

# outword

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# Celebrating Pride all year long.

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## A Tribute to Doris Matsui *by Dennis Mangers*

**D**oris Matsui has always been there for the LGBT community, And we still need her In Congress. I've watched plenty of politicians "evolve" on LGBTQ+ rights. They wait until public opinion shifts, until the cultural moment makes it safe, until supporting our community costs them nothing. Then they show up at Pride parades and call themselves allies.

Doris Matsui is not that politician. In 2006, when it wasn't yet politically safe, she voted against enshrining discrimination against same-sex couples into the U.S. Constitution. In 2007, she voted to prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. These weren't easy votes at the time, but she cast them anyway. And the Human Rights Campaign has given her a 100% scorecard throughout her career to prove it. I'm asking my fellow LGBTQ+ Sacramentans, and everyone who stands with us, to re-elect Congresswoman Matsui this June. Because right now, we cannot afford to lose her.

We are living through a moment of coordinated, deliberate assault on our community. Rights we spent decades fighting for are being dismantled. And in the middle of that fight, Matsui has led for us: She is an original cosponsor of the Equality Act, landmark legislation that would explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Despite it being stalled in the gridlock of Republican obstruction, Matsui has pushed it forward

every single Congress since 2015, and she will keep introducing it until it becomes law. As a proud member of the Equality Caucus in Congress, she sponsors bill after bill that most Americans never hear about but that directly save and improve lives: the Safe Schools Improvement Act, the Transgender Health Care Access Act, the Pride in Mental Health Act, the Fit to Serve Act, and the 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Access Act, among others.

That last one hits close to home. Congresswoman Matsui has been a driving force behind expanding and strengthening the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. She wrote the 988 Implementation Act to secure federal funding, build out local call center capacity, and expand mobile crisis teams in communities that need them. When the Trump Administration shut down the dedicated LGBTQ+ youth option on the 988 line - a callous, life-threatening decision - Matsui called it exactly what it was: cruel. And she fought to restore it.

This is personal for her. Matsui was born in a Japanese internment camp. She knows what it feels like when your government



Dennis Mangers

decides your family doesn't belong. That history doesn't leave you. I believe it is part of why she has stood with our community, consistently and without apology, for her entire career in Congress.

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## Bonta to fight the Administration's Attempt to Obtain Medical Records

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general opposing what they describe as another unjustified effort by the Trump Administration to obtain medical records related to gender-affirming care for minors. The coalition filed an amicus brief supporting a motion to block a U.S. Department of Justice subpoena targeting Rhode Island Hospital.

According to the brief, the U.S. DOJ is attempting to use the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to justify access to records tied to gender-affirming care. Bonta and the coalition argue that the administration's interpretation of the law is legally flawed and could have consequences far beyond transgender healthcare. Many areas of medicine routinely rely on "off-label" prescribing, a long-established and legal practice in which medications are used for purposes not specifically listed on FDA labels.

"The Trump Administration continues to chase its hateful agenda against transgender Americans," Bonta said in a statement, adding that California remains committed to protecting both patients and healthcare providers from federal overreach.

The dispute began in July 2025 when the DOJ issued a subpoena seeking records from Rhode Island Hospital concerning gender-affirming care for minors. Earlier this month, federal officials sought to enforce the subpoena in court, prompting Rhode Island's Office of the Child Advocate to file a motion to quash it.

Bonta has joined similar legal efforts opposing subpoenas aimed at providers including Boston Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and telemedicine platform QueerDoc. The coalition argues the subpoenas threaten patient privacy and could intimidate providers offering medically recognized care.

## Aging With Pride: How the Sacramento LGBT Community Center Cares for LGBTQ+ Seniors

LGBTQ+ seniors are the keepers of our history. They are the storytellers, the trailblazers, and the quiet heroes who pushed for visibility long before it was safe. Yet too many of them age without the support they deserve. At the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, Senior Services are designed to change that reality—offering connection, affirmation, and care rooted in dignity.

Aging is universal, but the experience of LGBTQ+ elders is uniquely shaped by decades of discrimination, resilience, and chosen family. Many came of age in eras when being out could cost you your job, your safety, or your home. Some lost entire networks of friends to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Others found chosen family and community. For more information on senior programming, please email [mentalhealth@saccenter.org](mailto:mentalhealth@saccenter.org).

Programs That Build Connection and Belonging:

### Golden Grounds Elders Group

A peer-led space where seniors can share stories, talk through challenges, and build friendships rooted in shared experience.

### Club 55 Group

A lively social group offering events, celebrations, and opportunities to connect with peers in a welcoming, affirming environment.

### Club 55 at Pride

A dedicated shaded space at Pride—complete with comfortable seating, refreshments, and resources—designed to ensure LGBTQ+ seniors can enjoy the festival with ease and comfort. This year's dates: June 13 and 14.

### Wellness, Healing, and Affirming Care

The Center also provides access to LGBTQ-affirming healthcare navigation, mental health counseling, and essential services such as HIV, HCV, and STI testing. Seniors can connect with licensed clinicians for one-on-one support or join group counseling spaces tailored to their needs.

### Accessible Yoga, Sacramento

A trauma-informed, body-positive yoga group open to all abilities, offering movement as a pathway to healing and grounding.

### Advocacy and Navigation

From housing to healthcare to legal resources, the Center's advocates help seniors navigate systems that can feel overwhelming or unwelcoming. The goal is simple: ensure every LGBTQ+ elder has access to the support they need to age with dignity.

Join Us in Supporting LGBTQ+ Seniors

The Center's Senior Services program continues to grow because our community believes in honoring and uplifting our elders.

To support these programs, visit [saccenter.org/donate](http://saccenter.org/donate) and become part of the network that ensures LGBTQ+ seniors are cared for, celebrated, and never left behind.

And don't forget – Sacramento Pride returns June 13 & 14, and our beloved Club 55 booth will be back as well. Come say hello and experience Pride through the eyes of the generation that helped make it possible. [Sacramento LGBT Center website](http://SacramentoLGBTCenter.org).



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## Davis Pride Is Ready To Bring The Rainbows And Glitter Back To The Community

The 12th annual Davis Pride will bring a month of events to celebrate and support the local LGBTQ+ community, with Davis PrideFest, a fun run, trivia, and the annual comedy night.

The month-long celebration will start with PrideFest, taking place at Civic Center Park, at 6th and B streets behind Davis City Hall, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. This family-friendly event features a music festival, community vendors, food trucks, drinks, and a drag revue.

“At a time when nationwide we’re seeing attacks on LGBTQ+ rights and organizations turning their back on Pride events, we are proud to offer a community-driven event supported by local artists, businesses, and volunteers,” said Sandré Henriquez Nelson, Director of Pride Events for the Davis Phoenix Coalition.

Total Recall, the Sacramento-based ‘90s and 2000s rock cover band, will co-headline the music festival, bringing their passion for alternative, pop punk and rock to the stage. Joining them as a co-headliner will be local favorite Bamba Fried Rice, a nine member band that plays music based in Latin genres ranging from salsa to ska.

Returning musical performers include the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus, Davis-based community band Noise Violation, and positive and uplifting rap group Matthew Balling and friends. Closing out the night are the crowd favorite local queens and kings of the drag revue. For the full performance schedule, visit [www.davispride.org/entertainment-2/](http://www.davispride.org/entertainment-2/).

PrideFest will include activity zones for children, teens, and seniors. Local artisans and non-profits will have booths with merchandise and resources available. The event is free, though donations are always accepted.

Attendees can get a jump start on PrideFest on the morning of Saturday, June 6, with the cornerstone event that started Davis Pride, the 12th annual Davis Pride Run/Walk for Equality, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at 500 1st St. This event includes a 5K and a 1-mile run/walk along the greenbelts of Davis, beginning at the shovel arch near the entrance of the UC Davis Arboretum.



Registration for the run, which helps fund the Davis Phoenix Coalition activities, is \$40 before May 24, \$45 from May 25 to June 5, and \$50 on race day. For more information, visit [www.davispride.org/run](http://www.davispride.org/run).

There will be a community gathering rally from 2:45-3:45 on Saturday, June 6, prior to Davis PrideFest. This event, called Pride Is a Protest!, will be held at the Solidarity Stage in Central Park at Fourth and C streets, and will culminate in a march to Civic Center Park to officially begin PrideFest.

“Pride is a Protest is a community gathering event to offer all positive and supportive members a space in solidarity for the rights of all our LGBTQ+ community,” Henriquez Nelson said.

Later in the month, the third annual Davis Pride Comedy Night will take place from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 26, at the Stonegate Country Club, 919 Lake Blvd. Presented by Comedians on the Go, the evening will be hosted by Sacramento and San Francisco-based drag performer and stand-up comedian Suzette Veneti, with headliner Scott Capurro and featured comics Shannon Murphy and Marcus Williams.

DJ Wet Weather will perform at 6:00 p.m. during a happy hour reception before the 7:00 show begins. Please be advised that this event is for ages 18+ due to mature content. Tickets are \$50 through June 7, \$60 June 8-25, and \$70 on June 26. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit [www.davispride.org/comedy](http://www.davispride.org/comedy).

For more information about Davis PrideFest and related events, or to become a sponsor, visitor, or volunteer, visit [www.davispride.org](http://www.davispride.org) or follow Davis Pride on Facebook and Instagram.

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**Don't Isolate! Participate!**

This has been the 2026 call to action for the Wisdom Project=LGBT Elders, a project under the nonprofit Servant Hearts, for the past 13 years. Keeping elders socially engaged, providing resource options that are safe and affordable, as well as supporting and understanding the journey of aging on one's own terms, is our Vision.



Studies show that human connections increase and improve the physical and mental health of all age groups including seniors, especially within peer groups. It is a societal mistake to assume that older folks lack any significant contribution to our cultural's structure and that 'aging' is just another 'profit-making industry'. There is even a technology smart home being developed to keep elders independent, where a home is wired with cameras to monitor us like specimens in a cage, count the number of flushes for urinary irregularities and make sure we don't sleep too much! A device for everything! What's missing is the human connection! What every person yearns for is human contact, kindness, compassionate human care, respectful treatment and living out their days with dignity and purpose.

The Wisdom Project has served the older LGBTQ+ community in the Sacramento Region for 13 years with programs and referrals to safe, welcoming resources. Establishing quality partnerships has been key to our longevity as a small organization, established in 2004, with an all-volunteer staff and no public office. All donations to Servant Hearts go into serving the Mission/Vision of our programs; Wisdom Project = LGBT Elders, Rhythms of Empowerment and Respect Awareness Project.

Programming for the Wisdom Project continues to evolve to meet the needs, interests, and capabilities of our members. As with every season in life, our abilities, desires, and hopes fluctuate. We are all ever-changing beings who seek to enrich ourselves and our minds through what feels comfortable, activities that are engaging, that offer hope and purpose while connecting us with people we enjoy spending our journey with ~

In today's busy world where a tweet constitutes 'talking', where an AI assistant tangles us up in automated phone links that lead 'nowhere', where a driverless car might arrive to 'transport' you to your requested destination, or even more frightening might be your surgeon on call! The current generation of 'Boomers' often faces unfamiliarity with technology ... leaving us feeling 'aged out' of life. Wisdom Project gatherings can make you feel 'included', not so extinct, with peer conversations that awaken your mind and spark new possibilities.

At Wisdom Project = LGBT Elders' gatherings/meetings/activities we attempt to help make some sense out of today's more complex ideas and way of living! We invite resource speakers once a month to join us for roundtable discussions. Recent discussions have been about managed care, advantage plans, pros/cons of senior living communities, low-income SMUD utility programs, law enforcement, protecting yourself from fraud and scams, mental health support, etc. Our second monthly Conversations & Coffee meeting is an open forum to share with others, topics of interest; changes in pharmacy delivery systems, vacation and travel ideas, EV experiences, book clubs, volunteer opportunities, family interactions, challenges of living alone... topics are endless.

So, heed the call... 'Don't Isolate! Participate!!' Join us ~ 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 1:00pm - 2:30pm at Eskaton Land Park for LGBTQA+ Conversations & Coffee, or our 3rd Saturday Lunch Out & Conversation at one of many local restaurants. On October 17th we will host the Annual Picnic in the Foothills in Placerville - a day in the country with live music by Midtown Jazz, Lunch, Drum & Healing Circle.

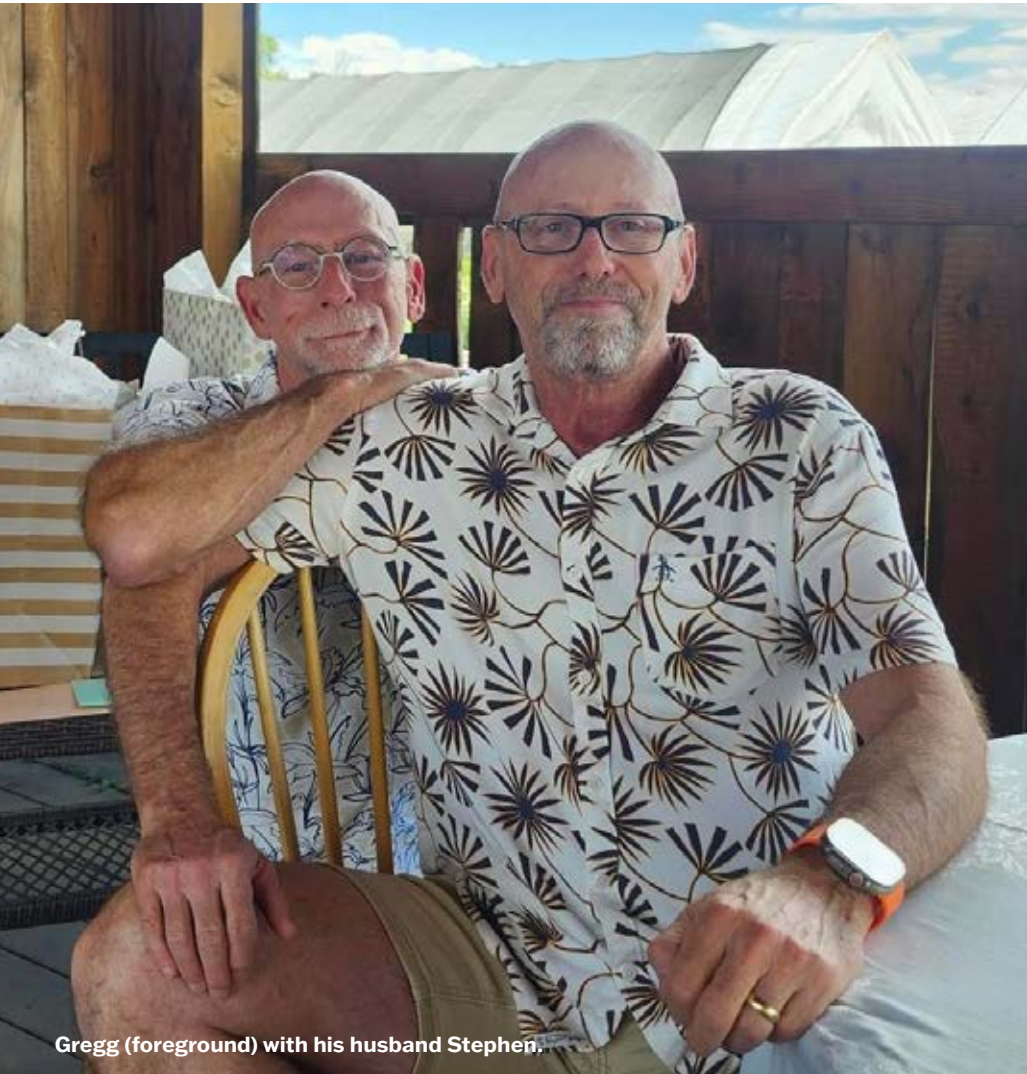
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# I've Been Thinking...

commentary by  
Gregg Smith

I've been thinking a lot lately about what it means to get older. When I was younger, so much of my sense of value came from things you could see.



Gregg (foreground) with his husband Stephen.

How I looked.  
How I performed.  
What I achieved.  
What title was next to my name.  
There's a certain electricity in that phase of life. You're building. You're proving. You're moving. And if we're honest, especially as gay men, physical beauty and career momentum can feel like real currency. Youth has a spotlight. Success has applause.  
I listened recently to a conversation between Ezra Klein and George Saunders that really stayed with me. Saunders talked about how much of our suffering comes from defending this idea of "who we are." We create a self and then spend years protecting it, promoting it, polishing it.  
But life slowly interrupts that illusion.  
Your body changes.  
Your role changes.  
Sometimes your relevance shifts.  
And at first it can feel like something is being taken from you.  
But I'm starting to wonder if something else is happening.  
What if aging is not subtraction, but refinement?  
What if the loosening of outer markers makes space for something deeper?  
I notice that I care less about being impressive. Less about being the smartest or the most accomplished in the room. And more about being kind. Being steady. Being someone who listens well. Someone who makes others feel safe.  
There is something profoundly freeing about not needing to win anymore.  
There's a tenderness that comes with realizing you were never your job. You were never your abs. You were never the applause. Those things were costumes we wore for a while.  
What remains underneath is quieter.  
Curiosity.  
Humility.  
Love.  
A desire to show up honestly.  
In a community that often celebrates youth, I think growing older can feel confronting. But it can also be grounding. There's a depth that comes from lived experience. A softness that comes from having been humbled a few times.  
I'm not done growing. I'm just growing differently now.  
And maybe the real beauty isn't in holding on to who we were, but in gently becoming who we are meant to be next.



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# Howard's Passion Comes to Life on Broadway

by Aaron Stillwell

**W**ish of a Lifetime from AARP sparks hope and joy in the hearts of older adults by fulfilling their dreams through personalized experiences that promote healthy and purposeful aging. We share these stories to inspire those of all ages.

"I now feel I have the rest of my life to be me."

At age 74, Howard feels he can fully express who he is—but that was not always the case throughout his life.

Howard is a member of the LGBTQ+ community and has struggled with expressing his identity in the past. He and his three siblings grew up in the Bronx of New York City. When their father passed away when Howard was only eight years old, their mother became the family's sole provider.

Caring for four children was challenging, and his mother made just enough to make ends meet. Howard found little time to dream about the possibilities of the future. "All we knew was to go to school, get a job, and that's it," he explained.

When he went to college, Howard realized that he was gay, and he came out to a few close friends. "I didn't hide it, but I didn't discuss it," he said. "I knew who I was, but there was never any reason to talk about it."

Howard moved to California but lacked the self-confidence to explore his personal life, build new interests, or pursue a career in the arts. He found a "normal" job, worked hard, and kept his head down for 30 years.

"All my life, I was scared," he said. "And I have never built a real life for myself."

But like the protagonist of any good production, this introvert had a Second Act worth waiting for.

In his 50s, Howard discovered his passion for theater and began to push past his inhibitions and shyness. After retiring, he moved to Las Vegas, where he joined the Center Las Vegas, a group for older LGBTQ+ adults with a mission to empower all people to live authentic lives.



Howard at Shubert-Broadhurst

Here, Howard found the community he had been searching for all along. And with the support of new friends, his confidence continued to grow. He felt more comfortable in his own shoes—enough to begin acting, singing, and dancing on stage.

"When I got into the theater, I felt more comfortable with things... this is when I came out of my shell and could express myself fully for the first time," he said.

Howard acted in his first play with a local theater troupe in 2014. And with a new passion to motivate him, he continued to grow as a person and an actor, finally getting cast in a leading role in 2018. Since then, his list of leading roles has grown, as has Howard's confidence. And a dream to someday perform on Broadway also grew within him.

Howard's story exemplifies how finding new passions and connections can help us flourish later in life. And Wish of a Lifetime knew just what to do to celebrate his journey and recognize Howard as the remarkable individual he is today.

In collaboration with the New York City Department of Education's Arts Office and the Shubert Foundation, we helped make Howard's dream of performing on Broadway a reality! Full of anticipation, Howard traveled to New York City to perform in the 9th annual Shubert High School Theatre Festival.

Howard bravely took the microphone in front of a packed house at the historic Broadhurst Theatre. He told his story of overcoming obstacles and persevering as an older adult and member of the LGBTQ+ community.

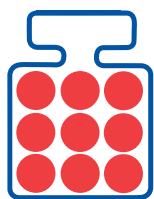
"I am honored to perform alongside such talented young people and to share my story with future generations," he said.

And then, it was time for the main performance! Accompanied by a live band, Howard sang the song "To Life" from the iconic musical Fiddler on the Roof while dancing alongside 26 talented teen artists. Together, they brought the audience to its feet.

Reflecting on the experience, Howard shared that "No matter what happens in my life, I will only grow, and Wish of a Lifetime has added to that ability."

"But after Broadway, I don't know what else there can be..."

We have no doubts that there will be many more bright lights and standing ovations in Howard's future. [Wish of a Lifetime web site.](#)



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## Nevada County Pride Unveils June 2026 Pride Events

Nevada County Pride has announced its complete lineup of events for Pride Month 2026, offering a dynamic mix of community-sponsored celebrations, arts programming, social gatherings, youth events, and civic engagement opportunities throughout Nevada County.



Downtown Nevada City decorated with rainbow flags

Civic engagement events include local Pride proclamations recognizing June as Pride Month in Grass Valley (May 26), the Town of Truckee (May 26), Nevada County (June 2), and Nevada City (June 10). Details can be found on our calendar.

For theater lovers, Lyric Rose Theatre is excited to bring the Tony Award winning musical, “La Cage Aux Folles,” to the region, with opening night May 29th, and continuing through June 20th. Based on the 1973 French play “La Cage Aux Folles,” it was later adapted and made into the smash hit film “The Bird Cage” starring Nathan Lane and Robin Williams. You don’t want to miss this show!

Pride Month officially begins on June 1st with the annual Nevada City Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall, where community members, local leaders, and allies gather to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ+ visibility and inclusion and hang Pride flags on lampposts throughout downtown.

On June 6th, the celebration continues with the first Nevada City Pride Parade, a community-led effort, created in collaboration with Lyric Rose Theatre, when we will carry forward a lineage of queer culture-making that’s been shaping Nevada City all along in a colorful and spirited procession through downtown Nevada City bringing together residents, organizations, and performers in a show of unity and pride. Following the parade, we’ll keep the energy going with an all-ages Cabaret and After Party at the Nevada Theatre.

On June 12th, Nevada County Arts & Culture and Nevada County Pride in partnership with the County of Nevada will host an Opening Reception for the upcoming Art in Public Spaces exhibition, Lavender Glow | Queer Art & Our Shared History, showcasing local queer artists and creatives. This event highlights the rich cultural contributions of the community and sets the tone for a month centered on expression, storytelling, and visibility. The exhibition will be on display at the Rood Center in Nevada City from May 26 through August 28. On June 14th, The Onyx Downtown at the Nevada Theatre teams up with Nevada County Pride again for June Pride Month as we screen “But I’m a Cheerleader”, offering an opportunity for community members to gather and experience LGBTQ+ storytelling through film in a welcoming, shared environment.

The Barbara Higbie & Teresa Trull NC Pride Benefit Concert on June 16th, is the reunion of singer-songwriter Teresa Trull and multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter, Barbara Higbie, in a long-awaited musical event! Join us for an intimate evening with these trailblazing feminists and lesbian rights activists and undisputed pioneers in women’s music.

BriarPatch will be hosting the 5th annual “Pride on the Patio” on June 26th, from 1-3 pm at our Grass Valley location. The annual event helps raise awareness as we celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.

The month culminates on June 28th with the 5th Annual Pride Family Fest at Condon Park in Grass Valley. This free, all-ages celebration features activities, entertainment, and resources for families, youth, and community members, serving as a joyful finale to Pride Month.

“Pride Month is both a celebration and a call to community,” said Rick Partridge of Nevada County Pride. “Our June events reflect the diversity, creativity, and resilience of LGBTQ+ people here in Nevada County, and we welcome everyone to participate.”

For a complete calendar of events, visit: [Nevada County Pride online](https://www.nevadacountypride.com).

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Photo by Jolanne Tierney

## Rolling Through Rancho

words and photo by Chris Allan

Rancho Cordova's business parks got a lot more exciting May 1-3, when the Golden State Race Series transformed corporate asphalt into a three-day competitive cycling event.



Super Sprinkles racers R.J. Marsan (lft) and Alex Greenwald (rt)

The Rio Strada Racing meet featured time trials, circuit racing, and a heart-pounding criterium (multi-lap closed-circuit race). In perfect spring conditions, elite riders leaned treacherously into the corners and flew by on the straights – an incredible wall of wind and carbon fiber.

On the queer front, San Francisco's Super Sprinkles Racing brought it from the Bay Area, with three riders competing and a criterium podium finish. Founded to make cycling accessible to women, transgender, femme, and other under-represented riders, they're an inspiration for Sacramento to build a queer cycling community of its own.

## She's The Boss

words and photo by Chris Allan



Rhona Peterson, coxswain for WWU, focuses before the start with her men's crew.

In cool spring conditions, the Sacramento State Aquatic Center at Lake Natoma hosted the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships on April 25–26. Thirty-five schools competed across 65 heats in the regatta, with one of the more curious sights in collegiate rowing on full display: female coxswains commanding all-male boats. The coxswain doesn't row; they steer and direct race strategy, and the role strongly favors lighter athletes. With a 125 lb target weight, there are simply far more college-aged women who fit the claustrophobic confines of the stern seat, and roughly 10 schools at WIRA this year listed female coxswains on their men's roster pages.

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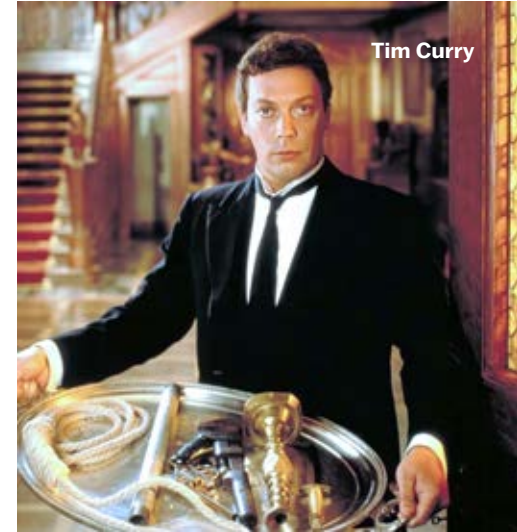
# Get a "Clue" in San Francisco

by Chris Narloch

Original cast members Tim Curry and Lesley Ann Warren will make rare appearances when they co-host a 40th Anniversary screening of their cult favorite, "Clue: The Movie," this June, in San Francisco.



Lesley Ann Warren



Tim Curry

Mr. Curry (Wadsworth) and Ms. Warren (Miss Scarlett) will appear together on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Curran Theatre to host a special screening of the fan favorite film in Ultra High Definition.

"Clue: The Movie" is the 1985 cult classic comedy mystery film, which was based on one of the world's most popular board games.

Produced by The Stander Group, the live event will offer in-depth conversation, Q&As with audience members, and more.

For information and to purchase tickets: <https://us.atgtickets.com/whats-on/san-francisco>

# Go "Back to the Future" with Broadway Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Comfort-food films from back in the day are being turned into stage musicals faster than you can say "Great Scott!" and this month the musical version of the beloved film "Back to the Future" will sing and dance into town, thanks to Broadway Sacramento.



Marty McFly and his tiny guitar costar in "Back to the Future: The Musical."

That cinematic classic starred Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, and Lea Thompson, and it's been more than 40 years since the first "Back to the Future" film was released in theaters in 1985.

Well, they say that everything old is new again, and we can't wait to see "Back to the Future: The Musical" when it blasts into the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, this May 13 - 24.

When Marty McFly finds himself transported back to 1955 via a modified DeLorean car rebuilt by the eccentric scientist Doc Brown, he encounters younger versions of his parents and must make sure that they fall in love, or he will cease to exist.

Winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, "Back to the Future: The Musical" hits 88 mph with audiences, so get your tickets before they're gone, at [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

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### Midtown Association Celebrates Community With 37 Pride Banners Along J Street

The Midtown Association is once again bringing a wave of color and community spirit to Midtown with 37 Pride banners now proudly displayed along J Street throughout May and June. Sponsored by Western Health Advantage, the banners serve as a visible celebration of Sacramento's LGBTQIA+ community and a reminder that inclusion and visibility remain an important part of Midtown's identity.



Stretching through one of Sacramento's busiest corridors, the installation transforms J Street into a bold and welcoming public display during Pride season. The effort is part of the Midtown Association's ongoing commitment to supporting and celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community while helping create spaces where everyone feels seen, welcomed and connected.

The seasonal banner display is complemented by the permanent "Midtown Love: No Exceptions, No Exclusions" banners located in Lavender Heights along 20th Street between J and K Streets. Together, the two installations reinforce the message that inclusivity in Midtown is not limited to a single month, but remains part of the neighborhood year-round.

With an estimated 17,000 drivers traveling the J Street corridor daily – along with countless pedestrians and visitors – the banners provide a highly visible statement of support in the heart of Midtown during one of the city's most vibrant seasons.

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# “Espejos: Clean” Hits the Bullseye at CapStage

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento’s Capital Stage notches another win with “Espejos: Clean,” a powerful play by Christine Quintana that uses two languages to tell its riveting tale of female suffering and survival.

Told in Spanish and English, with respective supertitles like they have at the opera, this bold drama finds the humor and heart (and heartbreak) in a story about two women – and two worlds – that collide at a high-end hotel in Mexico.

Despite their different languages, backgrounds, and economic realities, the two women are revealed to have similar traumatic experiences that they have worked hard to suppress. Adriana is the housekeeping manager, who at first sees Sarah as just another entitled, wealthy White woman staying at the Cancun resort where she works.

By the end of the play, Adriana (Sarita Ocon) and Sarah (Stephanie Altholz) will come clean about their shared secrets, and two superb actresses will have moved us with their compelling performances.

The two women deal with their traumatic pasts in different ways – one is a workaholic, the other is an alcoholic – and the play touches on several fascinating issues, including white savior complex and PTSD.

Dena Martinez directs with a sure hand, and the entire production team succeeds in bringing this wonderful work to life.

The Sacramento premiere of “Espejos: Clean” continues through June 7, 2026, and it is not to be missed. For information, and to purchase tickets, go to: [capstage.org](http://capstage.org)



Stephanie Altholz and Sarita Ocon costar in “Espejos: Clean” at Capital Stage

# Davis Art Studio Tour To Highlight 48 Artists From Across The Region May 16-17

Forty-eight artists from across the region will open their Davis studios for the free self-guided Davis Art Studio Tour where hundreds of guests can immerse themselves in the creative spaces where local artwork is being crafted. The two-day public event will take place May 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include opportunities to view and purchase a wide range of artwork, from sculpture and painting to print making and photography. For information about participating artists and studio locations, visit [www.davisopenstudios.com](http://www.davisopenstudios.com).



photo by Kristin Thébaud

The Pence Gallery, 212 D Street in Davis, will feature a preview show for the Davis Art Studio Tour, showcasing one piece from each participating artist. The show will open at the Davis 2nd Friday ArtAbout Reception on May 8 from 6-9 p.m. and will be on display through June 5.

The Davis Art Studio Tour began more than two decades ago and became a casualty of the pandemic until 2023 when a small group of local artists formed a grassroots effort to bring the tour back to life with 21 artists showing their work. In 2024 and 2025, they doubled the number of artists featured, and this year will showcase 48 artists to hundreds of guests on the tour. For more information, visit [www.davisopenstudios.com](http://www.davisopenstudios.com).

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## The True Story of Tamara de Lempicka

An Art Deco icon. A bisexual, Jewish artist, born into the aristocratic milieu of Eastern Europe. A genre-bending painter who broke all the rules in 1920s Paris. A Polish refugee who fled the Nazi invasion of Europe.



© 2024 TAMARA DE LEMPICKA ESTATE, LLC / ADAGP, PARIS / ARS, NY

Tamara de Lempicka was all those women and more. "The True Story of Tamara De Lempicka & the Art of Survival" is a 2024 documentary written, directed, and produced by Julie Rubio that illuminates the artist's life as she reinvents herself repeatedly.

Though she rose to the pinnacle of café society, and openly conducted affairs with both men and women, she also concealed her Jewish heritage to evade persecution in Poland, escaped the Bolsheviks during the Russian revolution, and fled European fascism in 1939.

Renowned for her glamorous post-cubism female nudes, her popularity has soared among American collectors like Barbra Streisand, Madonna, and Anjelica Huston, who are featured in the film. Ms. Huson narrates the movie.

The Sacramento Jewish Film Festival and Crocker Art Museum will present "The True Story Of Tamara de Lempicka..." on May 17, 2026 at 1:30pm. Tickets are on sale, [click here to purchase](#).

Since 1997, the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival has showcased thought-provoking films that celebrate the richness of Jewish life and culture. For more information, visit <https://sacjewishfilmfest.org/>

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Celebrating 30 Years

## SWC Presents "This Shining Night" at The Sofia

Tickets were still available last time *Outword* checked for "This Shining Night," the spring concert by Sacramento Women's Chorus (SWC).



This gorgeous, hope-filled choral concert features music and the inspiring words of Eric Whitacre, Emily Bronte, Ola Gjeilo, Adele, Ruth Huber, Morten Laurdisen, Stephen Schwartz, Elaine Hagenberg, Harriet Prescott Spofford, George Harrison and others.

The cosmos, rich with stars and planets, elicits yearnings for a better world. Join the Sacramento Women's Chorus on this journey through a stormy night to a rainbowed sky.

You can enjoy "This Shining Night," on Saturday evening, May 16, at The Sofia. To purchase tickets, please visit: [www.sacramentowomenschorus.org](http://www.sacramentowomenschorus.org)

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# Hugh Jackman & Billie Eilish Plus, “The Devil Wears Prada 2”

by Chris Narloch

If you enjoy movies that are so bad they're almost good, Tommy Wiseau is your guy. Wiseau, the writer, director, and producer of such infamous films as “The Room” and “Big Shark,” will return to Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on May 29th and 30th, to take pictures and sign autographs for his adoring fans. Additionally, each screening will include a live Q&A with Tommy.

If guilty pleasure cinema from Tommy Wiseau isn't really your thing, check out these higher profile pictures currently in theaters.

## The Sheep Detectives

None other than Wolverine himself (Hugh Jackman) stars in this super-cute and very entertaining family film about a flock of clever talking sheep who help solve the murder of their owner, in the fictional English countryside village of Denbrook.

There is no shortage of suspects, and they are played by a killer cast that includes Emma Thompson, Nicholas Galitzine, Molly Gordon, Nicholas Braun, and Hong Chau.

Imagine an Aardman animated movie come to glorious, live-action life and you'll have some idea of the pleasures to be had watching this charming comic mystery. Currently in wide theatrical release.



The Sheep Detectives

## The Devil Wears Prada 2

She's back! With her short, silver hairdo and hilarious hauteur, Anna Wintour (I mean Miranda Priestly) is one of Meryl Streep's finest creations. Streep doesn't get to do comedy often enough, but when she does - watch out.

The delicious Emily Blunt and the divine Stanley Tucci are back as well, and Anne Hathaway reprises her role as the comic punching bag for the other characters.

The backdrop this time around is the collapse of old-school, traditional media, which adds a welcome dollop of realism to this very entertaining roman a clef retread. Currently in wide theatrical release.



The Devil Wears Prada 2

## Billie Eilish: Hit Me Hard and Soft – The Tour

I knew that Billie Eilish was talented and popular, but until I saw her brand new, high-tech concert film, I had no idea that she inspires the type of devotion reserved for pop stars like the Beatles and Taylor Swift.

Eilish's fan base appears to be mostly female and substantially queer, and many of them are shown sobbing and singing along to her lyrics as if they were the gospel. There is no denying the depth of her talent; Eilish has already won two Oscars for Best Original Song, making her the youngest double winner in Oscar history.

James Cameron, the man behind “Titanic” and the “Avatar” franchise, captures her tremendous talent magnificently, with multiple cameras, onstage and backstage, inside the Co-op Live arena in Manchester, England. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Billie Eilish: Hit Me Hard and Soft – The Tour

## Erupcja

This dreary dud stars the pop princess Charli XCX as a self-absorbed, bisexual woman who travels to Warsaw, Poland with her potential fiancé, and then reconnects with a lesbian friend for a casual fling while her boyfriend wonders where the hell she has gone.

He is without a doubt better off without her, and so are we. The movie's detached narration is pretentious, and there is also some annoying nonsense about volcanoes erupting every time the two women get together.

The film is only 71 minutes long, but they feel like an eternity. “Erupcja” is playing at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre but probably not for long.



Erupcja

# Davis PrideFest



4:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Civic Center Park - Davis CA



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## Start Planning Now for SF Pride!

San Francisco Pride is turning up the volume for 2026 with a theme that feels both timely and unmistakably bold: “Resistance in Action.” From the iconic Castro Theatre to events across the city and the energy filling the streets themselves, this year’s celebration is shaping up to be more than a party – it’s a rallying cry. Organizers are encouraging the community and allies alike to show up, speak out, and stand together during one of the nation’s most recognized Pride celebrations. With tickets, passes, and event details now live, the countdown to Pride season in the Bay Area is officially on.

**Wed, June 10 | The Castro Theatre**  
**VIP Early Entry 5:30 | GA Access 7 PM**

The curtain is rising, and we are throwing a party with Peaches Christ! Join us at the historic Castro Theatre for Built This City: An SF Pride Variety Spectacular, a one-night celebration of 50 Years of Queer San Francisco, hosted by the incomparable Peaches Christ and Honey Mahogany. This is the official kickoff to the 2026 Pride month, and it will be as bold, brilliant, and beautifully queer as this city has always been.

On the bill: this year’s Grand Marshals, honored on stage in the neighborhood where so much of our history was made. Now that voting has closed, you can click here to find out who won.

GA doors open at 7 PM. But a VIP ticket gets you into an exclusive pre-event party at 5:30 PM for bites, beverages, bops, and the chance to meet this year’s Grand Marshals in person before the spotlight hits.

Every ticket is a direct investment in SF Pride’s mission to educate the world, commemorate our heritage, celebrate our culture, and liberate our people. You thought it was just a party? Think again.

Get your Built This City [tickets here](#).

**Tuesday, June 23 | Glide Memorial Church | 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

Back by popular demand after an unforgettable inaugural year, Runway of Pride returns, and this stage could not be more storied. Glide Memorial Church is where community members gathered in 1972 to plan the first official San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. This June, that same space becomes our runway.

Community members, local legends, and a few elected officials will take their turn under the lights, wearing looks by local designers, in a show that is equal parts celebration, tribute, and spectacle. Come ready to be dazzled.

Get your Runway of Pride [tickets here](#).

**4th Annual Human Rights Summit/ The Commonwealth Club**

**Thursday, June 25 | Doors 9:30 AM**

**Programming 10 AM - 5 PM/Reception 5 PM - 7 PM**

Some rooms change you. This will be one of them.

The 4th Annual Human Rights Summit convenes leaders, activists, visionaries, and freedom fighters invested in our collective future.

The summit begins with a power lunch served alongside inspirational performances, followed by the plenary, where keynote speakers and peace conspirators share knowledge and insightful calls to action. Expect a full day of ideas that move, with a reception to close it out in community.

Exciting announcements are on the way to you soon. Advocates, revolutionaries, truth seekers, innovators, and dreamers: stay close. The resistance is ready for you.

Get your Human Rights Summit [tickets here](#).

### 2026 Pride Pass

The 2026 [Pride Pass \(\\$125\)](#) is your all-access pass to the complete San Francisco Pride experience:

- Built This City Kickoff - Wed, June 10
- The Castro Theatre (GA access 7:00 PM)
- Human Rights Summit - Thurs, June 25 The Commonwealth Club (10 AM - 7 PM)
- San Francisco Pride Celebration - June 27-28 (11 AM - 6 PM)
- SF Pride Parade with Grandstand Seating - Sunday, June 28 (access at 9:30 AM, parade at 10:30 AM)
- Party at Asian Art Museum - Sun, June 28 at the Asian Art Museum (12 - 5 PM)

Plus, every Pride Pass comes with an official 2026 SF Pride t-shirt so you can wear your Resistance in Action! on your sleeve.

Sponsored by San Francisco Pride, Runway of Pride tickets not included. Tuesday June 23 • Glide Memorial Church • 6:30 - 9 PM

Every [Pride Pass](#) purchase feeds directly into our annual partners program, reinvesting in local LGBTQ+ organizations here at home. Your dollars do more than get you through the door; they help hold this community together.

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## Activating Taste Buds

Piatti Sacramento *submitted by Fred Palmer*



Mafaldine Carbonara \$30.00

Every once in a while, I like to take myself out for what I call an “alone lunch.” No project, no meeting – just me alone.

Piatti is one of those places I go to from time to time. They have some wonderful seasonal meals on the menu, and a few weeks ago they offered Mafaldine Carbonara. It was so fresh and wonderful, made with simple ingredients and something I neither make at home nor really know how to make.

Carbonara is one of those dishes that has to be done correctly, and although the ingredients are simple, it's not easy to pull off. The one I had was a perfect blend of pancetta, English peas, pecorino, and cured egg yolk.

I may have had a glass of wine too, but since I was alone, no one knows for sure. View their [menu here](#).



In what has become one of the largest dog rescue efforts in history, nearly 1,500 beagles have now been released from Ridglan Farms, the controversial breeding facility that supplied animals to research laboratories. Rescue groups across the country are stepping in to help these sweet, resilient dogs finally experience what life should have always been – sunshine, soft beds, toys, safety, and the simple joy of being loved. Even more moving, advocates are continuing to push for the release of roughly 500 additional beagles still at the facility. It's hard not to feel emotional seeing these dogs take their first real steps into freedom, many already wagging their tails and seeking affection despite everything they've endured. Stories like this remind us that compassion and persistence matter. And if you would like to help with the efforts to rehabilitate and home these wonderful creatures, Check out Beagle Freedom Project at [bfp.org/ridglan/](http://bfp.org/ridglan/). And if not them, there are many more that are helping and could use some assistance. Another option is Big Dog Ranch Rescue [www.bdrr.org/](http://www.bdrr.org/)



# Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As warmer days settle in, Pride season is in bloom! There's no better time to reconnect with friends in the places that make our community feel like home. In a chaotic and uncertain world visibility and connection still matter. So get out there, support local artists and businesses, dance a little harder, laugh a little louder and spend time with friends old and new!



Kesha

## May 31

Prepare for loud guitars and glorious chaos at Attack of the Orgy of Bands at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at The Golden Bear. Featuring performances by Keeping Kind, Rev and post-atomic surf rockers Dangerforce 5, this high-energy night promises wit, attitude and enough musical mayhem to launch June with a bang. Goldenbear916.com



## June 4

Balls, bingo and big-hearted giving take center stage at Drag Queen Bingo at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at Mango's. Hosted by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, this lively night of drag performances and laughs benefits CASA Sacramento, supporting children in foster care throughout the region. Rainbowchamber.com

## June 6

Celebrate love, visibility and community at Davis PrideFest 2026 beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at Civic Center Park, Sixth and B streets behind Davis City Hall in Davis. Yolo County's largest LGBTQ+ celebration features live entertainment, vendors, community resources and family-friendly fun, bringing thousands together for an evening of Pride, connection and belonging. Davispride.org

Celebrate Pride, connection and community at Building the Block: Rainbow Reunion from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at the SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco. This free, all-ages outdoor festival features drag performances, live music, food trucks, art exhibits, wellness classes and community resources, creating a joyful space for LGBTQIA+ people and allies to gather, celebrate and kick off Pride season together. Sfcenter.org

Glamour, gothic flair and seductive spectacle collide at Cobweb Cabaret at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento. Featuring Emma Vauxdevil and a lineup of dazzling "showghouls," this eclectic burlesque revue delivers spine-tingling performances, dark elegance and high-energy theatrical fun. Cresttheatre.com



Cobweb Cabaret at the Crest

## May 27

Pop rebel Kesha brings The Freedom Tour to Toyota Pavilion at Concord, 2000 Kirker Pass Road, Concord, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27. Expect a high-energy night packed with glittery dance-pop anthems, unapologetic attitude and chart-topping hits from one of pop music's boldest performers. Toyotapavilionatconcord.com

## May 29

Dance, connect and celebrate sisterhood at Goddess Night Out: Latin Night from 6-10 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Sanctuary Sacramento, 215 24th St. Held under the Sagittarius full moon, the evening features Latin dance workshops, community connection, women-owned vendors, sound healing and an empowering dance-floor experience designed to uplift, energize and inspire. Goddessnightout.org

Step into a seductive world of enchantment at Fairy Tale Fantasy at 11 p.m. Friday, May 29, at 24th Street Theatre. Presented by Cabaret After Dark, this provocative late-night production blends fantasy, glamour and theatrical intrigue into a sensual evening of dazzling performances and magical surprises inspired by twisted fairy tales.

## Ongoing

Spend your Sunday strolling the waterfront when K Street Markets return from noon to 6 p.m. Sundays through June 28 at the Old Sacramento Waterfront, 1014 Second St., Sacramento. The open-air market features live music, local vendors, lawn games and plenty of space to wander, shop and soak up the spring atmosphere in one of the city's most historic districts.

Celebrate culture, creativity and community at the Nubian Family Market from noon to 6 p.m. every first and third Saturday at 2251 Florin Road, Sacramento. Formerly the African Marketplace at Florin Square, the free community gathering spotlights Black-owned businesses, artists, cooks and creatives, offering a vibrant afternoon of shopping, food and connection in South Sacramento. Yoursacamp.com

## Upcoming

Kick up your heels and celebrate Pride when the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus presents Rhinestone Cowboy at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave. Performances run 7 p.m. Friday, June 19; 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, June 20; and 3 p.m. Sunday, June 21, blending country classics with dazzling queer flair, harmony and heart. Saggaymenschorus.com



Ghostbusters in Concert

Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters in Concert brings Ghostbusters to life at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, One Shields Ave., Davis. Watch the classic film on the big screen as a live orchestra performs Elmer Bernstein's iconic score in a thrilling cinematic experience. Mondaviarts.org

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

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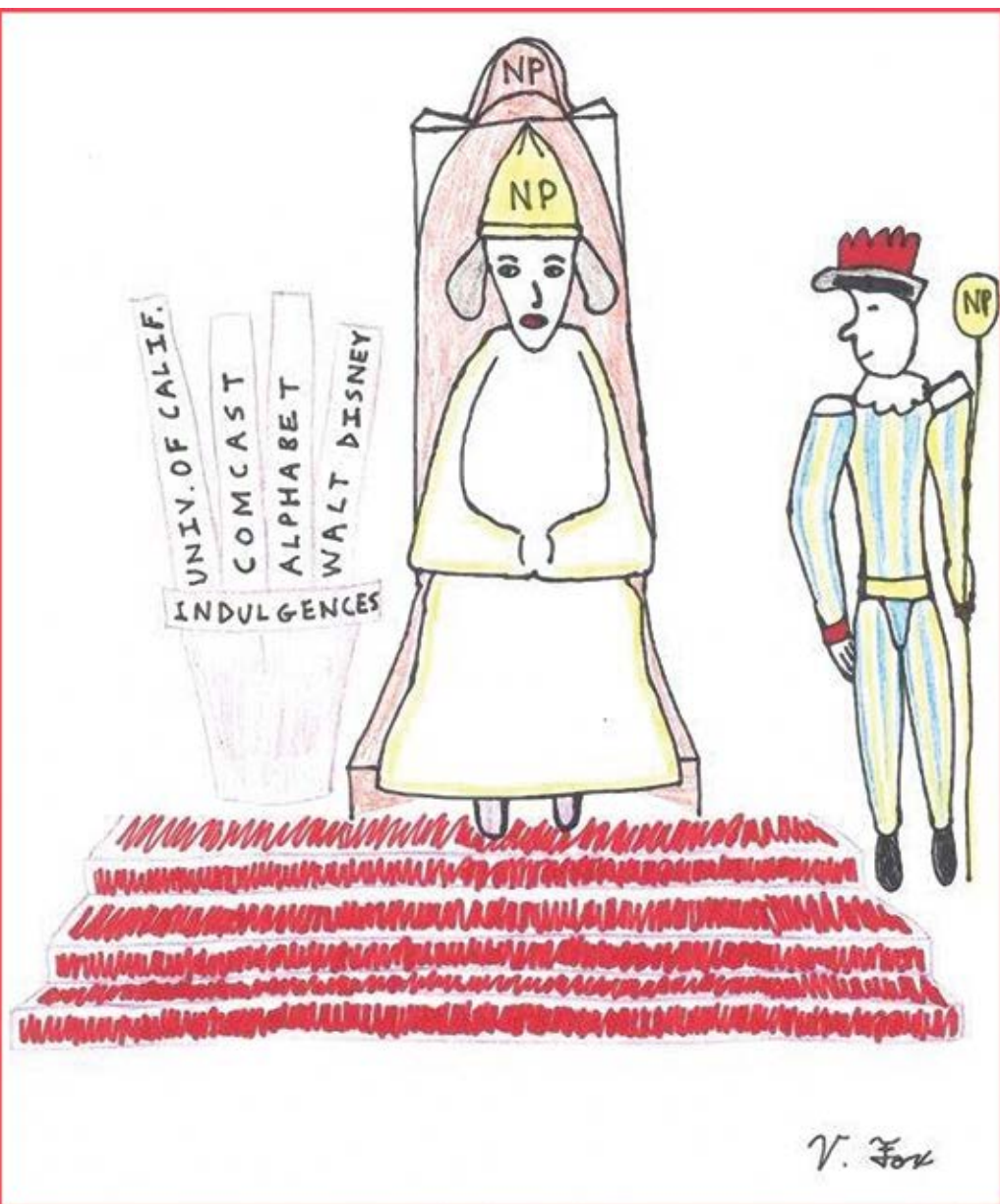
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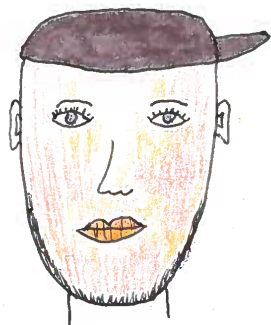
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Lights, cameras, legends – May is shaping up to be a busy month at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. The museum has announced a new lineup of film screenings, special events, and educational programs, including the debut of a glamorous new exhibition celebrating one of Hollywood’s most enduring icons.

Opening May 31, Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood Icon takes a closer look at the star whose image still defines classic Hollywood glamour decades later. To kick off the exhibition, the museum will host a screening of “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,” the beloved musical comedy starring Marilyn Monroe. Fans will also get the chance to see Monroe’s famous pink satin gown from the unforgettable “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend” performance, on display in the Rolex Gallery beginning opening day.

The month also features a little something for nearly every kind of movie fan. The museum’s annual “Star Wars” celebration, A Day of Celebrating the Force, includes meet-and-greets with R2-D2 and BB-8, while martial arts legend Jet Li will appear for a book signing and screening of “Once Upon a Time in China.” Horror lovers can also dive into the costume design behind “Jaws” during a special presentation with costume designer, Isis Mussenden.



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### NEW

# PRIDE

## COLLECTION

Loud, proud, and comfy.

Pride season is officially getting a little more comfortable thanks to the colorful new Pride Collection from MeUndies. Covered in bright prints, cheeky designs, and enough rainbow energy to power a dance floor at 2 a.m., these undies are clearly made for showing off a little personality – even if nobody else sees them. From briefs and boxers to matching lounge pieces, the collection is all about fun, comfort, and not taking life too seriously. Honestly, if your underwear drawer still looks like a corporate board meeting, this might be the intervention you need. To see the [collection click here.](#)

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

Thank you, from the Outword team.

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