funded homelessness programs.

Amid national threats, Equality California reaffirms its commitment to making California a safe haven for LGBTQ+ rights.

# In Recognition of National Consumer Protection Week, Attorney General Bonta Releases California's Top 10 Consumer Complaints

In recognition of National Consumer Protection Week, California Attorney General Rob Bonta today released 2024's Top 10 Consumer Complaints and highlighted ongoing efforts to protect California consumers. The list includes the top consumer complaint categories the California Department of Justice (DOJ) has received in the last calendar year.

"California is a pillar of strong state consumer protection laws and an outspoken advocate for robust federal protections," said Attorney General Bonta. "This National Consumer Protection Week, I urge Californians to help us further this work. If you see misconduct or are the victim of a scam, my office wants to know about it: I encourage consumers to immediately file a complaint online at [oag.ca.gov/report](http://oag.ca.gov/report). Whether protecting our kids online, stopping egregious bank fees, or cracking down on illegal price gouging, as the People's Attorney, I am committed to going to the mat for California consumers."

## Top 10 Consumer Complaint Categories from 2024:

1. Social Media Platforms

2. Online Retailers
3. Banks
4. Contractors
5. Landlord/Tenant Issues
6. Online Scams
7. Debt Collection
8. Credit Reporting
9. Telephonic Scams
10. Brick and Mortar Retail Sales

## Fighting to Keep More Money in the Pockets of Californians:

Attorney General Bonta took on bad actors and archaic policies that hurt Californians pocketbooks. Last year, DOJ announced a \$700 million multistate settlement with Johnson & Johnson for failing to disclose if asbestos was present in its talc products; secured a settlement with ticket reseller StubHub, Inc. for failing to pay timely refunds to

Californians for canceled events during the COVID-19 pandemic; and sponsored successful legislation to protect Californians' financial future by banning the inclusion of medical debt on credit reports.

Last month, Attorney General Bonta supported lawsuits challenging the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Since its creation, the CFPB has actively worked to make the lives of everyday people better and has returned over \$20 billion to Americans nationwide. The shuttering of the CFPB would cause catastrophic harm to consumer protections, leaving no federal oversight over large banks, and saddling state agencies with the sole responsibility to protect consumers from conduct regulated by the CFPB.

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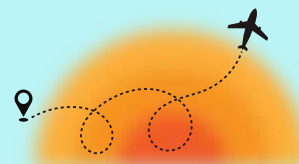


# The List



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# Response to Governor Newsom's Anti-Transgender Remarks as of 3-10-25

## California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus Response to Governor Newsom's Anti-Transgender Remarks

Assemblymember Chris Ward and Senator Caroline Menjivar, Chair and Vice Chair of the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, released the following statement on Governor Gavin Newsom's recent anti-transgender remarks:

"Sometimes Gavin Newsom goes for the Profile in Courage, sometimes not. We woke up profoundly sickened and frustrated by these remarks. All students deserve the academic and health benefits of sports activity, and until Donald Trump began obsessing about it, playing on a team consistent with one's gender has not been a problem since the standard was passed in 2013."

## Human Rights Campaign Issues Statement on California Gov. Gavin Newsom's Comments on Transgender Athletes on Podcast

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, issued the statement below regarding deeply concerning comments made by California Governor Gavin Newsom on his podcast, "This is Gavin Newsom."

Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson released the following statement: "When LGBTQ+ lives are under attack, real leaders don't hedge—they fight. Across this country, extremists are stripping away rights, banning books, and targeting trans kids just for being who they are. This is not the time for political calculations or playing it safe—it's time to be bold, to stand up, and to say unequivocally: we will protect LGBTQ+ people with everything we've got. The fight for equality has never been easy, but history doesn't remember those who waver—it remembers those who refuse to back down. Our message to Gov. Newsom and all leaders across the country is simple: The path to 2028 isn't paved with the betrayal of vulnerable communities—it's built on the courage to stand up for what's right and do the hard work to actually help the American people."



## Senator Wiener Responds to Governor Newsom's Comments on Transgender Women in Sports

Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) issued the following statement in response to Governor Gavin Newsom's remarks about transgender people's participation in sports:

"This week, Democrats in the U.S. Senate took a courageous vote against a bill to ban trans athletes, some at great political peril.

"They saw through the right wing bigotry: A movement & President that don't give a damn about women's sports – Trump has taken executive action harming women collegiate athletes – & that instead simply want to eliminate trans people from all aspects of public life.

"These Democratic Senators stood with trans people against this hate, understanding the extreme danger that trans people are facing in this country at this moment in time. And they did so when it was politically hard. An important aspect of civil rights is standing with marginalized & demonized groups even when it's hard. Even when it's unpopular. Even when you're smeared for it. Even when doing so may lead to despicable attack ads.

"The Governor has had many courageous moments over the decades supporting LGBTQ people, including helping turbo-charge the marriage equality movement, protecting LGBTQ kids against forced outing and criminalization, and protecting trans people from criminalization in other states. He has taken significant political hits for doing so. I and so many will be forever grateful for that courage.

"This is not one of those moments. Charlie Kirk is a vile bigot, and standing with him on this issue is profoundly disturbing.

"The Republican strategy to eliminate trans people is to create fake moral panics – to falsely paint trans people as threats. They've made a huge issue out of gender-affirming care for trans kids when the vast majority of trans kids don't receive that care. They're painting trans people who use restrooms or who are incarcerated as predators.

"And they're painting trans young people who play sports as a threat to women's sports, which they are not. Of 510,000 NCAA athletes, fewer than 10 are trans. Fewer than 10.

"Republicans have declared a culture war against trans people – who are 1% of the population – because after they lost on marriage equality in 2015, they did focus groups and learned that targeting and demonizing trans people was a viable political strategy: The next way to destroy LGBTQ people after their decades of ballot measures and laws to ban gay marriage and adoption were no longer viable.

"Trans people are just trying to live their lives. They're facing a level of political hostility that leads to violence and homelessness. They need their allies to stand with them – especially when it's hard."



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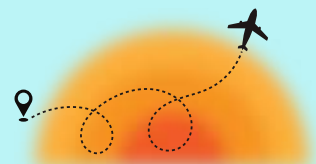


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# Supreme Court Decides to Hear Challenge to So-Called “Conversion Therapy” Bans for LGBTQ+ Youth

courtesy of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

The Supreme Court has decided to hear a case challenging local and state laws banning so-called “conversion therapy” for LGBTQ+ youth. This case arises out of a Colorado law enacted in 2019 that prohibits licensed mental health professionals from engaging in the dangerous practice of “conversion therapy” for youth in an attempt to change their sexual orientation or gender identity. More than 20 states have similar laws. This challenge was filed by Alliance Defending Freedom, an organization that was classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and is behind numerous targeted legal attacks against the LGBTQ+ community.

The plaintiff in the case brought the challenge to Colorado’s ban forward in September 2022. A federal district court declined to block the ban, finding that the law did not infringe upon free speech protections while also acknowledging the harmful impact so-called “conversion therapy” has on minors. The case was later appealed to the 10th Circuit Court which upheld the lower court’s decision. The case will now be heard by the Supreme Court in its next term, which starts in October this year, with a decision expected in 2026.

**Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson released the following statement:**

“The Supreme Court’s decision to take up

this case isn’t just about so-called ‘conversion therapy’ – it’s about whether extremists can use our courts to push their dangerous agenda, in an effort to erase LGBTQ+ people and gut protections that keep our kids safe. There’s no debate: so-called ‘conversion therapy’ is a dangerous practice, not therapy, and it has no place in our communities. These bans exist to protect LGBTQ+ children from harm—period.

Attacks on LGBTQ+ rights are the entry point to attacks on all of our rights. The same people trying to legalize abuse under the guise of ‘therapy’ are the ones banning books, ripping away reproductive rights, and undermining our democracy. The Supreme Court must uphold the 10th Circuit decision finding that these laws are constitutional.”



So-called “conversion therapy,” sometimes known as “reparative therapy,” is a range of dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Such practices have been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades, but due to continuing discrimination and societal bias against LGBTQ+ people, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and conversion therapy can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide.

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

# Google Quality Decline

Google, facing a potential court-ordered breakup for being a monopoly, has been accused of intentionally degrading search quality to boost ad revenue, according to a new WalletHub report.

**Key findings:**

**Search quality is declining:** 63% of users say results were better in previous years.

**Trusting top results is costly:** Following the top 5 recommendations for financial terms costs users an average of \$202.

**Irrelevant international results:** UK, Canada, and India websites appear in U.S. finance searches.

**Monopoly immunity:** Google’s internal tests show poor results don’t harm business.

**Bad search benefits ads:** Worse organic results drive users to ads, increasing revenue.

**Leadership shift fueled decline:** In 2020, Google’s CEO put the Ads chief in charge of both Ads and Search, aligning them for profit.

Experts argue that Google’s declining quality isn’t due to incompetence but a deliberate strategy to maximize ad revenue, keeping users engaged longer while reducing access to the best information.

# “I don’t like to talk about it.”

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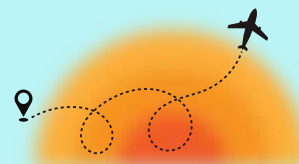
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# Landlords Fined \$80K for Threatening to Call ICE on Chicago Tenants

by Zane McNeill, TRUTHOUT

An Illinois circuit court judge has ordered Chicago landlords to pay former tenants \$80,000 after they threatened to report the tenants to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in June 2020.

The decision is the first under the state's 2019 Immigrant Tenant Protection Act (ITPA), which prohibits landlords from using a tenant's immigration status to harass or intimidate them.

"This decision provides a measure of justice to a family facing a landlord willing to threaten to call federal immigration authorities in the belief that it would scare tenants," Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF president and general counsel, said in a statement. "Such unscrupulous conduct is appropriately unlawful under Illinois state law."

The tenants, who began renting a basement apartment in Chicago's Ashburn neighborhood in 2017 by a spoken agreement for \$600 a month, faced several challenges in early 2020. The landlords, Marco Antonio Contreras and his wife, Denise Contreras, requested that they sign a written lease to document rental income for a loan application, altering several terms. According to the Chicago Tribune, the new lease changed the rent due date, required separate utility payments, and increased the security deposit. Notably, the tenants were not provided a copy of this contract. Two months later, the landlords announced a rent increase to \$800 per month.

Unable to afford this hike, the tenants negotiated to maintain the original rent for an additional three months. In June 2020, the landlords told the tenants that they would need to vacate the property by August 2020 because the landlords wanted to sell the home. Later that month, the landlords entered the apartment and demanded early payment of rent. When the tenants requested a prorated amount, as they were preparing to move, the landlord threatened to report them to federal immigration authorities in violation of ITPA.

"We decided not to stay silent because our landlords threatened us with calling immigration, and we do not believe that anyone has a right to threaten us," the tenant couple said in a statement. "No one should feel or act superior to others. We are all equals and deserve respect. Just because someone is your landlord does not mean that they get to do whatever they want to you."

Illinois was the second state in the country to pass legal protections for

immigrant tenants, following California's lead in 2017. "Where you were born has nothing to do with the ability to pay rent on time – which is what the relationship between a landlord and a tenant should really be about," Illinois Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said in a press release in 2019. "I'm proud that in signing this bill, we're making Illinois the first state in the Midwest to protect our immigrant tenants and give them a little more relief in these tumultuous times. Here in Illinois, we are, and always will be, a welcoming state."

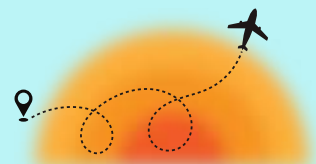
The ITPA prohibits Illinois landlords from threatening or discriminating against tenants on the basis of their immigration status or perceived immigration status. Specifically, it forbids landlords from threatening to call ICE on a tenant for purposes of intimidation or retaliation. Further, the law prohibits landlords from evicting tenants solely because of their immigration status.

"Everyone has rights under the rule of law regardless of their actual or perceived immigration status. In Illinois, landlords are prohibited from wielding the threat of immigration enforcement as a weapon against their tenants," said Susana Sandoval Vargas, MALDEF Midwest Regional Counsel. "This decision shows that those who choose to disregard these protections will face serious consequences. This is an important victory for all tenants in Illinois, who, like our clients, just want a safe place to call home."

*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.*







# Trans Travelers' Passports in Limbo as Lawsuits Against Trump's Order Play Out

by Sydney Bauer, TRUTHOUT

When Grant – a transgender man in the Pacific Northwest – mailed in his passport application in early January before Donald Trump became president of the United States, he thought there would be no issues changing his name and gender for the new document. He had already updated all his documentation in his home state and completed a court-ordered name change. All that was left was to fill out the passport application, pay the fee and wait for new documents.

“My U.S. passport was going to expire in September, but I thought it wise to try to get my passport renewed before Trump started trying to mess with things,” Grant told Truthout. “I sent in my passport application before the inauguration. My check cleared the bank on Wednesday, January 22. And then Marco Rubio made his order to the State Department to halt processing the passports of trans people.”

additional 12 states and the District of Columbia offer trans Americans the option of updating their birth certificates, but require additional documentation to complete the process.

As of late January, the State Department began halting passport applications for transgender Americans seeking to update their gender marker. According to a memo reviewed by NBC News, the new Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said, “it is specified that the policy of the United States is that an individual’s sex is not changeable.”

For Grant, and many other trans people in the U.S., currently their passport applications show as being “in process.” There has been little guidance from the State Department about how their applications will be processed.

In addition, Rubio’s memo mentioned that applicants seeking a nonbinary “X” option for their gender marker would no longer have that option available. What that means for applicants who submitted their forms before Trump’s executive order is unclear. One nonbinary applicant told Truthout that they submitted their passport application to update the gender marker with an “X” on January 18, and since January 22 it has just been listed as “in progress.”

Truthout sent a list of detailed questions to the State Department about how it is handling passport applications for transgender Americans, but did not receive a response.

This information void has left many scrambling to find help through advocacy organizations or through crowdsourced information. An online community on Reddit has been flooded with trans people sharing their experiences going through the process of passport applications in recent weeks, and others asking questions about what has changed in the process. Also, many individuals have used the platform to show how their passports have been returned, including instances of damaged documents and processed documents without gender markers being updated.

Arli Christian, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), told Truthout that the national organization has received “over 1,800” inquiries from trans people asking what rights they have and how they can work to ensure that their documents accurately reflect their lives.

“Throughout the last few weeks, there’s

Passports continues on page 36



As of now, he is still unsure what will become of his application. Like every impacted individual who was interviewed for this article, Grant is using a pseudonym to prevent his ongoing application from receiving any unneeded attention drawn to its status.

Transgender people in the U.S. who wish to update their documentation to reflect their identity now face the predicament of an opaque State Department seemingly complying with a vague executive order that has sought to enshrine sex assigned at birth as immutable, despite the existence of millions of transgender people.

Specifically, the order says that the State Department “shall implement changes to require that government-issued identification documents, including passports, visas, and Global Entry cards, accurately reflect the holder’s sex,” based on the document holder’s birth certificate.

However, this order has given no guidance for transgender Americans who have already changed their gender markers on documents to reflect their gender identity. Currently, 14 U.S. states allow for trans Americans to update their birth certificates based on self-identification, meaning they can legally change their gender markers through a form, according to the Movement Advancement Project. An





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# Consumer Confidence is Dropping

resource WalletHub

Consumers feel around 13% less confident about their financial outlook this month than they did one year ago, according to the latest WalletHub Economic Index, recently released.

The WalletHub Economic Index is based on a monthly survey that evaluates economic prospects based on 10 components of consumer sentiment. These components revolve around how people feel about their finances, purchasing plans and employment opportunities.

### Key Stats

- Decreasing interest in auto purchases: The share of consumers who expect to buy a car in the next six months is almost 23% lower in February 2025, compared to last year.
- Real estate popularity drop: In February 2025, home-buying interest among consumers decreased by over 21% compared to last year.
- Large purchases are not a priority: In February 2025, consumers' likelihood of making a large purchase in the next six months is almost 17% lower than last year.
- Decrease in optimism: In February 2025, consumers' optimism about whether their finances will improve in the next six months decreased by roughly 9% compared to last year.

The complete WalletHub Economic Index results can be found at <https://wallethub.com/edu/wallethub-economic-index/91926>

# Lesbian Couple at Tesla Protest

photo by Chris Allan



Rocklin, CA March 1, 2025: A married lesbian couple (who wished to remain anonymous) participating in an anti-Tesla protest. Over 100 protesters showed up in front of the Granite Drive dealership. The couple have been together for 22 years, live in Rocklin and said they came out to "Stand up for our rights, for humanity, for our world, and against Trump and all of his minions."

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# Nevada County Pride and Onyx Downtown Present Special Film Screening and Fundraiser

Nevada County Pride and Onyx Downtown are proud to present a special screening of *Surviving the Silence*, an inspiring documentary that tells the powerful story of love, resilience, and activism within the LGBTQ+ community. This fundraising event will take place on Tuesday, April 29th, at the Nevada Theatre, located at 401 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959. Doors open at 6:30 PM, with the film beginning at 7:00 PM. The screening will be followed by a conversation with the film maker, Cindy L. Abel, and the two women profiled in the film, Colonel Pat Thompson and her wife, Barbara Brass.

This special evening will not only showcase an award-winning film but also serve as a vital fundraiser for Nevada County Pride, supporting ongoing efforts to uplift and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in Nevada County. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with fellow community members, learn more about local LGBTQ+ initiatives, and contribute to an important cause.

*Surviving the Silence* reveals the hidden history of military discrimination and the courageous fight for justice, centered around the story of two women whose love and commitment shaped a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ rights. The film is a moving testament to the power of truth and perseverance.

Two women in love are surviving the demands of a closeted military career when one is forced to expel an Army hero for being a lesbian. The way she does it, however, leads to re-instatement and eventual change in military policy.

During a time when gays weren't allowed in the US military, Colonel Patsy Thompson presided over the board that dismissed Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer for being a lesbian, forcing her to confront her own secret and moral dilemma: she too was a lesbian. Cammermeyer had revealed she was a lesbian during a security interview and was expelled. Her memoir was adapted as a 1995 television movie, executive-produced by Barbra Streisand, but Thompson's story remained hidden...until now.

Thompson and her wife also candidly share how they wrestled with heart-wrenching choices in public and private, hiding their relationship, speaking in code on the phone and struggling to protect their love while preserving Thompson's career. Also features Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer; Mary Newcombe, Cammermeyer's attorney, and Eric Fanning, first openly gay Secretary of the US Army and Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Nevada County Pride invites all supporters, allies, and community members to join this unforgettable evening. At a time when civil rights are being stripped away from the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups by the new federal government administration, this film reminds us of how far we have come and how easily these hard-fought rights can be taken away. It is now more important than ever to come together and stand up together.

With all proceeds going to Nevada County Pride, tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at

<https://www.theonyxtheatre.com/movies/1000020103-surviving-the-silence/>

Additional information about the film is at [www.survivingthesilence.com](http://www.survivingthesilence.com).

ATLANTIS MOON PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A CINDY L. ABEL FILM "SURVIVING THE SILENCE" DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL BRUNO MUSIC BY DENISE GENTILINI EDITOR MICHAEL BRUNO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LINDA J. DUNIKOSKI & ROBIN M. CAHALL AND JANEEN IRVIN LEADERSHIP SPONSORS THE POLLIN GROUP AND LAURA BRASS CAMERA JESSE STEPHEN FREEMAN ANIMATION MELISSA MCBEE WRITTEN BY CINDY L. ABEL AND JESSE STEPHEN FREEMAN CO-PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BRUNO PRODUCED BY CINDY L. ABEL AND MARC SMOLOWITZ DIRECTED BY CINDY L. ABEL

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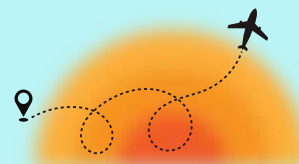


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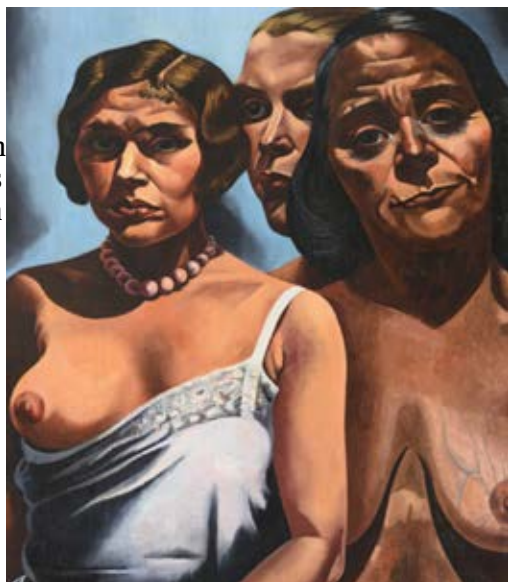


# Radical! Women Artists And Modernism 1910–1950 In Saarbrücken, Germany

The exhibition Radical! Women Artists and Modernism 1910–1950 brings together over 70 artists from 22 countries, challenging the long-held notion that modernism was a male-dominated movement. This groundbreaking show redefines the history of modern art by showcasing the profound contributions of women artists who broke barriers, experimented with form, and engaged with the political and social issues of their time.

By moving beyond traditional art historical frameworks, the exhibition offers fresh perspectives on modernism, juxtaposing diverse artistic voices—many of whom have never been shown together before. Ranging from abstraction to figuration, surrealism to activism, these works highlight the boldness and innovation of women artists across four transformative decades.

A critical aspect of the exhibition examines how gender constructs reinforced biases, excluding women from the modernist canon shaped by their male peers. By reconsidering how gender and nationality influenced artistic recognition, Radical! not only spotlights overlooked talent but also challenges the very foundation of modernist narratives. This exhibition is an essential reexamination of history, proving that modernism was never just a singular, linear movement—it was shaped by a diverse, global network of radical women artists.



Charley Toorop, *Frauenfiguren*, 1931/32  
Collection Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

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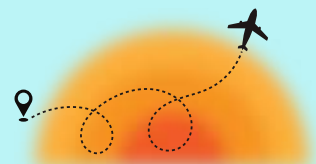
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# Sunsational Sitges

words and photos by Chris Allan

Just 45 minutes by train south of Barcelona, Sitges is a charming getaway on Spain's Mediterranean coast. With its picturesque beaches, vibrant LGBTQ+ scene, and a tasty culinary culture, it's no wonder this seaside town is dubbed the "Saint-Tropez of Spain."

The town is located in Catalonia, known for its distinct culture and language. I first came to Sitges (pronounced "see-jes," rhyming with "beaches") in 2002. Even then and for decades prior, queer travelers had flocked to the popular beachside community. It holds a vibrant Pride by the Sea in early June.

We never made it to the Queenz Cabaret Show (get tix early), and weren't quite sure what the Bitch Bar would hold for us lezzies, but the laid-back vibe was a perfect coastal escape after an intense few days in Barcelona. And, as our new British boy buds told us in the hotel's rooftop pool, "You can always come (solo) to Sitges (wink wink)"... but it's fun as a couple too!

## Stay Seaside

Sitges is a super walkable town full of charming cobblestone streets. If you can afford it, stay on the main drag, Passeig de la Ribera. You'll be close to the beaches and gorgeous ocean views.

The town has many lodging options. We chose the 4-star Hotel Sercotel Kalma Sitges. Right on the main promenade, our room was modern and comfortable and had a back-facing balcony. Other recommendations can be found on the city's Pride page, [sitgespride.com](http://sitgespride.com).

## Catalan Cuisine

Beyond the beaches, bars, shopping and nightlife, Sitges is a great stop for foodies. Much more relaxed than busy Madrid and Barcelona, meals here are very much about enjoying the good life, including all those tempting and sometimes unusual tapas.

## Brekkie

Most Sitges lodgings offer some kind of breakfast. Our hotel's buffet was a feast, a massive spread of juices, pastries, meats, cheeses and egg dishes, with outdoor seating available right on the paseo. Beyond the hotels, there are also many cafés throughout the area.

## Beach Bites

The Sercotel was conveniently located almost directly opposite the de facto gay beach: Platja de la Bassa Rodona: No Progress Pride flags (we saw many in town), but lots of boys in Speedos. The clothing-optional Platja dels Balmins is a mixed nude beach with a reportedly strong gay presence on the other side of town.

The Rodona scene includes the busy Restaurant Pic Nic where you can order from the take-away menu if the beach boys are slow to serve you in your sun chairs. We had simple bocadillo sandwiches with the omnipresent jamón ibérico (cured Spanish ham) and manchego cheese. Alternatively, the restaurant has outdoor seating near the bar, with local delicacies like steamed mussels available.

## Post-Siesta Snacks

After an afternoon nap, you'll want something to tide you over till dinner (which is not usually available before 7pm). Our go-to beachfront gelateria was Dino, which had three different nocciola (hazelnut) options alone!

For savory bites, no day is complete without a tapa or two. Tapas culture in Spain is sacred, and there is an endless variety of small plates to be had. While fried calamari and grilled snails might do it for some, we didn't go a day without tortilla de patatas. The Spanish potato omelette is the national tapa and for good reason.

## Din-din

Finally, after you shower, shave and enjoy una hora feliz cocktail, it's time for paella. Paella (which means pan) is one of Spain's most popular dishes. It's made with flavorful rice cooked in a wide, shallow pan, often over an open flame and served at the table.

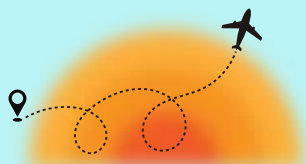
The local versions feature various seafood delicacies and it is the signature dish at La Ribera. Their amazing all-inclusive Rice Menu comes with bread, beverage and dessert, along with your choices of appetizers and paella. Sipping our albariño on the outdoor terrace while working our way through the delicious courses was the trip's culinary highlight.

## Your Spanish Sojourn

Sadly, we found that the extra day we spent in Sitges still wasn't enough. As the Catalanes say: "Eating and living well is the best gift" and Sitges was the perfect place to enjoy that special gift. So pack your appetite, your beachwear and a spirit ready for indulgence - and get thee to Sitges!







# Your San Francisco Weekend: Waymo Driverless Taxis And The Iconic Castro

(A Non-Local's Take On A CA Favorite) words and image by Bill Malcolm

You cannot beat a weekend in San Francisco, the city by the Bay. The homeless situation has improved, they have a new mayor, and it is the city of the future. Employees of high tech companies now live in "the City" and take premium buses to their jobs on the Peninsula. Rents are sky high. The drought is over. And there's so much to do. You may not leave your heart in SF, but if you follow my tips, you won't leave your wallet there either.

## What To Do

Walk or run with the Frontrunners. They meet Saturday at 9 a.m. in Golden Gate Park. The walkers do 2 loops around Stowe Lake. Pick up the free shuttle there to go anywhere in the park (De Young Museum, Asian Museum, Botanical Gardens, Pacific Ocean beaches). It's friendly group (the Frontrunners). We went to the fabulous Crepevine on 624 Irving brunch. Try the turkey sandwich with fries.

Hike with the San Francisco Hiking Club. (I co-founded it and was the first President). They meet at the Whole Foods on Market near the Safeway Saturdays and hike in the many parks around the Bay. I led a hike while I was there which featured Corona Heights, Randall Museum, and Buena Vista Park followed by a ride on the Historic F Line Street cars to the Ferry Building for lunch and enjoyed scenic views of the San Francisco Bay. Details at SFHikingClub.com.

Explore the many neighborhoods. The Castro is the gayborhood. Over the hill, you can explore the too cute Noe Valley. Try Eric's for great Chinese Food (on Church Street). The West Portal is also very cute and just a 10 minute subway ride away from the Castro.

Enjoy the nightlife in the many bars in the Castro. I like the Midnight Sun, Toad Hall, Moby Dick, The Overlook, and Beaux. Beaux has a fun drag weekend brunch. High Tops is a fun sports bar at 2247 Market and serve food. A new lesbian sports bar opens soon across the street from Beck's on Market Street as well.

Work out with the Hotties at a class at Barry's, Learn about the history of LGBT culture in SF at the LGBT History Museum. Grab coffee or a sandwich at the new Epicurean Trader (2240 Market). They also have fresh baked goods. While in SF, enjoy an It's It ice cream sandwich (a SF tradition). It's graham crackers with ice cream in the middle covered with a light coating of chocolate.

Grab a carrot juice and freshly made sandwich at Courtney Produce, 101 Castro.



San Francisco's famous restored street cars are wonderful.

## Where To Stay

I always stay at the Beck's Motor Lodge on Market. It offers free parking (although you don't need a car to visit SF), cute, updated Motel style rooms. Peets Coffee is across the street and there are many bars and restaurants just steps away. You will find them at Sanchez and Market Streets. Tell owner Brittany that Bill sent you.

Other lodgings are mostly around Union Square and environs, a short Muni ride from the Castro. There is also one other hotel (with no staff) across from Mollie Brown's Natural Food Store on 18th Street near Castro. There are also B&Bs close.

## Other Fun Facts

The Gloss, Bay Area Reporter and SF Bay Times are the three publications in print and on line.

Spring is a perfect time to visit: the hills are emerald green and there are wildflowers everywhere, including the native California poppies.

And look out for the driverless Waymo cars. They are everywhere. My friends take them and like that you don't have to tip (unlike UBER and LYFT), and the fares are comparable. Download the Waymo app to schedule a ride (or save your money and walk, take MUNI, or take BART). PS They do not go to either airport at this time.

I always enjoy a visit to San Francisco and this time was no exception.

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated LGBTQ value travel columnist. He received no compensation of any kind for this trip and his views are his own. A former resident of the Castro, he co-founded and was the first President of the SF Hiking Club which is still going strong today. He is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz.

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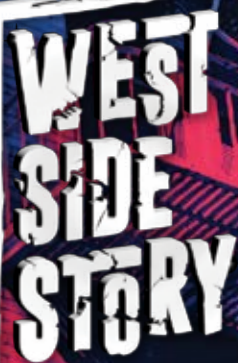
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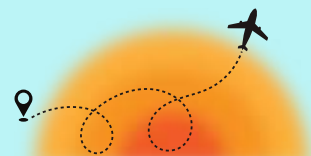
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# Adventure on the High Seas... What's Right for Me?

by Hunt Drouin - Adventure Arranger

Ocean cruising is unlike any other type of travel vacation. It can be a magical experience to sail the seas as you watch the world drift by. Cruising also provides you with a number of destinations to explore on the same trip...best of all, you only have to unpack once. Want to bask in the sun on a beach in Puerto Vallarta or the Mediterranean? Got you covered. Witness the majesty of Alaskan glaciers calving into the ocean in front of your eyes? You bet! Explore the culture and history of ancient civilizations? Check! Celebrate Carnival in Rio de Janeiro...? You get the idea. Just about anything is possible!

Cruising today provides one of the best values for your travel vacation. For one price, you get your accommodation, food, transportation between ports, entertainment and more included. Yes, there are a number of additional items you can purchase such as beverages, shore excursions, internet connectivity, etc. And, when you compare all these costs for a land vacation vs. an ocean cruise, you'll see that cruising offers you the most value for your hard-earned dollar.

But, what's the best fit for me? - If you're thinking about taking a cruise, there are a number of important factors to consider to match you with the right ship/itinerary. As members of the LGBTQ+ community, there are even more things to think about to ensure you have a wonderful adventure:

- Experience - Are you looking for a relaxing/romantic trip or one where you can party all night with friends new and old? In addition to traditional cruise lines, there are a lot of gay charter companies that can provide you with any of these experiences surrounded by others in the community. Also, most traditional cruises have LGBTQ+ meetups where you can enjoy the journey with like-minded passengers and make new friends. You can be socially active or not...whatever you prefer!

- Interests - What do you like to do on vacations? Are you a foodie? Do you like history and sightseeing? Are you an adventure lover who wants to snorkel, dive, zip line or drive an ATV? Or would you prefer relaxing by the pool with a good book?

- Destination - Where do you want to go? What's on your bucket list? Keep in mind that there are still places where the LGBTQ+ community isn't very welcome so it's a good idea to do your research and avoid those locations.

- Budget - How much do you want to spend? Establish a clear budget to determine how much you can spend on the cruise including cabin type, dining options and shore excursions. Don't forget costs to travel to and from the cruise as well as any hotel stays. It's always a good idea to fly into a cruise port the day before it leaves to minimize missing the boat due to travel delays, etc.

- Cruise Length - How much time do you have available and what's the desired pace you want to have on vacation?

- Cabin Type - What type of cabin would suit your needs? Consider things like view, balcony access, privacy and experience. Here's an important tip: Don't pick a state-room that is under or above public areas of the ship if possible. No one wants to be under the disco.

- Travel Dates - What's the best time for you to travel and can you travel during "shoulder season" when there are fewer crowds, good weather, and better pricing?

- Documentation - Do you have all necessary travel documents including valid pass-ports, visa and electronic travel authorizations? There have been some big changes in this regard in 2025.

- Demographics - Are you travelling with a group of people with different interests? It's best to select a ship which offers something for everyone.

- Travel Protection - Do you have coverage in case anything happens before or during the trip? This would include cancellation and trip interruption benefits for covered reasons as well as medical coverage and emergency medical transportation in the event something happens while on the trip.

This is a lot to consider, and it's all vital to ensure you select what works well for you to have the best experience possible.

Some people love doing this kind of research and find it to be half the fun (like figuring out a complex puzzle). Others find this to be daunting and just want to show up at the port, ready for leisure.

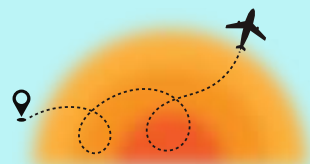
A great way to ensure that all of the factors are taken into consideration is to work with an experienced travel advisor. It typically won't cost you more (travel advisors are paid by the cruise line and vendors), and you can benefit from their knowledge and expertise. Share your travel ideas and dreams; let them come up with a great option that fits your travel style.

Either way, you're going to experience an amazing vacation with the proper planning. Cruising can become addictive in the best way...Bon Voyage!

*Hunt Drouin is the owner of Cruise Planners - Cruises by Hunt and can be seen on his YouTube Channel @QuickCruiseTips. Hunt specializes in planning group and individual cruise travel throughout the world. He also offers LGBTQ+ charter travel options (ocean and river cruises plus land vacations). Hunt can be reached for more information or consultation at: Cruisesbyhunt.com • hunt.drouin@cruiseplanners.com*







# Crafting the Ultimate LGBTQ Travel Itinerary in Mexico City

by Gustavo Rivas-Solis  
gustavo@enroutecommunications.com

**M**exico City, August 20, 2024 – Mexico City, with its vibrant culture, rich history, and thriving LGBTQ scene, offers a unique and diverse experience for travelers. From the trendy Roma/Condesa neighborhood to the historic grandeur of the Zócalo, the city is a treasure trove of activities. This guide will help you create the perfect LGBTQ travel itinerary, blending culture, cuisine, and unforgettable experiences in one of the world's most dynamic cities.

## Begin Your Journey in Roma/Condesa: A Hip, European-Inspired Haven

Begin your journey in the hip Roma/Condesa neighborhood, where wide, tree-lined avenues and stately art nouveau mansions give La Condesa a distinctly European vibe. This area is a favorite among locals and visitors alike, thanks to its mix of chic cafés, trendy boutiques, and vibrant street life. Hipsters and young professionals stroll with their dogs in Parque España, a shaded green space that offers a peaceful retreat from the city's bustle.

You'll find a range of cutting-edge fashion shops and vintage boutiques as you explore, making this area a shopper's paradise. The blend of old and new, classic and contemporary, makes Roma/Condesa a perfect starting point for your Mexico City adventure.

For accommodations, consider staying at Hotel Plaza Galerias. This modern five-star hotel is in the heart of the city's financial and commercial district.

## Lunch at San Juan Mercado

Next, head to the San Juan Mercado, a traditional Mexican market in the historic center of Mexico City, known for its gourmet and exotic foods. This market is a must-visit for foodies, offering a variety of unique ingredients and delicacies. Wander through vibrant stalls filled with everything from exotic meats like crocodile and ostrich to fine cheeses and wines. San Juan Mercado is a feast for the senses and a great place to sample the flavors of Mexico City.



Zócalo: The Heart of Mexico City

## Explore the Zócalo: The Heart of Mexico City

No trip to Mexico City is complete without visiting the Zócalo, the city's historic main square. Officially known as Plaza de la Constitución, the Zócalo has been the center of public life since the days of the Aztec empire. This vast square is a must-see, surrounded by some of Mexico's most important landmarks.

Visit the Catedral Metropolitana, the largest cathedral in the Americas, with its stunning architecture. Explore the Templo Mayor and the ruins of the Aztec ceremonial center, and view Diego Rivera's murals at the Palacio Nacional. Stroll down Calle Peatonal Madero, a pedestrian street lined with shops and eateries, offering a lively contrast to the historic surroundings.

For a truly immersive experience, stay at Zocalo Central. Located right in the heart of the city, this hotel offers stunning views of the Zócalo and easy access to the city's most iconic sites, including the Catedral Metropolitana and the Palacio Nacional.

## Float Through Xochimilco

Take a break from the city's hustle with a visit to Xochimilco, the last remnants of the Aztec vast water transport system. Here, you can enjoy a leisurely cruise on a colorful trajinera, a gondola-like boat that takes you through the ancient canals. The festive scene is a carnival of mariachi bands, food vendors, and artisans who float by, offering a uniquely Mexican experience.

## Discover Coyoacán

Next, head to Coyoacán, a neighborhood rich in history and culture. Once a rural village, Coyoacán has retained its traditional charm and is now a hub for artists, intellectuals, and bohemians. Stroll through its cobblestone streets, visit the Frida Kahlo Museum (La Casa Azul), and enjoy a gastronomy tour of the area. Coyoacán offers a taste of old-world Mexico with its vibrant markets, cafés, and cultural landmarks.

## Museo Soumaya and Museo Jumex

For those who love art, Mexico City offers two must-visit museums. The Museo Soumaya, with its distinctive modern architecture, houses a vast collection of over 66,000 pieces, including works by Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, and European masters like Matisse and Degas. Nearby, the Museo Jumex, the city's newest contemporary art museum, showcases cutting-edge exhibitions in a striking white-concrete building designed by British architect David Chipperfield.

## Historic Elegance at Chapultepec Castle and Lunch at Barro Negro

Continue your cultural exploration with a visit to Chapultepec Castle, perched atop



Take a Walking Food Tour in Coyoacan, Mexico City

Chapultepec Hill in the middle of the city's largest park. This historic site offers stunning views and a fascinating glimpse into Mexico's past. After your visit, enjoy a sophisticated lunch at Barro Negro, known for its contemporary Mexican cuisine.

## Zona Rosa: LGBTQ Hub and Nightlife Capital

Cap off your itinerary in the Zona Rosa, Mexico City's LGBTQ hub and nightlife district. Known for its vibrant gay community, eclectic shopping, and lively nightlife, Zona Rosa is a welcoming space where everyone can feel at home. Part of the larger Colonia Juárez neighborhood, Zona Rosa is also known for its diverse cultural scene, including a recently established Korean community, adding even more diversity to this dynamic area.

For a luxurious stay that keeps you close to the action, book a room at W Mexico City. This stylish hotel is not only pet-friendly, but also hosts fabulous drag shows on Fridays and Saturdays.

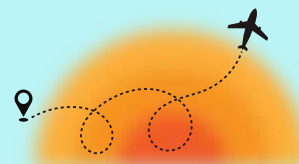


Book a room at W Mexico City









# Getting SMART in Marin

**H**op on the sleek Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) system, Marin County's coolest way to zip around in style. With plush reclining seats, snack bars slinging wine and craft beer, and a vibe that screams "Marin chic," this isn't your average public transit. Plus, you can ditch the traffic and let someone else do the driving while you explore Marin's hidden gems.

Using your trusty Clipper Card, you can seamlessly connect from San Francisco via Golden Gate Transit. And hey, bring your bike—SMART's got a bike-friendly policy and a parallel path for pedaling adventures. Ready to roll? Here's the lowdown on Marin's must-see SMART stops.

## Larkspur

Kick off your journey at the new Larkspur station, where the Marin Country Mart Farmers Market (Saturdays, 9 AM–2 PM) is the place to be. With over 25 local vendors, kid-friendly activities, and a chill vibe, it's a weekend must. Staying overnight? The nearby Courtyard by Marriott pairs perfectly with the Mart's health and spa offerings.

## Downtown San Rafael

Next stop: San Rafael's walkable downtown, a hub of charm and culture. Check out Art Works Downtown for the 2nd Friday Art Walk (5–8 PM), or catch indie flicks at the art deco Smith Rafael Film Center. Foodies, don't miss Il Davide, a legendary Tuscan spot serving up farm-to-table perfection.

## Marin Civic Center

Architecture buffs, rejoice! This stop is



Beautiful Larkspur. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Lamarre



Marin Farmer's Market

home to the Marin County Civic Center, Frank Lloyd Wright's final masterpiece. Snap pics from Lagoon Park, where fountains and wildlife create a serene backdrop. Thursdays and Sundays? Check out the Marin Civic Center Farmers Market, California's third-largest, for fresh bites and local vibes.

## Downtown Novato

Wrap up your trip in Novato, where the SMART station puts you steps from Whole Foods and the quaint Grant Avenue. Sip wine at Trek Winery, shop unique boutiques, or hit up Vintage Oaks Shopping Center for outlet deals. Cap the night with craft beer and wood-fired pizza at Hopmonk Tavern, where live music keeps the energy high. Overnight? Perry's next to the Best Western Plus Novato Oaks Inn has you covered.

## Pro Tip

Check SMART's fare and schedule online to plan your trip like a pro. With its trendy vibe and unbeatable convenience, Marin County is the ultimate staycation or weekend getaway spot.

For more Marin inspiration, visit the [Marin Convention and Visitors Bureau website](#) or Facebook page. All aboard—SMART is taking you places!

# Collidoscope

DE LA TORRE BROTHERS | RETRO-PERSPECTIVE

Cultural Collisions,  
Irreverent Masterpieces

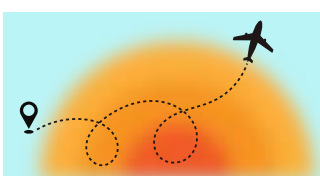
THROUGH MAY 4, 2025

**CROCKER**  
art museum



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.





# Greece: A Diverse and Inclusive Travel Destination!

Greece has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, solidifying its position as a leading destination for LGBTQ+ travelers. Recent advancements like the legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption rights, coupled with a strong performance on the 2024 ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map (ranking 6th with a score of 71%), show Greece's true commitment to equality and a welcoming atmosphere for all.

"Greece has long been celebrated for its rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking natural beauty. Today, we are equally proud to stand as a symbol of inclusivity, safety, and diversity in the global travel landscape," said Yannis Plexousakis (he/him), Deputy Director of the Greek National Tourism Organization in North America. "Our commitment to LGBTQ+ travelers reflects our belief that everyone deserves to experience the magic of Greece, embraced by our warm hospitality and open-hearted communities."

Greece is a top-tier destination for LGBTQ+ travelers, offering a unique blend of ancient history, vibrant city life, and idyllic island escapes. With progressive strides in LGBTQ+ rights and an increasing number of inclusive spaces, Greece is an open-armed haven for all visitors.

## Key LGBTQ+ Destinations in Greece



Welcome to glitzy Glyfada, just outside downtown Athens, the unofficial capital of the Athens Riviera. Photo by Manos Chatzikonstantis

### Athens

The Greek capital is a dynamic mix of historical grandeur and modern vibrancy. By day, explore the Acropolis and the Parthenon, and by night, dive into the LGBTQ+ nightlife centered around the Gazi district. Popular LGBTQ+ bars and clubs include Sodade2 and Big Bar, known for their welcoming atmosphere and lively events.

### Thessaloniki

Greece's second-largest city boasts a rich cultural heritage and a thriving LGBTQ+ community. Thessaloniki Pride, one of the biggest in the Balkans, draws visitors from across Europe. The city also offers an eclectic mix of historical landmarks, trendy cafés, and a relaxed seaside promenade.

### Crete

Greece's largest island is famous for its breathtaking landscapes, charming villages, and warm hospitality. While Crete's LGBTQ+ scene is more low-key, cities like Heraklion and Chania have a growing number of inclusive bars, cafés, and events.

### Paros

This Cycladic island is a hidden gem known for its pristine beaches, traditional Greek charm, and LGBTQ+-friendly atmosphere. The relaxed vibe makes it a great spot for travelers looking to unwind in a welcoming environment.

### Lesvos

Renowned as the birthplace of the ancient poet Sappho, Lesvos has long been a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride, particularly among lesbian travelers. The town of Eressos

hosts the annual International Eressos Women's Festival, celebrating women's culture and LGBTQ+ inclusivity.



One of Paros' many windmills. Photo by Fred Palmer

## LGBTQ+ Events and Pride Festivals

Athens Pride (June) – A massive celebration featuring a vibrant parade, live performances, and cultural events.

Thessaloniki Pride (June/July) – One of the Balkans' largest pride festivals, attracting thousands of visitors.

International Eressos Women's Festival (September) – A two-week festival on Lesvos, dedicated to LGBTQ+ women with workshops, music, and social events.

Mykonos Xlsior Festival (August) – A world-renowned LGBTQ+ beach festival attracting partygoers from across the globe.



W Costa Navarino is located on Ionian Sea in Navarino Bay. Photo courtesy of Marriott

## LGBTQ+-Friendly Accommodations

Greece offers a range of LGBTQ+-friendly hotels and resorts. Notably, W Costa Navarino is the world's first IGLTA Accredited™ hotel, highlighting its commitment to inclusivity and safety. Other top LGBTQ+-friendly stays include:

**Elysium Hotel (Mykonos)** – A luxurious gay hotel with stunning sunset views and drag performances.

**Alexander Sauna Hotel (Athens)** – An LGBTQ+ guesthouse combined with a sauna and spa facilities.

**Geranion Village (Lesvos)** – A charming, women-run guesthouse near Eressos, catering specifically to LGBTQ+ travelers.



Geranion Village (Lesvos)

## Tips for LGBTQ+ Travelers in Greece (good things to know)

**Public Attitudes:** Greece is generally welcoming, especially in larger cities and tourist areas. However, rural areas may be more conservative.

**Legal Rights:** Same-sex relationships are legal, and Greece has made significant progress in LGBTQ+ rights, including civil partnerships and legal gender recognition.

**Nightlife:** Mykonos, Athens, and Thessaloniki are the main hubs for LGBTQ+ nightlife, featuring bars, drag shows, and clubs.

**Local Etiquette:** While Greece is progressive, public displays of affection (PDA) might attract attention in certain areas. Use discretion based on location.

Whether seeking historical wonders, vibrant nightlife, or serene island escapes, Greece welcomes LGBTQ+ travelers with open arms. With a mix of progressive rights, friendly locales, and dedicated LGBTQ+ events, it remains one of Europe's premier destinations for inclusivity and unforgettable experiences.

[www.thisisathens.org](http://www.thisisathens.org)





# The Great Gene Hackman Plus, Liza & Bong Joon Ho

by Chris Narloch

The passing of one of my favorite actors of all time was followed by the return to the big screen of one of my favorite living directors. Read on for those details, plus two tantalizing titles coming soon to Sacramento's Tower Theatre



Seeing double: Robert Pattinson and Robert Pattinson in Bong Joon-ho's 'Mickey 17'

## Mickey 17

The great South Korean director Bong Joon Ho ("Parasite") returns with another wild, dark satire, this time using the sci-fi genre to tell his tale. Even wackier than "Parasite," "Mickey 17" stars Robert Pattinson in a challenging dual role as the title character and his clone (or "reprint"), Mickey 18. Although the film goes on a tad too long, it has a great deal to recommend it: critters named "creepers" that look like something out of a "Star Wars" movie, crazy cartoon villains played with gusto by Mark Ruffalo and Toni Collette, award-caliber work by the always-reliable Robert Pattinson, and the unstoppable imagination of Bong Joon Ho. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Gene Hackman played the blind man in Mel Brooks' classic comedy, "Young Frankenstein."

## R.I.P. Gene Hackman

No, this isn't the name of a new movie but rather a tribute to one of my favorite actors, the incredibly talented and versatile Gene Hackman, who died recently at the ripe old age of 95. The sad circumstances of his death cannot dim the greatness of his career, which spanned over four decades and earned him two Oscars. Hackman was good in almost everything: playing a tough guy action hero in "The French Connection" films, a bad guy in Clint Eastwood's classic Western "Unforgiven," the comic villain Lex Luthor in three "Superman" movies, plus brilliant dramatic performances in "The Conversation," "Bonnie & Clyde," and many more. Do yourself a favor and have a Gene Hackman film festival, invite some friends over, but don't forget to include his hilarious work in "Young Frankenstein" and "The Royal Tenenbaums."



"There's Still Tomorrow"

## There's Still Tomorrow

This period drama set in postwar 1940s Italy, follows a working-class family with three children still at home, and it stars a superb Italian actress named Paola Cortellesi, who also cowrote and coproduced the film, which falls just short of being a masterpiece. The mother is a long-suffering, battered wife whose ignorant cretin of a husband uses her as a punching bag. She puts up with his abuse to save her children from the same fate, until a mysterious letter arrives, the contents of which are not revealed until the end of the movie. On the plus side, the black-and-white, 40s and 50s-style, neorealist cinematography is stunning and worth the price of admission all by itself, as is Cortellesi's heartrending performance as the trapped wife and mother. My only quibble with the film is the odd decision to set several of the scenes of abuse to music and add choreographed movement as in a musical. That device mars but does not wreck an otherwise powerful foreign film.



"Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story"

## Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story

At this point, Liza Minnelli, who is 78 and earned her EGOT status more than thirty years ago, has nothing to prove to anyone. She is a survivor who is long overdue for a comprehensive, authorized documentary about her remarkable life and career, and this is it. The triple-threat talent no longer dances or acts or sings professionally, but she can still carry a tune, and she breaks into song spontaneously several times during her interviews for the movie. Although visibly shaky, Minnelli looks better here than she did three years ago at the Oscars. I would have preferred longer, past performance clips and fewer talking head testimonials from her friends and costars, but this full-length doc will no doubt be catnip for diehard Liza-lovers.

Note: Both "There's Still Tomorrow" and the Liza Minnelli documentary are scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on March 14.





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## Cynthia Erivo to Perform at WorldPride 2025

Cynthia Erivo, the acclaimed actress and singer known for her roles in “The Color Purple” and the Oscar winning “Wicked” film adaptation, is set to headline the WorldPride 2025 Street Festival and Concert in Washington, D.C. Her performance is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025, on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 9th and 3rd Streets, following the LGBTQIA+ pride parade.

Erivo, who publicly embraced her queer identity in 2022, has been an active advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. She was honored at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s annual Center Gala in 2024 for her contributions to the community.

The WorldPride 2025 Street Festival and Concert is a free two-day street festival, taking place on June 7 and 8, celebrating unity and resilience within the LGBTQ+ community. The event will feature a diverse lineup of local and national artists, with more performers to be announced in the coming months.

In addition to Erivo’s performance, Jennifer Lopez is also slated to headline a separate event during WorldPride 2025, offering attendees a variety of entertainment options throughout the celebration.

For more information and updates on the event schedule, visit the official [WorldPride 2025 website](https://www.worldpride2025.com).



Cynthia Erivo - Photo by Don Arnold





## Hugh Bonneville Stars in “Uncle Vanya”

by Chris Narloch

You have until this March 23rd to see Mr. Hugh Bonneville, from “Downton Abbey,” play one of the theater’s most iconic roles, that of Uncle Vanya.



Castmembers from Berkeley Rep's production of “Uncle Vanya”  
Photo by Kevin Berne

That’s right, the man who became a household name portraying Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham, in that blockbuster British series, has returned to the stage and is currently tackling Chekhov over in Berkeley.

Anton Chekhov’s famous play, first published in 1897, concerns the visit of an elderly professor and his much younger, second wife to the rural estate that supports their urban lifestyle. There is enough unrequited love in the play to go around, and matters come to a crisis after the professor announces his intention to sell the estate.

Vanya, the brother of the professor’s late, first wife, goes into a tailspin at the news and considers suicide since he has helped to keep the estate going and feels betrayed and hopeless. It doesn’t help matters that Vanya falls hard for the professor’s new wife, which only adds to his sense of futility.

The play is a high-class Russian soap opera, and the beautifully written role of Uncle Vanya is a juicy one for any actor -- and a perfect fit for Bonneville, who convincingly displays an emotional range only hinted at on “Downton Abbey.” He is ably supported by another talented star of stage and screen, John Benjamin Hickey, and the rest of a very fine cast.

Even with gas prices through the roof, you won’t be sorry you drove over to Berkeley to see this terrific production of one of Chekhov’s greatest plays. For more information, visit: [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)

## “Footloose” Kicks Off Music Circus 2025

In case you haven’t heard, Sacramento’s Broadway at Music Circus has extended its season beyond summer, adding two more shows, and starting this month.



The 2025 season will now include a total of eight shows, and individual ticket prices will be lowered across the board. Additionally, season ticket buyers will be able to choose six, seven or all eight shows to qualify for an additional 25% discount.

First up this year is the toe-tapping, audience favorite “Footloose – The Musical,” with dynamic new songs augmenting the powerhouse hits from the original movie’s soundtrack, including “Holding Out for a Hero” and two Oscar-nominated songs (the iconic title track and “Let’s Hear It for the Boy”).

“Footloose” celebrates the exhilaration of youth, the wisdom of listening to one another, and the power of forgiveness. This not to be missed musical dances on to the Music Circus stage, inside the UC Davis Health Pavilion, March 21–27.

Please visit: [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)  
[outwordmagazine.com](http://outwordmagazine.com)

## “With Love, Meghan.” OMG by Ron Tackitt

I like watching cooking and home makeover shows. They are mindless fun, short and sweet and maybe I will see something I would like to repeat from a show or two. However, “With Love, Meghan” is not a show that I care to glean any ideas from.



Just a casual little en-sem for a grueling day making delights in the kitchen.  
Photo courtesy of Netflix.

You don’t have to watch many of the episodes to see just how tone-deaf this woman is to the everyday lives of regular Americans. The set is a house in Montecito, CA, just outside of Santa Barbara, that is not hers, hers is much larger... There are bee hives and huge vegetable gardens just outside, near the pool, all with a stunning view of the mountains in the distance.

The second episode is, in my opinion the worst. She has a guest and they faux prepare for a kids party by coming up with things that they should do, if they were to have an actual kids party. From a ridiculous fruit platter, to take home gift bags with seeds, miniature garden tools and other items the kids will just love, and can use to plant a lovely vegetable garden of their very own. The worst part was when Meghan corrected her co-host because she used Meghan’s “former” last name. Something like: “... you keep saying Markle, I’m now a Sussex.” She was serious, and her guest was mortified.

Maybe this is the kind of show someone might call “Great TV”? Streaming now on Netflix.

WE WANT YOU BACK

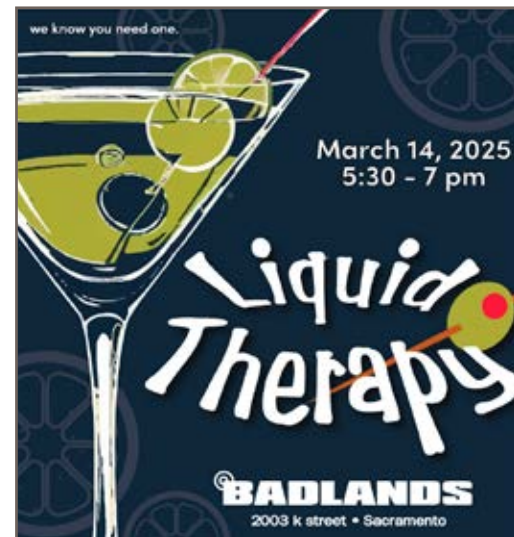
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## Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As spring approaches, it brings more than just blooming flowers and warmer days—it carries a sense of renewal and the possibility for rejuvenated hope. After months of gray skies we are reminded that brighter days always follow the dark times. And right now, hope is exactly what we need. It's in the way we gather and uplift one another. Whether through music, art, or supporting community, this season is a reminder that hope is still within us.

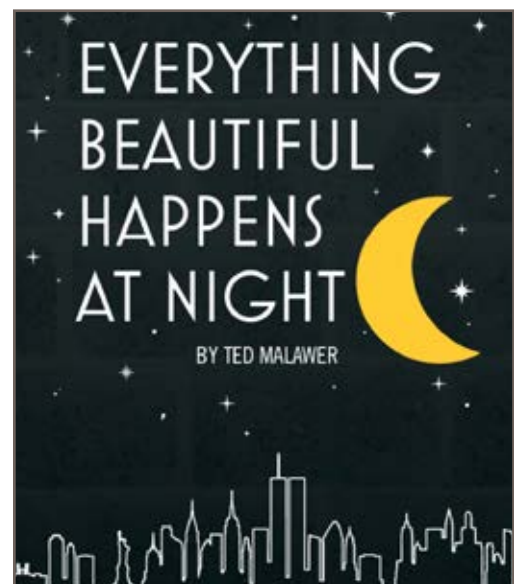


## March 14

Join us on March 14 at Outword's monthly happy hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. for a dose of Liquid Therapy! Enjoy the music and fun from 5:30-7 p.m., with chances to win prizes and enjoy drink specials.

## March 17

Join the celebration of Sacramento County's first Age & Disability-Friendly Action Plan on Monday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sacramento State Union Ballroom, 6000 Jed Smith Drive, Sacramento. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Help create a more inclusive, accessible community for all ages and abilities! Saccounty.gov



## March 19

Capital Stage kicks off the world premiere of Everything Beautiful Happens at Night by Ted Malawer, running March 19-April 20 at 2215 J St. Directed by Connor Mickiewicz, this bold new play follows a queer children's author who defies his editor with unexpected consequences. Don't miss this gripping production! Capstage.org

## March 20

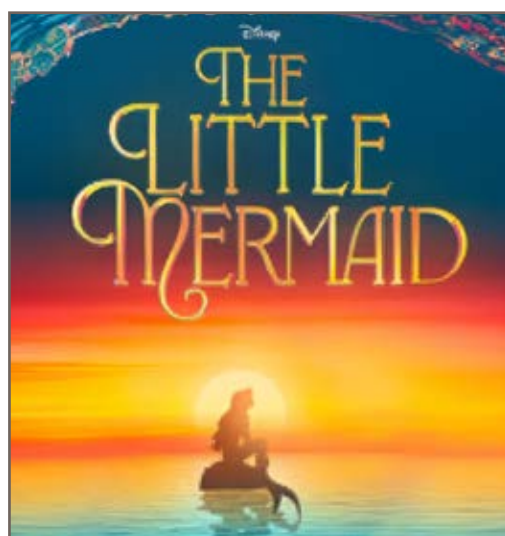
Observed annually on March 20, National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NNHAAD) raises awareness about HIV/AIDS in Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. The day promotes testing, education, and treatment while fostering inclusivity in ending the epidemic. Join the movement to celebrate life and support prevention efforts in Native communities.



## March 21

Country music icon Reba McEntire takes the stage at Thunder Valley Casino Resort, 1200 Athens Ave. in Lincoln, on Friday, March 21, at 8 p.m. With 24 No. 1 hits and over 75 million records sold, Reba's legendary career spans four decades. Don't miss this powerhouse performance! Must be 21+ to attend. Thundervalleyresort.com

Dive into a timeless tale as Disney's The Little Mermaid enchants audiences at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom, from March 21-30. With unforgettable songs like Under the Sea and Part of Your World, this beloved musical brings Ariel's journey to life. Don't miss this magical adventure! Harriscenter.net



## March 22

NorCal Resist presents an evening of entertainment at the Raza y Rolas Art Fight Fundraiser on Saturday, March 22 at the Latino Center for Arts and Culture, 2700 Front St.. Watch artists compete, bid on their creations, and enjoy live music, food, raffles, and more. Doors open at noon! Don't miss it! Nocalresist.org



## March 23

Get ready for a night of fierce and funny entertainment as LoLGBT+ presents Queens of Comedy on Sunday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at Punch Line Sacramento, 2100 Arden Way. Founded by drag queen and comedian Suzette Veneti, this show blends stand-up and drag for an unforgettable evening of laughter and community. PunchLineSac.com



## March 25

Jim Henson's Labyrinth: In Concert comes to the Crest Theatre in Sacramento on Tuesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Fans of all ages can watch the iconic 1986 film while a live band performs the movie's soundtrack in sync with David Bowie's original vocals. Don't miss this unique event at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Crestsacramento.com



## March 26

Queer and trans writers of all genres and experience levels are invited to the Queer Writers Salon on Wednesday, March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lavender Library, 1414 21st St., Sacramento. This monthly meetup offers a dedicated space to write in community. Just drop in, we'd love to have you! Lavenderlibrary.com



## June 20

Celebrate love, pride, and self-expression with the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus in Everybody Say Love at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave. Experience an electrifying mix of iconic drag-inspired hits and timeless anthems on June 20-22. Evening shows at 7 p.m., matinees at 3 p.m. Get your tickets early! Sacgaymenschorus.com

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



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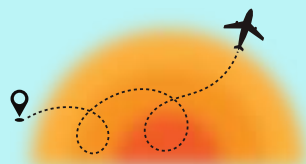
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# Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Unveils the “Lucky Bunny Suite”

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino has unveiled its latest luxurious accommodation, the Lucky Bunny Suite, a lavish yet playfully seductive retreat designed in collaboration with Playboy Playmate, actress, model, and Las Vegas Raider’s sommelier, Sandi Taylor. This new addition enhances Westgate’s extensive collection of extraordinary suites, from fantasy-themed accommodations to the opulent Sky Villas—renowned as some of the world’s most extravagant hotel stays.

Tailored for those who seek glamour, indulgence, and an air of intrigue, the 1,611-square-foot, one-bedroom Lucky Bunny Suite, complete with a private 235-square-foot balcony, epitomizes luxury and sensuality—fitting only for the dazzling spectacle of Las Vegas.

Featuring an oversized freestanding bathtub in the bedroom that offers breathtaking views of the Las Vegas Strip and The Sphere, the suite seamlessly blends sophistication with playful allure. A standout element is the wall adorned with vintage Playboy magazine covers, handpicked by Sandi Taylor herself, serving as a tribute to timeless beauty and her personal journey. Dripping in blush pink hues, plush textures, and an irresistibly sultry ambiance, the suite is designed to be both elegant and flirtatious, making it the ultimate getaway for guests looking to unwind and embrace their daring side.

**Unique highlights of the suite include:**

- A curated collection of vintage Playboy magazine covers celebrating iconic beauty.
- Exclusive, mature-themed portraits of Sandi Taylor, adding a personal and artistic flair.
- Shelves lined with wine bottles filled with pink sand, symbolizing Sandi’s expertise as a sommelier.
- A lavish dining room designed for intimate and private dinners.
- A luxurious bar area, perfect for late-night toasts and unforgettable moments.

“For me, the Lucky Bunny Suite is more than just a luxurious escape—it’s a mood, a moment, and a celebration of confidence and playfulness,” said Sandi Taylor. “I wanted to create a space where guests feel sexy, empowered, and completely at ease. Whether it’s toasting to an exciting night, soaking in a bubble bath with a view, or simply embracing the suite’s flirty energy, every detail is meant to surprise and delight.”



Cami Christensen, President and General Manager of Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, shared her excitement: “The Lucky Bunny Suite is a perfect example of what makes Westgate Las Vegas special. Las Vegas is built on fantasy and indulgence, and this suite delivers just that—a fun,

glamorous, and totally unique stay experience. We are thrilled to collaborate with Sandi Taylor to bring this vision to life and can’t wait to welcome guests into this one-of-a-kind escape.”  
Click here for the [Westgate’s website](#).

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## Maks Chmerkovskiy Brings Tetya KAPA Vodka to Goose & Gander for an Exclusive Tasting Event

World-renowned Dancing with the Stars pro and former Traitors star Maks Chmerkovskiy is heading back to Northern California with his premium vodka line, Tetya KAPA. On Thursday, March 13, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., Maks will host a special event at Goose & Gander, offering guests the chance to taste the vodka, meet him in person, and even take home a signed bottle. Don’t miss this one-of-a-kind experience!

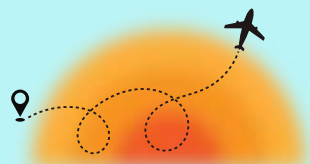
Tetya KAPA is a handcrafted, world-class vodka born from the friendship of Maks Chmerkovskiy, Napa Valley Distillery Founder Arthur Hartunian, and vintner Ian Devereux White. Their shared roots, values, and passion for quality spirits inspired the creation of this unique boutique vodka.

Distilled with Sauvignon Blanc grapes and ancient grains, Tetya KAPA delivers a clean, crisp taste with a smooth, velvety mouthfeel. Subtle hints of fruit, floral notes, and a touch of spice make it perfect for sipping neat or crafting the ultimate Martini.

Maks first connected with the Tetya KAPA team during his SAVOR After Hours residency in Napa in 2023. Now, he’s bringing that same energy back—this time, with a vodka worth dancing for.  
<https://goosegander.com>







## The Sandman Hotel in Santa Rosa is Historic

The Sandman Hotel in Santa Rosa, California, has officially joined Choice Hotels International's Ascend Hotel Collection, marking a significant milestone for this beloved Sonoma Wine Country retreat. This transition aligns the Sandman with an upscale global brand that celebrates boutique, independent hotels with unique character and strong local ties.

Originally opened in the early 1970s as a Mission-style motel, the Sandman has long been a welcoming haven for travelers. Over the years, it has evolved into a cherished hospitality destination, blending its rich history with modern comforts. The hotel's resilience has been tested by major challenges, including the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which temporarily forced its closure, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically impacted occupancy rates. Despite these hardships, the Sandman remained a pillar of the community, reopening quickly after the fire to house displaced residents and later offering a retreat for locals through its Summer Night event series.

A major multi-million dollar renovation in 2023 has further enhanced the hotel's appeal, preserving its charm while introducing fresh, modern touches. The updated interiors feature a soft, cheerful color palette, Scandinavian-inspired design elements, and artistic accents that reflect Sonoma County's landscapes. New amenities include remodeled guest rooms with spacious walk-in showers and kitchenettes, an

upgraded fitness center with Peloton equipment, and a Wellness Dome for yoga and self-reflection. The pool house and bar have been revitalized, now offering local wines, craft beers, and specialty cocktails. Additionally, artist Ty Williams has contributed murals that add a dreamlike, artistic touch to the property.

Guests can also enjoy a lush backyard oasis complete with bocce ball, Adirondack chairs, and fire tables, creating an inviting atmosphere for social gatherings or peaceful evenings under the stars.

By joining the Ascend Hotel Collection, the Sandman Hotel solidifies its legacy as a locally inspired, world-class destination, blending nostalgia with innovation to offer an unforgettable stay.



sandmansantarosa.com

## Sky River Casino Celebrates One-Year Anniversary Of "The Humidor" Bourbon & Cigar Lounge

Sky River Casino is excited to celebrate the one-year anniversary of The Humidor bourbon and cigar lounge that officially opened on February 20, 2024. Sky River was the first – and remains the only – casino in the Sacramento region to offer a dedicated bourbon and cigar lounge.

"Just one year since opening, The Humidor has exceeded any and all expectations by becoming a stand-alone destination for cigar and bourbon enthusiasts from near and far," said Sky River Casino President Michael J. Facenda. "When guests step into The Humidor, they immediately feel welcomed and relaxed in the luxurious environment we've created here at Sky River. We take great pride in our varied offerings that include lively gaming, culinary options, and special environments so guests can play and also savor new experiences."

With a welcoming décor highlighted by an impressive walk-in humidor, bourbon and whiskey lovers can enjoy more an ever-expanding collection of rare and specialty spirits and popular brands ranging from Macallan, Pappy Van Winkle Family, and WhistlePig, just to name a few. For cigar lovers, all of the finest brands, such as Davidoff Anniversario No. 2, Montecristo Platinum Series and E.P. Carillo Pledge are also offered at The Humidor.

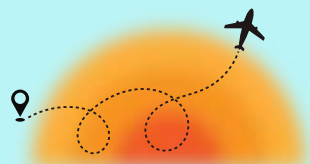
The Humidor recently debuted temperature controlled private lockers, a few of which are still available for rental. In addition to the amazing experience available every day, The Humidor hosts tasting events, roll demos and special member events.

Sky River Casino is home to a total of 18 elevated bars, restaurants, and lounge destinations that also include SR Prime Steakhouse, 32 Brews Street, Dragon Beaux, River Bar, Rock Bar, and many other delicious options in The Market, such as Fukuro by Kru.

Hours of operation and more information about Sky River Casino, please visit: [www.SkyRiver.com](http://www.SkyRiver.com).







# Gay Solo Travel Is Your Key To Amazing Self-Discovery

resource and photo:  
Brian Webb - HomoCulture.com

Brian Webb explores how solo travel, particularly for gay travelers, is a unique and transformative experience that fosters personal growth, independence, and cultural appreciation. Traveling alone removes restrictions, allowing individuals to fully immerse themselves in new experiences, meet diverse people, and embrace their true selves.

**Key Themes:**

**Confidence & Independence:** Overcoming challenges like language barriers and navigating new cities builds self-reliance and a sense of empowerment.

**Cultural Immersion:** Solo travelers engage more deeply with locals, fostering genuine connections and appreciation for different traditions.

**Emotional Growth:** Time alone encourages introspection, clarity, and personal development, helping travelers reassess their goals and emotions.

**New Social Connections:** Being alone often leads to spontaneous friendships, enriching the travel experience.

**Self-Care & Creativity:** The flexibility of solo travel allows for mindfulness, healthy routines, and bursts of inspiration, whether through art, writing, or self-discovery.

Ultimately, gay solo travel is not just about seeing new places—it's about embracing freedom, growth, and transformation in ways that shape one's future.

For a more in-depth look, check out [Brian's website](#).



photo courtesy of AutoCamp.com

## AutoCamp. Glamping At Its Finest

AutoCamp carries forward the legacy of Wally Byam, the visionary behind Airstream, who redefined outdoor exploration in the 1930s by merging adventure with comfort. As Airstream's exclusive hospitality partner, AutoCamp debuted in 2013 in Santa Barbara, CA, with a mission to offer immersive nature experiences without compromising on design or service.

Today, AutoCamp boasts nine stunning locations across the U.S., each blending boutique hotel luxury with the great outdoors. Guests can enjoy the magic of Yosemite's waterfalls, the towering granite cliffs, or unwind beneath the redwoods at Russian River. From the vast desert landscapes of Joshua Tree to the ancient giants of Sequoia, each AutoCamp destination

is uniquely designed to connect travelers with nature.

Expanding beyond Airstream stays, AutoCamp introduced Field Station, a hotel and van life basecamp catering to modern explorers. With this expansion, AutoCamp has welcomed thousands of guests and earned widespread media acclaim for its innovative approach to outdoor hospitality. AutoCamp.com

**AutoCamp California Locations:**

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- Sequoia, CA - Where giants stand tall and nature inspires.
- Russian River, CA - Where wine country meets the redwoods.
- Yosemite, CA - Where waterfalls roar and granite cliffs tower.





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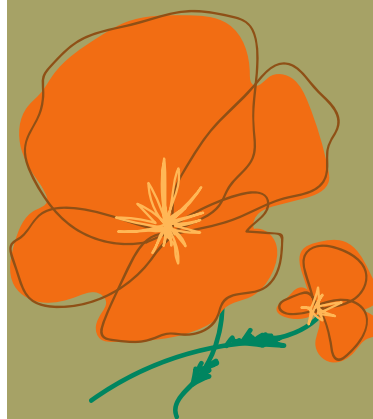
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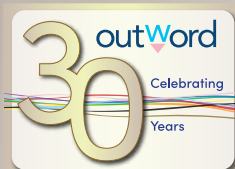
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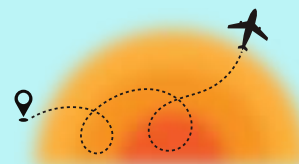


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serene setting. Guests can explore the underwater wonders of Yelapa with complimentary mask and snorkel gear—just bring your own fins if needed. The Penthouse Suite offers an exclusive Zen Soaking Pool, perfect for unwinding while taking in the panoramic jungle and ocean views.

Our interiors blend Balinese bamboo furniture with rich Indonesian and Mexican décor, creating a unique ambiance that reflects the spirit of Yelapa. Luxurious four-post beds, dressed in Egyptian cotton linens, custom batik duvets, and Moroccan mosquito netting, promise restful nights. Each suite boasts a spacious 35-foot balcony, inviting you to relax and take in the stunning vistas of Banderas Bay. Tropical ceiling fans ensure a cool and comfortable atmosphere

throughout your stay.

For your convenience, we offer self-service concierge services, along with limited wireless internet access. Enjoy daily maid service five days a week, keeping your suite fresh and inviting. For those seeking adventure, horseback riding and deep-sea fishing can be arranged for an additional fee, offering exciting ways to explore the natural beauty of Yelapa. Pamper yourself with indulgent spa services, available for an extra charge, and enjoy peace of mind with in-room safes provided at no additional cost.

Located in the quietest area of Yelapa on The Point, Casa Pericos is just a five-minute walk from the village restaurants and lively local dance clubs. If you're in the mood to explore further, a scenic 20-minute walk

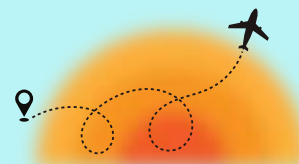
takes you to the main beach or the nearest waterfall, where you can fully embrace Yelapa's natural beauty.

Once you've settled in, indulge in a refreshing rinse in our private outdoor shower pavilion or unwind with a margarita on your private balcony, taking in the breathtaking ocean views. Whether you're seeking relaxation, adventure, or a little of both, Casa Pericos offers an unforgettable escape.

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## Capture the Spirit of Joshua Tree with Bold Modern Design



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## It's the Gulf of Mexico, Period

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Channel the adventurous and creative essence of Joshua Tree with this striking modern design. Featuring the park's iconic trees and desert landscapes in bold, artistic lines, this piece is a tribute to nature's beauty and the free-spirited vibe of the desert. Crafted for comfort, our premium shirt is made from ultra-soft, ethically sourced cotton blends. Designed to be true-to-size and pre-shrunk, it ensures a perfect fit that lasts. For best care, wash inside out. Proudly printed, packaged, and shipped in the USA, this shirt lets you wear the Joshua Tree spirit wherever you go.

Show the world that the Gulf of Mexico has been and always will be just that. Not named something else... Made of washed cotton, one size fits all. This is also available in a rainbow of colors. This will be perfect this summer, down by the beach.



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# Mememes from Facebook

**Ro Khanna** @RoKhanna

When someone says that Medicare for all costs \$32 trillion, we should mention how our current system costs \$49 trillion.

Medicare for All would take the excessive costs of insurance, hospital facility fees, and prescription drugs out of the equation.



**Stephen Colbert Explains Why It's 'Hard To Feel Sympathy' For Trump Voters Right Now**

"Kinda hard to feel a lot of sympathy for them," Colbert said. "They ordered the turd soup, and then said, 'waiter, there's turds in my soup.' Then they came back four years later and asked, 'y'all still have that turd soup?'"

**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump

To the Great Farmers of the United States: Get ready to start making a lot of agricultural product to be sold INSIDE of the United States. Tariffs will go on external product on April 2nd. Have fun!

**Remember when he needed a \$28 billion bailout for farmers after his last tariff stunt? This is like setting your house on fire and telling the firefighters, "Good luck!"** BTC

Anonymous

**Give A Shit About Nature** @giveashitnature

I don't care how many flag decals you have. Patriotism to me is loving your country enough to educate children, care for the poor, restore the environment, and right our wrongs.

US taxpayers have given \$40 billion in total to Elon Musk's companies and he hasn't said 'Thank you' once

**Middle Age Riot** @middleageriot

If only there'd been some indication that Clarence Thomas was unworthy of the Supreme Court.

**Another idiotic Trump lie DEBUNKED:**

Trump claimed the Biden administration spent \$8 million "making mice transgender." The White House tried to back up this number with records of funding for research into cancer, asthma, and HIV, some of which used \*transgenic\* (genetically modified) mice.

**Trump Decried Millions Spent 'Making Mice Transgender.' It Was Cancer and Asthma Research**

President Trump falsely claimed that Biden spent \$8 million on 'making mice transgender,' but the real re...

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# Mememes from Facebook

**FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA  
MICHAEL McFAUL SAYS IT ALL:**



"I want to remind everybody that Trump and Vance have done absolutely **NOTHING** for President Zelenskyy or Ukraine.

They told him he has to

**GIVE UP** his territory to Russia.

They told him he **CAN'T** join NATO.

They have **NOT** given new assistance.

**SO WHY IN GOD'S NAME SHOULD THEY BE SEEKING A THANK YOU FROM HIM?!"**



**TRUMP TAKES SEIZED BOXES  
BACK TO FLORIDA ON AIR  
FORCE ONE**

CNN

Don't confuse my personality with my attitude. My personality is who I am, my attitude depends on who you are.

- Frank Ocean



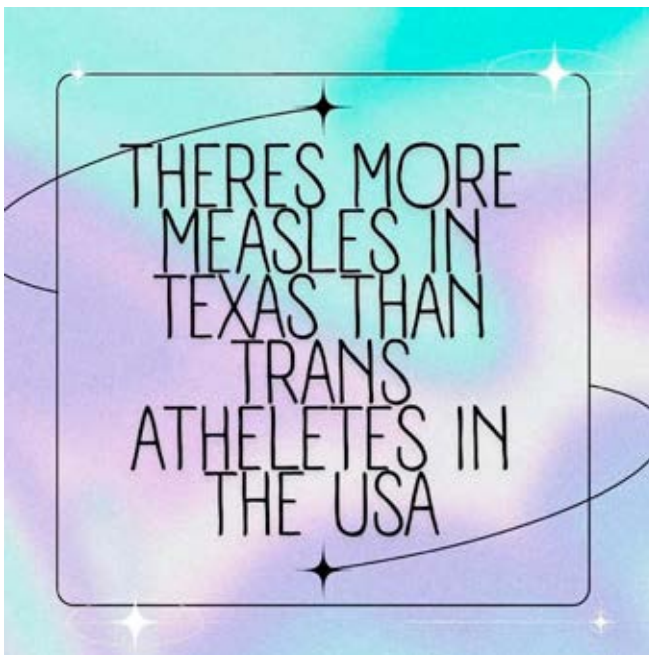
MONEYWATCH

**Americans borrowed \$74 billion last year to cover their health care costs**

Our healthcare system is an **extortion racket** where thugs hold our lives hostage for profit

BTC

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**THEY'RE GONNA CRASH THE ECONOMY AGAIN AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIX IT AGAIN AND THEN THEY'RE GONNA BLAME US FOR NOT FIXING IT FAST ENOUGH AGAIN AND I JUST WANT THIS DOOM LOOP TO END**

@TREEASTON

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**Pete Hegseth Banned Images of 'Enola Gay' Plane in DEI Crackdown**

DAILY BEAST

Updated Mar. 7 2025 6:26AM EST



**BREAKING: The Trump Department of Defense just flagged for DELETION an image of the Enola Gay from its website, because even the mere MENTION of the word "gay" is too DEI for their sensitive little brains. The Enola Gay was the name of the airplane that dropped a nuclear bomb on Japan in 1945, and it was named after the pilot's mom, Enola Gay.**

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**THIS IS THE DUMBEST SO-CALLED ADMINISTRATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY!**

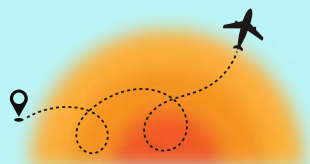
Literally no gay person has ever approached me and forced me to be gay. However, some people from the church did approach me and attempted to guilt me into joining their religion saying that I am going to hell for my "lifestyle choices." So who's really forcing their lifestyle on you?



**Tim Kruger, gay adult film star and TimTales founder, dies**

**OUT**





# Pride Journey Walla Walla: A Hidden Gem for LGBTQ Food, Wine, and Adventure Seekers

by Joey Amato

Nestled in southeastern Washington, the charming town of Walla Walla is a destination that combines rich history, award-winning wines, and an emerging culinary scene. With its picturesque vineyards, welcoming small-town atmosphere, and impressive gastronomic offerings, Walla Walla is an ideal getaway for food and wine lovers alike. During my recent visit, I had the pleasure of experiencing some of the best this town has to offer, from cozy accommodations to must-visit dining spots and vineyards. What made this adventure even more fun was that I got to experience it with fellow LGBTQ content creators Matt of Michael & Matt, Mikah Meyer and Adam Dupuis.

My journey began at The GG, an elegant bed and breakfast in the heart of Walla Walla. This historic property exudes warmth and hospitality, offering a perfect blend of old-world charm and modern comforts.

The innkeeper took the time to give me a tour of the beautifully restored home, detailing its history and unique features. The decor strikes a perfect balance between classic elegance and contemporary convenience, with tastefully furnished rooms featuring plush bedding, vintage details, and modern amenities. In the evenings, guests can unwind in the cozy salons, which feature fireplaces and an impressive collection of Louis Vuitton trunks. The outdoor spaces, including a charming garden, provided a serene escape to enjoy my morning coffee before heading out to explore.

Whether you're in town for a romantic retreat, a wine-focused getaway, or simply a relaxing escape, The GG provides an unparalleled experience. Its personalized service, attention to detail, and charming ambiance make it a top choice for travelers seeking a memorable stay in Walla Walla.

Visiting in February turned out to be a delightful decision, as Walla Walla hosts its annual Restaurant Month, an event that showcases the best of local cuisine. Participating restaurants offer prix fixe menus highlighting seasonal ingredients, creative dishes, and the region's renowned wines. This is an excellent opportunity for visitors to sample a variety of flavors at an affordable price.

For my first dinner in town, I made my way to Passatempo Taverna, an Italian eatery renowned for its handmade pasta and inventive cocktails. The ambiance was warm and inviting, perfect for a relaxed evening out. We ordered a variety of appetizers to share including garlic & rosemary focaccia, marinated olives, and brussels & burrata, which was my favorite of the three. For entrees we shared a few of their specialty pasta selections including rigatoni Bolognese and the gnocchi. Each was made from scratch and delicious. I wasn't expecting to have homemade pasta in Walla Walla so this was an unexpected treat.

No visit to Walla Walla is complete without indulging in a satisfying brunch at LGBTQ-owned Bacon & Eggs. This lively café serves up farm-fresh breakfast and brunch options with a focus on high-quality ingredients and bold flavors. I opted for their signature crabcake benedict, which comes with two large crabcakes made daily with celery, green and red peppers and seasoned with old bay. Other selections that looked interesting were the Huevos Rancheros and Chilaquiles. Their locally sourced coffee provided the perfect morning pick-me-up, setting the tone for a day of exploration.

To truly appreciate Walla Walla's world-class wines, I booked a tour with another LGBTQ-owned business, True North Wine Tours, a company known for crafting personalized wine experiences. The knowledgeable guide curated an itinerary featuring some of the best wineries in the region, allowing me to taste an impressive range of varietals while learning about the area's winemaking history. The convenience of having a professional guide meant I could fully immerse myself in the experience without worrying about logistics. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned wine enthusiast, True North Wine Tours offers an unforgettable way to explore Walla Walla's renowned wine country.

In between wine tastings, I stopped by Sweet Bee Honey, a delightful shop offering locally sourced honey and handcrafted products. The friendly owners were passionate about their work, and I enjoyed learning about the honey-making process and the importance of supporting local beekeepers. Of course, I had to purchase a few jars of honey to enjoy back home.

One of my favorite wine stops was Rotie Cellars, a winery specializing in Rhône-style wines. The tasting room's modern yet cozy design provided the perfect setting to enjoy their expertly crafted blends. The panoramic views from the tasting room made the experience even more memorable, providing a picturesque backdrop to an exceptional tasting session. They produce a Stonewall rosé with proceeds going to local LGBTQ organizations.

For an elevated tasting experience, Caprio Cellars delivered in every way possible. From the moment I arrived, I was greeted with warm hospitality and a curated wine and food pairing experience that highlighted the winery's commitment to excellence. The estate-grown wines were exquisite, with the Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux-style blends standing out as my personal favorites. The thoughtful food pairings enhanced the flavors of each wine, making for an indulgent afternoon of fine dining and sipping.



The GG dining room



The region is also known for its LGBTQ winemakers including August Forest and TruthTeller Winery. Our group had a chance to sample their delicious wines at a reception at The GG later that evening where we had the opportunity to speak the proprietors.

For those looking to add outdoor adventure to their Walla Walla itinerary, Bluewood is a must-visit. Located just a short drive from town, this ski resort offers some of the best powder in the Pacific Northwest. With its family-friendly atmosphere, well-groomed runs, and stunning forested scenery, Bluewood is perfect for both seasoned skiers and beginners. Hop on a snowmobile for a ride through the mountains. Our guide zoomed us through the rugged terrain at nearly 30 mph, offering breathtaking views of the surroundings along with providing an exhilarating experience. As someone who doesn't love heights or speed, the snowmobile adventure was a bit outside of my comfort zone, but sometimes you need to venture outside your comfort zone when you travel. It will provide the most memorable experiences.

Walla Walla is a destination that seamlessly blends small-town charm with world-class culinary and wine experiences. The town's dedication to quality food, wine, and hospitality makes it a hidden gem that deserves to be on every traveler's radar. Whether you're a food enthusiast, a wine lover, or simply seeking a relaxing escape, Walla Walla, Washington, is a place that will leave you eager to return. With its welcoming atmosphere, stunning landscapes, and vibrant food and wine scene, this charming town is sure to capture your heart—one sip and bite at a time.

Film lovers should consider visiting during Movie Crush, a short-film festival taking place July 11-13, while those looking to meet other LGBTQ locals should visit during Walla Walla Pride, which is typically held during the first week in June. I hope you discover the magic of this wonderful Pacific Northwest destination.

Enjoy the Journey!



# Don't Miss A Thing

Special Issue

No. 755 • October 24, 2024  
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# outWord



**THE PET ISSUE!**

**Pet Photo Contest Winners**  
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Midtown Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade  
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Pets Are the Best Activists  
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Sacramento, A Great City for Dog Parks  
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Apples, Wine, Food And Dogs Oh My  
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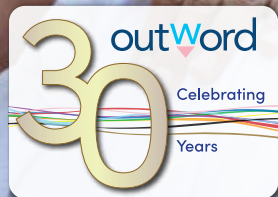
# Coming Soon

Advertising in this digital issue is a great way to maximize your marketing dollars and reach the LGBTQ+ community, including seniors. This special digital issue will be available to download during the **9th Annual 2025 Senior PRIDE LGBTQ+ Resource Fair** on May 16. If you are a sponsor or exhibitor at the fair and would like to be in this issue, call Fred for details and a special advertising rate.

**Artwork Deadline:**  
April 28, 2025

**Street Date:**  
May 8, 2025

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### Passports *continued from page 7*

been chaos and confusion about what is happening with the gender marker change policy,” Christian said. Those reaching out want to know “where people’s documents are, when they will get things back, and what rights and recourse they have.”

Currently, the ACLU has filed suit against the Trump administration for this executive order, charging that it causes undue harm toward transgender Americans and violates the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

However, while this lawsuit is ongoing, many people still do not have a clear idea of how their passport could be updated if their application remains in process, or if they have to renew their passport in the future.

Another layer complicating this situation is how, without explicit guidance on what to do with transgender Americans’ passport applications, much of the process falls to staff-level bureaucrats making judgement calls at passport offices around the country.

“The chaotic manner in which they have attempted to change this policy and the literal underlying discrimination and targeting of a specific population has empowered officials across the country to continue that discrimination,” Christian added.

This allowance has led to many anecdotal stories about damaged passports, as well as other damaged documentation being returned. Multiple people have expressed to Truthout that they are unsure they will ever receive the copies of the birth certificates or court orders they included in passport applications to ensure their documents were correctly updated. For individuals without multiple certified copies of these documents, that could open them up to a whole raft of potential problems.

Identity documents are important in daily life, and the many different avenues to update and process those documents present logistical headaches for trans people seeking to correct issues. It’s also unclear which agencies are taking hardline interpretations of the president’s executive order, and which ones are honoring updates that came under past local, state and national administrations.

Christian said there is “no clear-cut answer” on what the State Department could do in the future for trans people in the U.S. who have valid updated gender markers and need to update their passports.

Based on some anecdotes, however, the news does not appear to be positive. Actress Hunter Schafer, who is transfeminine, posted videos on her TikTok story on February 21 detailing how she had previously needed to get an emergency passport after having hers stolen in Spain last year. Now that she is back in the United States, she went to a local passport office to get a full passport based on her emergency documentation.

Despite noting her gender as “F” on the application – as it was on her previous passport and other identity documents – the State Department returned a same-day

passport to her with the gender marked as “M,” outing her as transgender to the world.

“The reality of the situation, [is] that it is actually happening,” Schafer said in her series of videos. “And I was shocked, because I don’t know, I just didn’t think it was actually going to happen.”

Organizations such as Lambda Legal have started to put out guidance for LGBTQ Americans seeking to navigate this information vacuum, even going as far as to say, “Trans people who have a valid, current U.S. passport, regardless of the gender marker, should NOT apply to renew or change their gender marker OR name at this time.”

The organization listed several resources that trans people in the U.S. can use to get legal help and protections while considering their options on how to get updated documents.

Yet, many Americans may not have the ability to wait to see how lawsuits play out or if the State Department clarifies its policies publicly or changes its guidance. People whose work requires international travel may not have the luxury of postponing opportunities for fear of losing employment or academic opportunities.

Bryce, a Ph.D. student in Washington State, told Truthout that they are deciding what to do with their current passport, as it expires in March and they have scheduled interviews for jobs located outside the United States.

“My passport expires in March and has my dead name and gender marker on it. I haven’t had funds or capacity to update it until now, but since so many folks have reported their passports being held, the renewal app with the old paperwork is just sitting on my desk,” he told Truthout.

Currently, he says that his state ID is updated, but his birth certificate is in the process of being updated. This means that any passport application could have access to pieces of documentation with conflicting gender markers on them, allowing the State Department to choose which one would go on his passport and potentially out him.

If he were to receive an offer for a job abroad, he would act on advice given by lawyers for possible next steps in his case.

“I need to have an unexpired passport regardless of whether the gender marker is correct, but I’m not going to apply for renewal without talking to a lawyer first,” he added. The risk of having documents unilaterally held during the process is also a major fear during this process.

Without other options, many people may be left holding on to hope that a court decides that the State Department cannot continue its current guidance. Even then, it may be up to individual passport offices to follow through on any potential order.

*Sydney Bauer is a transgender freelance journalist based in New Jersey. She covers sports, politics and major events through the lens of identity and gender.*

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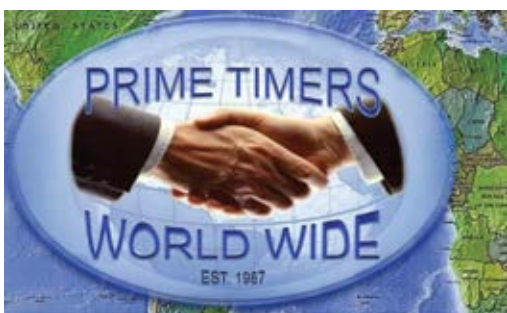
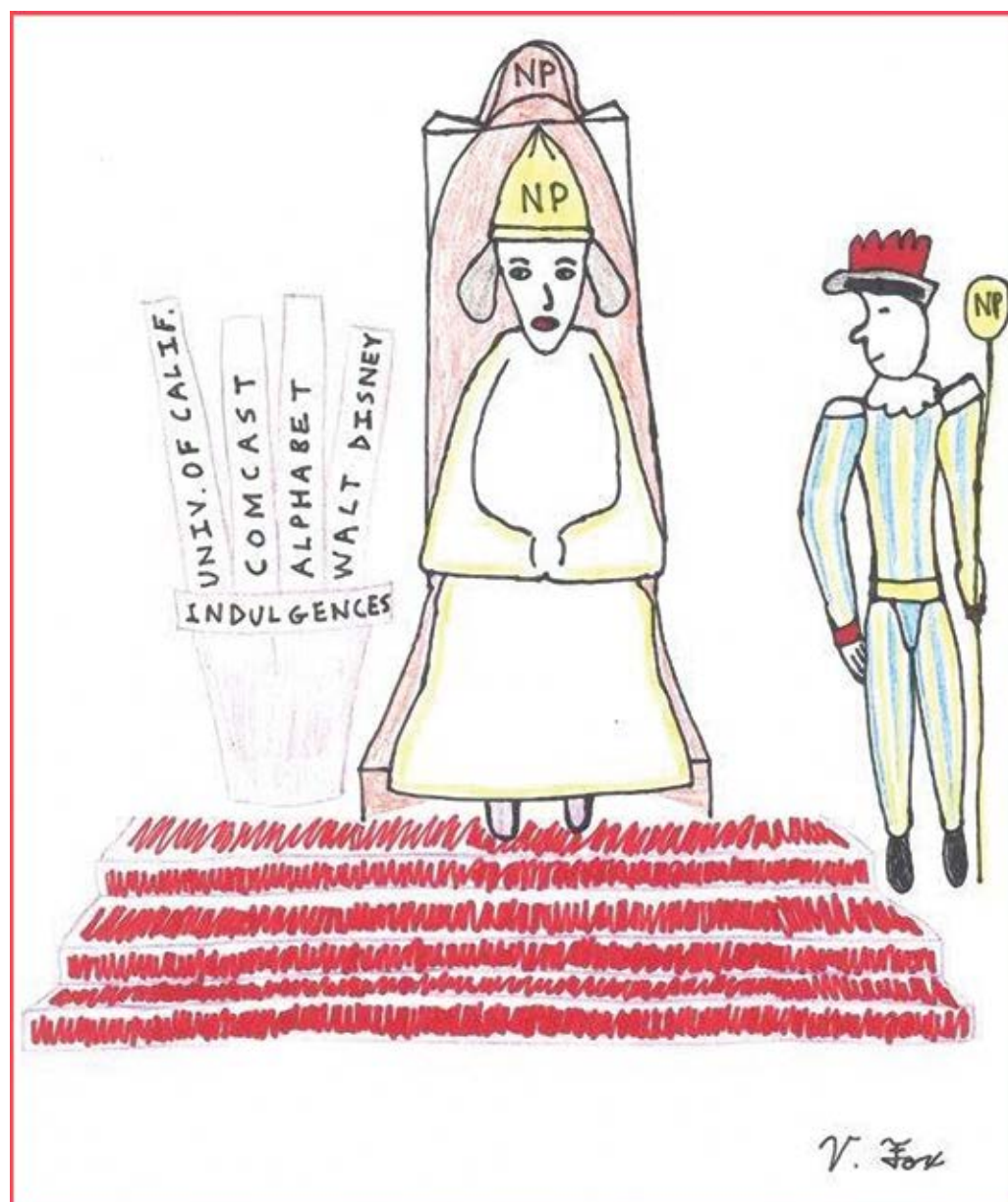
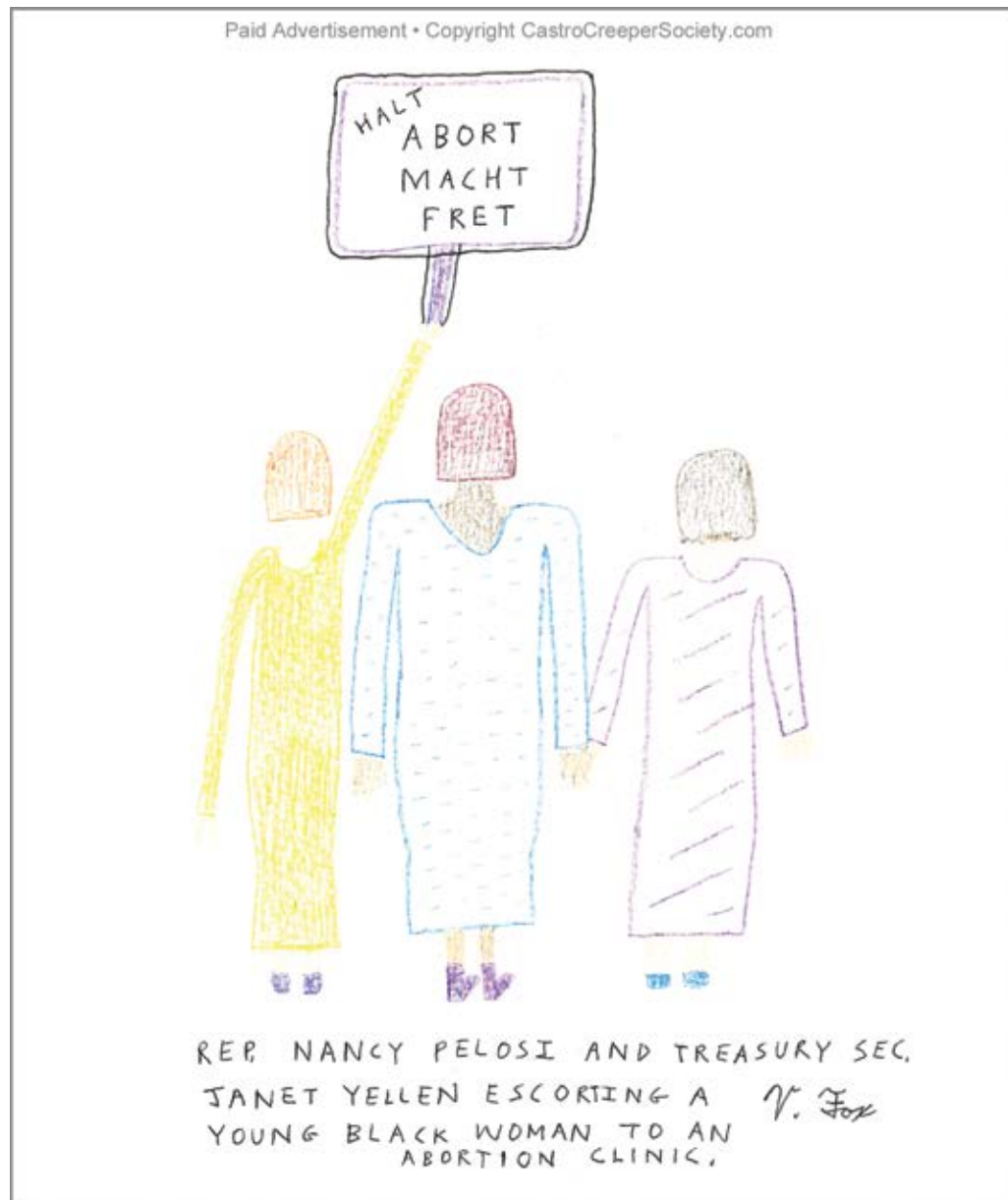
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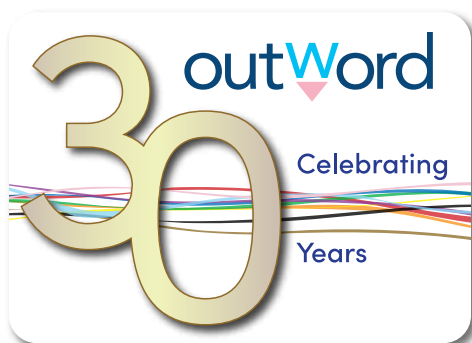
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