

# outword

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# Attorney General Bonta Seeks Preliminary Injunction to Halt Dismantling of HHS

California [Attorney General Rob Bonta](#), along with a coalition of 19 other state attorneys general, has filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop portions of the federal government's "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) Directive issued by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

The MAHA Directive, announced on March 27, proposes firing approximately 10,000 HHS employees, consolidating 28 divisions into 15, and closing half of HHS's regional offices – including one in San Francisco. On May 5, the coalition filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of the directive. The latest motion seeks immediate court intervention to prevent what the states describe as imminent and irreparable harm.

"We're requesting expedited relief because, without court intervention, our states will face serious and irreversible consequences," said Attorney General Bonta. "The Trump Administration's actions threaten the very

foundation of public health infrastructure."

The motion, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, asks the court to block specific aspects of the directive affecting:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Center for Tobacco Products (FDA)
- The Office of Head Start (Administration for Children and Families)
- The Division of Data and Technical Analysis (responsible for federal poverty guidelines)

The coalition argues that the MAHA

Directive is arbitrary, capricious, and violates the Administrative Procedure Act, congressional authority, and constitutional principles. If allowed to proceed, the terminations—scheduled for June 2—would strip states of critical funding, data, and programmatic support, with severe consequences for public health and welfare.

Bonta is joined in the motion by attorneys general from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

## Midtown Association Marks 40th Anniversary with Midtown Love Gala

The Midtown Association proudly celebrated its 40th "Ruby" Anniversary with an unforgettable Midtown Love fundraising gala on May 10, 2025, at The Mansion Apartments. Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors, sponsors, and nearly 500 attendees, the event raised \$84,175 to directly support Midtown Second Saturday programming, small business services, and enhancements to parks and public spaces.

The evening featured dazzling live performances including a vertical dance show along the walls of The Mansion and fire dancing over its outdoor pool. Guests also enjoyed the unveiling of the 2025 Midtown Second Saturday poster by artist Uli Smith, and honors for TwoPoint4 Dance Theatre as Artist of the Year and the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works as Partner of the Year.

Proceeds will fuel beloved programs like Midtown Second Saturday and Fresh Air: Midtown Parks, a free fitness series, continuing the Association's mission to foster vibrant, inclusive, and creative community spaces. For more information about Midtown Parks and/or to make a donation to invest in future programming and enhancements, please visit this [webpage](#).

## The List

Sacramento Pride

LGBT Wisdom Project

Pittador Brews

Sacramento Pride Run

Sumi

Dan Samborski

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus

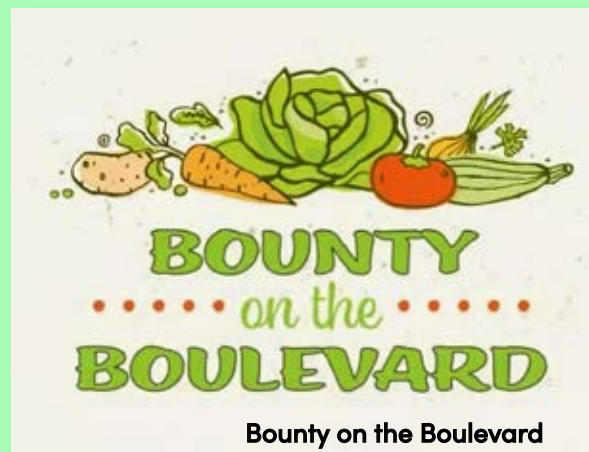
Chicha Peruvian Kitchen

Sonoma County Pride

Mick Martin's Big Blues Band

Midtown Farmers Market

Prime Timers of Sacramento



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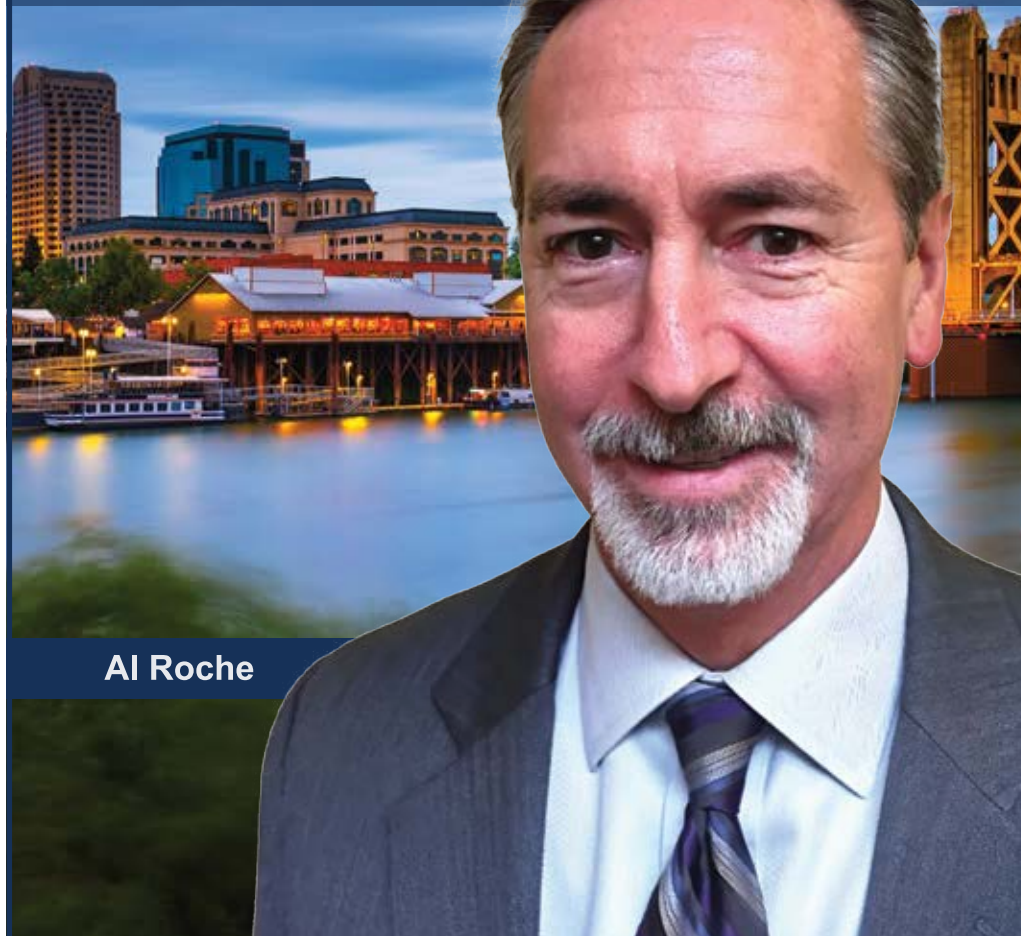
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Al Roche

# Supreme Court Allows Administration to Enforce Transgender Military Ban

Updated 5-17-25

The U.S. Supreme Court has permitted the Trump administration to temporarily enforce its controversial ban on transgender individuals serving in the U.S. military while ongoing legal challenges proceeded through the courts. This decision, issued in a brief unsigned order in January 2019, stayed a previous preliminary injunction that had blocked the ban from taking effect.

The injunction had been issued by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington on March 27, in response to lawsuits filed by civil rights groups and individuals arguing that the policy was discriminatory and unconstitutional. By staying the injunction, the Supreme Court effectively allowed the administration's policy to move forward while litigation continued—a decision that drew sharp dissent from the Court's liberal justices.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented from the majority's decision to lift the injunction. Their dissents signaled deep concern over the policy's potential harm to transgender service members and its implications for equal protection under the law. Though the Court did not issue a full opinion on the matter, the ideological split underscored the contentious nature of the issue and the significant constitutional questions at stake.

The policy in question stemmed from a

against transgender individuals by preventing them from serving authentically.

At the time of the Supreme Court's order, multiple lawsuits were still working their way through lower courts, and the policy's legality remained unresolved. By allowing the ban to take effect during litigation, the Supreme Court's ruling marked a significant setback for LGBTQ+ advocates and transgender service members who had hoped judicial intervention would protect their right to serve.

However, the policy did not remain in place permanently. On January 25, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order reversing the Trump-era ban. The order restored the Obama administration's inclusive policy, allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in the military once again. It also directed the Department of Defense to review cases of service members who had been discharged or denied reenlistment under the ban and to

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented from the majority's decision to lift the injunction.

2017 tweet by then-President Donald Trump, who announced a sudden reversal of the Obama-era policy allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in the military. Trump's directive stated that the U.S. government would no longer accept or allow transgender individuals to serve "in any capacity," citing concerns over medical costs and military readiness. This pronouncement caught many in the Pentagon off-guard and faced immediate backlash from civil rights organizations and members of Congress.

After a series of legal challenges and public criticism, the administration later refined its approach. Under the final policy, announced in 2018 by then-Defense Secretary James Mattis, transgender individuals would be barred from enlisting or serving in the military unless they served in accordance with their biological sex. Exceptions would be made only for those already serving openly under the previous policy. Critics denounced the revised policy as a "trans ban in disguise," arguing that it still discriminated

implement policies ensuring all qualified Americans could serve regardless of gender identity.

The Department of Defense quickly acted to comply with the order, emphasizing diversity and equal opportunity as cornerstones of military strength. LGBTQ+ rights advocates hailed the reversal as a major victory and a step toward long-term protection of transgender individuals in federal service.

While the legal challenges to the Trump policy were rendered moot by this executive action, the episode highlighted how administrative changes can profoundly impact civil rights. Advocates continue to call for legislative protection to safeguard against future reversals, arguing that rights should not depend on the political climate or presidential discretion.

As of 2025, transgender individuals are once again permitted to serve openly, but the fight for enduring equality in military service—and beyond—continues.



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## Trans, Intersex Children And Their Families Face Complexity

by Nicole Vance, RN, MS, CCRN

On April 1st, I had the privilege along with my community, of watching two anti-trans bills: AB 89 & AB 844, get voted down by the State Assembly. Sacramento became my home in 2003 when I started work as a pediatric nurse. Since then, I have seen firsthand the need for all children to be safe, secure and affirmed. Unfortunately, because I worked in pediatric critical care, most of my encounters with Trans kids and their families, were following a suicide attempt by the child or teen. No child comes with a manual, but Trans, Intersex children and their families face more complexity and vulnerability (and less support) in a world committed to denying their existence.



Along with my community, I opposed AB 89 & AB844 because Trans, Intersex, and gender diverse folks have always been here, and will always be here. There is a moral panic surrounding the gender binary, that has a chokehold on U.S. politics today. This binary, and the zealous fervor protecting it, is a recent and uniquely European, colonial creation. Despite evidence of gender and sex diversity in as early as the Iron Age2, this is not the first time that Trans healthcare has been a target of fascist ideologies.

In 1919, physician Magnus Hirschfeld opened the Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin. Devoted to the study and support of gender and sexual diversity, it held a wealth of research and resources. Because of this, it was labeled an affront to “traditional German values” and was among the first buildings to be looted by the Nazi Party. The contents of its library, containing over a decade of research into gender affirming care, filled the now famous picture of soldiers burning a small mountain of books1.

I opposed AB 89 & AB 844 because they undermined something that all children need almost as much as they need food and shelter: play. In childhood, our brains process trauma and our life experiences mostly through play. Any pediatric clinician will attest, that a pediatric unit without a playroom is not a place where a child can heal. From birth, we are wired for play. Sports are where we learn trust with our

bodies while being exposed to a little danger and risk in an (ideally) safe environment. For many of us, playing sports is the first time we feel a sense of belonging outside of our families.

As children we all were faced with a constant choice: to be authentic or to belong. Most of us will choose belonging3 and Trans children, whether they are affirmed or not, must make that choice more often and with greater consequences.

I opposed the bills because despite their claims, they are not about “protecting women”. Rather, they protect the more recent illusion of a strict gender and sex binary. Something that has never existed in human history and never will. This illusion created a blank spot that swallows up the existence of gender and sexual diversity and robs all of us of the beauty and breadth of what it means to be human.

Because of these gaps and many others, we have inherited a world that is upside down. Our Queer & Trans family members are doing, have been doing, and will continue to do, the work of making the house that all of us live in right side up and they aren't meant to do it alone. I came to the Capitol on the 1st because a local Trans activist did the work of letting us know the schedule & location of the hearings and how we could help. The power and privilege of allies to the Trans and Queer community are needed now more than ever. Not as saviors, but as partners. Because this is our house too, this is everybody's work.

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# Golden Rule Services: 25 Years of Life-Changing Impact in Sacramento's Underserved Communities

For 25 years, Golden Rule Services (GRS) has quietly transformed lives in Sacramento County, standing as a pillar of hope and equity for some of the region's most marginalized communities. Founded in 2000 by Clarmundo Sullivan, GRS emerged as a community-based nonprofit designed to address the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS among communities of color. But over the years, its mission expanded and adapted to serve a broader array of needs within Sacramento's Black, Latinx, LGBTQ, and immigrant populations.



From the beginning, GRS has focused on one central truth: health disparities among BIPOC individuals are not accidental, but were the product of systemic neglect. Through culturally responsive outreach, prevention education, medical navigation, housing referrals, and legal support, the organization fills critical gaps in a fractured safety net. Their motto, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, only better," is more than their philosophy—it's a practice in action.

The organization's success can be best understood through the stories of those it has helped. One young man, displaced and living in his car, was bounced from tent encampments to transitional shelters. With GRS' help, he regained his SSI benefits, connected with a housing navigator, and secured permanent housing. Another client who was a survivor of domestic violence from the Dominican Republic found himself stranded in a new country, without medication or legal support. GRS stepped in, helping him find affordable HIV treatment and legal resources that ultimately stabilized his life.

There have been many clients who'd given up on treatment, like the man living with HIV since the 1980s who had never taken medication due to cultural distrust in the healthcare system. GRS staff built a relationship of trust, patiently explaining the science and walking him through his options. Today, he is virally suppressed and

thriving.

In another case, GRS' outreach program found a man who had been unsheltered for 15 years and living with an untreated hernia and AIDS. The team arranged medical care, transportation, and support through every stage of recovery. That man is now cured of hepatitis C and living a healthier life with dignity and purpose.

These are not just success stories, they are testaments to GRS' unwavering commitment to meet people where they are and walk with them toward stability and health.

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, GRS will host its 25th Anniversary Gala at The Center at 2300 in Sacramento, a celebration honoring the past and energizing the future. With a VIP reception, inspiring speakers, powerful video presentations and electrifying performances from talent like San Francisco violinist Kippy Marks and the Sacramento Brazilian Dance Troupe the evening will not only honor Angel Award recipients but also underscore the life-saving impact of this community-rooted organization.

The gala is more than a fundraiser, it's a public declaration that the work is far from over. In a time when health equity and LGBTQ+ rights are under threat, GRS continues to serve as a beacon for those left behind. Their legacy is built not on handouts, but on partnership, compassion, and a fierce commitment to justice.

For tickets or to learn more, visit: [GRSgala.org](https://GRSgala.org)

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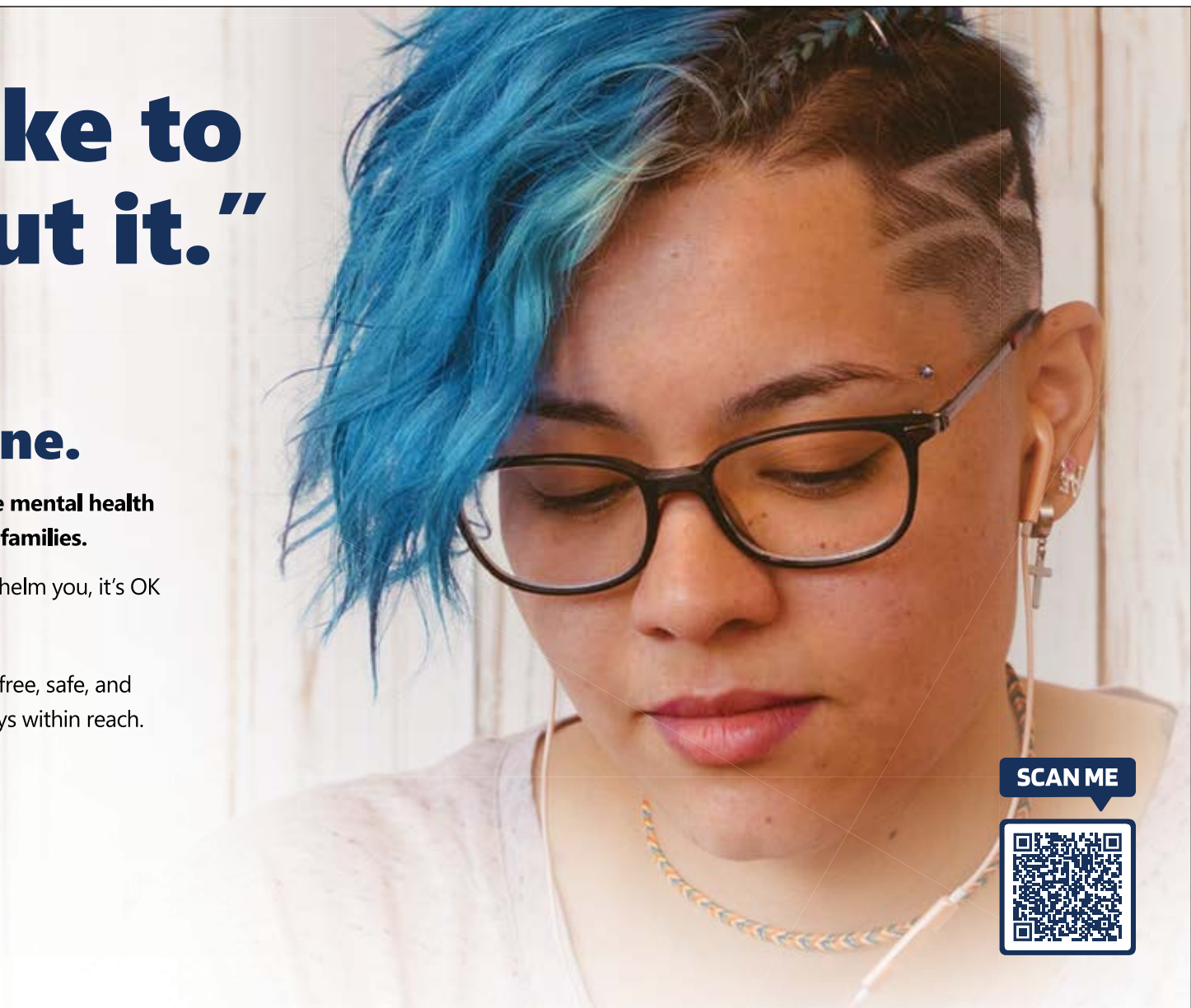
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# Welcome In: California Businesses Leading with Inclusion

by Fernando Ponce, Outreach and Education  
Manager for the California Civil Rights Department

Welcome In is a first-of-its kind statewide initiative from the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) that partners with businesses to foster inclusive, respectful, and community-centered environments. It offers a positive, proactive way for business owners to demonstrate their values and make a meaningful impact in their communities.



Participating businesses gain access to free tools and trainings that support their efforts to prevent discrimination, hate, and harassment, protect their staff and customers, and create spaces where everyone feels safe and welcomed. Upon completing the program, participating businesses receive public recognition on CRD's website.

#### The Power of a Safe Space

Every day, California businesses welcome people from all walks of life, whether it's a young family grabbing dinner, a senior visiting the pharmacy, or a recent immigrant browsing a market they have never been to. When people enter the businesses in their communities, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, acts of hate, discrimination, and harassment are still happening at public-facing businesses. Whether it's one customer targeting another based on their appearance, accent, or identity or a staff member refusing to serve someone for discriminatory reasons, these moments don't just affect individuals – they can impact entire communities. Fortunately, businesses are uniquely positioned to be part of the solution.

#### What the Program Offers

Welcome In is a chance for California businesses and CRD to work together to cultivate safe and inclusive environments that reflect California's commitment to equity and safety.

Here's what businesses receive when they join:

- Free training for staff on how civil rights laws apply to their business
- Guidance on how and when to step in if a customer is harassing another
- Support identifying and reporting acts of hate in ways that are effective, culturally responsive,

and respectful

- Access to a model employee policy manual that clearly outlines the expectations and re-sponsibilities of their teams
- Public recognition from CRD as a business committed to civil rights and community well-being

#### Why It Matters Now

Creating inclusive environments isn't just the right thing to do – it's also good for business. Customers want to support businesses that share their values and employees are more likely to stay in workplaces where respect is part of the culture. When public-facing businesses are intentionally inclusive, everyone benefits.

Getting involved is easy. Businesses can visit [calcivilrights.ca.gov/welcome-in](http://calcivilrights.ca.gov/welcome-in) to sign up and access materials or email the CRD team at [welcome.in@calcivilrights.ca.gov](mailto:welcome.in@calcivilrights.ca.gov) for direct support. Whether you own a bakery in Los Angeles, a community-focused movie theater in Nevada City, or a restaurant in Chico, your business has the power to help shape what inclusion looks like in California.

#### Be the Business That Leads with Values

At its heart, Welcome In is about community. It's about treating customers and staff with the dignity they deserve and ensuring that everyone has a safe place to exist, regardless of who they are. We know California businesses are already doing incredible things. You're feeding communities, building jobs, and making neighborhoods thrive. Welcome In is just one more way to show what leadership looks like.

We encourage you to visit [calcivilrights.ca.gov/welcome-in](http://calcivilrights.ca.gov/welcome-in) and join the movement.

Questions? Reach out to [welcome.in@calcivilrights.ca.gov](mailto:welcome.in@calcivilrights.ca.gov)



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# Poll: Majority of Voters View Trump as “Dictator” Who Threatens Democratic Norms

by Chris Walker, [TRUTHOUT.Org](https://truthout.org)

New polling demonstrates that most voters see President Donald Trump as a dangerous politician and view his leadership style as dictatorial. In Truth Social posts earlier this week, Trump seemed to confirm that point of view, expressing disdain for the press and demanding firings at news companies that published data showcasing voters’ negative views of his presidency 100 days into his second term.

In a post on Monday, Trump called such surveys “FAKE POLLS FROM FAKE NEWS ORGANIZATIONS,” citing longtime conservative pollster John McLaughlin, who has described polls showing Trump’s negative approval ratings as fraudulent. (Notably, McLaughlin has counted the president among his clients, including during the 2024 presidential campaign.)

Trump further claimed that the surveys were weighted wrongly and did not include enough Republican voters – something that would be tough to replicate across multiple polls consistently showing majority disapproval among voters. He then demanded disciplinary action against those media organizations, including criminal inquiries.

“These people should be investigated for ELECTION FRAUD,” Trump wrote in his post, referring to the press as “Negative Criminals.”

“They suffer from Trump Derangement

Syndrome, and there is nothing that anyone, or anything, can do about it,” Trump added, before calling media “THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE” – an epithet he frequently hurls against journalists who publish factual reporting on him and his policies.

Numbers from a PRRI survey published last week demonstrate that most voters view the president’s behavior as alarming.

The poll gave respondents two options to choose from, asking whether they believe Trump is a “strong leader who should be given the power he needs to restore America’s greatness,” or “a dangerous dictator whose power should be limited before he destroys American democracy.” Only 44 percent viewed him as a “strong leader,” while a majority of respondents, 52 percent, called him a “dictator” who posed a threat to the country’s democratic norms.

Even a significant percentage of the president’s own base said Trump was dangerous, with more than one in six



Republican voters (17 percent) describing him as a dangerous dictator.

The poll also showed that voters are opposed to Trump theoretically expanding presidential power. Seventy-seven percent of respondents said Trump should not suspend the midterms in 2026 if he is unable to “get our country out of crisis in the next year,” while just 17 percent said he should take such an action. And only 20 percent believed that, “because things have gotten so far off track, we need a president who is willing to break some laws if that’s what it takes to save the country,” while 76 percent of respondents disagreed with that viewpoint.

Despite his dismal 100-day polling

numbers, Trump suggested to a crowd of his supporters in Michigan on Tuesday that he would continue to impose his far right agenda, even if it meant disregarding judicial rulings against his executive actions.

“Nothing will stop me,” Trump told his loyalists.

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



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# Be Sure to Say Hi to the Friends of the Sacramento Library at the Upcoming Book Festival

by George Ryder

On Saturday, May 31st, Sacramento will host its first book festival in over ten years at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, next to McKinley Park. Organized by the California Writers Club—Sacramento Branch, the festival brings together local writers, bookstores, and literacy organizations from around the region.



Starting at 10 AM, the Sacramento Book Festival will feature over 140 local authors, five bookstores, and sponsors like the Mustard Seed School—guests are encouraged to bring a new or gently used children's book to donate. What began as a modest idea at a 2024 farmer's market has grown into a full-scale literary celebration. Events include a Kids Zone, all-day readings, genre panels, and a keynote by bestselling author James Rollins. Food and coffee will be available from Juju's Burgers and a local kiosk.

The festival includes strong LGBTQ+ representation, with appearances by queer authors and organizations like Lavender Library, Queer Sacramento Authors Collective, and A Seat at the Table Books. The Friends of the Sacramento Public Library will also have a booth, and LGBTQ+ literature and resources—including information about PFLAG—will be available at the Book Den table.

Organizer J. Scott Coatsworth says, "We're building a diverse, inclusive space that celebrates Sacramento's literary community."

The festival runs from 10 AM to 4 PM. Free neighborhood parking is available, and carpooling is encouraged. Address: 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816.

## HAPPY PRIDE

from your friends at

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Tickets at [channel24sac.com](http://channel24sac.com)

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

City of  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Community Engagement Team

## OUR MAIN GOAL

To create a platform that educates, engages and empowers people, businesses and places, especially areas and residents that have been disproportionately underserved.

## HOW WE MEET OUR GOAL

- Eliminate communication barriers, including values, culture and/or language
- Creating social events and programming that can be catered to specific communities, neighborhoods and/or language groups
- Develop and foster an environment of trust and confidence between community, stakeholders and City Council.

## MEET THE TEAM



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[cityofsacramento.org/ce](https://cityofsacramento.org/ce)  
[ce@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:ce@cityofsacramento.org)

## STAY INFORMED

Visit [linktr.ee/ceteamsac](https://linktr.ee/ceteamsac) to stay up to date on City programs, resources and opportunities.

Linktree\*

[linktr.ee/ceteamsac](https://linktr.ee/ceteamsac)



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It's an easy way to engage with us and learn more about the city!

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@ceteamsac

### LISTEN TO US

Our SacVibes Podcast highlights City staff & upcoming projects that are relevant to you.



[cityofsacramento.gov/sacvibes](https://cityofsacramento.gov/sacvibes)

### COME MEET US

YOU ARE INVITED! CityConnect is a **monthly mixer** series where Sacramento residents can meet City staff. Mixers occur monthly every third Thursday, at small businesses throughout the City.

city connect



[cityofsacramento.gov/cityconnect](https://cityofsacramento.gov/cityconnect)





*Craig Dresang, CEO, YoloCares  
Treasurer/Board member Coalition for Compassionate Care of California*

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- Ron Reagan, Jr.

LEARN MORE  
[Sac.ffrf.org](http://Sac.ffrf.org)

## Stern Grove Festival Returns

by Chris Narloch

If you're never been to a show at Stern Grove in Golden Gate Park, now is your chance to win free tickets to one of that lovely venue's exciting concerts for 2025.

Among the many talented artists scheduled to perform at Stern Grove this season are sexy singer Orville Peck, the legendary Diana Ross, riot grrrl rock band Sleater Kinney, and Michael Franti & Spearhead.

This year, the Stern Grove Festival is introducing a lottery system that will open six weeks before each concert. If chosen, you can request up to four free general admission tickets for the concert in question.

For this season's complete lineup of concerts and to learn about the lottery, please visit:

[www.sterngrove.org/lineup](http://www.sterngrove.org/lineup)



Orville Peck

## The SF SPCA Has Partnered With The SF Giants

The San Francisco SPCA (SF SPCA) has partnered with the San Francisco Giants for the return of the highly anticipated Dog Days at Oracle Park on Saturday, September 27, 2025 - there was just one on May 17. This annual celebration invites dog lovers and their canine companions to enjoy America's favorite pastime while supporting the life-saving work of the SF SPCA.



On May 17, the Giants hosted the Athletics, and the ballpark was transform into a gathering of furry friends and their families. Pre-game festivities kicked off with a pet parade around the warning track, where dogs and their companions showed off their team spirit.

There will be a second Dog Days game that will take place on Saturday, September 27, when the Giants face off against the Colorado Rockies. Special event tickets for Dog Days include access to the game, participation in themed activities, and a commemorative Dog Days bandana. Tickets are required for both humans and dogs to participate in Dog Days activities and sit in the designated seating areas. These tickets sell out quickly, so early purchase is recommended. Tickets are available for purchase at:

<https://www.mlb.com/giants/tickets/specials/dog-day>. Also, be sure to visit: [sfspca.org](http://sfspca.org).



# BE PRIDEFUL!



**SUNBURST**  
**projects**

**KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS,  
GET TESTED!**



**FOR MORE INFO  
SCAN THE QR CODE**



**¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL!**



## SGMC Will Honor Matthew Shepard

by Chris Narloch

You will have many opportunities to see (and hear) the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus in late May and especially June, including live performances scheduled at Davis Pride and Sac Pride.

Their May 25th concert is a free outdoor show to celebrate SGMC's 40th Anniversary. That "Birthday Bash in the Park" is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Southside Park Amphitheatre.

Of course, Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will also return in June with four full-length Pride concerts the weekend of June 20th, this year at The Sofia on Capitol Avenue.

SGMC is also participating in "Sing with Pride," a not-to-be-missed musical collaboration with the Choruses of UC Davis to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Matthew Shepard, who did not survive after being brutally beaten by two homophobes and left to die in a Wyoming field in 1998.

"Sing with Pride" will feature "Considering Matthew Shepard," a Grammy-nominated three-part oratorio first performed in 2016 and composed by Craig Hella Johnson as a compassionate musical response to the murder of Matthew Shepard. Johnson had a profoundly personal reaction to both the murder and its resonance.

Shepard's murder ultimately led to the creation of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and provided a catalyst for legislation that expanded the definition of a hate crime to include sexual orientation. In 2009, Congress passed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

The Shepard family and Foundation engaged with Johnson in the creation of the oratorio, and allowed the use of fragments from Shepard's personal diaries. The choral work is fused together with different musical styles; texts from poets, including Rumi and Hildegard von Bingen, along with words from Shepard's own journal.

Courtesy of UC Davis Department of Music, "Sing with Pride" is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 5, at the Mondavi Center in Davis. To purchase tickets for the concert, please visit: <https://tickets.mondaviarts.org/8488>

To check out all of SGMC's upcoming appearances, please visit: [www.sacgaymenchorus.com/events](http://www.sacgaymenchorus.com/events)



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# Ride with Pride!



At **SacRT**, we celebrate **love, inclusivity,** and the **vibrant community** we serve.

**Hop on board—everyone is welcome.**

**Join us at the Sacramento Pride March on Sunday, June 15th.**



Plan your ride on SacRT and get the free ride flyer at [sacrt.com/Pride](http://sacrt.com/Pride).



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\*\*\*\*\*  
*Wild West*  
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SACRAMENTO PRIDE JUNE 14 & 15, 2025



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AT MUSIC CIRCUS

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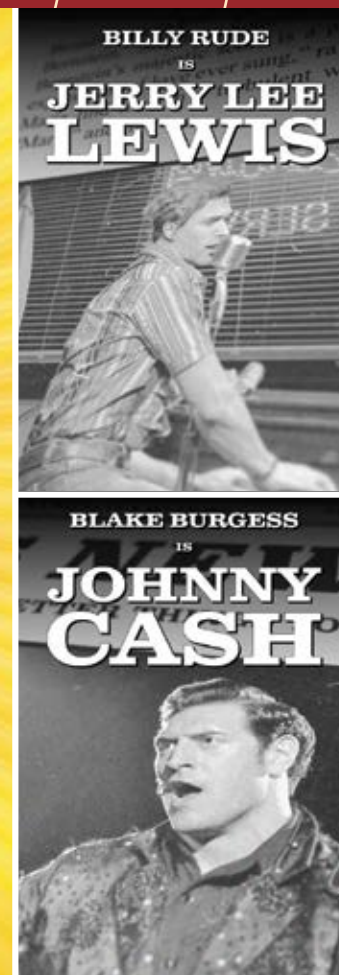
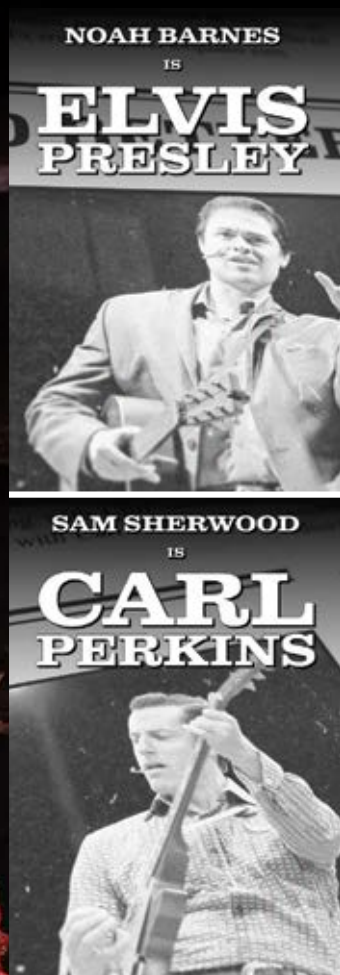


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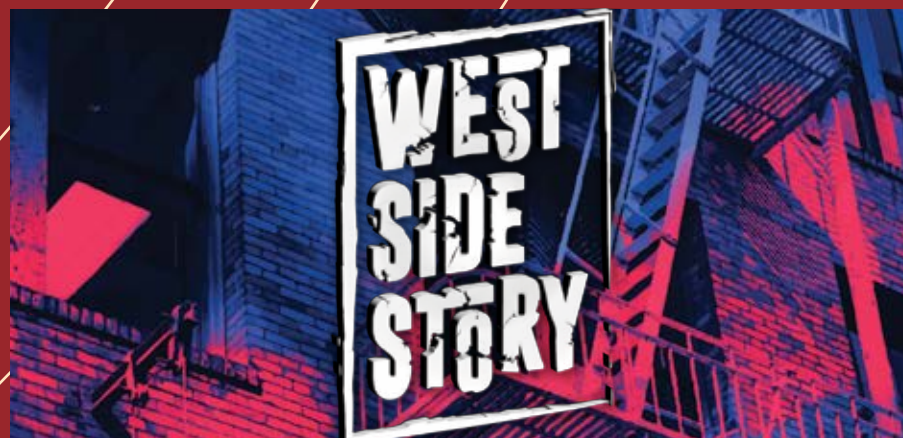
# UC DAVIS HEALTH PAVILION



**MAY 30 - JUNE 5**



**JUNE 20 - 26**



**JULY 11 - 17**



**AUGUST 1 - 7**



**AUGUST 22 - 28**



Sacramento



# June 5, 2025

## 7:00 – 9:00PM

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June 7, 6:45p



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**Nugget**  
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**SHEILA ALLEN,**  
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# Coming <sup>VERY</sup> Soon

## Our Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Special Issues

**Sacramento Pride  
Special Issue**  
**Hits on June 12, 2025**

**LGBTQ+ History  
Special Issue**  
**Hits on June 26, 2025**

Celebrating Outword  
Magazine's 30 Years of  
Pride in Sacramento



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 **issuu**





## Sacramento Pride 2025: Accessibility, Volunteering, and Marching for Community

Sacramento Pride is right around the corner, and excitement is growing for this vibrant celebration of LGBTQ+ identity, resilience, and joy. Organizers are putting accessibility front and center, ensuring all attendees can fully participate. From accessible viewing areas and mobility assistance to ASL interpreters and sensory accommodations, the event is designed to be inclusive. Detailed accessibility info—including parking, restrooms, and more—will be available on the official Sacramento Pride website as the event nears.



Volunteers are the heart of Sacramento Pride, and the team is seeking passionate individuals to help make it a success. From setup and logistics to hospitality and safety, there's a role for everyone. Volunteering is a great way to support the community, gain experience, and make new connections. Sign up at [SacramentoPride.org](https://SacramentoPride.org) to join the team!

Planning to march? Don't forget to register by May 15! Your registration helps organizers coordinate logistics, ensure safety, and secure permits. With anti-LGBTQ+ legislation still on the rise, this year's march is more important than ever—let's show up and stand proud. Visit <https://sacmentopride.org> to learn more.

## Sunburst Projects' Drag Your Balls 2025 Raises Over \$43,500!

Sunburst Projects' fourth annual Drag Your Balls event was an outstanding success, drawing a sold-out crowd and raising more than \$43,500, thanks to overwhelming community support and generous corporate sponsors.



**SUNBURST**  
projects

The event kicked off under beautiful weather conditions as 69 enthusiastic golfers arrived at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex to register and pick up their carts. They were welcomed and entertained by some of Sacramento's legendary drag queens before hitting the course for nine holes of golf, accompanied by continued lively performances.

Following the golfing excitement, participants returned to join additional guests attending the highly anticipated Drag Brunch On The Green. Over 150 attendees gathered under the festive tent, where a bustling silent auction saw spirited and competitive bidding. Guests enjoyed delicious mimosas featuring Mumm's Champagne and a sumptuous brunch buffet, all while being entertained by Sacramento's most spectacular drag performers.

"We are deeply grateful for our community's incredible support, especially during these challenging times," said Jake Bradley-Rowe, Executive Director of Sunburst Projects. "The funds raised will significantly impact our efforts to provide critical support to individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as to advance our mission of ending the HIV epidemic through services offered at Sunburst Clinic. We couldn't have achieved this success without our extraordinary sponsors, including our Golf Tournament Presenting Sponsor, Gilead Sciences, our Drag Brunch On The Green Presenting Sponsor, Tri Counties Bank, and numerous other corporate and individual supporters."

Be sure to mark your calendars and join in on the fun next year—Drag Your Balls Golf Tournament and Drag Brunch On The Green returns May 9, 2026! [sunburstprojects.org](https://sunburstprojects.org)

**HAPPY PRIDE!!**

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<http://www.saclibfriends.org>.

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

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Sunburst Projects' Drag Your Balls Golf Tournament 2025



Out & About





# SAC PRIDE

## JUNE 14-15 2025

SACRAMENTO CAPITOL MALL

# OFFICIAL PRIDE GUIDE

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**  
FESTIVAL 12 - 9 PM

**SUNDAY JUNE 15**  
PRIDE MARCH 11 AM - 2 PM  
FESTIVAL 12-6 PM

Welcome back to Sacramento Pride!  
The Sacramento Pride March & Festival, produced by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, will be back on Capitol Mall on June 14 & 15, 2025! Join us for an exciting weekend, and celebrate community!



Get your tickets now @  
[sacramentopride.org](https://sacramentopride.org)



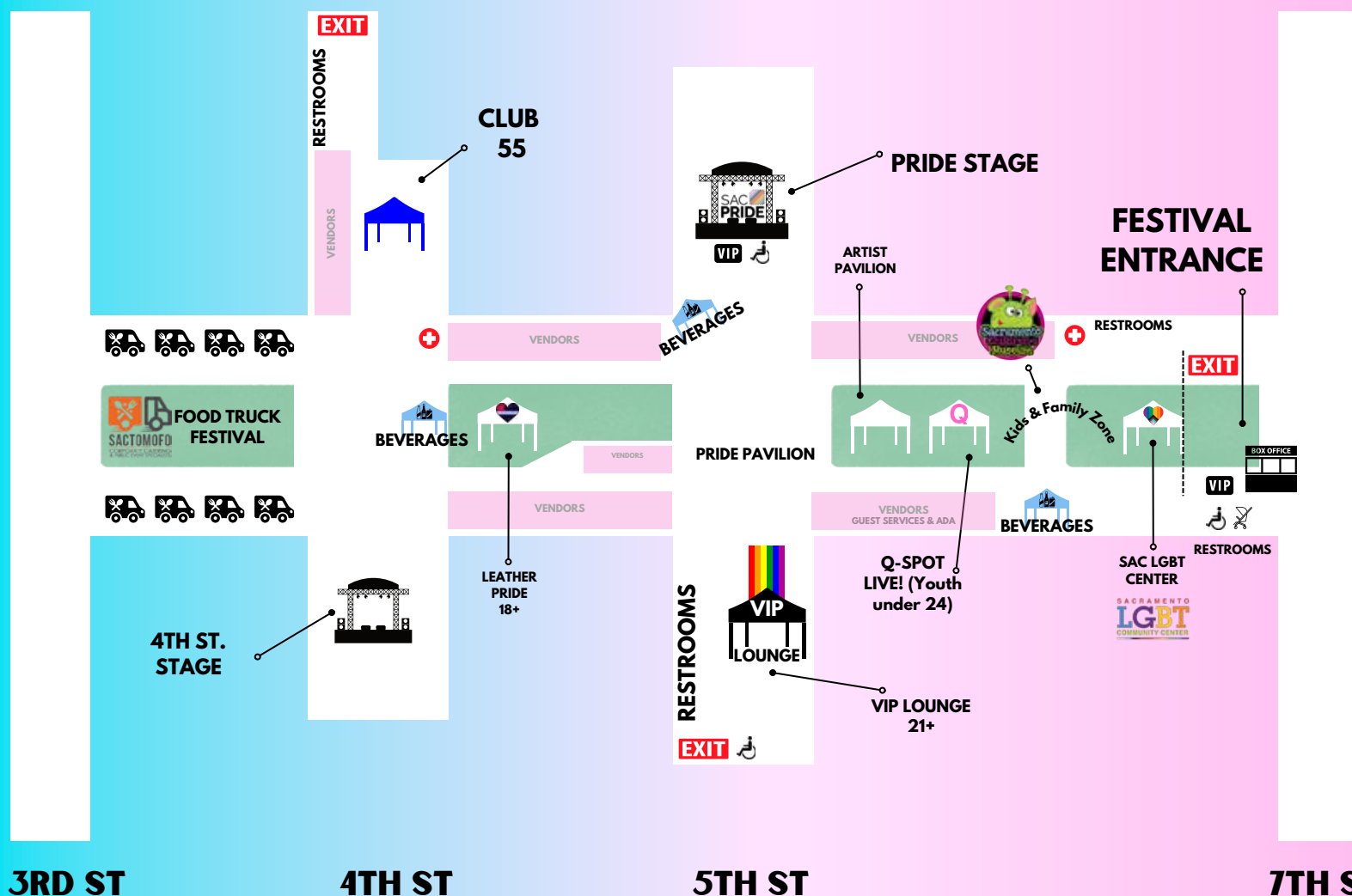
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@sacramentopride

SAC  
PRIDE

### FESTIVAL MAP







\*stage schedule subject to change, follow @sacpride for updates

### 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET PRIDE STAGE

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**

**DJ CISCO**

**1:15PM SACRAMENTO GAY MENS CHORUS**

**2:00PM CULTURES OF PRIDE DANCE SHOW**

**3:00PM DRAG IS NOT A CRIME! SHOWCASE**

**4:45PM SAC DANCE LAB**

**5:45PM CRE8TIVE CONNECTIONS FASHION SHOW**

**6:30PM CYAH ENVY**

**6:45PM JOHN'NAY LASHA**

**7:15PM SHEA COULEE**

**8:15PM FLYANA BOSS**



### 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET PRIDE STAGE

**SUNDAY JUNE 15**

**DJ LADY CHAR**

**1:15PM ADAM ALDAMA AND THE ACES**

**2:00PM GLOOMY JUNE BAND**

**3:00PM HEATHER LA ROSE**

**3:45PM MAXX DRAG  
TAKEOVER**

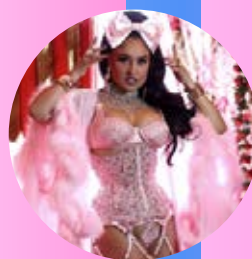
**4:30PM DRAG RACE**

**ALL STARS**

**SHOWCASE:**

**ROXXXY ANDREWS**

**DAYA BETTY**



### 4TH STREET CABARET STAGE

**SATURDAY JUNE 14 DJ LADY CHAR**

**1:15PM SACRAMENTO CHEER ELITE**

**2:00PM LAVENDER LOVELIES TAKEOVER**

**3:00PM KINGS N' THINGS SHOWCASE**

**4:00PM HIBISCUS TAKEOVER**

**5:00PM BESOS! LATINX TAKEOVER**

**6:00PM THE DARLING CLEMENTINES  
BURLESQUE & QUEER CABARET TAKEOVER**

**7:30PM JUICEBOX DANCE PARTY**

**SUNDAY JUNE 15 DJ CISCO**

**1:15PM MERCURY RISING DRAG SHOW**

**2:00PM ARTHAUS DRAG SHOW**

**3:00PM DRESS CODE TAKEOVER**

**3:45PM HELLEN HEELS DRAG SHOW**

**DJ TLDSTR**

**Our weekend will feature captivating entertainment from local talents in the Sacramento region and the greater LGBTQ+ community!**  
**Featured performers from RuPaul's Drag Race includes Roxxxy Andrews & Daya Betty! Who's headlining? The dynamic duo, Flyana Boss will be hitting the stage and Shea Coulee will be performing their original music Saturday night!**

# VOLUNTEER AT SACRAMENTO PRIDE

**JUNE 14 & 15 - SACRAMENTO CAPITOL MALL**  
**WWW.SACRAMENTOPRIDE.ORG**



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OPPORTUNITIES TODAY!**

**SACRAMENTO  
LGBT  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

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PRIDE**





CELEBRATE WITH US:

# SACRAMENTO PRIDE MARCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 15 AT 11 A.M.  
SOUTHSIDE PARK & ALONG 10TH ST

LEARN MORE AT:  
[SACRAMENTOPRIDE.ORG](http://SACRAMENTOPRIDE.ORG)



At a time when lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are under attack in their schools, at work, in their doctors' offices, and even at drag shows across the country, you can show up for the LGBTQ+ community by marching with us on Sunday, June 15 at 11:00 a.m. from Southside Park to the Capitol. The route begins on T & 8th Streets, turns onto 10th St, passing an announcer "grandstand" on R & 10th. The route concludes at Capitol Mall with vehicles turning right onto N St and marchers turning left on Capitol Mall.

We invite you as an individual, to march with the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's contingent, displaying the power & strength of community support. Visit [sacramentopride.org/march](http://sacramentopride.org/march) for more information.

Funds raised at Sac Pride events directly support year-round programming provided by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.







## The Tonys Are Coming by Chris Narloch

I will be surprised if Cole Escola's "Oh, Mary!" does not win several categories when this year's Tony Awards are handed out, on June 8 at Radio City Music Hall.



The queerest show currently on Broadway, "Oh, Mary!" stars the hilarious Mr. Escola – who also created the play – as a raging alcoholic version of Mary Todd Lincoln, who dreams of being a cabaret performer and is stifled by her role as First Lady to Abraham Lincoln, who is por-trayed as a closeted homosexual in this historical fiction.

"Oh, Mary!" isn't the only gay-friendly production on Broadway this year. "Death Becomes Her," the stage musical version of Robert Zemeckis' 1992 comedy film of the same name, features the song "For the Gaze," which is just as gay as it sounds. That musical is tied with "Buena Vista Social Club" and "Maybe Happy Ending" for the most Tony nominations this year (10).

Among the famous folks nominated for Tonys this year: George Clooney, Mia Farrow, Daniel Dae Kim, Sadie Sink, Sarah Snook, Darren Criss, Megan Hilty, Nicole Scherzinger, Jeremy Jordan, Justina Machado, Bob Odenkirk, Jonathan Groff, and, of course, Audra McDonald, who received her 11th nomination this year, for playing Mama Rose in the current revival of "Gypsy." (McDonald is the most Tony-nominated performer of all time.)

The most recent (and for my money the best ever) Elphaba, Cynthia Erivo, will host the 78th Tony Awards this year, which will air on CBS. For a list of all this year's nominations, go to: [www.tonyawards.com](http://www.tonyawards.com)

## Broadway Bares SF Is Set To Sizzle

Get ready for a night of live performances bringing witchy, magical moments to life on stage, at "Broadway Bares SF VIII: Hex Appeal!"



Dazzling performances, jaw-dropping (and pants dropping) male and female dancers, and an unforgettable experience for all await audiences at 1015 Folsom St. in San Francisco. Get ready to be entertained by a spectacular show that combines the magic of Broadway with the allure of burlesque.

The first "Broadway Bares" was presented in 1992 by Jerry Mitchell, then a Broadway dancer, and the company of "The Will Rogers Follies" at Splash bar in New York City. Eight dancers "in rotation" on the bar raised more than \$8,000.

Since then, the event has continuously performed to sell-out crowds in some of Manhattan's largest clubs and now in the Bay Area, raising awareness and money for those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as for hunger programs, and programs that serve and support homeless youth.

Tickets are now on sale for the evening of Sunday, June 15, 2025. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The show begins at 8:00 p.m. To purchase tickets to the show and/or donate to the cause, visit: [broadwaybaressf.org](http://broadwaybaressf.org)



# MIDTOWN SECOND SATURDAY

## JUNE: PRIDE IN ART

Join us on Saturday, June 14 for a special Second Saturday spotlighting LGBTQIA+ artists and creatives throughout central Midtown. Explore gallery exhibits, outdoor art activations, local vendors, performances, and more, all in celebration of **Pride Month!**



MidtownSecondSaturday.com | [f](https://www.facebook.com/ExploreMidtown) [i](https://www.instagram.com/ExploreMidtown) @ExploreMidtown





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# SCOTT'S



## ON THE RIVER







# “Unseen” & Music Circus Plus, A New Play Gets Read

by Chris Narloch

A marvelous modern musical, a provocative play about PTSD, and the first-ever reading of a new work about a scandalous gay trial are all now playing or coming soon to local stages. Read on for more details.



Million Dollar Quartet

## Million Dollar Quartet

This colossal crowd pleaser never gets old, and that's why it's back to wow Sacramento audiences once again with the fearsome foursome of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins, who return in the hit-filled musical, “Million Dollar Quartet.”

Those are some very big shoes to fill, but producers always seem to find amazing actor-singers to play those marvelous men, who united for a famed recording session at Sun Records in Memphis, in December of 1956, thanks to record producer Sam Phillips.

Rock ‘n’ roll royalty collide in this raucous jam session, which is inspired by a true story and features hot hits like “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “I Walk the Line,” and more. The next show in this year's Broadway at Music Circus season, “Million Dollar Quartet” will perform at UC Davis Health Pavilion this May 30–June 5.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

## Unseen

Capital Stage hits another home run with this provocative play about photojournalistic ethics, and PTSD as a result of being a witness to war. Mona Mansour is the playwright, and the story follows Mia, a conflict photographer who wakes up in the Istanbul apartment of her on-again, off-again girlfriend after being found unconscious at the scene of a massacre she was photographing.

Two women – Mia's girlfriend and Mia's mother – try to support her difficult recovery, but the young woman mostly resists their efforts to comfort her. A terrific trio of actresses (Brittini Barger, Rasha Zamamin, and Jamie Jones) fill out these roles, with Jones and Zamamin the standouts.

Is a war photographer's job to capture the suffering they report on without ever becoming involved in helping those who are suffering? And how do you do a job like that for any length of time without becoming numb to the suffering you see? Those are just a few of the questions raised by this fascinating play, skillfully directed by Benjamin T. Ismail, which performs at Cap-Stage through this June 8.

For more information: <https://capstage.org>

## Bad Sweetheart

This new play is described as “a gripping courtroom drama about sexuality and privilege set in 1950s England, where five men gather at a secluded beach house one summer weekend in 1952. Two years later, they reunite – not as friends and lovers, but as witnesses and defendants in a sensational trial.”

“Bad Sweetheart” is based on the trial transcripts from the famous Montagu Case, the most sensational gay trial in England since the trial of Oscar Wilde and a very important moment in the evolution of gay rights in the United Kingdom. Most observers credit the trial, along with the Wolfenden Committee report, as setting up legalization of homosexual relations in England in 1967.

You can witness the first-ever reading of “Bad Sweetheart,” a new play by Joseph Rodota (and his fourth collaboration with B Street Theatre), this June 21, at The Sofia.

Go to: <https://bstreettheatre.org/other/bad-sweetheart>

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## The Charles Hotel Opens in Pacific Grove

by David Barnes

This June 1, just in time for Pride Month, celebrated interior designer Charles Gruwell will debut The Charles Pacific Grove, a luxurious new boutique hotel located in the heart of California's Central Coast. More than just an opening, this moment marks the launch of a bold new chapter in hospitality: the birth of Gruwell's visionary Metro Life-style Brand—a refined, inclusive hotel concept that blends timeless elegance with a deep commitment to diversity and belonging.

A native of Pacific Grove, Gruwell returns to his hometown with an impressive résumé, having designed the interiors of more than 40 boutique hotels around the world. Yet The Charles Pacific Grove represents a long-held dream come true: his very first personal hotel venture. "I love hotels and the hospitality industry—it's my passion," says Gruwell. "Owning a hotel has been a lifelong goal, and this one is truly special."

Designed as a reimagined bed and breakfast, the property reflects Gruwell's signature aesthetic—classical charm, modern luxury, and a welcoming sense of home. Inspired by the inclusive spirit of boutique hotels in global cities like London, Gruwell's vision for The Charles is clear: to create spaces where every guest feels seen, celebrated, and stylishly at ease.

"Style and inclusivity are at the heart of our brand," he explains. "We want The Charles Pacific Grove to be a haven for all people—straight, gay, and everyone in between. No one should be excluded from enjoying an artfully designed experience on California's Central Coast."



In partnership with hospitality veterans Don and Jay Desai, Gruwell developed the Metro Lifestyle Brand to go beyond lodging. Each property is a sanctuary of self-expression, featuring curated interiors, one-of-a-kind furnishings, and a guest experience centered on connection, comfort, and luxury. At The Charles Pacific Grove, guests will enjoy indulgent amenities such as a gourmet breakfast, a curated social hour with local wines and cheeses, and a cozy afternoon nosh.

The hotel will begin welcoming guests on June 1 with a soft opening, leading up to its official grand opening celebration on June 28, in proud conjunction with Pride Month. Interior design is expected to be fully complete by the end of May.

LGBTQ+ travelers will find Pacific Grove to be a welcoming and picturesque destination, with highlights including breathtaking coastal walks from Lover's Point to Cannery Row, the peaceful trails of Asilomar Beach, eclectic shops and restaurants, the Pacific Grove Art Center, and the iconic Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. Nearby Carmel-by-the-Sea offers a romantic mix of art galleries, fine dining, and charming storybook architecture.

Gruwell recommends visiting during the spring, summer, and fall, with August through October offering the warmest, clearest weather.

Looking ahead, The Charles brand is already expanding. Gruwell and his partners have acquired a second property in Napa Valley, currently open and undergoing renovations to join The Charles Hospitality Collection by the end of 2025.

As the collection grows, Gruwell remains steadfast in his mission: to redefine luxury hospitality through inclusive design and personalized guest experiences—creating beautiful, boutique sanctuaries where everyone belongs.

For more information or to book a stay, visit [www.TheCharlesPG.com](http://www.TheCharlesPG.com)



# Hey Roscoe's Fans!

**Exciting Things Are Happening Here**, and we wanted to introduce the passionate new leadership team dedicated to making your experience better than ever! We've listened to your feedback, and we're committed to bringing back the energy, quality, and top-notch service you deserve.

**Meet The Team** bringing fresh enthusiasm to Roscoe's:

- **Chris Reynolds:** Your new General Manager, focused on creating a fun, welcoming vibe from the second you walk in.
- **Narcisso Villegas:** Our new Kitchen Manager, obsessed with food quality and ensuring every bite is delicious.
- **Amy Davey:** The new Private Dining Manager, ready to make your special events absolutely perfect.

**This Team Is Fired Up** about customer service, amazing food, and overall excellence. Their mission? To make sure you feel welcomed when you arrive and leave completely satisfied.

**We Want To Meet You!** Seriously, come on in! Chris, Narcisso, and Amy are eager to say hello and hear from you. We're here to build a fun environment with great service and fantastic food.

**Your Feedback Matters - Instantly!** We're striving for perfection, but if for any reason your experience isn't hitting the mark, please grab one of us immediately. We want the chance to fix it right then and there.

**Get Ready For Deliciousness!** Hold onto your taste buds! We're rolling out incredible new menu items like our addictive **Showstopper Wings**, tropical **Coconut Shrimp**, and classic **Fish and Chips**. (Yep, seafood is back!) Plus, get ready for brunch favorites like **TJ's Benny Hash**, hearty **Biscuits and Gravy**, and the triumphant return of our **Chicken and Waffles** with what might just be the BEST sausage gravy in town! Not to mention our new cocktail menu: **Guava Have It!**, **Sangria**, **Bourbon Blush**, **Hey Sorbae!**, **Spicy Tamarindo**, **Deja Brew**, **Show Stopper**.



Come experience the new energy at Roscoe's. Meet the team, try the new dishes, and let us show you how much we care, and don't forget to check out our new website where our goal is to keep you informed at all times. We can't wait to welcome you!



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## Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Welcome to Pride Month! A time to celebrate all that we as a community have accomplished in the fight for equality. We stood together at Stonewall. We fought just to be seen during the beginning of the AIDS crisis. And now, we face renewed attacks on our rights at every level. But we are still here! Louder. Prouder. And fearless! Pride is not just a party—it's a promise to support, fight for and love one another fiercely. As threats rise, so must we. This month be as queer as you can be with unapologetic joy!

## May 24

Pack a picnic and step back in time at the Victorian Fun Faire, Saturday, May 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Enjoy croquet, a scavenger hunt, and vintage vibes. Costumes encouraged! Snack bundles available with a \$5 donation. Hosted by the Sacramento Old City Cemetery Committee. Free event. [Historicoldcitycemetery.org](http://Historicoldcitycemetery.org)

## May 26

Sacramento Area Polyamory hosts its second monthly social Sunday, May 26, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Bike Dog, 915 Broadway, Suite 200. Enjoy casual conversation, craft beer, and community—no agenda, just mingling. Great for newcomers and veterans alike. Look for name tags to spot group members. Respect and enthusiastic consent are essential. Free, public event. [Bikedogbrewing.com](http://Bikedogbrewing.com)

## May 31

Book lovers, mark your calendars! The second annual Sacramento Book Festival returns Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Featuring bestselling authors James Rollins, Catriona McPherson and more, the event includes author booths, panels, readings, a scavenger hunt, and food trucks. [Sacramentobookfestival.com](http://Sacramentobookfestival.com)

The Sacramento Pop Choir presents True Colors on Saturday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. at C.K. McClatchy High School Theater, 3066 Freeport Blvd. in Land Park. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a vibrant evening of music by Elton John, Coldplay, Prince, Chappell Roan, and more. Advance tickets required; limited seating expected. Hosted by Sacramento Pop Choir. [Sacpopchoir.com](http://Sacpopchoir.com)



Celebrate Pride Month at the Raising the Flag ceremony on Tuesday, May 28, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the City Hall Breezeway, Sacramento City Hall, 915 I St. Enjoy a performance by the Gay Men's Chorus and remarks from guest speaker Susan Stewart, owner of Strapping Store. Food trucks arrive at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Celebrate a decade of the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera on Saturday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. Principal Conductor Ari Pelto leads Mozart's lively Haffner Symphony and Mahler's powerful Symphony No. 1, "Titan." A stirring season finale showcasing the depth and brilliance of orchestral music. [Sacphilopera.org](http://Sacphilopera.org)

Goth meets New Wave on Saturday, May 31, at 8 p.m. as COVEN faces off with New Wave Society at Old Ironsides, 1901 10th St. DJs Keyz, Owen, and Batty Page spin the sounds for this 21+ night of darkwave, synth, and alternative vibes. Part of Sacramento's monthly Club Coven series. Dress to impress in black. [Sacmentogoths.com](http://Sacmentogoths.com)

## May 29

Sacramento Ballet's beloved Beer & Ballet returns May 29–June 1 at The Sofia, Home of the B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave. Experience fresh choreography by company dancers and enjoy a complimentary beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverage with each ticket. Presented in partnership with Bike Dog Brewing Company and Old Sugar Mill Wineries. [Sacballet.org](http://Sacballet.org)

## June 5

Join the fun at Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo, June 5, from 7-9 p.m. at Mangos, 1930 K St. All seating is first come, first served, with the game starting at 7 p.m. A \$20 cash donation to play. Don't miss this exciting and charitable event! [Rainbowchamber.com](http://Rainbowchamber.com)

## June 7

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd. will host its popular Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 7. This biennial event offers great deals while supporting temple projects and local charities. Donations are accepted June 5–6, with unsold items benefiting community organizations. Don't miss this chance to shop, give back, and connect with neighbors. [Buddhistchurch.org](http://Buddhistchurch.org)

Golden Rule Services celebrates its 25th anniversary with a gala on Saturday, June 7 at The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred, 2300 Sierra Blvd. Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with a VIP cocktail hour, followed by the main program at 6 p.m. The evening features live music by Kippy Marks, keynote speakers, and honors those combating HIV/AIDS. Get your tickets early. [Grsgala.org](http://Grsgala.org)

## June 6

Get ready to laugh at the SacTown Stand-Up Showcase on Thursday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St., Suite 130. This high-energy night features a stellar lineup of seasoned comics and rising stars from Sacramento's comedy scene. Expect sharp sets, big laughs, and unforgettable entertainment. [Saccomedyspot.com](http://Saccomedyspot.com)

Get sizzling at Kevin Bacon Fest, Friday, June 6, from 9 p.m. to midnight at The Torch Club, 904 15th St. Part of Sacramento Bacon Fest, this live music showcase—presented by Wendy Reynolds—features six local bands covering songs from Kevin Bacon's movies. Enjoy drink specials and a night of fun, film, and rock 'n' roll. [Touchstoneclimbing.com](http://Touchstoneclimbing.com)

## Ongoing...

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center hosts the Black, Queer, & Trans Group every second and fourth Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m. at 1015 20th St. This safe, affirming space offers connection and community for Black queer and trans individuals. For more information, email [mentalhealth@saccenter.org](mailto:mentalhealth@saccenter.org).

### Community Announcements

Happy anniversary to Jimmy Short and Markcurtis Otani on June 5! Congratulations to the new Mr. Bolt, Bear Boucher.

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to [matthewburlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthewburlingame@gmail.com)



# Yountville Pride Celebrations Return This June

The Yountville Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of Yountville Pride Celebrations, taking place Monday, June 16 through Sunday, June 22, 2025. Now in its second year, this weeklong celebration of love, inclusion, and community will feature a vibrant lineup of events, special offers, and unique experiences hosted by local businesses and chamber members across Yountville and the greater Napa Valley.



Highlights of the week include Pride Trivia, wine and food pairings, Pride Bingo, a colorful Pride Paint Night, a spirited showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and a festive evening of “Bean Bags, Pride Flags, and Cornhole.” These events aim to create joyful and welcoming spaces for all.

The week culminates with Pride in the Park on Sunday, June 22 at Yountville Veterans Memorial Park. Presented in partnership with the Town of Yountville, this free, family-friendly event will offer live music, food trucks, local vendors, art activities, community booths, and more.

To kick off Pride Month in the Napa Valley, the Town of Yountville will raise the Pride Flag at Town Hall on Tuesday, June 3 at 2:45 p.m. The community is invited to attend this special moment of solidarity and celebration.

“The Town of Yountville and the entire Napa Valley honors and celebrates diversity every day,” said Natalie Leighton, President & CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce. “We’re thrilled to invite everyone to join us in celebrating Pride in the heart of Napa Valley.”

Visit [yountville.com/pridecelebrations](https://yountville.com/pridecelebrations) for full event details and updates.

# Santa Monica Unites to Celebrate and Support the LGBTQ+ Community

SaMo Pride returns this June, bringing a month of inclusive, community-driven events that honor and uplift the LGBTQ+ community. Highlighting visibility, acceptance, and unity, the festivities culminate on Saturday, June 21 with a citywide celebration across Santa Monica’s most iconic destinations: the Pier, Promenade, Main Street, and Santa Monica Place.

This all-ages event features interactive art, live entertainment, family activities, and valuable community resources, welcoming locals and visitors alike to join in the celebration by the sea. The day begins at the Santa Monica Pier with the return of Fabulous Fables: Drag Queen Pride Family-Edition—a vibrant morning of Drag Storytelling, poetry, performances, and face painting, hosted in the historic Merry Go-Round Building.

Also at the Pier, Pride Beach Sports invites everyone to join mini-tournaments in kickball, soccer, volleyball, and more, organized by OutLoud Sports and Pride Point Volleyball. Nearby, Santa Monica Place hosts a family-friendly Pride Disco and Kid Zone from 12 to 4 p.m., with a Silent Disco and crafts in partnership with the Cayton Children’s Museum.

On Third Street Promenade, Pride on the Promenade offers performances, giveaways, and LGBTQ+ vendors from 2 to 7 p.m. New this year, guests can responsibly enjoy drinks as part of Downtown Santa Monica’s Entertainment Zone.

Main Street’s Drag Bingo in the Beer Garden and Summer Soulstice celebration cap off the day with music, games, and art in a pedestrian-only zone. The weekend wraps with a Pride on the Pier Dance Party on Sunday, June 22.

Throughout June, Santa Monica will host additional Pride events. Visit [SMPride.com](https://SMPride.com) for the full schedule and details.

# Pride Events in California 2025

**WeHo Pride (West Hollywood)**  
Dates: May 30–June 1, 2025  
Location: West Hollywood Park, West Hollywood, CA  
Website: <https://www.wehopride.com/>

**Sonoma County Pride**  
Dates: May 30–June 1, 2025  
Location: Santa Rosa, CA  
Website: <https://www.sonomacountypride.org/>

**Davis Pride**  
Dates: June 7, 2025  
Location: Civic Center Park, Davis, CA  
Website: [DavisPride.org](https://DavisPride.org)

**LA Pride (Los Angeles)**  
Date: June 8, 2025  
Location: Los Angeles, CA  
Website: <https://lapride.org/>

**Sacramento Pride**  
Dates: June 14–15, 2025  
Location: Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA  
Website: <https://sacramentopride.org/>

**Elk Grove Pride**  
Date: June 21, 2025  
Location: Laguna Town Hall, Elk Grove, CA  
Website: <https://www.exploreelkgrove.com/>

**Santa Monica Pride (SaMo Pride)**  
Date: June 21, 2025  
Location: Santa Monica Place and Main Street Santa Monica, CA  
Website: <https://www.smpride.com>

**Yountville Pride in the Park**  
Date: June 22, 2025  
Location: Yountville Veterans Memorial Park, Yountville, CA  
Website: [yountville.com/pridecelebrations](https://yountville.com/pridecelebrations)

**San Francisco Pride**  
Dates: June 28–29, 2025  
Location: Civic Center, San Francisco, CA  
Website: <https://sfpride.org/>

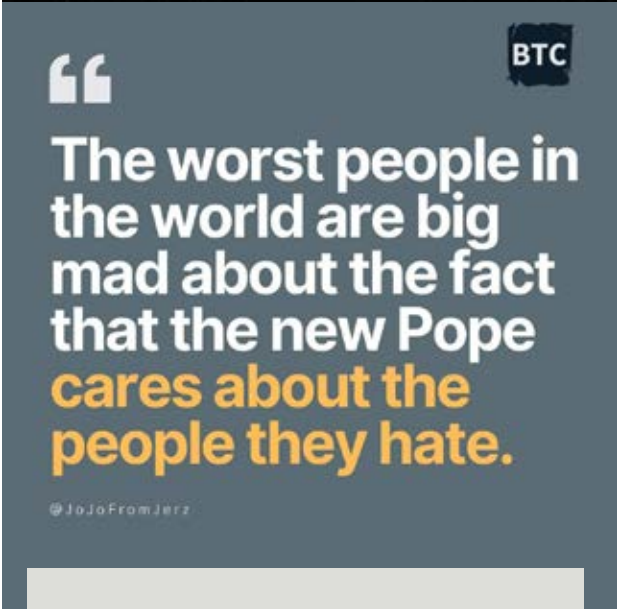
**Silicon Valley Pride (San Jose)**  
Dates: August 29–31, 2025  
Location: Plaza de César Chávez Park, San Jose, CA  
Website: <https://www.svpride.com/>

**Palm Springs Pride**  
Dates: November 6–9, 2025  
Location: Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA  
Website: <https://www.pspride.org/>

Please note that event details such as dates and locations are subject to change. It’s advisable to check the official websites for the most current information.

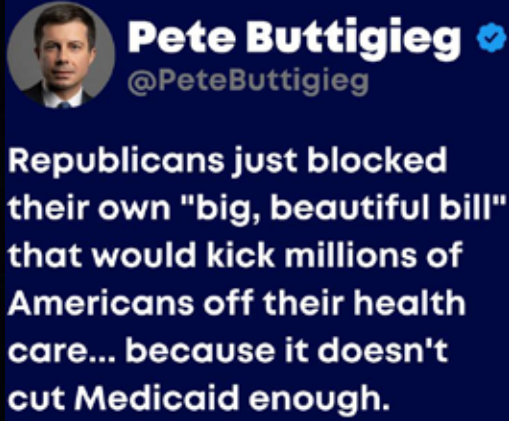
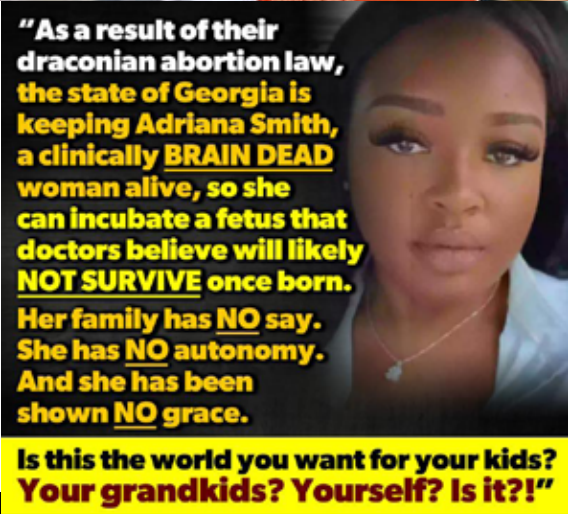
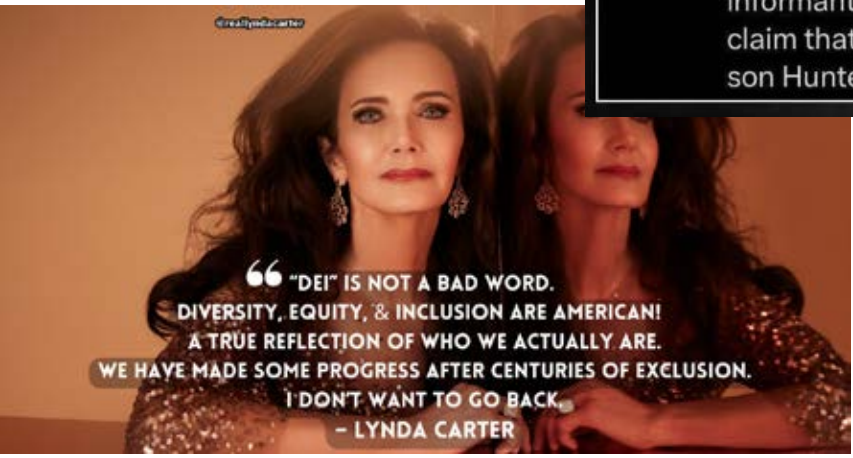


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# Realm Cellars: “This Blessed Plot, this Earth, this Realm...”

words by Diana Kienle, Certified Specialist of Wine  
photo by Cathy Schwamberger.

After purchasing the wine produced by Realm Cellars for over 15 years, it was a pleasure to taste at their newest property in Calistoga, CA. It is the home of one of their wines, the Bard. The Bard is a Cabernet blend that is rich and well structured. After many iterations of Realm Cellars, it has expanded to include three locations: The Stags Leap district, Pritchard Hill, and now Calistoga. Success does breed success.



One of the greatest additions to this winery is the winemaker, Benoit Touquette. He was offered the position of winemaker in 2009. He had also been offered the position at Screaming Eagle and turned it down. He stated his preference to build something rather than join something led to his decision. And to that, it is agreed – well done!

The tasting we enjoyed was at the newest location in the north end of the valley on Tubbs Lane in Calistoga. It is a gorgeous setting to say the least. While the initial entrance is noteworthy, once through the door to the tasting area – it is awesome. Mount St. Helena and the Palisades are visible in all their splendor and set the stage for the tasting. There is a wonderful outdoor space, and the view is also enjoyed from inside the glass walls of the tasting room. The glorious outdoors is available to enjoy and savor along with the wine.

On this day, we were greeted with a unique Rosé that set the stage and our palates for the wines to come. We tasted through three 2022s and enjoyed the experience of contrasting the Bard '22 with the '19, depicting what is possible with age. All the red blends that we enjoyed were well rated by Vinous. My personal favorite was the 2019 Bard. It was luscious from the expressive aromas to the velvety palate which was soft and plush. It left me wanting more and looking forward to opening a bottle with dinner.

The opportunity to purchase these wines is best through the website. There, the option is to sign up for their biannual offerings. It is well worth it. As stated above, I have enjoyed the wines for over 15 years. You will find wonderful wines to enjoy.

Enjoy!



Get ready to raise a glass at the [3rd Annual Palm Springs Equality Wine & Food Fest](#), happening June 5–7, 2025, at the Hyatt Palm Springs! This Pride Month celebration transforms the hotel atrium into an immersive experience full of flavor and flair, featuring top-notch wines from regions like Sonoma and Napa, plus tasty bites from local eateries. What makes this fest extra special? Every participating business is LGBTQ, woman, or POC-owned—highlighting voices that deserve the spotlight. Expect celebrity chefs, pop-up shops, a silent auction benefiting social justice orgs, and plenty of good vibes. While VIP tickets are sold out, you can still snag general admission for June 7's Grand Tasting. It's a delicious, purposeful party where every sip supports inclusivity.

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For 30 years, Outword Magazine – Sacramento's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication has been a trusted voice, sharing stories, uplifting our community, and keeping you informed.

Now, more than ever, LGBTQ+ media matters, especially given the ruthless attacks our community has already suffered. This is why we've launched a subscription and reader support donor service to help keep Outword as a resource that ensures vital information continues to flow.

Please consider making a contribution, in the dollar amount that works for you, using our relaunched Outword Rainbow Fund. Every contribution will make a difference and with a simple, and secure transaction, you can show your support.

We are proud to be one of the LGBTQ+ voices for the Sacramento community over the years, and we are committed to continuing for years to come. Let's not let our voices be silenced. Help us continue getting the Word Out.

Thank you, from the Outword team.

**If you would like more information please email us or give us a call:**

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# Activating Taste Buds (ATB) submitted by Fred Palmer

**L**aSalette Restaurant in Sonoma offers an exceptional culinary experience rooted in Portuguese tradition with a fresh, modern twist. From the moment you walk in, the warm ambiance and attentive staff set the tone for a memorable meal.

The Wood Oven Roasted Octopus is a standout—tender, smoky, and perfectly paired with crispy fingerling potatoes and an onion purée. The Roasted Green Asparagus Salad is equally impressive, with the richness of serrano redondo ham and the brightness of an egg yolk vinaigrette, topped with a delightful crunch from toasted almonds.

A real highlight is the Açorda de Trigo, a farro “risotto” that balances earthy mushrooms and sweet peas with the luxurious creaminess of a poached egg—comforting and elegant all at once. And for those craving bold flavors, the wood oven roasted Sardines are a must-try: full of character, with a sweet onion cebolada and the surprising richness of a quail egg.

Whether you’re a local or just passing through wine country, LaSalette deserves a spot on your dining itinerary.

[www.lasalterestaurant.com](http://www.lasalterestaurant.com)



**Wood Oven Roasted Octopus**  
fried fingerling potato, sweet onion puree,  
red wine vinegar & pickled seaweed 20



**Roasted Green Asparagus Salad**  
serrano redondo ham, egg yolk vinaigrette,  
toasted almonds & fried egg 17



**Açorda de Trigo**  
farro “risotto” with local mushrooms,  
shelling peas, poached egg & pine nuts 31



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For 30 years, Outword Magazine has been a trusted voice in the LGBTQ+ community, fostering a loyal and engaged readership. Available in both print and online, it celebrates diversity and inclusion through its content and active involvement in local events and initiatives. Widely distributed, the magazine ensures visibility and accessibility across the region and beyond, serving as a go-to resource for community events, advocacy, and local businesses. A recent survey of readers highlights their active lifestyle, revealing they dine out an average of 12 times a month.

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# Supper Club Returns

by George Ryder

It's been a long time coming, but the wait is finally over—Outword's beloved Supper Club is making its much-anticipated return! On Friday evening, June 20, 2025, the community will once again gather for an unforgettable night of laughter, delicious food, and heartwarming connections at Roscoe's Bar and Burgers, located at 2007 K Street in Midtown Sacramento.

Known for its unique blend of social connection and culinary delight, the Outword Supper Club has always been more than just a dinner—it's a celebration of friendship and community. This time around, the excitement is even greater as the event marks a joyful return after a long hiatus.

Whether you're looking for a fun night out, a date night, or a chance to meet new friends, Supper Club offers it all. Singles night? Check. Making connections? Absolutely. Fun food and great vibes? You bet. This event brings people together in the most entertaining way legally possible.

The festivities kick off with two seatings, one at [5 p.m.](#) (for the folks that want to attend the Sac Gay Men's Chorus event, later that evening), and another at [6 p.m.](#) for those that just don't want to eat that early! We are asking you to make reservations to secure your seat at the table, and so we can have a head count. But don't worry—making your reservation is as easy as scanning one of the below QR codes for the seating you would like. The images also have clickable hyperlinks to whisk you to each page.

So, mark your calendars and get ready to eat, laugh, love and repeat.


5 p.m.



or

6 p.m.





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# Relax Midweek with Elegant Low-Alcohol Cocktails: Introducing Wednesday Night Wine-Down

This spring, take a midweek pause to savor something truly special. Wednesday Night Wine-Down: 52 Drinks for Low-Alcohol Midweek Sipping, the new cocktail guide by Jennifer Newens, author of Monday Night Mocktails. This delicious new book offers a fresh and stylish approach to unwinding after a busy day. With 52 seasonal recipes—one for every week of the year—and more than 50 vibrant full-color photographs, Wednesday Night Wine-Down makes every Wednesday evening a celebration.

Low-alcohol cocktails have become a major trend, and for good reason. Bars and home mixologists alike are embracing them for their ability to deliver flavor and enjoyment without overindulgence.

Research shows Americans are drinking less alcohol, with 34% of people aiming to cut back over the past two years, and the trend is expected to grow.

In response to the rising popularity of low-ABV (alcohol by volume) drinks, Wednesday Night Wine-Down provides a collection of inspired, easy-to-create cocktails that feature wine, Port, sherry, and vermouth. Whether you're a novice wine enthusiast or a seasoned connoisseur, these creative infusions bring together widely available ingredients and seasonal flavors to create refreshing, health-conscious libations.

"Wine-based cocktails offer a healthier alternative to traditional spirit-based drinks, helping reduce alcohol consumption while still providing a sophisticated sip," says Newens. "My book pairs this trend with expert wine knowledge and hosting tips, making it the perfect companion for anyone looking to elevate their weeknight routine."

From well-loved standards like the Aperol Spritz, Kir, and New Orleans French 75, to globally inspired favorites from Spain, Italy, and Portugal, Wednesday Night Wine-Down captures the best of both tradition and innovation. Some of the inventive twists on spirit-based cocktails found in the book include:

- Smoky Wine Margarita
- Moscato and Strawberry Slush
- Cantaloupe Wine Spritzer
- Spanish Negroni
- Spice Pear Cocktail
- New York Sour
- Sherry Old-Fashioned

Each recipe is designed to be approachable yet elegant, making it simple to mix up a delicious drink that suits the season and your midweek mood.

In addition to its wide variety of cocktails, Wednesday Night Wine-Down offers practical advice for hosting memorable midweek gatherings and is the go-to guide for enjoying a delicious and relaxing midweek treat, every week of the year. Whether planning a cozy night in or a casual get-together, this book ensures you have everything you need to impress guests with style and ease.

Make Wednesdays something to look forward to with these inspired, low-alcohol cocktails that turn ordinary evenings into extraordinary experiences.







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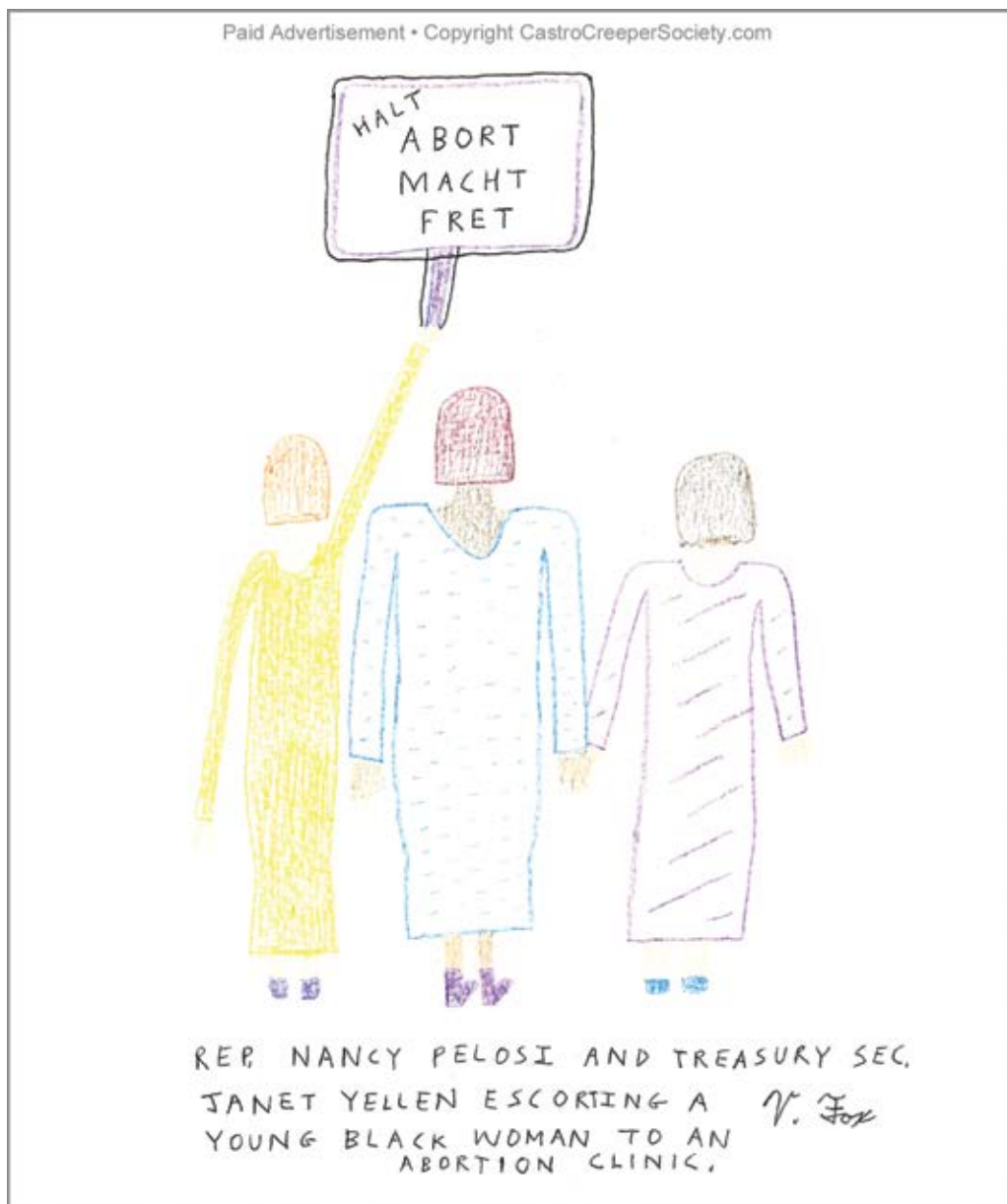
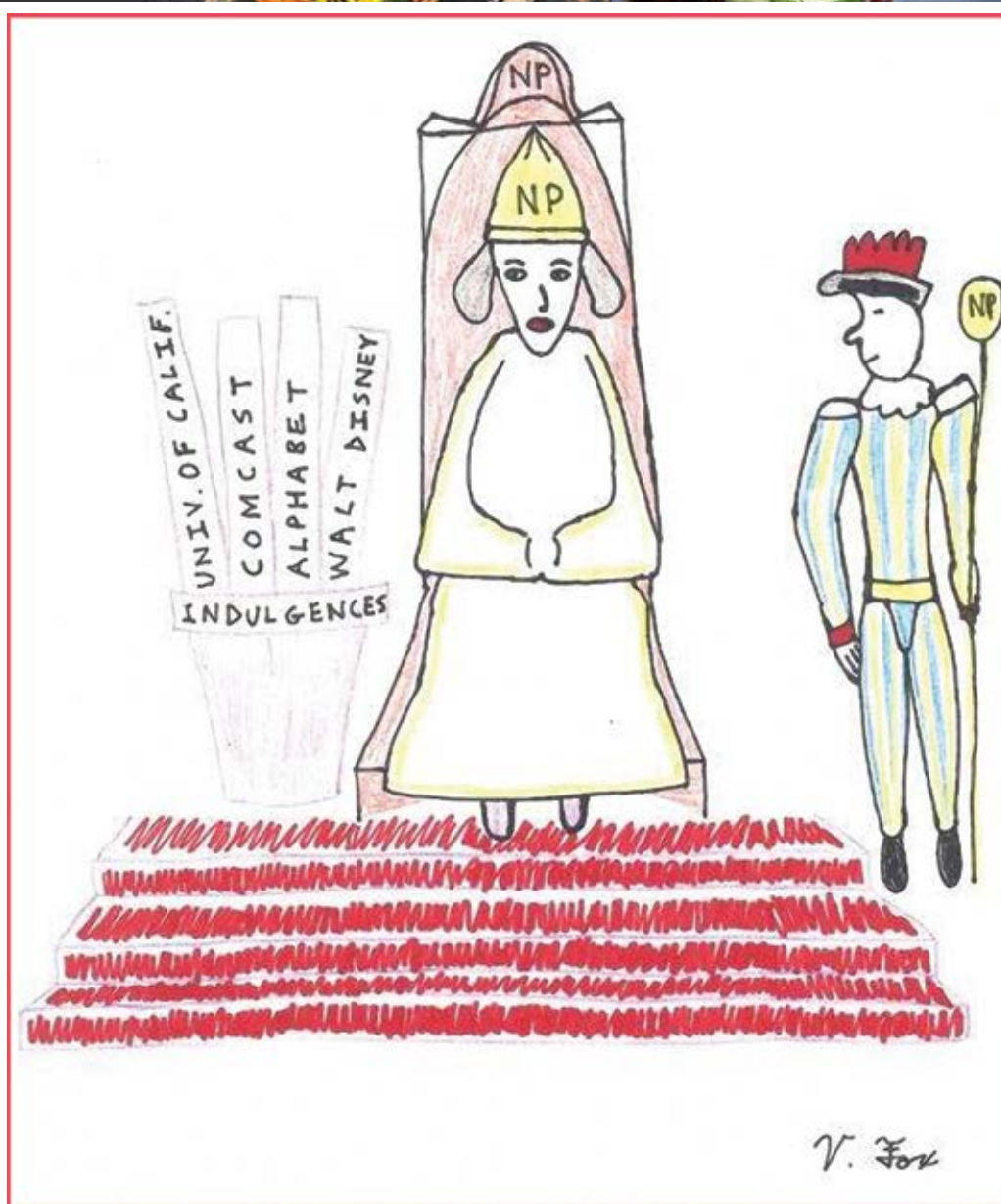
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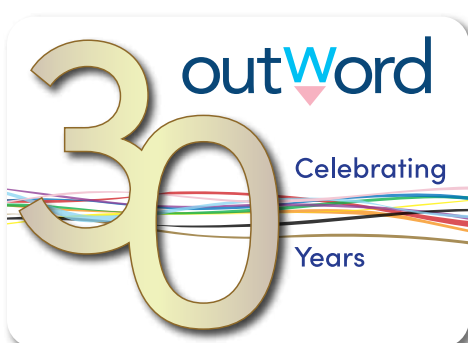
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