

outWord

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Cyndi Lauper in
Wheatland
and a
Pop Queen
Summer

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Special Pride Month Issue
Featuring Our LGBTQ+ History Timeline - Updated
begins on page 16

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HIV Breakthrough Looks Promising

A recent breakthrough in HIV research is generating significant excitement among scientists. Researchers at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne have developed a novel lipid nanoparticle, LNP X, capable of delivering mRNA into white blood cells where HIV can hide. This mRNA instructs infected cells to expose the dormant virus, allowing the immune system or additional therapies to target and eliminate it. This approach was previously considered impossible and represents a promising step toward an HIV cure.

This advancement is part of a broader trend of innovative strategies aiming to eradicate HIV. Other notable approaches include:

- **CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing:** Researchers have utilized CRISPR technology to eliminate HIV from infected cells in laboratory settings. While this method shows promise, it requires further optimization for safe and effective human application. thescottishsun.co.uk+2reddit.com+2nypost.com+2thescottishsun.co.uk
- **Combination Immunotherapy:** A trial in South Africa demonstrated that 20% of participants maintained viral suppression without antiretroviral therapy (ART) for over a year, suggesting the potential for a functional cure through this approach. science.org+3iol.co.za+3reddit.com+3

While these developments are promising, experts caution that translating these findings into widely accessible treatments will require extensive research and clinical trials. Nevertheless, the convergence of mRNA technology, gene editing, and immunotherapy offers renewed hope in the quest to end the HIV pandemic.



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Supreme Court Upholds Tennessee Ban on Gender-Affirming Care for Trans Youth, Prompting Outrage and Renewed Resolve

In a deeply consequential and controversial decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled 6–3 in *U.S. v. Skrmetti* to uphold Tennessee’s law banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors. The ruling marks the Court’s first direct decision on transgender healthcare, with sweeping implications for LGBTQ+ rights and access to care nationwide. At the heart of the case was Senate Bill 1 (SB1), a Tennessee law that prohibits the use of puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgeries for anyone under the age of 18.

The plaintiffs—three transgender teens, their families, and a Memphis-based medical provider—argued that the law violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution by discriminating on the basis of sex and gender identity. The majority, however, rejected this view, ruling that the law pertains to age and medical procedures rather than targeting transgender individuals. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts stated that states have a legitimate interest in regulating medical treatments for minors, and that the law passed a “rational basis” review—the lowest level of constitutional scrutiny.

The decision opens the door for the roughly two dozen other states with similar laws to move forward with enforcement, further limiting access to care for thousands of transgender youth across the country. It

also represents a departure from previous court rulings that had blocked such laws as unconstitutional.

In a blistering dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor accused the Court of abdicating its duty to protect vulnerable populations. “Today’s decision retreats from meaningful judicial review exactly where it matters most,” she wrote. “By upholding this law, the Court authorizes untold harm to transgender children and the parents and families who love them.”

The ruling has sparked a wave of reaction from legal experts, civil rights organizations, healthcare providers, and elected officials. Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson called it “a devastating blow to transgender youth and the families who love them.” She emphasized the real-life consequences many families may now

face—such as relocating to more supportive states or shouldering immense costs to access out-of-state care.

Tony Hoang, Executive Director of Equality California, described the decision as “a dangerous setback that allows government interference in deeply personal, private medical decisions.” Hoang affirmed that California, which has enacted protections for trans youth and their families, remains committed to safeguarding access to care.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which represented the plaintiffs, expressed disappointment but vowed to

SB1 serve only to deepen the violence and discrimination transgender youth already face. In California, we will continue to lead with compassion and protect access to life-saving healthcare.”

Across the country, legal and political advocates are already mobilizing in response. LGBTQ+ organizations plan to ramp up public education, push for federal protections, and support families in navigating the increasingly fractured healthcare landscape. The ruling also sets the stage for upcoming legislative battles and underscores the importance of elections in shaping the

“...a dangerous setback that allows government interference in deeply personal, private medical decisions. - *Tony Hoang, Executive Director of Equality California*

continue the legal battle. Amanda Goad, Director of the ACLU of Southern California’s LGBTQ, Gender & Reproductive Justice Project, said the ruling would not deter advocates. “Trans young people thrive when we all build a gender-affirming future they can see themselves in. This fight is far from over.”

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who previously submitted an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs, echoed this determination. “Laws such as Tennessee’s

judiciary and civil rights.

“This decision is painful, but we are not powerless,” Robinson concluded. “We will turn this pain into power and keep fighting until every transgender person in America can live with dignity, safety, and the freedom to be who they are.”

As the dust settles from the Court’s decision, one thing remains clear: the national conversation around trans rights and healthcare is far from over—and the next chapter has just begun.



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Remembering Marghe Covino

by Steve Hansen

It is with a heavy heart that I share the loss of my dear friend, mentor, and community leader, Marghe Covino.



Steve Hansen, Marghe Covino and Gayle Von

Since meeting her in 2003, Marghe's unwavering commitment to justice and inclusivity inspired everyone around her. As a longtime LGBTQ+ activist and former board member of the Sacramento LGBT Center, Marghe built genuine relationships across diverse communities—especially within the API community—fostering solidarity through her leadership.

In the aftermath of Satendar Singh's tragic murder in a Sacramento-area park in July 2007, Marghe joined forces with Georgette Imura to lead a powerful, united coalition calling for justice. They brought together API leaders, faith groups, elected officials—and insisted: an attack on one of us is an attack on all.

Marghe's vision extended beyond protest: she was a bridge-builder, healer, and tireless advocate. As a mentor, she offered wisdom; as a friend, she offered care; and as a leader, she led us toward a more compassionate and united community.

I—and so many others—owe her heartfelt gratitude. We will carry forward her legacy of courage, inclusivity, and unwavering hope.

Rest in power, Marghe. Your light will carry on.



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Baptists' Anti-Lgbt Resolution Is An Almost-Amusing Hypocrisy

The resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention urging the United States Supreme Court to overturn its 2015 decision granting same-gender couples the right to marry would be funny if it weren't so insulting and oppressive, leaders of the Metropolitan Community Church said.

"Have these people nothing better to think about?" asked Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, moderator of MCC churches worldwide.

A 2019 investigation by multiple respected media outlets found 380 Southern Baptist church leaders had faced sexual assault allegations of more than 700 victims.

"None of them was a drag queen," said Eggleston. "Nor were any in same-sex marriages. And given that the SBC was established in part to support 'separation of church and state,' as espoused in the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution,

it's utter hypocrisy that they'd take a stand on this at all – until we also recollect that the SBC stood in support of slavery in the U.S.

"Our denomination will continue to support same-gender marriage, trans rights, and the affirmation of the marginalized in all communities," Eggleston said. "It's a shame the SBC is too busy meddling with the specks in others' eyes to deal with the logs in their own."

For more information about MCC or to find the nearest congregation, visit www.VisitMCCChurch.com.



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Books for Pride, Part II by Various Authors

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've done your share of marching. You're determined to wring every rainbow-hued thing out of this month. The last of the parties hasn't arrived yet, neither have the biggest celebrations and you're primed but – okay, you need a minute. So pull up a chair, take a deep breath, and read these great books on gay history, movies, and more...



You probably don't need to be told that harassment and discrimination was a daily occurrence for gay people in the past (as now!), but "American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives" by Robert W. Fieseler (Dutton, \$34) tells a story that runs deeper than you may know. Here, you'll read a historical expose with documented, newly-released evidence of a systemic effort to ruin the lives of two groups of people that were perceived as a threat to a legislature full of white men.

Prepared to be shocked, that's all you need to know.

You'll also want to read the story inside "The Many Passions of Michael Hardwick: Sex and the Supreme Court in the Age of AIDS" by Martin Padgett (W.W. Norton & Company, \$31.99), which sounds like a novel, but it's not. It's the story of one man's fight for a basic right as the AIDS crisis swirls in and out of American gay life and law. Hint: this book isn't just old history, and it's not just for gay men.

Okay, maybe you're ready for some fun and who doesn't like a movie? You know you do, so you'll want "Sick and Dirty: Hollywood's Gay Golden Age and the Making of Modern Queerness" by Michael Koresky (Bloomsbury, \$29.99). It's a great look at the Hays Code and what it allowed audiences to see, but it's also

about the classics that sneaked beneath the code. There are actors, of course, in here, but also directors, writers, and other Hollywood characters you may recognize. Grab the popcorn and settle in.

If you have kids in your life, they'll want to know more about Pride and you'll want to look for "Pride: Celebrations & Festivals" by Eric Huang, illustrated by Amy Phelps (Quarto, \$14.99), a story of inclusion that ends in a nice fat section of history and explanation, great for kids ages seven-to-fourteen. Also find "Are You a Friend of Dorothy? The True Story of an Imaginary Woman and the Real People She Helped Shape" by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Levi Hastings (Simon & Schuster, \$19.99), a lively book about a not-often-told secret for kids ages six-to-ten; and "Papa's Coming Home" by Chasten Buttigieg, illustrated by Dan Taylor (Philomel, \$19.99), a sweet family tale for kids ages three-to-five.

Finally, here's a tween book that you can enjoy, too: "Queer Heroes" by Arabelle Sicardi, illustrated by Sarah Tanat-Jones (Wide Eyed, \$14.99), a series of quick-to-read biographies of people you should know about.

Want more Pride books? Then ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for more, because there are so many more things to read. Really, the possibilities are almost endless, so march on in.

Improving Tobacco Cessation Research for the Non-Binary Community: A Call for More Inclusive Data and Representation

by Tania Ruedas Ortiz (she/they),
[We Breathe Communications](#) Intern

It was through the non-binary community that I began to understand myself more fully. Hearing others share their stories helped me embrace my identity and feel comfortable using she/they pronouns. That sense of belonging gave me the confidence to ask deeper questions—not just about myself, but about the systems we move through daily. I’ve also seen firsthand how often non-binary people are underrepresented or dismissed in healthcare settings. That’s why I advocate fiercely for their inclusion in tobacco cessation research - not just to reflect their health and experiences, but to ensure they are included in policies and programs that allow them to thrive.

In early 2025, the Trump Administration implemented an executive order that mandated federal agencies to recognize only two sexes: male and female. As a result, transgender and non-binary people have been erased from federal documents and websites. Agencies such as the NIH, HHS, and the CDC removed LGBTQ+ resource pages, halted gender-inclusive data collection and research. The deliberate erasure of LGBTQ+ data not only undermines ongoing and future research but also deepens the marginalization of communities already fighting for visibility and representation in research.

The data erasure underscores a broader concern: without ongoing advocacy, the risk of further excluding non-binary individuals from research continues to grow. Concerningly, Non-binary and transgender people are often miscategorized as one, despite their differing identities and journeys. The misclassification leads to misleading conclusions and generalized interventions that fail to reflect real-life experiences. Without specific data, public health programs aimed at “LGBTQ+ people” risk being ineffective - or worse, alienating the very communities they seek to support. What gets overlooked in programs often resurfaces in the daily struggles of those most affected.

When tobacco cessation research does not reflect or respect identities, seeking help can feel impossible. Who wants support from a system that makes them feel invisible? For many non-binary people, smoking or vaping becomes a coping mechanism in response to discrimination, gender dysphoria, or being repeatedly misgendered. The usage of tobacco and nicotine products is not exclusive to the non-binary community.

Research shows LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to use tobacco than their heterosexual peers, but non-binary people remain statistically invisible, even though they make up roughly 11% of LGBTQ adults. Without non-binary specific data, their distinct experiences will be erased. How can tobacco cessation programs truly support these individuals if they rely on a one-size-fits-all approach that treats non-binary people as an afterthought rather than a valued part of our communities?

Strategies for Inclusive Tobacco Cessation Research

To create meaningful change, we must center non-binary people in both research and programs

to develop inclusive strategies for tobacco cessation or quitting efforts and research:

1. Design Inclusive Research Methods: Research must require the collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) data - see image example. Surveys and studies must offer “non-binary” as a distinct gender identity option. This allows people to self-identify in a way that reflects their lived reality, improving the accuracy and usefulness of the data.
2. Tailor Tobacco Cessation Programs for Non-Binary Individuals: Non-binary people experience unique challenges, such as gender-based discrimination or lack of access to affirming care, that differ from those of cisgender and trans men and women. Tobacco prevention and cessation programs should reflect these unique experiences, providing support in a safe and respectful environment.
3. Conduct Long-Term Research: We need long-term studies that follow non-binary individuals over time to understand how and why tobacco use begins, continues, and ends. Quitting tobacco is rarely a one-time event—understanding what does and does not work is essential.
4. Increase Representation in Public Health Campaigns: Non-binary people should be visible in public health materials as a recognized part of the community. When people see themselves reflected in public health messaging, they’re more likely to trust and engage with it.

Moving Toward Equitable Health Outcomes

LGBTQ+ tobacco use research must evolve to address the unique experiences of non-binary individuals. I remember talking with a non-binary friend who, while trying to quit smoking, was repeatedly misgendered by providers and unable to find any resources that resonated with their experience. That frustration and invisibility made them feel hopeless and pushed them deeper into dependence on nicotine.

Creating meaningful change requires more than just acknowledging these gaps. Institutions must actively work to design inclusive studies, develop tailored programs, and elevate non-binary voices within tobacco prevention efforts to understand the causes of addiction within specific communities. This is not just a matter of equity; it’s a public health necessity.

Inclusive Gender Identity Research Questions Can Look Like This:

1. What is your current gender?

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-Binary
- ☐ None/Unsure
- ☐ Another Identity: _____
- ☐ Decline to State

2. Do you identify as transgender?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Decline to State





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New Report Sheds Light on Trans Health and Wellbeing in the U.S

Advocates for Trans Equality has released a major new report titled Health and Wellbeing: Findings from the 2022 [U.S. Trans Survey](#), offering an in-depth look into the physical and mental health of transgender people across the country. With responses from over 84,000 trans individuals—the largest sample of its kind—this landmark report reveals both progress and persistent disparities in access to care and overall health outcomes.



The data shows that affirming one's gender identity is closely tied to improved wellbeing. Respondents who had socially or medically transitioned were significantly more likely to report good health and overall life satisfaction than those who had not. The findings affirm what many in the trans community already know firsthand: living openly and authentically has tangible health benefits.

Family support emerged as another critical factor. Trans people who reported having supportive families were healthier and reported far fewer thoughts of suicide than those with unsupportive family relationships. The report underscores how essential affirmation and acceptance are—not just emotionally, but in life-saving terms.

One of the most encouraging findings was that a majority of respondents were able to access routine and mental healthcare when needed. Compared to the last survey conducted in 2015, more participants felt that their healthcare providers treated them with respect, signaling a shift toward greater competency and inclusivity in healthcare settings.

However, the report also highlights enduring inequities. Although access to transition-related care has improved since 2015, many trans people still face barriers to receiving the care they seek. A significant gap remains between those who desire transition-related services and those who actually receive them. Furthermore, trans respondents reported being uninsured at higher rates and experiencing worse overall health outcomes compared to the general U.S. population.

This comprehensive resource provides critical insights for policymakers, healthcare providers, and advocates, and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusive, affirming care. As public debates around trans rights and healthcare continue, the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey stands as a data-driven call to action to close the remaining gaps and ensure the wellbeing of all trans people.

The full report is available online and offers further breakdowns by race, age, and other demographics—providing one of the clearest pictures to date of what it means to be trans in America today.

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Sacramento Pride 2025: A Celebration of Community, Joy, and Resilience

This past weekend, the Sacramento community showed up, and your joy, resilience, and authenticity shone brightly. It was truly a privilege to witness you gather, celebrate, and express yourselves freely and unapologetically at Sacramento Pride.

From the incredible performances and the seamless cooperation of our volunteers to the vital contributions of our vendors and sponsors, we are immensely grateful. We know our community has faced challenges in recent months, but with every hit, we emerge stronger. Queer resilience is joy, and we saw an abundance of it during the festival and our historic Pride march through the heart of our capital city.

Honoring Our Volunteer Heroes

Sacramento Pride would not have been

possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers. We were overwhelmed by the turnout and the amplified outreach efforts from the community. A special thank you goes to our Pride Volunteer Committee, a group of nearly 40 individuals who have met with us since August of last year. They dedicated countless hours and immense energy to meticulously plan, create systems, build relationships, and provide essential support to our staff when we needed it most. Their initiative and

commitment truly made Sacramento Pride a smooth and memorable experience.

Pride is a team effort, and we are incredibly grateful for these individuals who stepped up. Sacramento Pride is more than just a festival on Capitol Mall; it's a powerful coming together of community to create an event that embodies and celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, sustainability, and belonging.

Our committee grows every year, and we encourage even more individuals to get involved in our planning for Sacramento Pride 2026!

Keep the Joy Alive!

We hope you had an amazing time at Sacramento Pride 2025 and that you carry

that joy with you throughout the year. In moments that test you, remember that your Sacramento LGBT Community Center remains committed to making this world a better place for all. You are loved, you are seen, and you are always welcome through our doors. Thank you for being you and for making Sacramento Pride 2025 truly unforgettable.

The joy doesn't stop here! If you're inspired to get involved or offer your support, you can sign up as a volunteer for the Center's various programs, outreach initiatives, and events. You can also make a donation or start a fundraiser to help us continue providing vital services. Find out more at saccenter.org, and thank you again for being a part of Sacramento Pride!



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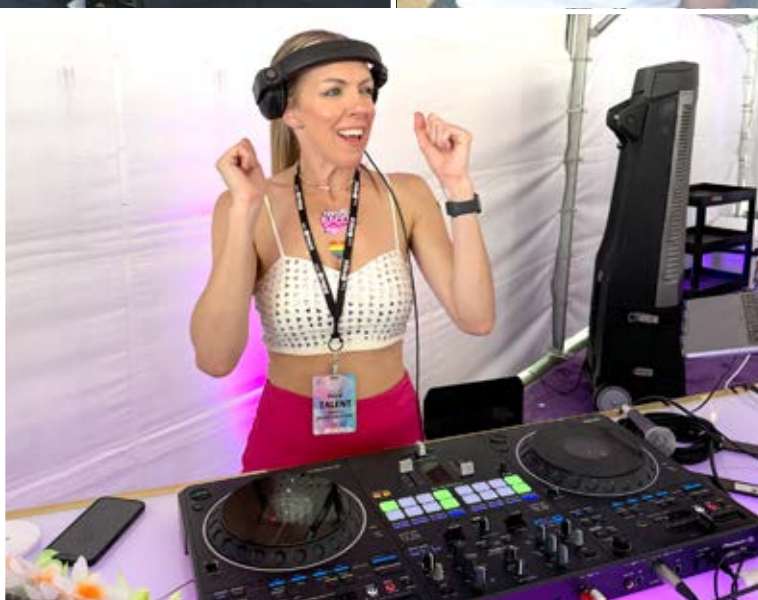


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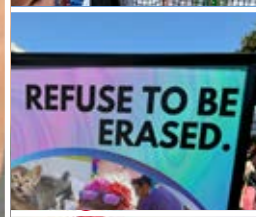




Out & About

photos by Rahn Tequitte

An estimated 20,000 people gathered in downtown Sacramento for this year's vibrant Sacramento Pride celebration, filling Capitol Mall with color, music, and joy. While organizers haven't released an exact headcount, multiple sources have consistently reported the weekend turnout as "20,000+ attendees," reflecting the event's continued popularity. Following Sunday's lively parade—complete with colorful local-business floats and community groups—thousands of Pride-goers packed the festival grounds, where rows of vendor booths, food trucks, and local organizations offered everything from rainbow merchandise to health and advocacy services. The atmosphere was one of celebration, solidarity, and community pride.



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San Francisco Pride 2025: Joy, Resistance, and One Unforgettable Celebration

San Francisco Pride returns with more than just rainbows—it's a full-spectrum celebration of queer identity. The theme, "[Queer Joy Is Resistance](#)," sets the tone for a citywide revival of what Pride has always meant: community, culture, and unapologetic visibility.



SF Pride '22 picture
by Corey Egel

From June 18 to 30, the city will be alive with events ranging from international film festivals to iconic marches, rooftop parties, and grassroots activism. And this year, there's something extra special in the air: a renewed commitment to centering LGBTQ+ voices and reducing corporate influence, making space for authenticity and impact.

The celebration kicks off with Frameline 49, the world's longest-running LGBTQ+ film festival, spotlighting powerful stories and underrepresented voices. Meanwhile, the International Queer Women of Color Film Festival amplifies stories of resilience, creativity, and culture with more than 50 films under the theme "Fierce Determination."

As the weekend nears, the energy builds. Friday, June 27 brings the Trans March, one of the largest of its kind, and a rallying cry for justice, visibility, and trans liberation. Saturday follows with the Dyke March, beginning in Dolores Park and sweeping through the Mission and Castro, fueled by handmade signs, drumming, and grassroots pride.

On Sunday, June 29, the iconic San Francisco Pride Parade returns to Market Street, featuring Grand Marshal Harper Steele—comedian, writer, and trans activist—as a bold voice for visibility and change. The weekend also includes the People's March, a counter-protest rooted in queer liberation and anti-racism.

But Pride in San Francisco isn't just parades. It's art shows, fashion showcases, and live performances like the Fresh Meat Festival, which brings trans and queer artists to the stage, and Threads of Pride, a fashion-meets-activism runway event. Rooftop roller discos, drag brunches, and queer-centered dance parties add extra sparkle to the weekend.

You'll also find plenty of ways to support local businesses and nonprofits. From pink cocktails at neighborhood bars to specialty menus, proceeds from many Pride events help fund community programs. LGBTQ-owned spots like El Rio, Zeitgeist, and Flour + Water are joining the celebration with themed events and open arms.

Major moments not to miss include the lighting of the Pink Triangle on Twin Peaks, Soul of Pride celebrating Black LGBTQ+ brilliance, and a concert with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus featuring pop icon Justin Tranter.

So why go? Because San Francisco Pride isn't just a party—it's a pulse. A living, breathing reminder of the beauty, resilience, and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. Whether you march, dance, brunch, or simply show up, you're part of a bigger story. One that says joy is powerful. Resistance is necessary. And Pride is for everyone.

This is the city where Pride was born. Feel the magic for yourself.

San Diego Pride 2025: A Celebration of Community, Connection, and Continuity

Every July, San Diego transforms. The city's Hillcrest neighborhood fills with color, music, and movement as thousands gather for one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. This year, [San Diego Pride](#) returns July 16–20 under the theme Unbreakable Pride & Unshakeable Power—a message shaped by both the progress made and the work still to be done.

The week begins on a reflective note with Light Up the Cathedral on Wednesday, July 16. The historic St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral glows in rainbow lights as people of many faiths come together in a show of unity and support. It's one of Pride's quieter moments—but also one of its most meaningful.

By Friday, the mood shifts to high gear. The Spirit of Stonewall Rally brings the community together in Hillcrest to honor leaders, activists, and everyday people making a difference. It's a reminder of where Pride began—and why it continues.

That same evening, the Pride Block Party takes over the neighborhood. Food trucks line the streets, drag performances light up the stage, and DJs spin late into the night. For those looking to break a sweat before the weekend, the Pride 5K welcomes runners, walkers, and rollers of all ages and abilities.

Saturday morning brings the main event: the San Diego Pride Parade. Starting at 10 a.m., the parade stretches through Hillcrest with more than 300 entries, from local nonprofits and small businesses to community groups, veterans, and youth organizations. With over 250,000 people expected to attend, it's a day of visibility, pride, and support.



Just a few minutes from the parade route, Balboa Park becomes the weekend home to the San Diego Pride Festival, which runs Saturday and Sunday. The festival features live music, community booths, art, food vendors, and spaces for youth, families, and wellness. One of the most popular spots? The Euphoria Dance Stage. Back again this year, Euphoria delivers high-energy electronic music and a welcoming space to dance, move, or just enjoy the beat. It's a favorite for locals and visitors alike.

Headliners at the festival this year include Kehlani and Kim Petras, with performances that promise to draw big crowds and even bigger conversations. Their inclusion reflects the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community—and the reality that Pride is made up of many perspectives and experiences.

Beyond the big names and busy streets, what makes San Diego Pride special is its balance of celebration and community. Events like She Fest, which highlights the voices of queer women and nonbinary people, along with wellness zones, sober spaces, and access to health and social services, show the care that goes into making Pride welcoming for everyone.

Pride in San Diego is more than a weekend. It's a reflection of a city that continues to grow, challenge itself, and show up for one another. Whether you go for the parade, the music, the movement, or the quiet moments in between—there's something there for everyone.

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Timeline of LGBTQ+ History

*compiled by Kate Moore
first published in Outword Magazine
December 26, 2002*



1943 The military issues regulations barring gay men and lesbians from serving in the armed forces on the basis of their sexual behavior.

behavior.

1950

A Senate report concludes that homosexuality is contrary to the “moral fiber” of the nation, leading to the mass firing of government workers suspected of being gay.

1952
Harry Hay forms the Mattachine Society, one of the first gay organizations in the U.S.

1955
Del Martin and
Phyllis Lyon found the Daughters
of Bilitis, the first lesbian
organization in the U.S.

1957
The Crittenden Report, a 639-page summary of an investigation undertaken by the Navy, says there is “no sound basis” for barring gays from the military as a security risk. The report goes so far as to conclude that “there is some information to indicate that homosexuals are quite good security risks.” The military suppresses the report for nearly two decades,

1961
Illinois becomes the first state to abolish its laws against consensual homosexual sex.

1963
Openly gay civil rights activist
Baynard Rustin organizes
Martin Luther King's March on
Washington.

1968
The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches begins conducting holy union ceremonies for lesbian and gay couples.

1969
A police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City in the wee hours of June 28 leads to four days of battle between police and angry gays and lesbians. The riots mark the birth of the modern gay movement.

1970
The Dick Cavett Show ABC-TV
Nov. 26, 40 min. discussion of gay
issues with gay reps.

1972
The first gay studies program began at Sacramento State University.

That Certain Summer, ABC made-for-TV movie, stars Hal Holbrook and Martin Sheen as lovers.

1973
Founding of the National Gay Task Force, later renamed the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Lambda Legal Defense and
Education Fund incorporates in
Albany, New York.

The American Psychiatric Association declares that homosexuality is not a psychiatric disorder.

1974

The first federal bill banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation is introduced .

Society of Janus, one of the earliest social/support groups devoted to leather and S/M, is founded as a mixed-gender group by Cynthia Slater.

AT&T announces a
nondiscrimination policy against
gays.

1975

Air Force Technical Sergeant Leonard Matlovitch, seeking to contest the military's ban against homosexuals, declares he is gay and is discharged. A veteran of three tours in Vietnam and a recipient of a Purple Heart and a Bronze star, he makes the cover of Time magazine, "I Am a Homosexual." After contesting his discharge in court, he finally agrees to a settlement and drops the case.

Olivia Records is created to record lesbian feminist music. Artists include Cris Williamson, Holly Near, Meg Christian and others. When women's music scene fades, the company is reborn in 1990 as Olivia Cruises.

California decriminalizes all consensual sexual acts between adults.
Washington state,s sodomy laws repealed.

The Valley Knights Motorcycle club is formed.

1976
The first Michigan Women's Music Festival is held in Hart, Michigan. The festival is one of the largest and most visible lesbian events in the United States.

1977
Dade County, FL,
gay rights ordinance sparks
opposition from entertainer, former
Miss America runner-up and
orange juice pitchwoman Anita
Bryant that results in nationwide
focus on the issue, repeal of the
ordinance and a nationwide
conservative backlash.

1978

Gay activist Harvey Milk, also known as “Mayor of Castro Street,” elected Nov. 7 to San Francisco board of supervisors. Twenty days later he and Mayor George Moscone murdered in City Hall by Supervisor Dan White. Milk becomes a gay martyr.

California State Sen. John Briggs introduces a ballot initiative to ban gay teachers from classrooms, again playing the theme of recruitment, "One third of San Francisco teachers are homosexual. I assume most of them are seducing young boys in toilets." The measure is defeated by a 60% vote .

Rainbow flag is designed by Gilbert Baker.




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| <p>1979 A jury finds former San Francisco supervisor Dan White guilty of manslaughter, not murder, in the deaths of gay supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Outraged by the verdict, thousands march on City Hall, leading to a night of rioting.</p> <p>Over 100,000 people take part in the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Oct. but coverage is skimpy.</p> <p>Off-duty police officers force their way into a San Francisco dyke bar, Peg's, beat the bouncer and harass women. Results in immediate and widespread censure but none of the officers involved are punished.</p> <p>Lesbian and Gay Asian Alliance founded, in part, to address impact of racism on gay and lesbian communities and activism.</p> <p>First California Women's Music Festival organized by Robin Tyler.</p> | <p>1980 First person with AIDS diagnosed at the Centers for Disease Control.</p> <p>Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos (GLLU) founded from which Lesbianas Unidas, originally a GLLUI committee, becomes a separate group in 1984.</p> <p>1981 Lawrence Mass, gay physician and writer, publishes first mention of AIDS in New York Native, "Disease Rumors Largely Unfounded."</p> <p>1982 GRID which implies it is restricted to gay men, is changed to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Death toll at more than 200.</p> <p>AIDS makes front page for first time in L.A. Times story May 31, "Mysterious Fever Now an Epidemic."</p> <p>Dr. Thomas Waddell (a 1968 Olympian) organizes the first Gay Games in San Francisco.</p> <p>Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) forms.</p> | <p>1983 River City Democratic Club is formed in Sacramento.</p> <p>Randy Shilts assigned to cover AIDS for San Francisco Chronicle, first reporter from a mainstream paper.</p> <p>1984 AB-1, the first bill to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in California passes the legislature but is vetoed by Gov. Deukmejian.</p> | <p>1985 The Times of Harvey Milk, a documentary about the career and the murder of the gay San Francisco city supervisor, wins an Academy Award.</p> <p>The first test to detect HIV is licensed in the United States. Nearly 9,000 people are diagnosed with the disease, half of them already dead. By end of year, AIDS now has killed 6,000 and 12,000 cases reported.</p> <p>In July, actor Rock Hudson acknowledges that he has AIDS and in October is announced dead. The news marks a watershed in AIDS coverage, prompting widespread public attention on the epidemic.</p> <p>New York gay and lesbian writers organize to create the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation League, later changed to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).</p> <p>First Sacramento Lambda Freedom Fair.</p> | <p>1986 The Sacramento Lambda Community Center opens.</p> <p>In Bowers v. Hardwick, the Supreme Court rules that the Constitution allows states to pass and enforce sodomy laws targeting homosexuals.</p> <p>Lyndon LaRouche's measure calling for mandatory tattooing of people with AIDS fails in California.</p> <p>The Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE Lobby) begins work in Sacramento.</p> <p>The NY Times lifts ban on the use of "gay" instead of "homosexual."</p> <p>Gay Games II held in San Francisco.</p> |
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Timeline of LGBTQ+ History



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| 1987 The Names Project Quilt is first displayed. The day before the march on Washington 2,000 gay and lesbian couples are “married” in a mass wedding outside the Internal Revenue Service building. The March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights draws an estimated crowd of 600,000 people. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is founded in New York City by Larry Kramer. The group’s tactics rejuvenate lesbian and gay activism. ACT UP holds its first public demonstration, a sit-in on Wall Street. Later, as the group grows nationally, it invades the FDA, shuts down the Golden Gate Bridge, and disrupts services at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The rise of direct-action tactics leads to the creation of Queer Nation and Lesbian Avengers. “And the Band Played On,” an account of the AIDS crisis written by San Francisco Chronicle reporter Randy Shilts, is published and becomes a best-seller. | 1988 First ever Black Gay and Lesbian Conference. 12,000 March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights, making it the largest civil rights demonstration at the California capitol, The latest ISSUE begins publication in Sacramento. (Now known as Outword Magazine.) First Sacramento AIDS Walk. 1990 Sacramento ACT-UP invades a meeting of the Traditional Values Coalition at the Capitol Hyatt. 29 activists were arrested. “Queer Nation” founded in June and July. Term “outing” is coined by Time magazine to describe Michelangelo Signorile’s campaign to identify closeted celebrities and elected officials. “Lavendar Sweep” -- San Francisco elected 11 gays and 2 lesbians to public office. Gay Games III held in Vancouver, British Columbia. | 1989 The latest ISSUE begins publication in Sacramento. (Now known as Outword Magazine.) First Sacramento AIDS Walk. 1991 Following the California governor’s veto of a nondiscrimination measure, thousands of activists in Sacramento and other cities march in protest. Karen Thompson is named legal guardian of her lover, Sharon Kowalski, eight years after a car accident left Kowalski paralyzed and speech-impaired. Kowalski’s family had refused to recognize the pair’s relationship, and the ruling was a major victory for lesbian and gay couples. Neuroscientist Simon LeVay, reported his findings that the male brain could take two different forms, depending on one’s sexual orientation. Gay rights activist & hero Stan Hadden dies of AIDS in Sacramento. Three same-sex couples file suit, contending that Hawaii’s marriage law is unconstitutional. Fire at The Woods, a resort at the Russian River. | 1992 The General Accounting Office says that nearly 17,000 men and women were discharged between 1981 and 1990 for being gay. Colorado passes the anti-gay Amendment 2, which sought to throw out gay-rights legislation in various Colorado cities, thus allowing discrimination in housing and employment. Gay rights legislation is passed in seven states; California, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts and Wisconsin. | 1993 President Clinton seeks to lift the ban on gay service personnel. “Don’t ask, don’t” tell is crafted as a compromise to conservatives. The 3rd Lesbian and Gay March on Washington draws over 1 million participants. Robert Achtenberg is named an administrator in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the highest-level federal appointment for an open lesbian. Canadian cartoonist Lynn Johnston introduces a gay character into her nationally syndicated strip, “For Better or For Worse,” and 19 papers cancel the strip, 40 ask for substitutions. The movie, “Philadelphia,” which deals with an attorney facing job discrimination because of AIDS, opens in theaters. Actor Tom Hanks goes on to win an Academy Award for his performance. |
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| <p>1994 A federal court orders Army colonel, bronze star recipient and former Vietnam nurse Maragethe Cammermeyer reinstated to the National Guard.</p> <p>Sheila Kuehl becomes the first openly lesbian member of the California Assembly.</p> <p>More than a million people turn out for the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York city's Greenwich Village.</p> <p>Gay Games IV is held in New York city.</p> <p>1995 Carole Migden is elected to the California Assembly, making her the second lesbian to hold the office.</p> <p>The latest ISSUE newsmagazine ends, Outword begins publication.</p>  | <p>1996 The Senate votes on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to ban antigay job bias. The measure fails by a single vote, 50/49.</p> <p>A Hawaii court rules that the state has not proved that it has a "compelling interest" for banning gay marriage. Concern over the case leads Congress to overwhelmingly pass the Defense of Marriage Act.</p> <p>President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act, denying federal benefits to same-sex spouses should gay marriage ever become legal, and creating an exception to the US Constitution to allow states to disregard same-sex marriages performed in other states.</p> <p>The U.S. Supreme Court overturns Colorado's Amendment 2, which prohibited state and local gay rights ordinances.</p> <p>1997 Television comedian Ellen Degeneres, a lesbian herself, has her TV character also come out, spiking ratings and drawing advertiser pullouts.</p> | <p>1998 The Oct. 6 death of Matthew Shepard, murdered because he was gay, beaten and left tied to a fence for 18 hours, prompts nationwide vigils and demonstrations. More outrage ensues when religious conservatives picket Shepard's funeral carrying anti-gay placards. Shephard,s death sparks a Washington, D.C. march and a renewed push for gay hate crime legislation.</p> <p>Two-thirds of Hawaii voters pass a measure to amend the state constitution to define marriage as a compact between a man and woman. A similar measure passed that year in Alaska.</p> <p>AB1999, a bill adding transgendered people to the Hate Crimes statute. is passed by the legislature and is signed by Gov. Wilson.</p> <p>1999 The Vermont supreme court rules that the state must grant gay and lesbian couples the same rights as married couples.</p> <p>Domestic Partnership registration bill is signed into law in California.</p> <p>Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder are murdered in Redding California.</p> <p>A bill adding sexual orientation to the Fair Employment and Housing Act is signed into law in California by Gov. Davis.</p> <p>June ceremony held in Greenwich Village as the Stonewall Inn is officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the first gay site in the country to be listed.</p> | <p>2000 California voters approve a ballot measure to block recognition of same-sex marriages.</p> <p>Shiela Kuehl becomes first openly lesbian Senator in California.</p> <p>Openly lesbian Christine Kehoe and Jackie Goldberg are elected to the California Assembly.</p> <p>2001 AB25, a bill which significantly increases domestic partner benefits, is signed into law by California Gov. Davis.</p> | <p>2002 Landmark decision in California grants domestic partners new legal rights following the wrongful death case by Sharon Smith whose partner Diane Whipple was mauled and killed by dogs in a San Francisco apartment building. Carole Migden carried the bill (AB25) though the legislative process and was signed into law by Gov. Davis.</p> <p>Rosie O'Donnell comes out in support of gay parenting rights as an openly lesbian woman.</p> <p>California State Capitol has a historic display of gay rights history for the month of June.</p> <p><i>Timeline information was compiled by Kate Moore using sources "The Gay Decades" by Leigh W. Rutledge; Making of History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights, 1945 to 1990; The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; the latest ISSUE; The Advocate; and the SOIN Gay Events Timeline.</i></p> |
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AUGUST 1 - 7



AUGUST 22 - 28

Timeline of LGBTQ+ History

2003 - 2010
Compiled by Dave Rupel



2003

The Rawhide Kid, a Marvel comic character since the 1950's, makes his first appearance in a comic as gay.

Take Me Out debuts on Broadway. The acclaimed play is about a mixed race closeted professional baseball player and the ramifications – both good and bad – of what happens when he decides to come out of the closet. The play was nominated for 4 Tony Awards and won 3, including Best Play.

The United States Census Bureau releases figures showing that 34.3% of lesbian households and 22.3% of gay households are raising children. The report also shows that 99.3% of US counties have households with same-sex couples.

ABC airs the first lesbian kiss on the daytime drama All My Children when Bianca, who was Erica Kane's daughter, and played by straight ally Eden Riegel, kisses Lena. Bianca's enemy on the show, Greenlee, would insult her by coining the nickname, "LesBianca."

The Supreme Court strikes down all remaining sodomy laws in Lawrence vs. Texas.

Wal-Mart Stores adds "sexual orientation" to its corporate non-discrimination policy.

Bravo debuts Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, a reality series where five gay men would help makeover a straight man's life. The show was a hit and wins an Emmy.

The Ellen DeGeneres Show (now known simply as Ellen) premieres and quickly becomes a hit.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court rules that a ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, making it the first state to determine that.

2004

After the city of San Francisco, under Mayor Gavin Newsom's order, starts issuing same-sex marriage licenses, lesbians Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon get married and, become the first same-sex marriage in the country.

The California Supreme Court orders San Francisco to stop marrying same-sex couples. San Francisco then sues the state of California.

Democratic Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appoints Rudy Sera to be a judge, the first openly gay judge in the state.

Professional golfer and Hall of Fame member Rosie Jones comes out as gay.

In a 5-2 vote, the California Supreme Court voids the nearly 4,000 same-sex marriages that were performed in San Francisco.

Showtime debuts The L Word, a scripted series about a group of lesbians living in Los Angeles. It would run for 5 years.

New Jersey Democratic Governor James McGreevey admits to having had an affair with a man, making him the first openly gay governor in the country. He announces his resignation at the same time.

California Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signs a bill that defines what a "hate crime" is and includes coverage for the LGBT community.

ESPN hires openly gay African American male reporter LZ Granderson.

The proposed "Federal Marriage Amendment" – which limits marriage to one man and one woman – fails to pass in the US House of Representatives by a vote of 227-186.

2005

California passes AB 205, which extends many rights and responsibilities of marriage to domestic partners.

Kansas voters approve an amendment to the state constitution banning same-sex marriages and civil unions.

The US Golf Association and USA Track & Field adopts the IOC policy governing the participation of transsexual athletes in their events.

The American Psychiatric Association votes at its annual convention to support government-recognized marriages between same-sex partners.

Sheryl Swoopes, WNBA three times MVP, WNBA and Olympic champion, comes out as a lesbian in ESPN, the magazine.

A group of gay veterans rally in Austin, Texas after Republican Governor Rick Perry comments that gay military veterans should leave the state.

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in Spain and then Canada. Meanwhile, Uganda and Latvia amend their constitutions to prohibit same-sex marriage.

Tennis legend Martina Navratilova becomes a spokesperson for Olivia, a lesbian travel and vacation company. Navratilova says this is the first time she's gotten an endorsement because she's a lesbian.

The California Legislature passes a bill to legalize same-sex marriage, becoming the first state to do so without judicial prompting. However, Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger then vetoes the bill.

In State v. Limon, the Kansas Supreme Court strikes down a clause of the "Romeo and Juliet" law that punished underage sex more severely if it involved homosexual acts.

Brokeback Mountain is released. It's a major motion picture about a romance between two male cowboys, starring straight actors Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal.



2006

The city council of Washington, D.C. bans gender identity discrimination in the private sector.

At attempt to stage the first-ever gay pride in Moscow, Russia ends with violence and mass arrests.

“Brokeback Mountain” wins 3 Oscars, but controversially loses Best Picture to Crash.

US President George W. Bush renews his call for passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment, which limits marriage to be between one man and one woman. However, this amendment does not pass the Senate.

The State Supreme Court of Arkansas rules that it is unconstitutional for gays and lesbians to be forbidden from being foster parents.

Registered partnerships begin in the Czech Republic, the first nation of the former Communist bloc to sanction same-sex unions.

French tennis player Amelie Mauresmo, who came out in 1999, wins the Wimbledon Championships.

Eight states vote on amendments to ban same-sex marriage: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. All of the bans pass, except in Arizona.

Keelin Godsey comes out as transgender and becomes the first openly transgender student athlete to compete in NCAA sports in the hammer throw.

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in South Africa.

Neil Patrick Harris, who plays straight playboy Barney on CBS’s How I Met Your Mother, comes out as gay in early season two of the series. It ran for seven more seasons.

The Washington state legislature passes same-sex domestic partnership legislation, while New Hampshire passes same-sex civil union legislation.

John Amaechi, a former NBA player, comes out as gay. He is the first former NBA player to do that.

Jenny Bailey becomes the first transsexual mayor in the UK city of Cambridge, England. She is the second transsexual mayor in the world, the first being Georgina Beyer, who became the mayor of Carterton, New Zealand in 1995.

Oregon State University Softball coach, Kirk Walker, comes out publicly as a gay man.

Spring Awakening, a rock musical by Duncan Sheik about German teens in 1891 who grapple with a variety of issues, including homosexuality is nominated for 11 Tony Awards, winning 8, including Best Musical. Jonathan Groff (Looking, Mindhunter), Lea Michele (Glee) and Skylar Astin (Pitch Perfect) are all in the original cast.

2007

The first ever LGBT issues presidential Democratic debate is hosted by the Logo cable channel. Senators Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Governor Bill Richardson, former senator Mike Gravel and Representative Dennis Kucinich all participated. Logo also asked the Republican candidates to participate, but they declined.

GLAAD initiates a Sports Media Project and hires the first director, Ted Rybka, to monitor media coverage of LGBTQ issues in sports.

The Maryland Court of Appeals overturns a lower court ruling and rules that its constitution does not require the state to recognize or sanction same-sex marriage.

The CBS daytime drama As the World Turns airs the first kiss on American daytime TV between two gay male characters, Luke Snyder and Noah Mayer, who are referred to as “Nuke” by fans.

2008

Domestic partnerships begin in Oregon, after a court decides that it does not conflict with the state’s constitution, which forbids same-sex marriage.

Nicaragua and Panama legalize homosexuality.

The California Supreme Court strikes down the state’s ban on same-sex marriages, with marriage being available starting in June.

TV talk show host and comedian Ellen DeGeneres marries actress Portia de Rossi.

The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upholds the constitutionality of the US Military’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy.

Timeline of LGBTQ+ History



| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
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| <p>The Coquille Indian Tribe in Oregon legalizes same-sex marriage. The state of Oregon does not recognize same-sex marriages, but the tribe is recognized as a sovereign nation, so they are not bound by Oregon's laws.</p> <p>Ecuador legalizes same-sex civil unions, but at the same time, constitutionally bans marriage and adoption for same-sex couples.</p> <p>Eleven openly gay, lesbian and bisexual Olympians win a total of seven medals at the Beijing games, including a gold medal in diving won by Australian Matthew Mitcham, the only openly gay man competing.</p> <p>Connecticut overturns a state ban on same-sex marriages and becomes the third state to allow them, after California and Massachusetts.</p> <p>California voters ban same-sex marriage with Proposition 8, becoming the first state to do so after marriages had been made legal for same-sex couples. The Prop 8 vote won by a 52% to 47% margin.</p> <p>Same-sex marriage begins in Norway and Sweden.</p> <p>Argentina and the Phillipines end bans on gays in the military. The California Supreme Court meets in San Francisco to hear arguments on the validity of Proposition 8.</p> | <p>Welsh professional rugby player Gareth Thomas comes out while still playing.</p> <p>Denmark legalizes adoption by same-sex couples.</p> <p>Iowa officials start issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.</p> <p>The state of Washington passes the "everything but marriage" domestic partnership law.</p> <p>Sherri Murrell, women's basketball coach at Portland State University becomes the first publicly out lesbian coach in NCAA Division 1 basketball.</p> <p>The California Supreme Court rules in favor of Prop 8 in a 6-1 vote. However, the marriages that took place in the months before the Prop 8 vote will remain legal and valid.</p> <p>Television series Glee and Modern Family premiere, both series having multiple gay characters as series regulars. Both are highly rated and win many awards.</p> <p>President Barack Obama signs the Matthew Shepard Act, which expands federal hate-crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, the first US federal law to extend legal protections to transgender persons.</p> | <p>In court case O'Donnabhain v. Commissioner, the US Tax Court ruled that taxpayers may deduct the medical costs associated with treating gender identity from their federal income taxes.</p> <p>Fiji becomes the first Pacific island to formally decriminalize homosexuality.</p> <p>Portugal abolishes the ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood.</p> <p>The film The Kids Are All Right opens, featuring a lesbian couple, portrayed by Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, who each gave birth to a child by using the same sperm donor, who wants to come into his teenager's lives. The movie was nominated for 4 Academy Awards, including Best Picture.</p> <p>Arkansas Proposed Initiative Act No. 1, banning adoption by same-sex couples (but not LGBT individuals) is overturned by the state Supreme Court for violating the Arkansas Constitution of right to privacy.</p> <p>Country singer Chely Wright comes out as a lesbian.</p> <p>Same-sex marriage in Iceland becomes legalized, with Prime Minister Johanna Siguroardottir marrying her lesbian partner.</p> <p>Democratic President Barack Obama signs the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010" and makes it the law.</p> <p>Kye Allums is the first openly transgender man to play for a college women's basketball team at George Washington University. The NCAA rules that Kye is allowed to play on the women's team as long as she is not taking hormones.</p> <p>College freshman at Rutger's, Tyler Clementi, commits suicide after a tape is released onto social media of him kissing another man. Clementi's death brought national attention to the issue of cyberbullying and the struggles facing LGBT youth.</p> <p>President Obama officially revoked the anti-gay, discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, which prevented openly gay Americans from serving in the U.S. armed forces.</p> <p>The United States Department of State begins issuing passport applications that ask applicants for "Mother or parent one" and "Father or parent two" instead of for "Father" and "Mother."</p> <p>The California State Senate passes AB 9, known as "Seth's Law". The bill would require every school in California to implement anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies and programs that include actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.</p> <p>The United States Department of Health and Human Services announces its first-ever grant in the amount of \$250,000 to create a resource center for LGBT political refugees.</p> <p>California Governor Jerry Brown announces the signing of the Gender Nondiscrimination Act which makes discrimination based on gender identity or expression in employment, education, housing, and other public settings illegal.</p> |

2011 - 2020
Compiled by
Faith Colburn
(she/her/hers)
& Lauren Pullido
(he/him/his)



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| <p>2012</p> <p>Jay-Z voices support for gay marriage. He is soon followed by other big names in hip-hop including 50 Cent, Snoop Dogg, and Macklemore.</p> <p>Same Love, a marriage equality anthem by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis hit the charts, jumping to the Top 5 on Billboard's rap music chart.</p> <p>Tammy Baldwin is elected as the first openly gay senator in history.</p> <p>California becomes the first U.S. state to sign a ban on conversion therapy.</p> <p>The Democratic Party becomes the first major US political party in history to publicly support same-sex marriage on a national platform at the Democratic National Convention.</p> | <p>2013</p> <p>Orange is the New Black show premieres on Netflix.</p> <p>Supreme Court ruled Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional, which meant same-sex couples married in their own states could receive those federal benefits.</p> <p>California enacted America's first law protecting transgender students, allowing them to use facilities consistent with their gender identity.</p> <p>Dallas Buyers Club is released, which would go on to be nominated for six Academy Awards.</p> <p>Jason Collins (Washington Wizards) comes out as gay, becoming the first active male athlete from one of the four major North American professional team sports to publicly do so.</p> | <p>2014</p> <p>Laverne Cox becomes the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in any acting category.</p> <p>The Disney series Good Luck Charlie became the first children's show to feature a same-sex couple.</p> <p>The Department of Education issues official guidance to clarify that transgender students are protected from discrimination under Title IX, a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against students on the bases of sex/gender in federally funded education programs and activities.</p> <p>Aimee Stephens comes out to her boss as Transgender which prompts one of the most historically ratifying LGBTQ+U.S. Supreme Court cases in history.</p> <p>California became the first state in the U.S. to officially ban the use of trans panic and gay panic defenses in murder trials.</p> | <p>2015</p> <p>President Obama acknowledges the LGTBQ community in the State of the Union address.</p> <p>On June 26, 2015 the U.S. Supreme Court declares same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.</p> <p>The US Department of Health and Human Services issues an official revision that shortens the deferral period for blood donation from men who have sex with men. In addition to shortening the deferral period from a life ban to 12 months.</p> <p>San Francisco Pride holds wedding ceremonies for couples that had waited their whole lives to marry one another.</p> <p>Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announces that the Military Equal Opportunity policy has been adjusted to include gay and lesbian military members.</p> | <p>2016</p> <p>President Obama dedicated the new Stonewall National Monument in Greenwich Village, as the first US National Monument to honor the LGBTQ rights movement.</p> <p>On June 12th ,49 people were killed and 53 injured a terrorist attack inside Pulse, the deadliest incident of violence against LGBT people in U.S. history, and at the time the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. since 9/11.</p> <p>Pentagon lifted the ban on transgender people serving openly in the U.S. military on June 30, 2016, acknowledging that it is in the military's best interest to recruit and retain the best troops, regardless of their gender identity.</p> <p>Citing Transgender Law, NCAA Pulls 7 Championship Events From North Carolina</p> <p>Chris Mosier was chosen as the first openly transgender athlete to be featured in the "Body Issue" of ESPN The Magazine, and appeared in Nike's first ad with an openly transgender athlete.</p> <p>Caitlyn Jenner became the first openly transgender person on the cover of Sports Illustrated.</p> |
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Timeline of LGBTQ+ History



| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>The city council of Washington, D.C. bans gender identity discrimination in the private sector.</p> <p>In the 2017 live-action adaptation of <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>, Le Fou is gay, making him the first gay character in a Disney film.</p> <p>Moonlight became the first LGBT-related film to win the Best Picture award at the Oscars.</p> <p>Andrea Jenkins became the first openly transgender black woman elected to public office in the United States.</p> <p>America's first all-LGBT city council was elected in Palm Springs, consisting of three gay men, a transgender woman and a bisexual woman.</p> <p>District of Columbia residents can now choose a gender-neutral option of their driver's license. DC residents become the first people in the United States to be able to choose X as their gender marker instead of male or female on driver's licenses and identification cards.</p> | <p>Netflix revitalizes <i>Queer Eye</i> and America falls in love with the Fab 5.</p> <p>Ryan Murphy's series <i>Pose</i> made history, after premiering in 2018, by having the largest cast of transgender actors who play regular roles throughout the series. The show looks at the ball culture of 1980s New York City, and features authentic transgender characters.</p> <p>Black Lightning introduced viewers to Anissa Pierce, AKA Thunder, who is a lesbian superhero played by Nafessa Williams.</p> <p>LGBTQ candidates sweep the midterms. Rainbow Wave put more than 150 LGBTQ candidates were elected into office in the 2018 midterm elections, putting a historic number of queer or transgender politicians in positions of power.</p> | <p>The animated series <i>Arthur Opens Season With a Same-Sex Wedding</i>.</p> <p>Danica Roem became the first openly transgender person to be elected to, and the first to serve in, any U.S. state legislature.</p> <p>Adam Rippon became the United States' first openly gay athlete ever to qualify for and win a medal at the Winter Olympics.</p> <p>Love, Simon was released as the first film ever released by a major studio to focus on a gay teenage romance.</p> <p>Toni Atkins became the first woman and the first openly LGBT person to lead the California State Senate.</p> <p>Pete Buttigieg became the first openly gay presidential candidate from a major party.</p> <p>First time the Transgender flag is flown over the California State Capitol Building, in honor of Trans Day of Visibility (shout out to Outword Magazine team member Lauren Pulido (he/him/his) for making this happen).</p> <p>Katie Sowers becomes is the first woman and openly gay person to coach in the Super Bowl.</p> <p>U.S. Supreme Court hears case of Aimee Stephens (transgender woman whose lawsuit resulted in landmark SCOTUS decision).</p> <p>The L Word: Generation Q airs on Showtime.</p> <p>Rocketman premiered; the film made Paramount the first major Hollywood studio to show gay male sex onscreen.</p> <p>Lil Nas X came out as gay, making him the first artist to have done so while having a number-one record.</p> <p>Indya Moore became the first openly transgender person to be featured on the cover of the U.S. version of Elle magazine.</p> | <p>"Out" was released, Disney's and Pixar's first short to feature a gay main character and storyline.</p> <p>The Trump administration passed a regulation removing protections for transgender patients under medical care.</p> <p>The US Supreme Court ruled a federal law protecting gay, lesbian, and transgender employees from workplace discrimination.</p> <p>President Trump named Richard Grenell, an openly gay man to a cabinet-level position February. He was a long-time Republican gay activist and staunch Trump supporter, and became the nation's new Acting Director of National Intelligence. He was the first openly gay person to serve in a cabinet-level.</p> <p>The most LGBTQ supportive justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg died in September. The 87-year-old legal giant succumbed following a years-long struggle against pancreatic cancer. Best known for her historic work on behalf of securing equal rights for women, she was also a steadfast supporter of equal rights for other groups, including LGBT people.</p> <p>More LGBTQ candidates were elected to public office in 2020 than ever before. Three hundred thirty-four LGBTQ candidates won their elections this year, many of whom became the first LGBTQ person to hold their position.</p> |



2021

“Prim N’ Poppin” is launched, offering a more expansive account of the consequences of a fatphobic, transphobic, and white supremacy in the advertising world. Led by a transgender revolutionary Maria Rivera. www.prim-poppin.com

“Detransition Baby” is published, written by transgender author Torrey Peters. Recognized by the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Guardian, and many others. Coined “First great Trans Realist Novel,” discussing impacts of HIV, social issues, and transgender family creation. Nominated for one of the U.K.’s most coveted literary awards.

Longtime Transgender activist Sarah McBride was sworn into the Delaware state Senate.

Kim Jackson has become Georgia’s first Black LGBTQ+ state senator.

Dr. Rachel Levine Makes History As First Transgender Cabinet-Level Appointee as the assistant secretary of health in the Department of Housing and Human Services, making her also the highest-ranking trans official in U.S. history.

Biden’s Historic Pro-LGBTQ+ Executive Order, HRC called it the “most substantive, wide-ranging executive order” on LGBTQ+ rights ever signed by a U.S. president.

Jojo Siwa comes out bringing overwhelming support from unlikely channels.

Rush Limbaugh, Viciously Anti-LGBTQ+ and Racist Radio Host, Dies at 70 leaving behind a legacy of virulent racist, misogynist, and anti-LGBTQ+ crusades.

New Jersey Makes It Illegal to Discriminate Against LGBTQ+ Elders in Nursing Homes.

Biden Is First President to Honor Trans Day of Visibility in Historic Proclamation.

Trans Troops Can Finally Serve Openly After Pentagon Lifts Trump Military Ban, The new rules ban anti-trans discrimination in the armed forces and allow trans troops to receive gender-affirming care.

Nearly two dozen states have been hit with a wave of oppressive bills that would restrict gender-affirming health care for trans youth or ban them from playing sports that correspond with their gender identity. States like Arkansas, Tennessee, and South Dakota have enacted legislation or executive orders that contain some of these draconian restrictions. Such measures threaten the health and well-being of trans people and are even prompting some families to consider moving to other states in order to get care for their kids.

16 discriminatory bills have already been signed into law in 2021, breaking the previous record set 6 years ago. These include six laws banning transgender youth from playing school sports in alignment with their gender identity, four permitting people of faith to refuse services to LGBTQ+ people in the name of religion, and two allowing parents to refuse to allow their children to be taught LGBTQ+ education in schools.

Karine Jean-Pierre Makes History as First LGBTQ+ Person to Lead White House Briefing. Jean-Pierre was also the first Black woman to stand behind the podium in 30 years.

The Biden administration announced that it will begin to allow the “X” gender marker on U.S. passports. Trans, nonbinary, and intersex passport holders will be allowed to request their gender marker of choice without needing to provide any kind of medical confirmation of their gender.

Under new federal guidance, almost all insurance companies are now required to cover all out-of-pocket costs for the HIV prevention medication known as PrEP. Companies must also cover lab and clinic fees, which can cost hundreds of dollars.

986 out queer and transgender Americans are serving in elected office, per research from the political action group LGBTQ Victory Institute. Most elected LGBTQ+ officials serving in office in United States History.

Singer Kehlani tells fans that she “finally knows” she’s a lesbian after publicly identifying as queer and pansexual previously.

The “Proud Family: Louder and Prouder” Reboot is released and includes a gay biracial couple, a gender nonconforming main character, and all voiced by queer actors.

Billy Porter is casted in the new adaptation of “Cinderella” where he plays a genderless Fairy Godmother.

Tori Cooper, the First Black Trans Woman Tapped to the President’s HIV Council. Research shows Black trans women are highly vulnerable to contracting HIV.

Netflix employees plan walkout over CEO’s response to transphobic Chappelle special.

Actress and model April Ashley, an early British trans pioneer and an absolute icon of London society, who died on December 27 at age 86.

Timeline of LGBTQ+ History

2021 - 2023
Compiled by
Lauren Pullido
(he/him/his)



2022

“Queer as Folk” Reboot aries - the revolutionary queer drama series that first debuted in 1999, will follow a “diverse group of friends in New Orleans” in it’s new revival.

TikTok will now officially ban deadnaming, misgendering, misogyny, and content that supports anti-LGBTQ+ conversion therapy in a long-overdue update to the app’s moderation policies.

In Washington, D.C., scientists with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and Moderna have announced that human trials for the company’s experimental HIV vaccine have officially begun.

Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” bill passes the house, advances to senate. The Florida House of Representatives approved HB 1557, widely known as the “Don’t Say Gay Bill,” in a 69-to-47 vote. Later to be signed into law by Governor Ron Desantis.

Scientists have potentially cured a formerly HIV-positive woman for the first time ever, in the latest exciting development in the fight against the ongoing epidemic.

WNBA star and Olympian Brittney Griner has reportedly been detained in Russia since February, with little information available regarding her exact whereabouts.

Apayauq Reitan, becomes the first out trans woman to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and was awarded the Red Lantern award for being the last person to finish the long-distance sled dog race.

Disney Pixar’s “Lightyear” is released and based on “Toy Story’s” Buzz Lightyear character. Film features a female lead, Hawthorne (Uzo Aduba), who is in a long term lesbian relationship.

Lia Thomas, the University of Pennsylvania swimmer became the first openly trans athlete to win an NCAA Division I championship after placing first in her signature event, the 500 meter freestyle, with a time of 4 minutes and 33.24 seconds.

One of the heirs and members of the Disney family, Charlee Disney (Walt Disney’s Great Nephew) has come out as transgender, speaking out against anti-LGBTQ+ bills that the Disney franchise failed to condemn.

Jeopardy! Champion and proud transgender woman, Amy Schneider, just keeps winning no matter what, dominating her 39th game to become the contestant with the second-most consecutive wins of all time.

Jackson Fox is the first openly transgender contestant cast on Survivor. The first known trans Survivor, Zeke Smith, was outed on air in 2017.

Janelle Monáe, visionary singer-songwriter behind albums like The Electric Lady and Dirty Computer, put out a big detail about herself: they now identify as nonbinary.

Marvel Comics announced that Marvel’s Voices: Pride #1 features the debut of a brand-new transgender superhero: Shela Sexton, A.K.A. Escapade, a mutant with the power to switch places with anyone – or anything.

“They/Them,” a slasher flick set at an LGBTQ+ conversion therapy camp, debuted August 6 on Peacock.

Toymaker Mattel partnered with Laverne Cox to create a Tribute Collection Barbie of the trailblazing icon, the first Barbie ever fashioned in the likeness of a trans woman.

“Bros,” is the first ever gay rom-com released by a major studio. The debut also made star Billy Eichner the first gay man to ever write and star in his own major studio movie.

Rebel Wilson, the Bridesmaids actress revealed her newest love interest to the world – and came out as LGBTQ+.

Retired NBA star Dwyane Wade has reportedly filed a petition in Los Angeles Superior Court to legally change his daughter Zaya’s name after she came out to her family as transgender three years ago.

Transgender and non-binary artists Sam Smith and Kim Petras Have the Number One Song in the World, “Unholy.” Which also debuted at number three in the U.S.

Nonbinary comedian Molly Kearney joins Saturday Night Live’s 48th season. Molly Kearney previously starred in the very queer “A League of Their Own.”

Club Q, an LGBTQ+ club in Colorado Springs is the center of a shooting spree and violent hate crime where 5 people were killed and 25 were injured.

James Roesener is the first out trans man elected to a U.S. State Legislature. Roesener made history with his win in New Hampshire’s 22nd state House District.

Lifelong actor, LGBTQ+ Icon, and trailblazer, Leslie Jordan, passes away at 67.



2023

Transgender actress, MJ Rodriguez, receives a standing ovation at the 80th golden globes. Mega producer Ryan Murphy was honored at the 80th Golden Globe Awards for his contributions to the television landscape, and he used his entire speech to shout out the largely LGBTQ+ actors who have defined his career, starting with Pose star Michaela Jaé Rodriguez.

The Food and Drug Administration announced long-overdue updates to its discriminatory requirements for blood donation. The newly announced guidelines require screening all prospective donors for new or multiple sexual partners in the past three months. Those who have had both a new sexual partner or more than one partner and who have had anal sex in the past three months would be deferred from donation.

Trans activism community shares tributes to Ivory Nicole Smith, a young Black transgender advocate. San Francisco's Transgender District announced Smith's death on social media after she was found dead in the tenderloin district, her case is still cold.

Tennessee's drag ban bill and gender-affirming healthcare ban for minors were both signed into law by Republican Governor Bill Lee. Mississippi HB1125 was also signed by Republican Governor Tate Reeves, this policy outright bans gender-affirming care for minors in the state.

Minnesota powerlifter JayCee Cooper wins a major victory against USA Powerlifting (USAPL), a national organization that sanctions powerlifting meets throughout the country. A state court ruled that the organization discriminated against Cooper, who is a trans woman, with its 2019 ban on her participation in women's competitions.

Federal Anti-Trans sports ban was being debated in congress. HR 734, or the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, would make it illegal for public schools to permit trans girls to play on women's sports teams. However, the bill does add that a trans girl can participate on a sports team of her choosing as long as she is not depriving a cis female student of a spot on the roster.

The Florida Board of Medicine's ban on gender-affirming care for minors officially takes effect, as Republicans attempt to codify the ban into law. The new rule, which the state's Board of Medicine adopted in November, would effectively freeze care for transgender minors across Florida, preventing new patients from accessing puberty blockers or hormone therapy from a doctor.

Queer Youth Assemble (QYA), a youth-led organization that supports queer people under 25 in the U.S. is organizing a nationwide March for Queer and Trans Autonomy on Friday, March 31, Trans Day of Visibility.

World Athletics, the international governing body that sanctions competitions for sports such as track and field and cross country running, voted to ban virtually all transgender women from elite athletics, and to tighten restrictions on intersex competitors.

Somerville, Massachusetts, has become the first city in the United States to extend legal protections against discrimination to people in polyamorous relationships and other nontraditional family structures. The city council passed the first three ordinances defining "family or relationship structure" as a protected class, akin to race, gender or sexual orientation.

Time magazine revealed that transgender journalist Imara Jones, founder of the nonprofit organization TransLash Media, is among those honored in this year's Time 100, which honors influential figures in areas such as the arts, government, journalism, and activism.

The Florida State Board of Education voted to implement new rules expanding the scope of the state's infamous "Don't Say Gay" law to cover all K-12 public education. In three unanimous votes, the seven-person board approved new rules that lengthen the reach of the "Parental Rights in Education" law passed in 2022.

Google Doodle features a cartoon of Barbara May Cameron, Native American lesbian activist, writer, and photographer, sporting her signature camera around her neck and holding a modern Progress Pride flag, a redesigned rainbow flag which incorporates five new colors celebrating queer people of color and trans and intersex people.

Target boldly responds to threats of violence against its workers from right-wing extremists by pulling Pride merchandise from shelves. The chain announced that in response to "threats impacting our team members' sense of safety and well-being while at work," the company will be "making adjustments" to the availability Pride-themed items like binders, shirts, and various accessories.

On May 31, following a "Trans Revolution" rally in Washington Square Park protesting anti-trans laws and violence across the U.S., police arrested Qween Jean, the legendary New York City activist who organized the rally, on charges of using a megaphone without a permit.

New York appoints one of the first openly trans male judges in U.S. history. Seth Marnin, one of 15 appointees to the governor's office, if he is officially confirmed by the heavily Democratic state senate, Marnin will become a judge of the New York Court of Claims.

Pat Robertson, lifelong antagonist of the LGBTQ+ community dies. His continuous attacks, sometimes bordering on insane, will not be missed within the LGBTQ+ community.

Timeline of LGBTQ+ History



2024

In 2024, the global landscape for LGBTQ+ rights experienced both significant advancements and notable setbacks. While several countries and jurisdictions embraced greater equality, others enacted restrictive measures.

Good Bills
In 2024, 296 pro-equality bills were introduced in state legislatures around the country. 37 were signed into law.

Bad Bills
In 2024, 487 anti-equality bills were introduced in state legislatures around the country. 46 were signed into law.

In the 2024 documentary *Will & Harper*, actor Will Ferrell and his longtime friend, writer Harper Steele, embark on a 17-day road trip across the United States following Steele's transition. The film captures their journey as they revisit places significant to their friendship, including Steele's hometown and a local bar she used to frequent.

Bailey Ann Kennedy, a 31 yr old Transgender woman and Military wife, is the first Asian American and first Transgender woman to win Miss Maryland USA.

Sarah McBride made history by becoming the first openly transgender woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Representing Delaware in the House of Representatives, McBride is a longtime LGBTQ+ advocate and former state senator who has worked on issues like healthcare access, LGBTQ+ rights, and paid family leave. Her win marks a significant milestone for transgender representation in federal government.

The Greek parliament passed a law legalizing same-sex marriage, in a landmark victory for human rights in Greece and making it the first majority Orthodox Christian country to establish marriage equality for all.

In May 2024, Minnesota banned the gay and trans panic defense as part of an omnibus justice bill. This defense was a legal strategy used by defendants in cases involving LGBTQ+ individuals, claiming the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity caused a panic that led to violence. By banning this defense, Minnesota eliminated a way to justify violent acts against LGBTQ+ people.

Gabriel Attal was appointed as France's first openly gay Prime Minister.

Karla Sofia Gascón made history at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival by becoming the first openly transgender actress to win a major acting prize, sharing the Best Actress award with her Emilia Pérez co-stars. She portrayed a transgender drug lord in the acclaimed musical-crime film, *Gascón*.

Sha'Carri Richardson was named 2024 OutSports' Person of the year. According to OutSports, at least 155 out LGBTQ athletes from 25 countries will compete in this year's Olympic Games in Paris. In fact, historically, LGBTQ athletes have been so successful that if they were to form their own country (Team LGBTQ), they would place 7th overall in the all-time Olympic medal count. From historic achievements, to personal journeys of resilience, these athletes not only embody sporting excellence but are contributing to the rich history of LGBTQ representation at the highest level of sport.

Launched in 2024 by Voda, the Trans Library is the world's largest free mental health resource created specifically for trans+ people. Developed by a team of accredited trans+ therapists and shaped by input from over 2,400 community members, the library offers 52 self-guided programs addressing issues like gender dysphoria, discrimination, and healthcare delays. All of this is available for free via the Voda app.

Chase Strangio made history by becoming the first openly transgender lawyer to argue before the US Supreme Court. He argued the case of *United States v. Skrmetti*, where the court was considering Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for minors. This case was particularly significant as it dealt with the legal rights of transgender youth and their access to healthcare.

Palestinian filmmaker Dima Hamdan won the 2024 Iris Prize—the world's largest LGBTQ+ short film award—for her powerful short *Blood Like Water*. Her win marks a significant moment for queer Arab storytelling on the global stage.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule eliminating the requirement for clinical research and institutional review board (IRB) approval for kidney and liver transplants between HIV-positive donors and recipients. This policy change expands access to life-saving transplants for people living with HIV. Previously, the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act allowed such transplants only within approved research protocols. The new rule removes those restrictions, allowing these procedures to be performed more widely without the need for additional regulatory oversight.

Sir Lady Java: A groundbreaking trans activist and performer who fought against discriminatory laws banning drag performance in the late 1960s. She challenged police tactics targeting the LGBTQ+ community and spoke truth to power.

On December 1 (World AIDS Day), President Joe Biden hosted a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, unveiling the AIDS Memorial Quilt there for the very first time in the White House's history. President Biden praised the AIDS advocacy movement and honored Dr. Anthony Fauci for his lifetime dedication to fighting HIV/AIDS. A giant red ribbon was hung from the South Portico as a visible statement of solidarity.

Alex Consani made history by becoming the first openly transgender person to win the prestigious Model of the Year award at The Fashion Awards in London. At just 17 years old, Consani's achievement not only highlights her talent and rising influence as a model, but also marks a significant step forward for transgender visibility and inclusion in high fashion.



2025

So far, 2025 has been a wild and emotional ride for the LGBTQ+ community. Rights have been rolled back, language erased, and symbols stripped away—often boldly and without apology. But through every attempt to silence us, the response has been louder and more unified. From protests in the streets to quiet acts of defiance in classrooms and city halls, the fight hasn't stopped. And neither has the joy. In the face of erasure, we keep showing up, creating space, and moving forward together.

In January 2025, President Donald Trump signed executive orders dismantling federal diversity, equity and inclusion, (DEI) programs. These orders eliminated DEI positions across federal agencies, revoked anti-discrimination requirements for federal contractors, and directed agencies to cancel grants or initiatives tied to DEI efforts. The rollback effectively stripped support for programs promoting inclusive hiring, anti-bias training, and protections for marginalized communities—including LGBTQ+ individuals—marking one of the most sweeping reversals of DEI policy in U.S. history.

President Trump signed Executive Order 14201, titled “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports,” requiring all educational institutions receiving federal funding to ban transgender women and girls from participating in female sports teams. The administration framed the move as a way to “protect fairness” under Title IX, redefining sex-based protections as exclusive to those assigned female at birth. The order immediately drew backlash.

The Trump administration ordered the National Park Service to revise the Stonewall National Monument’s online materials by removing references to “transgender” and “queer,” replacing “LGBTQ+” with “LGB.” This move, part of a broader effort to “restore truth” in federal historical narratives, sparked immediate backlash and a protest at Stonewall, where over 1,000 people gathered to condemn what advocates called a clear attempt to erase queer and trans history.

Argentina’s President Javier Milei issued a decree banning gender-affirming care for minors, including puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and surgeries. The new policy reversed elements of Argentina’s landmark 2012 Gender Identity Law, which had previously granted expansive rights to trans individuals, including youth. The restriction has been widely condemned by human rights advocates.

As part of a broader Pentagon mandate to purge content perceived as promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Defense Department directed the removal of materials referencing the historic WWII bomber Enola Gay—notably because its name contains the word “Gay.” This directive, stemming from an executive order under the previous administration, led to thousands of images and posts being flagged for deletion.

Utah made history as the first U.S. state to enact a law banning the display of pride and other “ideological” flags in public schools and government buildings. Critics took this as a form of censorship that risks erasing LGBTQ+ visibility and undermining free expression in public institutions. In an act of defiance, Salt Lake City designated new official city banners featuring rainbow and trans flag themes, thereby preserving LGBTQ+ symbolism under municipal authority for transgender representation in federal government.

President Trump signed Executive Order 14183, reinstating a ban on transgender individuals serving in the U.S. military. The order, framed as a move to strengthen “military readiness,” bars enlistment and service by anyone diagnosed with gender dysphoria or who has undergone gender transition, and requires current service members to adhere to policies based on their sex assigned at birth. While a federal court initially blocked the order, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed it to take effect in May 2025 during ongoing legal appeals. Since then, branches of the military have begun enforcing the ban, halting new transgender enlistments and reviewing the status of active-duty trans personnel—prompting strong backlash from LGBTQ+ advocates and civil rights organizations.

In April 2025, the “Hands Off!” demonstration marked the largest single-day protest President Trump’s second-term agenda, with over 500,000 participants gathering at more than 1,200–1,400 sites across all 50 U.S. states. Organized by a coalition of groups including Indivisible, MoveOn, labor unions, civil rights organizations, and LGBTQ+ advocates, demonstrators rallied against federal cuts to Social Security, education, and healthcare, as well as attacks on immigrant and transgender rights.

Lauren Chan made history as the first out lesbian to appear solo on the cover of *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit*. A plus-size model, fashion entrepreneur, and former magazine editor, Chan’s feature marks a powerful moment for LGBTQ+, Asian American, and body-inclusive representation in mainstream media.

In June 2025, President Trump directed the Pentagon to rename the USNS Harvey Milk, a Navy ship originally named in honor of the slain gay rights activist and Navy veteran. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced the change as part of a broader effort to “restore warrior culture” in the military. The decision, made during Pride Month, sparked widespread backlash from LGBTQ+ advocates who viewed it as an intentional erasure of queer history and service.

On June 14, 2025, millions of people gathered in over 2,100 cities for the “No Kings” protests—a bold, defiant response to rising authoritarianism and the growing list of freedoms under threat. From Pride flags to clever signs and marching bands, the day saw a mix of voices standing up for democracy, decency, and basic human rights. While most protests were peaceful, a tragic incident in Salt Lake City served as a stark reminder of the stakes. Still, the overwhelming tone was one of unity, resilience, and a shared message: we’re not backing down.



Fresno Pride's Fierce And Jam-Packed Joy

words and photos by Chris Allan

Celebrating their 35th year, [Fresno Rainbow Pride](#) once again took over the heart of the Tower District on June 7. A sea of joyful spectators lined E. Olive Avenue in front of Vibe Lounge and Splash queer venues, cheering loudly as the 100 entries walked, rode and danced their way towards Fresno City College (FCC), where the festival was held.

"This year for the first time ever we announced the parade in both English and Spanish..." noted Bryan Esparza, President

of the Rainbow Pride organization, in an email with *Outword*.

Not surprisingly, the parade included a

number of Latinx organizations from the local immigrant-rich community. The "Trump is Chupacabra," banner with a scary green reptile wearing big yellow hair particularly drew massive cheering and applause. (The chupacabra is a mythical creature that attacks livestock, draining their blood.)

The festival at FCC was packed tight on the main walkways. The event featured a main stage, over 150 vendors, including a

row of food trucks (with amazing South Korean corn dogs), and an inflatable playground. A huge line of people backed up at the entrance, and even with a new expansion area, Fresno's Pride looked to be at capacity.

"This year at the festival we had almost 21,000 people through the gates..." said Esparza, who noted the incredible hard work by the all-volunteer organization. "We have grown by a few thousand every year since 2022."





San Francisco Mime Troupe Plays Davis

“Disruption – A Musical Farce” asks the political question: “As the United States slides towards authoritarianism, will San Francisco become a center of resistance, or just a corporate suburb of Silicon Valley?”



(L-R) Alicia M. P. Nelson, Jed Parsario, Michael Gene Sullivan

The latest (very timely) project of San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT), “Disruption” will make a stop in Davis in early July, and attendance is free, although donations are gratefully accepted, especially in these times when arts funding is being cut right and left.

“Disruption” is set in a city where nothing is more important than “innovation,” and Augie, a son of immigrants, works hard to help his neighbors navigate an increasingly underfunded and inhuman system.

Meanwhile a tech genius is all about making a city attractive to the right kind of people. Who wouldn’t want that? But if the city is poised to be a calm, efficient paradise, just in time for the President’s upcoming visit, why is everything suddenly on fire?

“Disruption – A Musical Farce” will perform at Davis High School’s Richard Brunelle Performance Hall, on Thursday, July 10. Please RSVP at: www.sfmt.org/event-details/richard-brunelle-hall-davis-5

Celebrate Pride @ The Sofia

Close out Pride Month in midtown Sacramento with a dose of love, acceptance, and the vibrant spirit of the LGBTQIA+ community, at “Pride at The Sofia”!



This spectacular event, directed by the talented Jacob Gutiérrez-Montoya in partnership with the Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre, promises to be a dazzling showcase of diversity and creativity.

Experience the joy of connection through fabulous drag performances and extraordinary talent from across our region, including Mercury Rising, Cyah Envy, Papi F. Bush, Luna Nova, and more entertainers to be announced.

Join us for a night filled with color, hope, and the powerful message that together, we can create a more inclusive world, this June 29 at 5:00 p.m. Doors open one hour prior to showtime for this all-ages evening.

Visit: <https://bstreettheatre.org/other/pride-at-the-sofia-2025>



www.scottsseafoodontheriver.com
4800 Riverside Blvd. (916) 345-3316



SCOTT'S ON THE RIVER



California State Railroad Museum & Foundation Offer All-New Golden Hour Express Cocktail Train Rides this Summer

The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are excited to present an all-new, adult-only evening cocktail train ride experience aboard the Golden Hour Express on select Wednesdays this summer. The first few Golden Hour Express train rides are scheduled for June 25, July 23, and July 30, with one departure time at 7:15 p.m. each evening.



Pulled by a historic locomotive, adult train ride guests can relax in the comfort of a first-class, air-conditioned train car or can choose to take in the sunset from an open-air gondola. With sweeping riverside views and amid a vibrant social atmosphere, refreshing beverages will be available such as locally-based Acheson Wine Company, brews and canned cocktails (High Noon seltzers and Golden Rule spirits for example), plus a variety of non-alcoholic choices as well. The Golden Hour Express offers a wonderful way to toast beautiful Sacramento summer evenings.

Space is limited aboard the Golden Hour Express and tickets cost \$45 per adult (21+) or \$40 for members. Each train ride ticket includes two drink tokens (alcoholic and non-alcoholic options are available). Tickets purchased online may be picked up in the ticket office of the Central Pacific Passenger Station on Front Street between I and J streets at the Old Sacramento Waterfront. If still available, same-day tickets are available at the ticket office as well.

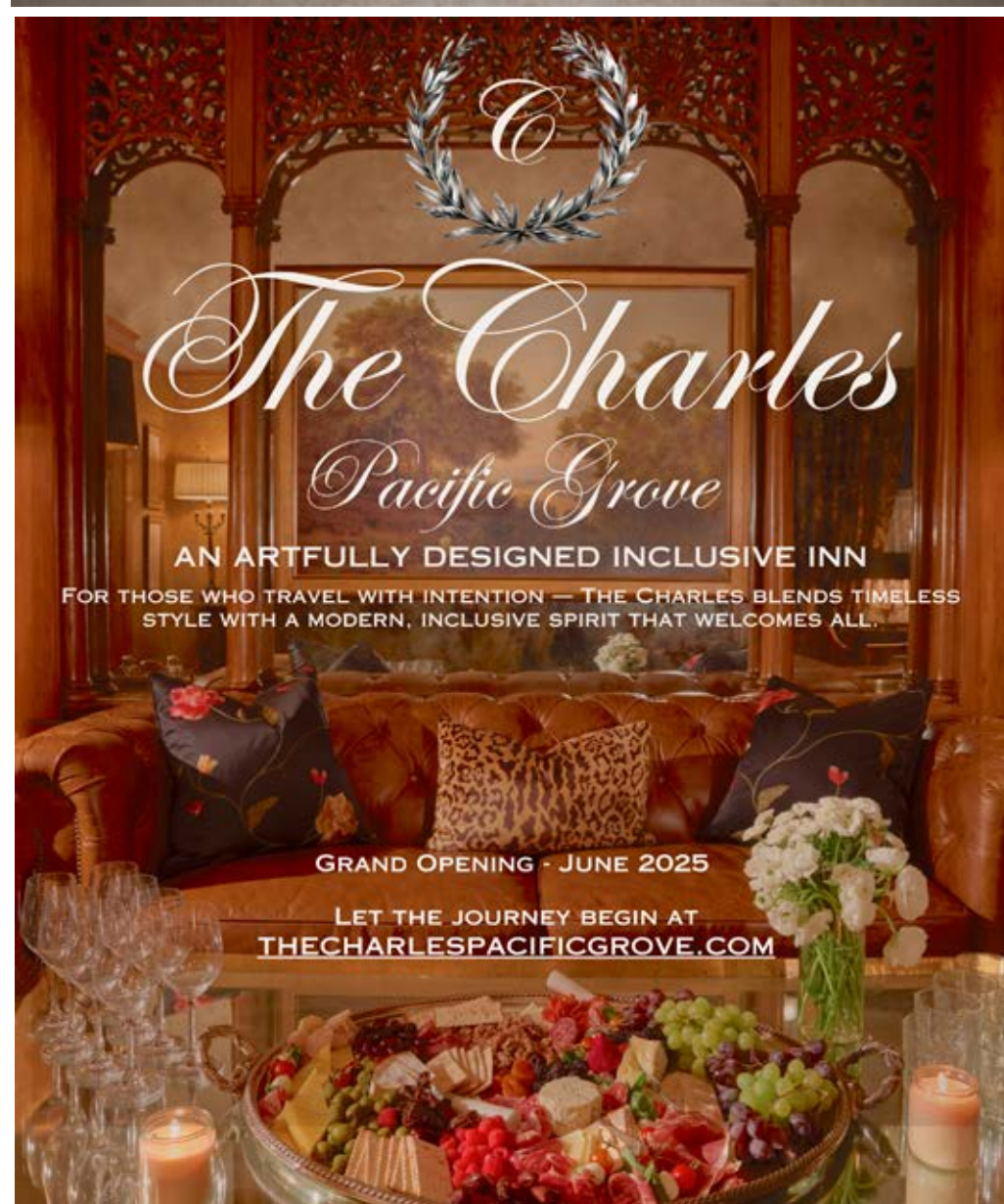
Advance reservations for the Golden Hour Express are available here. And, for more information about the California State Railroad Museum or Foundation, please visit www.californiarailroad.museum.

THE WILD WEST JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT WILDER

FROM DISNEY WRITERS FLIP KOBLER AND CINDY MARCUS



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| 17 Dustin Lynch  | 18 TESLA  | 19 Queen Nation  | 20 Majo Aguilar & Joss Favela  | 21 Journey Revisited  | 22 Cypress Hill  |
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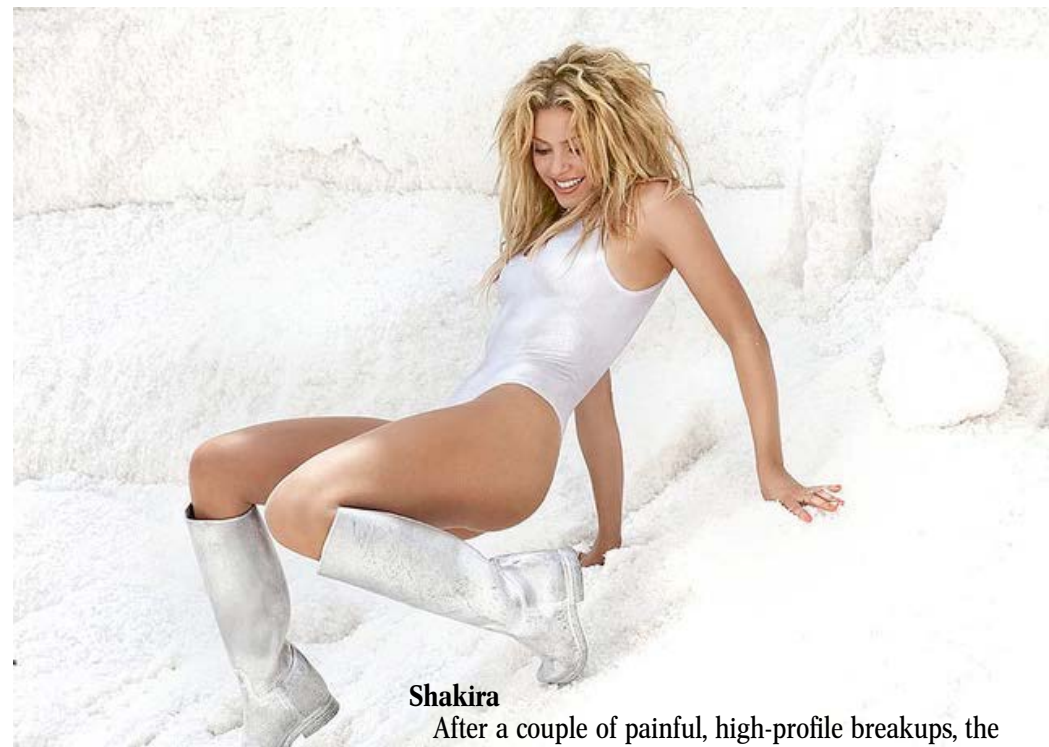
Concerts start at 8 pm



Pop Queen Summer

by Chris Narloch

Pride season may be winding down, but here at *Outword*, we like to celebrate Pride all summer long (and, really, all year round). So, in the spirit of musical pride, here is a list of the queer (or queer-friendly) pop queens coming soon to a concert venue in NorCal this summer.



Shakira

After a couple of painful, high-profile breakups, the Colombian cutie Shakira seems to be in a good place both personally and professionally. (She also appears to have embraced the philosophy of “Don’t get mad, get even,” thanks to her 2010 single, “Lo Que Mas.”) Shakira is scheduled to bring her hits – and her hips! – to [San Francisco’s Oracle Park](#), this June 30.



Katy Perry

Although her last couple albums haven’t exactly set the world on fire, Perry has more than enough hits in her discography to fill an auditorium and entertain a crowd. “The ‘Firework’ singer is a wife and mother now, but hot hits like “Teenage Dream” and “California Gurls” never get old. Perry brings her current “Lifetimes” tour to [Chase Center in San Francisco](#), this July 18.



Lady Gaga

Her last couple dance albums have been somewhat disappointing – at least compared to her earlier hits – but the songs on “Mayhem” (her current disc) should sound better live, and there is no denying that Gaga’s recent single “Abracadabra” is a banger. Lady G is nothing if not resilient, and we knew she would bounce back from the disaster that was “Joker 2.” I have no doubt that her “The Mayhem Ball” tour, which stops in to [San Francisco’s Chase Center](#) this July 22, will put the superstar singer back on top where she belongs.



Cyndi Lauper

Girls just wanna have fun, but they also get tired of living out of a suitcase on the road. This farewell tour is a smart move that allows the 71-year-old singer to concentrate more on her philanthropy and her award-winning work on Broadway, where she was the first woman to win a Tony for Best Original Score, for “Kinky Boots.” Lauper is still a dynamo live, and her final tour will stop off at [Toyota Amphitheatre in Wheatland](#) this August 23rd.



Melissa Etheridge & Indigo Girls

This divine double bill is a musical match made in heaven that finds Etheridge still going strong in the fourth decade of her career. For their part, Indigo Girls have been basking in renewed popularity after their signature song, “Closer to Fine,” was featured prominently in the blockbuster movie, “Barbie.” This concert, on [August 8 at Thunder Valley](#), promises to be a lesbian lovefest for fans of both acts.



Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As we leave another Pride Month behind, it's important to carry that feeling of community and self-love with us throughout the year. Reminders of Pride are everywhere... in our families, our friends, our workplaces, and even our beloved pets. I've been fortunate to write for the LGBTQ+ free press since back when it was simply called "gay," and today, Outword Magazine proudly stands as Sacramento's last remaining LGBTQ+ publication. In a time when even major publishers are struggling, each issue of Outword is a labor of love, dedicated to ensuring our local voices are heard loudly when so many are actively working to silence them. Happy Pride!



June 27

Catch comedian David Spade live in I Got a Feel For It on Friday, June 27, at 8 p.m. at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St., Sacramento. Known for his sharp sarcasm and self-deprecating humor, Spade brings his signature style to the stage for a night of nonstop laughs. [Get tickets here.](#)

Experience Bull in a China Shop presented by EAC Out Loud, Friday, June 27, at 8 p.m. at Empire Arts Collective, 2791 24th St., Room 14 (upstairs), Sacramento. This sharp, fast-paced queer comedy explores love, activism, and education through real letters between Mary Woolley and Jeannette Marks. 100% queer cast and crew—unapologetically authentic and unmissable. [Empireartscollective.org](#)

June 28 and 29

Yolano Veterinary Service will offer low-cost pet vaccinations on June 28–29 at locations throughout Sacramento, including 544 7th St. Ensure your pet's health with affordable care—quick, easy and convenient! Appointments required; limited spots available. Schedule your dog or cat's appointment online at [dogandcatshots.com](#)

Explore a dazzling array of gems, minerals, fossils and crystals at the Gem Amethyst Rock Fossil Sale, Saturday and Sunday, June 28–29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Residence Inn Sacramento Cal Expo, 550 Leisure Ln. Admission and parking are free! Discover thousands of specimens from around the world—Amethyst cathedrals, meteorites, cabochons and more.

June 29

Celebrate Pride with The Firehouse 5 at a special Fusion Theme Night and Potluck on Sunday, June 29, at 7 p.m., 2014 9th St. Enjoy a dynamic dance lesson—"Switch it up!"—and social dancing with DJs Raven Wilson, Audyssey and Karolos Notis. No partner or experience needed. Bring a dish or NA drink to share. Please check the website for fees and details. [Firehouse5.com](#)

July 3

Join the fun at Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo on July 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Mangos, 1930 K St. All seating is first come, first served, with the games starting at 7 p.m. A \$20 cash donation to play. This month's proceeds will go to Pilots and Pups! Don't miss this exciting and charitable event! [Rainbowchamber.com](#)

July 5

Celebrate in style at the Masquerade Ball hosted by DJ NADZ on Saturday, July 5, at 7 p.m. at Midtown's Rooftop Lounge, 1616 J St., Sacramento. Enjoy vocal house, Afro house and Top 40 beats from a stacked DJ lineup. Free admission! Complimentary masks for the first 50 guests. All-black attire encouraged—come early for rooftop vibes!

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

June 26

Experience a night of queer cinema history with The Queen and Funeral Parade of Roses double feature, Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the Crest Theater, 1013 K St. Witness the groundbreaking 1967 drag documentary restored to its full glory, paired with a bold, gender-bending classic from Japan's avant-garde film movement. [Crestsacramento.com](#)

Join the fun at Drag Bingo with Miss Apple Adams on Thursday, June 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Topsy Putt, 630 K St., Suite 120, Sacramento. For just \$5, enjoy a sassy, high-energy twist on classic bingo with fierce performances, laughs and chances to win fun prizes. Don't miss this unforgettable night! [Tipsyputt.com](#)

Don't miss the Sacramento premiere of King James by Rajiv Joseph, running through July 27, 2025, at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. Directed by Michael Stevenson, this sharp, heartfelt comedy follows two men whose turbulent friendship is shaped by their devotion to LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. A slam dunk for sports fans and theater lovers alike. [Capstage.org](#)

June 27

Catch a bold double feature at the historic Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento, on Friday, June 27, starting at 5 p.m. Bound, starring Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon, heats up the screen before diving into John Waters' outrageous cult classic Pink Flamingos. Don't miss this unforgettable night of cinematic rebellion just blocks from the Capitol. [Crestsacramento.com](#)



June 27



June 28

June 28

Discover the legacy of early stonemasons during a guided walking tour at Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, on Saturday, June 28, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Learn how these skilled artisans shaped California's cemeteries through timeless headstones and monuments. Comfortable shoes recommended. Presented by the Old City Cemetery Committee. Street or Target parking available. [Historicoldcitycemetery.org](#)

“Pee-wee Herman as Himself” Plus, Pedro Pascal Times Two

by Chris Narloch

Pedro Pascal must have a hell of an agent – and he obviously believes in striking while the iron is hot – because the popular Chilean actor is in everything!

In addition to the second season of his hit series “The Last of Us,” Pascal stars in the upcoming superhero movie “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” and another July release, Ari Aster’s “Eddington.”

Read on for my reviews of two recent releases starring Pascal, plus a fascinating documentary about Pee-wee Herman, and Wes Anderson’s latest.



Materialists

A rom-com without the “com,” this new film stars Dakota Johnson, Chris Evans, and Pedro Pascal as the three points of a love triangle set in New York City. Johnson is a professional match-maker, Evans is her cater waiter, theater actor ex, and Pascal is her rich guy current squeeze.

Celine Song, who previously made the wonderful Oscar nominee “Past Lives,” directs with a sure hand, and her new film is surprisingly adult and substantial.

Mature love stories are few and far between at the movies these days, and I very much appreciated taking a break from the endless stream of horror and Marvel movies clogging theaters. “Materialists” is currently in wide theatrical release.



The Phoenician Scheme

Wes Anderson returns with yet another big screen comedy featuring an incredible all-star cast and his trademark meticulous set design. Benicio del Toro plays the lead character, who embarks on a world tour to raise funds for a massive project designed to modernize the region of Phoenicia.

I loved Anderson’s two finest films, “The Royal Tenenbaums” and “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” but his recent movies (including this one) have been too flimsy for my taste. The actors are all directed to deliver their lines in the same flat affect, and nobody ever smiles or laughs. Before long, the deadpan whimsy curdles and craters.



Freaky Tales

Pedro Pascal also costars in this funky and funny crime comedy set and filmed mostly in Oakland. The time period is 1987, and the movie blends action, laughs, and surrealism in four inter-connected stories featuring a colorful cast of characters and a city on the brink of change.

“Freaky Tales” has it all: a corrupt cop, a female rap duo, neo-Nazis, teen punks, and a debt collector well-played by Pascal. Be prepared for a very violent climax and a crazy good time. After a too-brief theatrical run, this film is now available for home viewing.



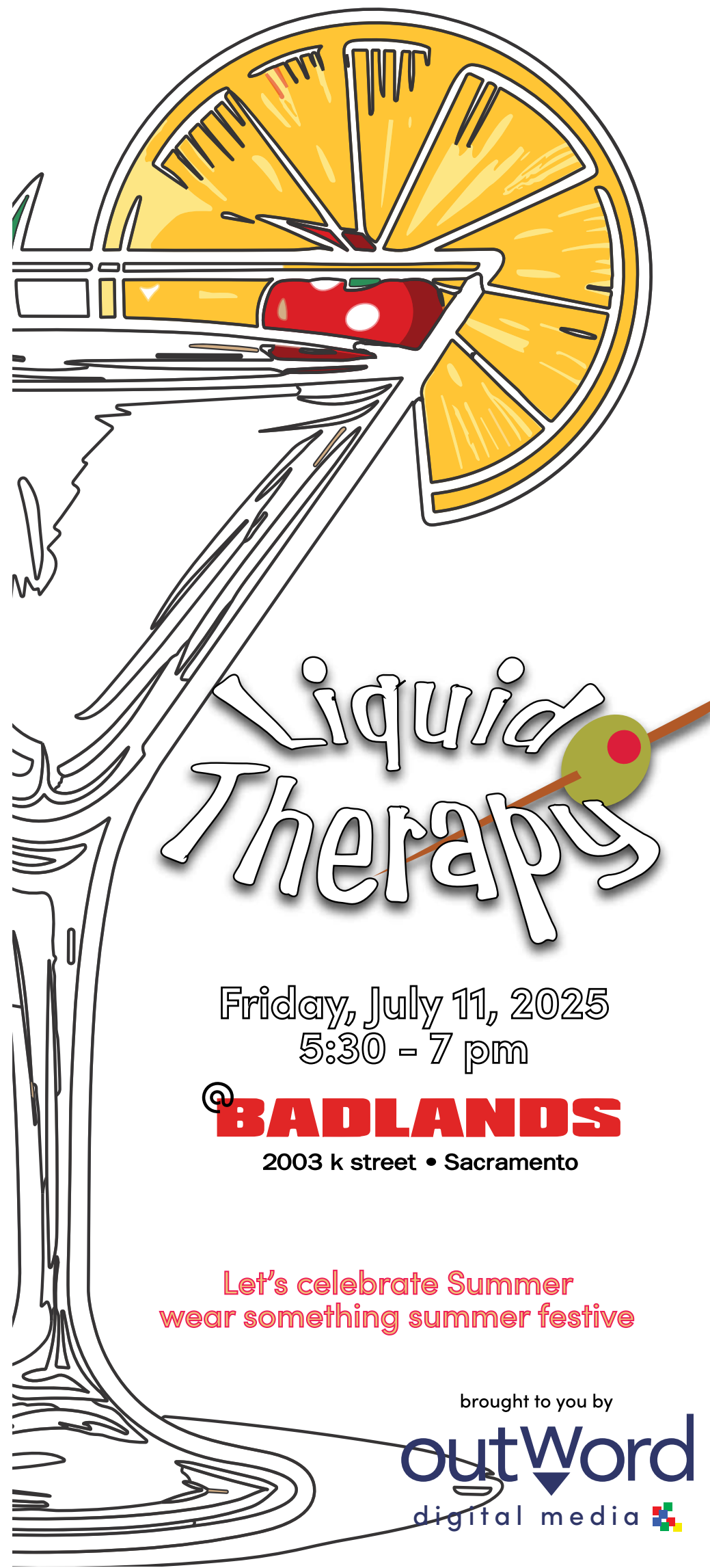
Pee-wee as Himself

If, like me, you are a lifelong Pee-wee fan, you will want to watch the fascinating documentary that actor Paul Reubens participated in while he was secretly dying of cancer. The movie is an unflinching deep dive into Reuben’s life and career, including his sexuality and the classic character of Pee-wee Herman that made him a star.

This is one of the greatest docs ever made about the artistic temperament, and its 40 hours of interviews – pared down to more than 3 hours of finished film – made me see Pee-wee’s rise and fall in a whole new light. “Pee-wee Herman as Himself” which is still at 100% on Rotten Tomatoes is available with a subscription to HBO/Max.



Hello Summertime



In Remembrance of Anne Burrell

Anne Burrell, the beloved celebrity chef, television personality, and culinary educator, has left an indelible mark on the food world. Known for her spikey, bleach white hair, contagious laugh, and signature spiky style, Burrell brought both personality and passion to every kitchen she touched. She passed away June 17, 2025, leaving behind a legacy defined by authenticity, joy, and fearless creativity.

Born in Cazenovia, New York, Burrell trained at the Culinary Institute of America and Italy's prestigious culinary schools before rising through the ranks of professional kitchens. She became a household name through her Food Network appearances, including "Secrets of a Restaurant Chef," "Worst Cooks in America," and "Chef Wanted," where she was both mentor and entertainer. Her charisma and tough-love approach inspired thousands of aspiring chefs and home cooks alike.

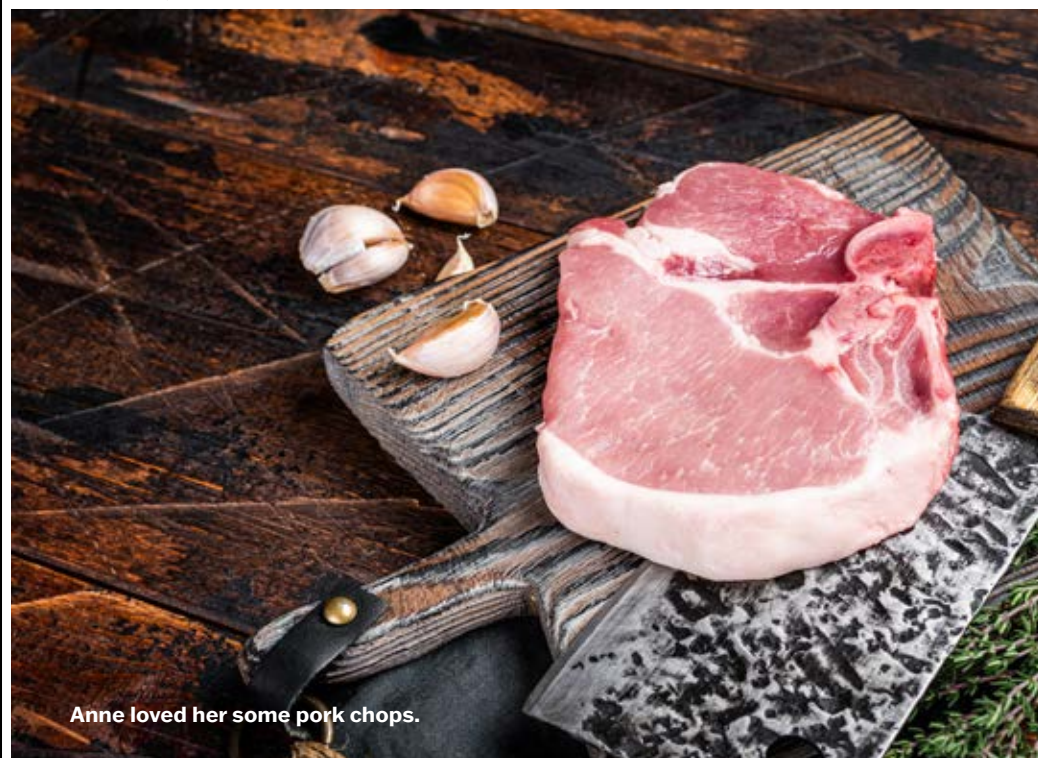
Burrell wasn't just a chef—she was a trailblazer. In a male-dominated industry, she commanded attention not through ego but through excellence, tenacity, and a deep love of food. Her culinary style was bold, rustic, and unapologetically flavorful, much like the woman herself.

Off-screen, Anne was deeply loved by friends, family, and fans for her warmth, generosity, and zest for life. Whether leading a kitchen or dancing with a spatula, she reminded us all that cooking should be fun and expressive.

Anne Burrell's vibrant spirit will live on. She showed us that great food comes from cooking with love and joy, she gave the world plenty of both.

Goodbye Anne Burrell *by Ron Tackitt*

I first became a fan of Anne's when I discovered her show "Secrets of a Restaurant Chef" The show was fascinating—mostly because of her. Her antics, personality, and amazing smile were unforgettable. It was obvious she absolutely knew what she was doing when it came to making high-quality food taste incredible. After all, she was cooking in a New York City restaurant, so it had to be.



The episodes were only about 30 minutes long—short and easily digestible, so to speak. In the first season, she showed off some really over-the-top techniques and packed a lot of food into that short time frame. In subsequent seasons, she seemed a bit more relaxed and didn't worry about making a third dish—usually a dessert—in every episode. Her instruction also became a little more down-to-earth.

However, the one thing that never changed was her. She was a shining light, floating and dancing around the kitchen—sometimes kissing the food, giving it names, and just generally having fun. It was intoxicatingly delightful. I loved that she called the scrap bowl the "Thank You for Playing" bowl. I've been rewatching "Secrets" as a kind of farewell to someone who seemed so wonderful.

I will miss seeing her on Food Network, and it's clear that there are throngs of others who will miss her even more.

Farewell, Anne.

Memes from Facebook

To my American friends:

As Trump shuts down your LGBT+ suicide and mental health crisis hotline during these trying times, Canada has added a US toll-free number to ours so you can get help anytime you need at no cost.

Kindness and empathy have no borders.

1-877-330-6366



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Kindness and empathy have no borders.

SORRY
FOLKS, BUT
IGNORING IT
IS WHAT THE
GERMANS
DID.

“

BIDEN GOT THE CHIPS ACT PASSED, PAVING THE WAY FOR NEW FACTORY GROWTH IN THE MIDWEST AND SOUTH.

TRUMP OVERSAW "CONSTRUCTION" ON TWO NEW FLAGPOLES. AND THEY ARE CROOKED, JUST LIKE HIS PRESIDENCY

Anonymous

IF PRIDE MONTH MAKES YOU ANGRY YOU'RE PROVING WHY PRIDE MONTH IS NEEDED!

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Chasten Glezman Bu... @cha... · 11h

They've got enough money to throw us into another war, but not enough money to fund the suicide prevention hotline. Very "pro-life." Very "pro-family." So "GREAT."

383 4.8K 20.9K

Chasten Glezman But... @cha... · 1d

Is the floor so low we're only half-expecting an apology from a Senator who mocked the assassination of politicians he didn't like? Or is there just no floor at all anymore? Mike Lee should resign. Today.

483 1.9K 9.2K

Leftist CEO @LeftistCEO

Paying 20% of your paycheck to insurance = good, capitalist, affordable

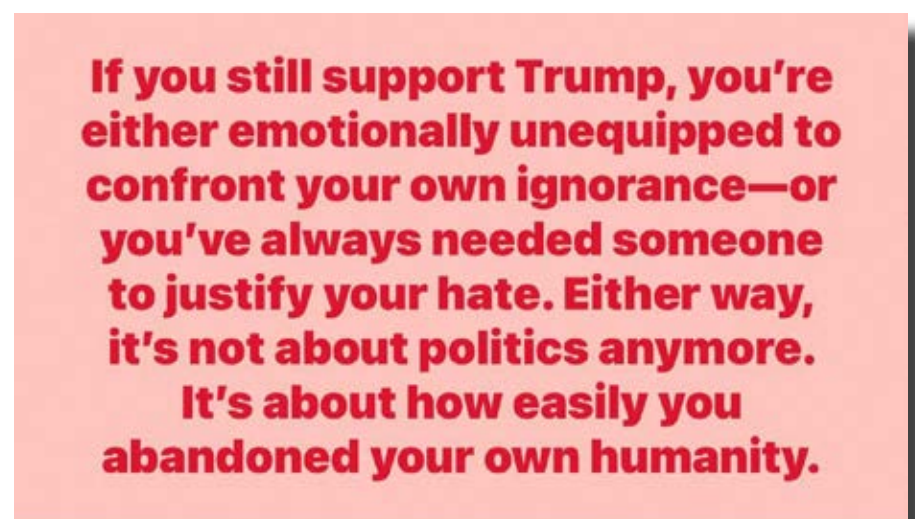
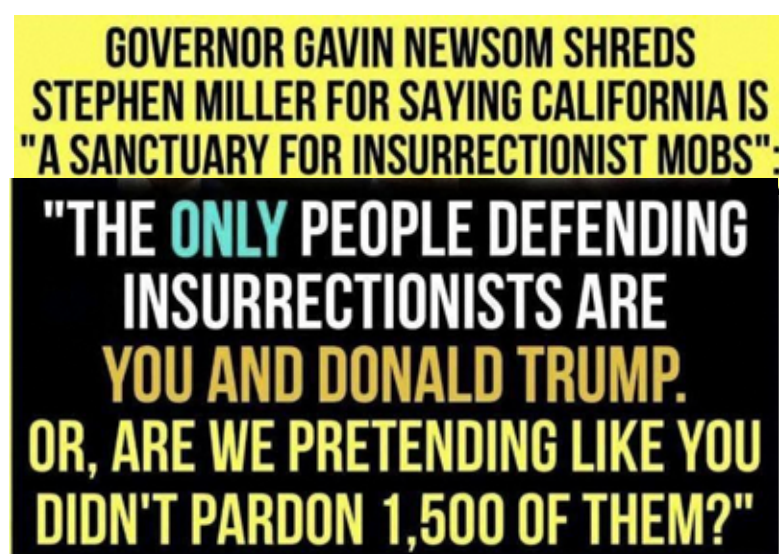
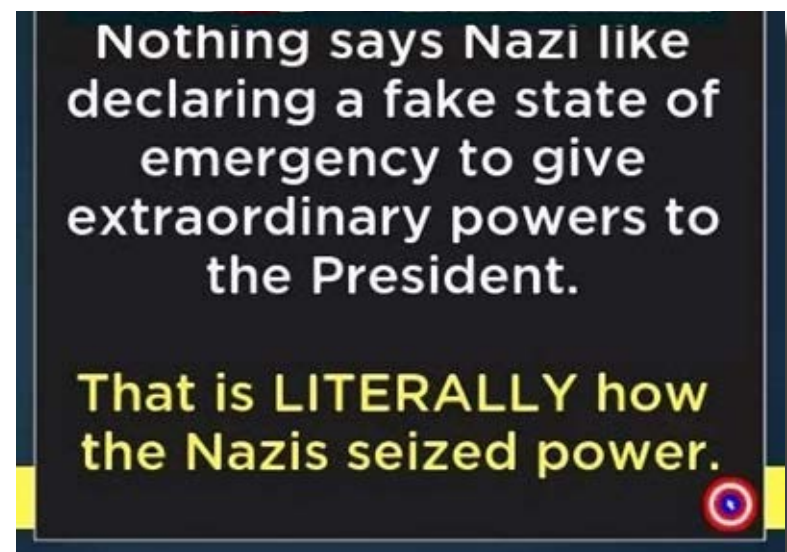
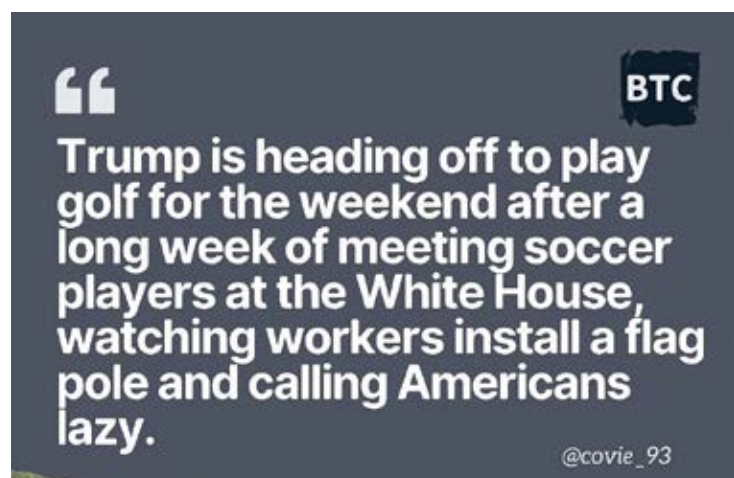
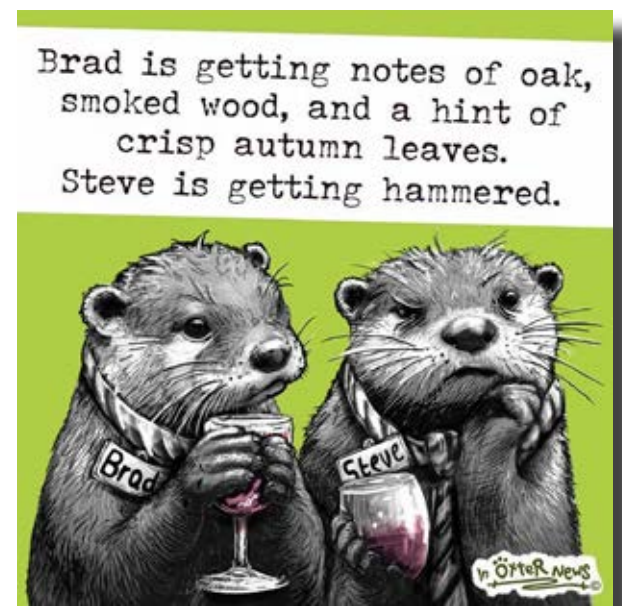
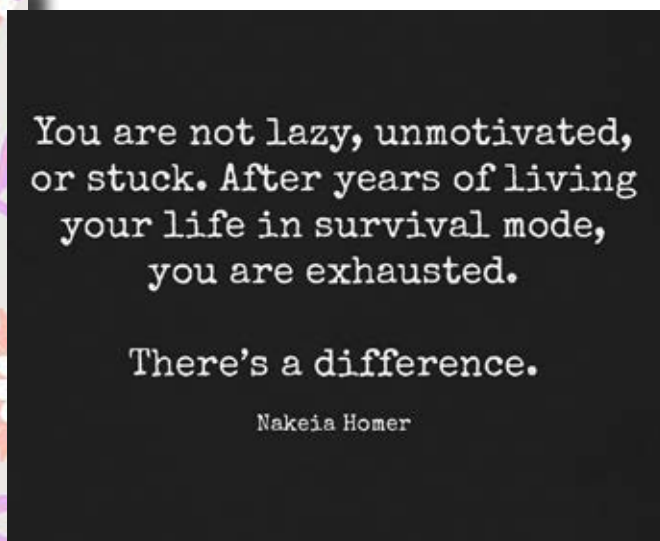
Paying 4% of your paycheck to Medicare = bad, communist, too expensive

Americans really are the most propagandized people in the world.



Celebrating the cancellation of 4th of July fireworks !

Mememes from Facebook



Gen X still prints boarding passes
because we survived "Microsoft Word
has encountered an error and needs to
close" as we watched our term papers
vanish into thin air at 1:00am. We know
technology will betray you at the worst
possible moment.



Activating Taste Buds (ATB)

Always on the lookout for a good burger place for lunch, so after seeing a reel online, we thought we would give Lucky's Drive In a try. Tucked in just off of Broadway at 2565 Franklin Blvd. it is not hard to find, and certainly not hard to locate a parking spot – their lot is huge. Yay.

We decided to go with the basic double cheeseburger meal with fries and a soda pop. Their menu is pretty simple but there are other choices beside burgers. We opted for tomatoes on ours, since they are not standard fair.

The burger was a generous size but not enormous and it came with lots of little bits of fresh lettuce and Lucky's special sauce. The patties were of good size and were not cooked too long, which was nice. Unfortunately, the little pieces of lettuce freed themselves from the burger with each bite until most of it was on the wrapper. Still easy enough to eat, but maybe a whole leaf?

The fries were great. They also were cooked just right. They were crispy, had great texture and were very tasty. 10 out of 10 for the fries! I got some ranch on the side that was great as a dipping sauce.

The day we went it seemed like Lucky's was still in the process of working out their work-flow, and the registers crashing certainly didn't help. Regardless, I will plan on going back for another hearty, messy burger, and fries.

<https://sacramentoburgers.com>



OUTWORD

dine with pride



Photos taken at The Waterboy in Midtown

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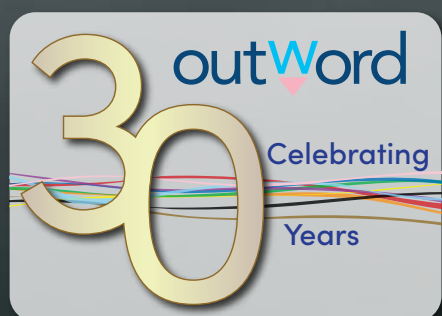
For 30 years, Outword Magazine - Sacramento's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication has been a trusted voice, sharing stories, uplifting our community, and keeping you informed.

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.
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Thank you, from the Outword team.



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Chosen Family, Chosen Table: A Bite-Sized History of LGBTQ+ Supper Clubs

Long before brunch became a weekend ritual and drag shows lit up center stage, LGBTQ+ communities were gathering around something much simpler—a shared meal. Supper clubs have long held a special place in queer culture, offering more than just food. They've been havens of connection, comfort, and quiet rebellion.



In the mid-20th century, especially in cities like San Francisco and New York, these gatherings often took shape in private homes or dimly lit back rooms of bars. At a time when being out could cost you your job or your safety, supper clubs created a space where people could breathe easy and be themselves—even if only for an evening. The world outside might not have understood, but around that table, everyone belonged.

One shining example from that era was San Francisco's Paper Doll Club—a queer-owned supper spot in North Beach that welcomed LGBTQ+ guests as early as the 1940s. It was part dinner, part cocktail lounge, and all heart. With martinis clinking, piano music humming, and laughter carrying through the night, it became more than just a club—it was a sanctuary.

As decades passed and the queer community faced new challenges, supper clubs evolved to meet the moment. During the AIDS crisis, these spaces became even more vital. They hosted fundraising dinners, shared resources, and held space for grief, healing, and hope. In those years, the simple act of gathering for a meal became an act of love.

Today, supper clubs have found new energy, blending the warmth of the past with the flair of the present. You'll find everything from pop-up dinners led by queer chefs to themed nights complete with drag performances and dance floors. But no matter how they're styled, the heart of it remains unchanged—bringing people together in celebration of chosen family and shared joy.

There's something special about pulling up a chair at a table where everyone is welcome, stories are exchanged like secret recipes, and laughter flows as easily as the drinks. These aren't just dinners. They're moments of connection that remind us how powerful it is to be seen and to be part of something bigger.

So, the next time you hear about a supper club, say yes. Bring your appetite, your stories, and your fabulous self. There's always a seat for you—because in this community, there's always room at the table.

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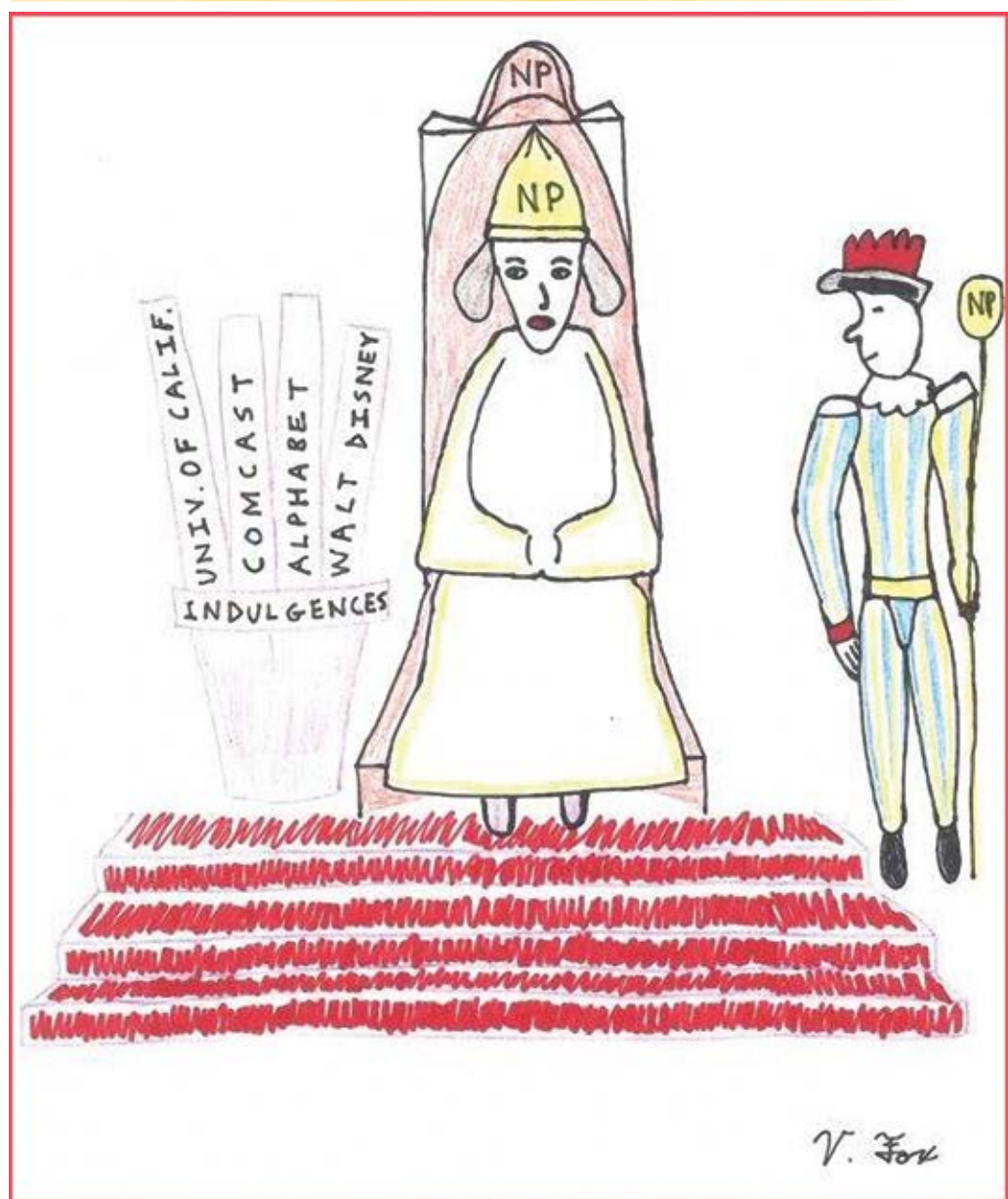
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is out.

BOOK INTRODUCTION

Philip Behrens lived in San Francisco from 1980 to 2018. He took a 10 year break in charming Vacaville from 2001 to 2011. He then moved to Vermont, Cape Cod, and finally Grand Island, New York. Having bought and sold 5 homes over the years, he has a unique perspective on housing in America and how we are not truthful to either ourselves or others where housing is concerned. What is really behind the "charm" campaign of the Cape Cod city of Dennis? He also examines the roots of the emotionality over our abortion policy. Can we be proud as a nation of our policy on housing and our policy on abortion? Along with his discussion of these weighty issues, the author throws in interesting facts on some of the cities he has lived in. To find out which American city has an ACE Hardware with 6 different types of silver polish, "Don't Harm the Charm" is required reading. Available on AMAZON.



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