

Special Issue

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Welcome to Sacramento Pride!

As Mayor, it is my honor and privilege to welcome everyone to Sacramento Pride. If you are visiting from out of town, I know you will see just how special Sacramento is. If you are a resident, you already know. Sacramento is diverse. Sacramento is fun. Most of all, Sacramento is inclusive.

We celebrate Pride in Sacramento by inviting communities to celebrate, educate, and advocate for one of the most historically marginalized groups in our society. We march together, we stand together, we support each other, and we also have a LOT of fun together.

Sacramento is stronger because of our LGBTQ+ community. They show us what perseverance truly means. They show us what it means to never back down when civil rights are threatened. They show us what it means to stand up for and stand with one another.

It doesn't matter if you are a member of the LGBTQ+ community or not, Pride is also an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the violence and discrimination the LGBTQ+ community has faced and continues to face today. We must continue to advocate for love and acceptance and be uncompromising in our fight against the erosion of civil rights.

I hope you have a wonderful time in our great city and experience the wonderful things Sacramento has to offer. I hope you feel the warmth of our community as we embrace and accept all. I hope you see the strength of our community as we stand together and celebrate Pride.

Sincerely,

Mayor Darrell Steinberg

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Mayor Steinberg Says He’s “Ready For The Next Chapter” And Will Not Run For A Third Term

Mayor Darrell Steinberg announced Thursday that he would not seek a third term in 2024, saying his decision was a personal one and he would continue to give his full energy to the mayor’s job for his remaining year and a half in office.

“There’s a season for everything in life, and it’s time for me to think about the next chapter and the many great things there are to do,” Mayor Steinberg said. “I love the city, and I will always serve. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the past few years, I think we have helped position the city for great days and years ahead.”

Mayor Steinberg’s distinguished political career began on the Sacramento City Council and included service in the California State Assembly and as leader of the California State Senate before he returned to City Hall in 2016 as mayor. His accomplishments (see attached list) include landing major economic development projects such as the UC Davis Aggie Square innovation campus, passing the Measure U sales tax to provide greater city investment in community, and greatly increasing the City’s response to the crisis of homelessness and shortage of affordable housing.

Mayor Steinberg steered the City through the Covid-19 pandemic and mass protests following the murder of George Floyd by



Minneapolis police. He successfully pushed for police reforms and greater oversight that included the hiring of the city’s first Inspector General to review use of force cases involving officers. Under his leadership, the city created the Department of Community

Response as an alternative to handle calls relating to homelessness and mental illness that do not involve commission of a crime. “Sometimes cities elect the right leader for the right time; Mayor Steinberg has been that leader for Sacramento,” said City Manager Howard Chan. “For the past six plus years, he has used his unique skill set and relentless compassion to guide our city through events both challenging and historic. When the City needed more funding for public safety and community services, it was the Mayor who had the vision to develop and champion the second Measure U sales tax. When we were faced with a global pandemic, it was the Mayor who developed the financial framework to quickly disperse over \$200 million in federal resources to our neighborhoods and businesses. “I am incredibly grateful for the close partnership we have developed over the years. Together with the Council, we have led the city through unprecedented crises. Truth is, I would not have been able to do my job as city manager without the Mayor’s support and mentorship. If there is one constant with Mayor Steinberg, it is his unwavering commitment to doing right by his city. During his latest tenure at City Hall, he has remained accessible, accountable, authentic and always on the side of Sacramentans. You often will hear constituents refer to the Mayor simply as ‘Darrell.’ That means he is on a first-name basis with people who feel they truly know him and can speak directly and honestly with him. I can’t think of a higher praise -- or better legacy -- for a leader than that.”

CA Attorney General Rob Bonta Pledges to Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights

Bonta’s weekly newsletter states: “While states across the nation are working to pass homophobic and transphobic laws designed to push LGBTQ+ people down, in California we proudly celebrate, uplift, and stand with our LGBTQ+ community.

At the California DOJ, we’re working to protect LGBTQ+ folks – defending your civil rights, fighting discrimination and hate, safeguarding healthcare and gender-affirming care, and ensuring our students can learn about LGBTQ+ history and heroes.

Because, no matter who you love or how you identify, you deserve to be safe, healthy, and free to live your authentic life. This Pride Month, I hope you will join me in my pledge to continue this fight – not just today, but every day. Proudly in solidarity,”



When all Americans are treated as equal we are all more free.

– Barack Obama –



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Senate Passes Senator Wiener's Bill to Protect LGBTQ Foster Youth

After an emotional exchange on the Senate floor about the need to protect LGBTQ youth from abuse in the state-funded foster care system, as states across the country scapegoat LGBTQ youth and roll back LGBTQ rights, the Senate passed Senator Scott Wiener's (D-San Francisco) Senate Bill 407. The bill directs the Department of Social Services to amend the foster care vetting process to ensure LGBTQ foster youth are not placed in hostile foster homes. The bill passed 30-9 and heads next to the Assembly.

"While red states are stoking fear about LGBTQ youth to justify rolling back civil rights, California is expanding protections for our most vulnerable children," said Senator Wiener. "In California we believe that every child deserves to feel safe and affirmed at home, regardless of their identity. It's imperative that we support this value in the state-funded foster care system, where LGBTQ youth are over-represented." Video of the Senate Floor exchange will be available tomorrow in the Senate's Media Archive.

More than 30% of foster youth identify as LGBTQ. Anxiety, depression, and suicidal

ideation - which already afflicted LGBTQ youth disproportionately - are on the rise amid a nationwide onslaught of attacks on LGBTQ youth's rights. Over 400 anti-LGBTQ bills have been filed in states across the country this year alone, and LGBTQ youth are exposed to the bigotry behind them via social media.

SB 407 is sponsored by Equality California and the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. Read more about SB 407 here: <https://sd11.senate.ca.gov/news/20230317-senator-wiener-introduces-legislation-protect-lgbtq-foster-youth>

Drag Is Not A Crime, Judge Rules

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Parker that Tennessee's prohibition on drag shows is unconstitutional is a blow for freedom that all Americans should celebrate, the leader of an LGBTQ-affirming Christian denomination said today.

"On its face, this law was a clear attack on entertainment in the LGBTQ community, particularly during June Pride celebrations," said Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) worldwide. "On a much simpler level, it amounted to the government telling individuals what clothing and makeup they could wear. Anyone who doesn't find that disturbing is clearly not looking at the big picture."

While Tennessee's law didn't specifically use the word "drag," it was clearly crafted as an effort to limit drag performances among LGBTQ folx. Among other things, the law moved "female or male impersonation" into the same legal category as "strippers."

"People have been entertained by drag for decades, including Milton Berle, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis ('Some Like it

Hot'), Dustin Hoffman ('Tootsie'), Julie Andrews ('Victor/Victoria'), comedian Flip Wilson, and countless others," Eggleston said. "Let's also not forget Cpl. Klinger in the long-running 'MASH.' Such legislative efforts are clearly not about drag, but about LGBTQ people, and particularly transgender folx."

"No one in a free society can approve of the government deciding what individuals can wear," Eggleston said. "We do not function well under real or facsimile versions of Sharia Law, and I'm very happy that Judge Parker has ruled this law is incompatible with U.S. law and with Western freedoms overall."

MCC is a global Christian denomination with a presence in more than 25 countries. The church welcomes, affirms, and ordains LGBTQ persons.

For more information about MCC visit: www.VisitMCCChurch.com.



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More Than 530 Anti-LGBTQ Bills Have Been Proposed Across the Country in 2023

by Chris Walker, TRUTHOUT

The U.S. soon could witness “the most substantial Pride celebrations in recent memory,” one bill tracker said. Different legislative trackers have noted that, in the first five months of this year leading up to Pride Month, which began on June 1, hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills have been proposed in statehouses across the country, with dozens of them passing.

A tracker managed by Erin Reed, a transgender journalist and activist who provides daily updates on LGBTQ-focused legislation (both negative and positive bills), found that more than 530 anti-LGBTQ bills have been drafted and proposed in state legislatures and in Congress. Of those bills, which were submitted between January 1

In spite of these many legislative attacks, which activists and allies have routinely pointed out are attempts to eradicate LGBTQ people from public life, Reed has said they should not deter people from celebrating during Pride Month – and renewing their dedication toward LGBTQ liberation.

Many of the bills that are out there, particularly the proposals targeting transgender people, ignore scientific consensus on gender and contradict the advice of all major U.S. medical associations.

and May 31, 68 have been enacted into law, with only 122 officially failing so far.

The rest of the bills are either in legislative limbo or still being considered.

Separate groups have provided different counts that, while not exactly the same number as the aforementioned tracker, have the same findings – that hundreds of bills across the country are targeting LGBTQ people, particularly transgender individuals.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has tracked, for example, 491 anti-LGBTQ bills in statehouses across the country (their count does not include federal legislation). The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), meanwhile, has counted 520 bills introduced this year, a number they say is a record high for the amount of anti-LGBTQ bills proposed by this date in any year.

“This weaponization of public policy has been driven by extremist groups that have a long history in working to oppress the existence and rights of LGBTQ+ people,” HRC says on its tracker, citing far right groups such as the Alliance Defending Freedom and the Family Research Council as pushers of such proposals.”

Many of the bills that are out there, particularly the proposals targeting transgender people, ignore scientific consensus on gender and contradict the advice of all major U.S. medical associations. Close to 150 bills, for example, seek to ban gender-affirming care for trans people, mostly for children but some also for adults, even though mainstream medical groups recognize that such care is life-saving treatment.

“The history of the LGBTQ+ community is one of thriving in the face of adversity, even when they push us into the margins,” Reed said in a Substack post she wrote on the “daunting push of 530 anti-trans bills across America.”

Reed went on to say: “We carry forward a potent legacy, one of not merely surviving but flourishing even in the margins where we’ve been relegated. We return, time and time again, stronger than ever before.”

“If the recent transgender visibility marches are any indication, we might be on the brink of witnessing the most substantial Pride celebrations in recent memory,” Reed said.

She concluded by noting that the “growing crowds” of LGBTQ people and their allies reveal that anti-LGBTQ bigots and lawmakers “have failed in their goal.”

“We are still here; they couldn’t eradicate us. No matter how many laws they pass, we still will gather in our streets,” Reed concluded. “We will celebrate their failure and our fight for liberation for an entire month. No matter how many of us they harm, Pride will always be a protest and our queer joy will be our resistance.” grassroots mobilization.

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



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Steve Hansen is Running for Mayor of Sacramento

by Steve Hansen

Happy Pride Month, Sacramento! As we celebrate the diversity, love, and equality that’s at the heart of our LGBTQ+ community, let’s continue working to foster an inclusive city where everyone feels safe, respected, and empowered. Together we can build a future that uplifts and cherishes all people - where we choose love over hate and compassion over intolerance.

When I was born people like me didn’t serve in office. We didn’t have political power and discrimination was a daily reality. Growing up – I witnessed poverty and crime. We struggled, moved around a lot, and even stayed in a domestic violence shelter.

When I was old enough I joined the Army National Guard with plans to serve in the military. But when I realized I was gay ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ changed that dream. So, I moved to Sacramento to build a new life and fight for others. I fought for marriage equality and civil rights for all at Equality California.

Later, we made history when I was elected as Sacramento’s first openly gay City Councilmember. At City Hall I warned about the challenges I saw on the horizon, including homelessness, the cost of living going up, and neighborhood safety going down. I created hundreds of new emergency shelter beds, helped open a triage center to provide mental health services, and

transformed it into permanent supportive housing. I fought to build the Golden One Center – to create good-paying union jobs and revitalize Downtown.

When I left the City Council I never thought I’d run for office again. But over the last few years the city I love has become unrecognizable. The problems I warned about a decade ago have gotten worse and it’s clear that we need real, transformational change. And a Mayor willing to fight for it.

In the wealthiest nation in the world – we shouldn’t have people living on our streets.

Housing should be accessible for all, anyone who wants a good paying job should be able to get one, and families should feel safe walking and biking in their neighborhood.

I’m running for Mayor to help lead our city into its next great chapter – and leave no one behind. I hope to earn your support.

For more information, please visit steve4sacramento.com.




Steve Hansen at his Announcement Reception.

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Out & About

Raising the Inclusive LGBTQ+ Flag Over City Hall

photos by Ron Tackitt

Darrell Steinberg, along with a host of other guest speakers, helped to commemorate the event and then raise the inclusive flag that will fly there through the month of June to celebrate Pride Month.



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Little Activisms

HRC Buyer's Guide

by Judy Saint

Evangelical and atheist numbers are growing while the moderate religious middle is disappearing. America is polarizing, and it seems LGBT+ rights are at the current dividing core.

As you have surely seen, Evangelicals are quick to support those businesses in the news who openly display their bigotry and illegal discrimination of LGBT+ individuals while boycotting those who support inclusivity. We've seen that with support for Chick-Fil-A and Hobby Lobby. They boycotted Coke when it began LGBT+ sensitivity training for employees, or more recently, Bud Light after it sent a trans podcaster a fun publicity can. Now even Target is a target.

We can do the same. Hopefully, you already consider boycotting businesses in the news for promoting bigotry. But there are more we don't hear about. How do we know who they are?

Likewise, hopefully you want to support decent companies who have excellent inclusivity records, but you may not know who they are, either. The question is: How do we find supportive and non-supportive companies?

What you might not know is that a directory for this exists. It does. And it's easy to check before you shop for clothes, book a

flight, switch your insurance carrier, buy a box of spaghetti, or spend your dollars anywhere.

By the way, you might also want to check this guide to view a particular company's ratings before you apply for employment with them. Just a heads-up, right?

One such guide stands out. Human Rights Campaign (HRC) gives major companies annual scores based on a variety of factors, such as serving and hiring LGBT+, having job security or sensitivity training for employees and other important features important to everyone's civil rights. Companies are rated from 100% down to 0%. (Yes, they even name the baddies.) It is very well researched, documented, objective, and readily available online.

For your little activism this month, I'm asking you to take a look at this popular shopping guide, then keep the link to the guide handy for future reference.

You can look through the categories, such as: Apparel, Auto, Home, Insurance, Banking, Restaurants, Travel, Pets, Technology, Retail, Food, and many more.

Let me show you a few companies with consistent 100% ratings (the higher the rating, the more programs for LGBT+ the company has in place): Airbnb, Apple, Coke, Door Dash, Gap, Hershey, H&R Block, Lowe's, Lyft, PG&E, Rolls-Royce USA (I would not have guessed that one), Sherwin-Williams, Wayfair, and more.

Find the most Recent Company Ratings (alphabetical) here:

www.hrc.org/resources/corporate-equality-index

Or search for a company's ratings and details here:

www.hrc.org/cei/search

You can take a look online or download a copy. There is even an app for your cell phone to check while you're out shopping.

Even if it's just \$4 in the coffers of an inclusive spaghetti brand, it's your little activism - your little part of the puzzle that was missing until today's pasta purchase. Thanks for considering it.

"Little Activisms" encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon.



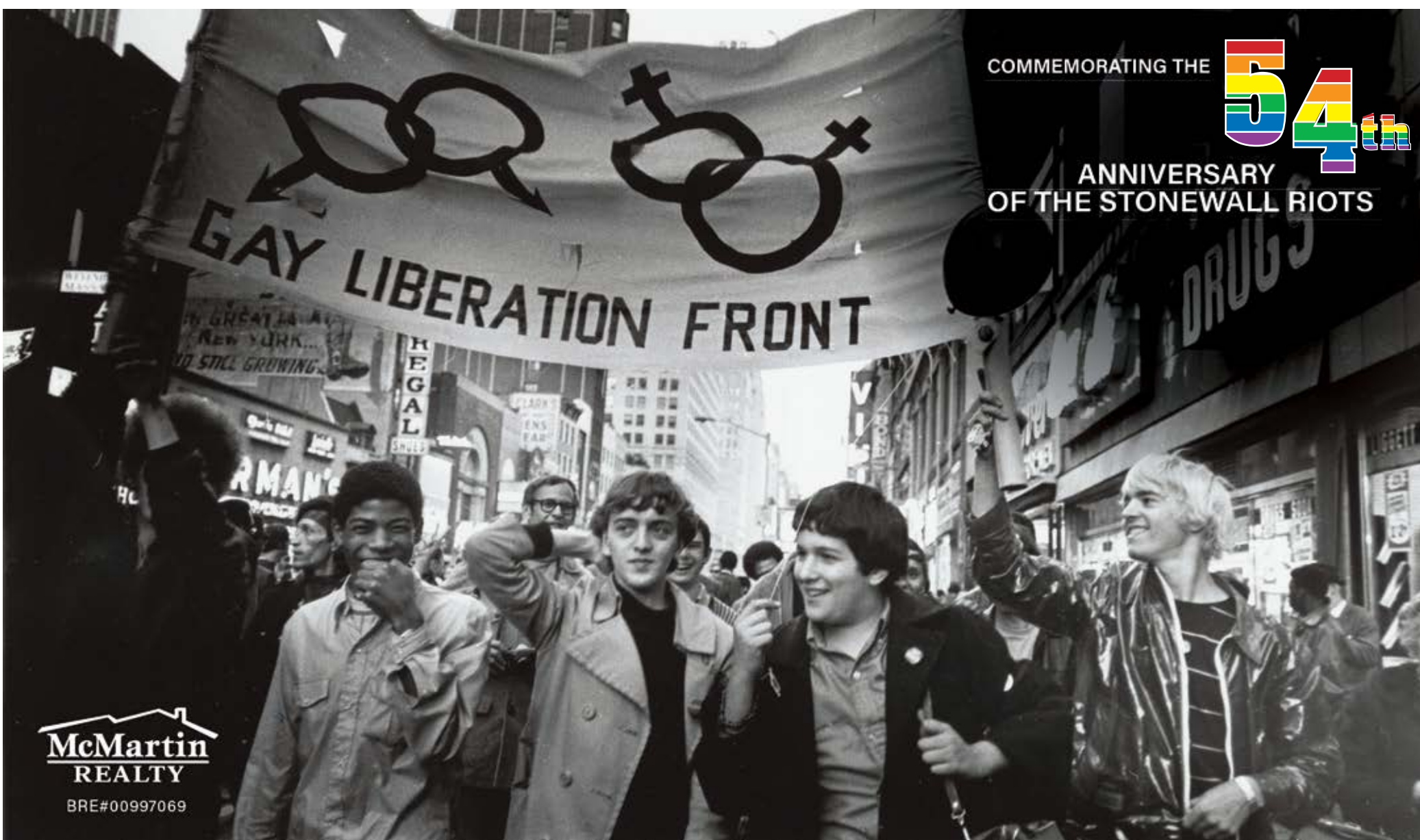
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Latvia Elects A Gay President



Even Latvia is more progressive than the United States. While we could conceivably have a convict as our next President, Latvia has elected a gay man, Edgars Rinkēvičs, as President, a first for Baltic nations and the European Union, according to major media sources.

There have been out prime ministers – usually a more powerful position and head of government – in both E.U. and non-E.U. countries, but Rinkēvičs, currently the country's foreign minister, is the first out member of the LGBTQ+ community to be head of state in the E.U.

Could we trade him for Donald Trump and Joe Biden, please?

Only One Pride Issue Left!

Pride Month Special Issue #3
Pride History

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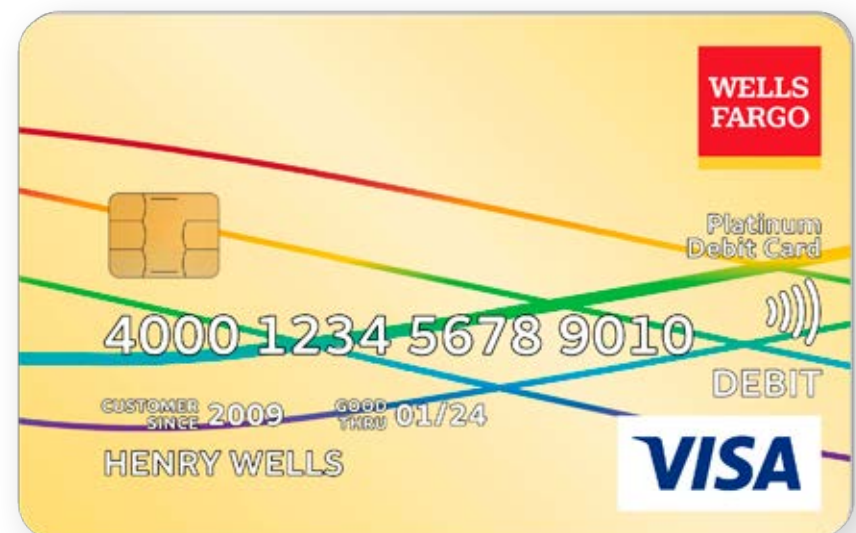
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“Big Gay Wedding” by Byron Lane *reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer*

Few things are cast in stone, which means that you’ve usually got time to change your mind. Do a little research, listen to other voices, get educated, think about things, and pivot. No one will criticize; you may, in fact, be commended for your new open-mindedness. As in the new book, “Big Gay Wedding” by Byron Lane, you might like the new outlook, too.

Chrissy Durang, “Farmer Mom” and owner of the Polite Society Ranch near New Orleans, checked two things off a list in her notebook. The school bus filled with noisy children arrived for their tour of the ranch, check. Barnett should be arriving later, check.

Thirty-four-year-old Barnett was the light in Chrissy’s world, her son, her only child, the near-exact image of his late father. She was excited for his homecoming; surely, Barnett was flying from California to tell her he was ready to take over the ranch now, take care of the animals, take care of her.

Instead, not long after he arrived, Barnett dropped a bombshell about “The Big Thing” that they never discussed: he was engaged. To be married. To another man. And he wanted to do it there in Mader, at Polite Society Ranch.

Chrissy could think of a million things she didn’t like about Barnett’s intended, Ezra, and they all went into her notebook. Hair a mess, check. Controlling, check. Butt-kisser, check.

Dream-killer, check. And yet, Barnett loved Ezra. It’d been a long time since Chrissy’d seen her son this happy.

She talked to her priest about the situation, but he disappointed her in a terrible way. It was clear that her father-in-law, Paw-Paw, was supportive of Barnett and Ezra, which was no surprise; Barnett was always Paw-Paw’s favorite. Chrissy didn’t have many friends in her small Louisiana town, but she was absolutely sure of three things: nobody would approve of any sort of gay nuptials, Ezra’s family was downright weird, and everybody in Mader would blame her for what was about to happen...

At face value, the story inside “Big Gay Wedding” seems awfully familiar: homophobic mom, gay son, wedding, Kumbaya moment, the end. Keep thinking that, though, and you’ll miss one truly wonderful novel.

From the parapsydokian sentences to the Misfit Toys cast of characters, author Byron Lane takes readers from a deep dive into a box of tissues to a good snorting belly laugh, often in the same paragraph. So many

unexpected, delightful things occur inside this story, in fact, that you may become disappointed when something conventional occurs.

Which it does, often enough.

Gay bashing, protesters, haters, misunderstanding, it’s-a-phase thinking, all the bad old tropes show up in this story, alas. Still, readers will be happy to know that they’re dealt with properly, just as you’d expect from a prissy mother, an alcoholic society matron, two men wild in love, a light-fingered grandfather, and a dying sheep named Elaine.

Summer is always a time for weddings, and it’s a great time to enjoy this sweet, funny, excellent novel. Simply, “Big Gay Wedding” rocks.



Happy Pride 2023

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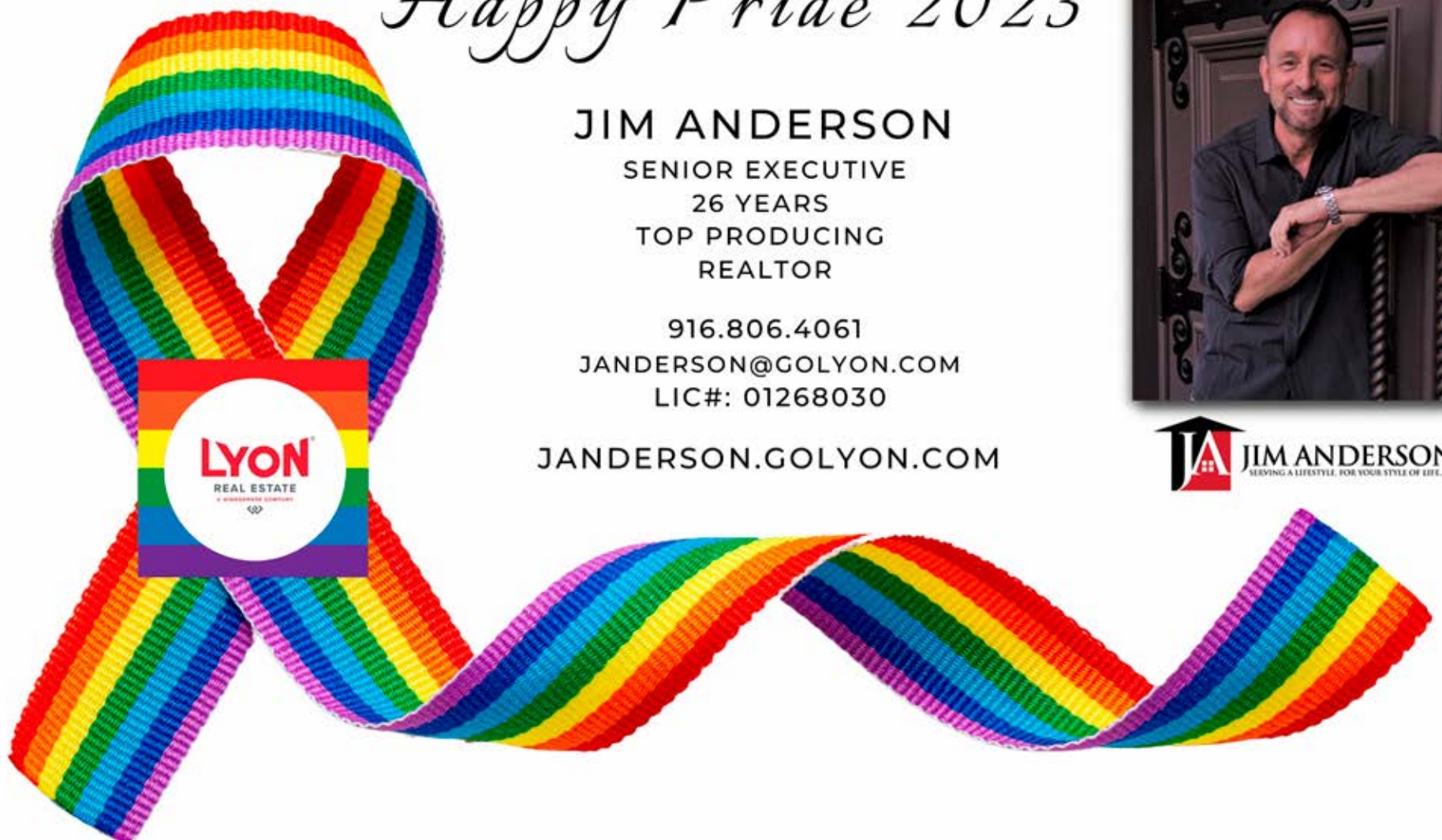
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Overcoming Mental Health Barriers in Our Community

This month offers a moment to reflect and celebrate the strength, hope and resilience that is alive and well in our Sacramento community. Whether you are undergoing major changes in your personal life or experiencing the lasting impact of mass tragedies in our world, we are all constantly facing different stressors on our mental wellbeing. It's critical that we continue to prioritize mental and physical wellbeing for ourselves, as well as our families, friends and neighbors, not just right now, but all year long.

Mental Health Awareness Month reminds us to reach out to loved ones and provide support to colleagues, friends and family who may be struggling in silence – but it's also a reminder to care for yourself as well. By simply starting a conversation and providing words of encouragement, kindness and help, you can make a difference for someone at work, home or in your community – or most importantly, you.

In Sacramento County, it's estimated that over 300,000 residents are living with mental illness. Nationally, approximately one in five adults will experience a diagnosable mental illness during their lifetime. LGBTQ individuals are almost three times more likely than others to experience a mental health condition, such as depression or anxiety. This disturbing fact exists partly because LGBTQ communities face ongoing discrimination and prejudice, not only for their sexual orientation or gender identity, but as a diverse community, many individuals also face racism and prejudice for their ethnicity and culture as well.

While education, support and treatment are available, two-thirds of these individuals do not seek support or treatment because they worry they will lose their jobs, friends or family, or be isolated because of the stigma and discrimination associated with having a mental health condition. Moreover, lack of adequate healthcare and healthcare costs can further deter people from addressing their mental health.

Mental illness, just like any other health condition, is treatable, and recovery is possible when education and treatment is available, along with family, peer and

community support.

"As a gay Asian man living with depression, I struggled for many years trying to find out who I am and where I belong," said Patrick Ma, a member of the Stop Stigma Sacramento Speakers Bureau. "If you are struggling, it's ok to reach out and ask for help. There are plenty of resources available to you, and there are people who love and care for you."

It is just as important as ever to support mental health and well-being by reaching out and maintaining connections with those who may be struggling – not only to support them but also for your own mental health. Sending a thoughtful text, making a phone call, or setting up a video chat could make all the difference.

For more information on Sacramento County's "Mental Illness: it's not always what you think" project or mental health resources, such as conversation starters, help lines, online communities and tips to help support mental health and build understanding, please visit StopStigmaSacramento.org or search "Stop Stigma Sacramento" on Facebook and Twitter.

To find other ways to improve mental health and increase resiliency, check out online resources from Take Action for Mental Health, National Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health America.

The "Mental Illness: it's not always what you think" project is funded by the Sacramento County, Division of Behavioral Health Services, through the voter approved Proposition 63, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

For more information visit:
www.stopstigasacramento.org/



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Her partner, Karen
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InterPride Celebrates Our Successes And Remember The Struggles

Pride Month Statement from the Co-Presidents:
Natalie Thompson & Hadi Damien

In acknowledgement of Stonewall 1969 – when LGBTQIA+ people stood up for police violence on June 29 – LGBTQIA+ people, friends, families, and allies take the streets each June to demand that dignity be upheld. While the concentration of Pride initiatives during June has been dubbed “Pride Month,” Pride unfolds continuously across the year and across the world depending on local observations and specifics. Together, we remember the progress for dignity that we fought hard for, and we acknowledge the work that still needs to happen.

Pride is the highest level of visibility LGBTQIA+ people can afford in a given space. In 2023, 62 countries criminalize LGBTQIA+ people (ILGA World, 2023). Pride organizers are attacked and prosecuted for organizing Pride, many live in situations of war and State collapse, and societal issues like racism, ageism, favoritism, corruption, and misunderstanding fuel political polarization and hinder the work we all seek to achieve.

This June 2023, we invite you to take ownership of Pride. We invite LGBTQIA+ people to be involved in their local Pride. Our participation informs our work and ensures a seat for each one of us. We also invite you to enjoy the contributions of newcomers to Pride, especially those who have recently elected residence in a new city. Be mindful of language barriers and cultural differences, and lead inclusion with example.

We salute Pride organizers wherever we are, especially those of us in challenging and dangerous environments. We also appreciate the hard work of robust Pride organizers, who invest themselves with generosity, subtlety, kindness, and intelligence. Most Pride organizers relentlessly work for free,

without material compensation. Driven by passion, determination, conviction, and truth, Pride organizers go on, sometimes all the way to exhaustion and burn-out, often colliding with each other, yet always jubilating before a success, for progress somewhere is progress everywhere.

We hope Pride provides knowledge, triggers thoughts, and furthers motivation, for us to better lead with kindness and awareness, for us to be active in our respective spaces and communities. Our good work strengthens social cohesion and builds peace for all of us. It's time we remembered this with humility, gratitude, and focus.

Remember that every Pride is somebody's first Pride. Be informed, kind, and responsible.

Forty years ago, Pride organizers from over the world elected InterPride as their international space to gather. This year celebrates four decades of meeting and developing sensitivities to our different cultures to deconstruct, through visibility, myths, lies and stereotypes that surround our multiple realities.

Happy Pride - InterPride.org

Chico Pride Weekend June 22 - 25

The Stonewall Chico Pride Downtown Festival is returning to the City Plaza this year! Get ready to party like it's 2019 with live performances, music and dancing, vendors and resource booths, and lots of fun for everyone. The 2023 Chico Pride theme is “Rooted in Resistance.”

ROOTED IN RESILIENCE
STONEWALL CHICO PRIDE

6.14 DRAG STORYBOOK HOUR
12pm-1pm, Chico Women's Club

6.22 GATHERING ROOTS: A BIPOC RESTORATIVE WELLNESS EVENT
5pm-8pm, Freebird Yoga Studio

6.23 TEEN DANCE & FESTIVAL
5pm-9pm, Trinity United Methodist Church

6.24 FESTIVAL & RESOURCE FAIR
11am-4pm, Downtown Chico Plaza

6.25 "MADE WITH PRIDE" ARTISAN MARKET
3pm-7pm, The Barn at Meriam Park

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¡Bienvenidos Gay Games 2023!

The World's Largest LGBTQ+ Sporting Event Heads to Mexico

by Chris Allan

It's a warm Friday evening at Dolce Veele, a café bar in Guadalajara's Zona Rosa. A tall drag queen stands alone on a stage. She's leading karaoke tonight, belting out a Mexican country song in sync with a video of a handsome cowboy that plays out front to the open street.



The young servers sing along, laughing and smart-assing her. Passersby smile or ignore them. Then one middle-aged man with his small son approaches and they get up on the barstools. He puts his son's drink and snack on the counter and orders something for himself.

Welcome to the truly family-friendly city of Guadalajara, home of the 2023 Gay Games. It's the first Latin American city to host the games, and this past January the city even made the New York Times list of "52 Places to Go in 2023." It turns out the second-largest city in Mexico is a huge epicenter of both Mexican and queer culture.

"A lot of people outside of Guadalajara from other states have come here because they feel more free to be gay," comments Mónica Sánchez, Executive Director for Gay Games Guadalajara 2023. "There's a lot of artists here... it's like a crisol (melting pot), un mosaico of people from all over México."

I spoke with Sánchez, a bisexual woman, at the Guadalajara Convention and Visitors Bureau. Sánchez and other Tapitios (Guadalajara inhabitants) are hoping that visitors from all over the world will head to the state of Jalisco this November to experience the games, the area's rich culture, and the "after party" in Puerto Vallarta, just a half day away.

First held in 1982 in San Francisco, the Gay Games were created as an inclusive and healthy platform for queer athletes of all ability levels.

"Tom Waddell saw that through sport we can come together as a community and be safe and feel free to be yourself and be an athlete," says Sánchez, herself a former professional beach volleyball player. She points out that the event is also called Los Juegos Mundiales de la Diversidad (The World Diversity Games) to emphasize that all are welcome.

Like the Olympics, the event is held just once every four years. This year's nine-day celebration will include 21 different sports. They include more standard competitive

events of track and field and swimming, but also bowling, cheer, and even dodgeball. The San-Francisco-based Federation of Gay Games chooses the games, and the categories include men, women and mixed.

Participants can register in any categories they choose according to their "self-perceived and identified gender identity." While some of the sports will likely feature high-performance athletes, the games are open to everyone 18 and older, of any skill level, and any sexual or gender identification.

"I always use the example of my mother," says Sánchez. "She is 80 years old. If she wants to participate in 5k, we will open her category!"

In addition to the sports competitions, the games will also feature special galas, Pink Flamingo synchronized swimming and dancesport (ballroom dancing), as well as exhibition sports Lucha Libre (Mexican wrestling), rugby, and skateboarding.

Guadalajara won the bid for the games in part because the city has recently racked up numerous advances for the community: an Office of Sexual Diversity, a Sports Federation for Diversity, and multiple changes to the civil code that include banning conversion therapy, recognizing same-sex marriage and officially recognizing transgender people and their legal rights.

"I think that when LGBTQ+ people take spaces, in the government or in activism and different spaces, we conquer those things," says Marcelino Orozco Flores, a gay man who has worked for the local government and now works with Sánchez on the Marketing and Communications team.

His perception is echoed by Juan Cobian, a community activist and the Political Advocacy representative for Guadalajara Pride. "There is a lot of work yet to be done, but there is finally willingness on the political side to get things done."

Cobian, a gay man, is from Jalisco and has lived in Guadalajara for 15 years. He notes that while the drag community does

experience some violence and aggression, it is worse for the trans community. As recently as early March, the Catholic church has implemented marches in Mexico that are anti-abortion, anti-trans, and anti-same-sex marriage. "They call us 'sick people,'" says Cobian.

However, he also notes that the wider queer community has grown tremendously from their first Pride march in 1982. "Now in 2023 in Jalisco we will have 35-40 LGBTQ+ marches and there is a new alliance of Mexico marches. We used to see one march per state and now we see 15 plus."

In another first for the Gay Games, Guadalajara is co-hosting the games along with Hong Kong. The first Asian city to host the games, the Hong Kong celebration will have its own unique slate of sports, including mahjong and martial arts.

"I think they made this decision because having the gay games there is going to help and push the community there to be out," says Sánchez.

Organizers are hoping for a turnout of 6,000 or more for the games. With Dia de los Muertos scheduled at the same time, the city should have a mucha buena onda (very cool vibe).

"It's like the first time that I heard many people talking about the Gay Games," says Orozco. "People said they found a family there through sports. For trans people especially, so many times they don't find a family, so when you do these kinds of events, it's not just only a sporting event - it's for the community. And maybe you're going to find a family there, a support there, and I think it's one of the great things about sports."

Gay Games

Dates: Nov. 3-11, 2023

Location: Guadalajara, Mexico and Hong Kong, PRC

Websites: gggdl2023.org/en or gggdl2023.org/sp or www.gghk2023.com/en/ and gaymexicomap.com

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Atlantic Records' Hayley Kiyoko, Ava Max, And May-A Partner With Webtoon For "Love Stories," A New Webcomic Anthology Celebrating LGBTQ+ Stories

WEBTOON, the world's largest digital comics platform, and Atlantic Records have announced, "Love Stories," a webcomic miniseries celebrating LGBTQ+ stories for Pride Month. Available exclusively on WEBTOON, the three-episode anthology will explore deeply personal love stories inspired by songs from trailblazing pop star Hayley Kiyoko, global pop sensation Ava Max, and acclaimed pop singer-songwriter MAY-A.



Inspired by Kiyoko's "forever (feat. Johnny Rain)," her episode from WEBTOON creators Color LES and Galatea, will be available June 12 on WEBTOON, with Ava Max's episode, "Sleepwalker", from WEBTOON artist Hannah Pattern launching on June 19. MAY-A's episode from WEBTOON creator Mai Hirschfeld will be available June 26 with the episode inspired by her upcoming new single "Something Familiar."

"Pride Month is all about celebrating and learning to love yourself," said Hayley Kiyoko. "A big part of why I'm excited to collaborate with WEBTOON is the opportunity to hopefully inspire people around the world to love themselves in a new way, bringing hope to people who are at different points in their Pride journey."

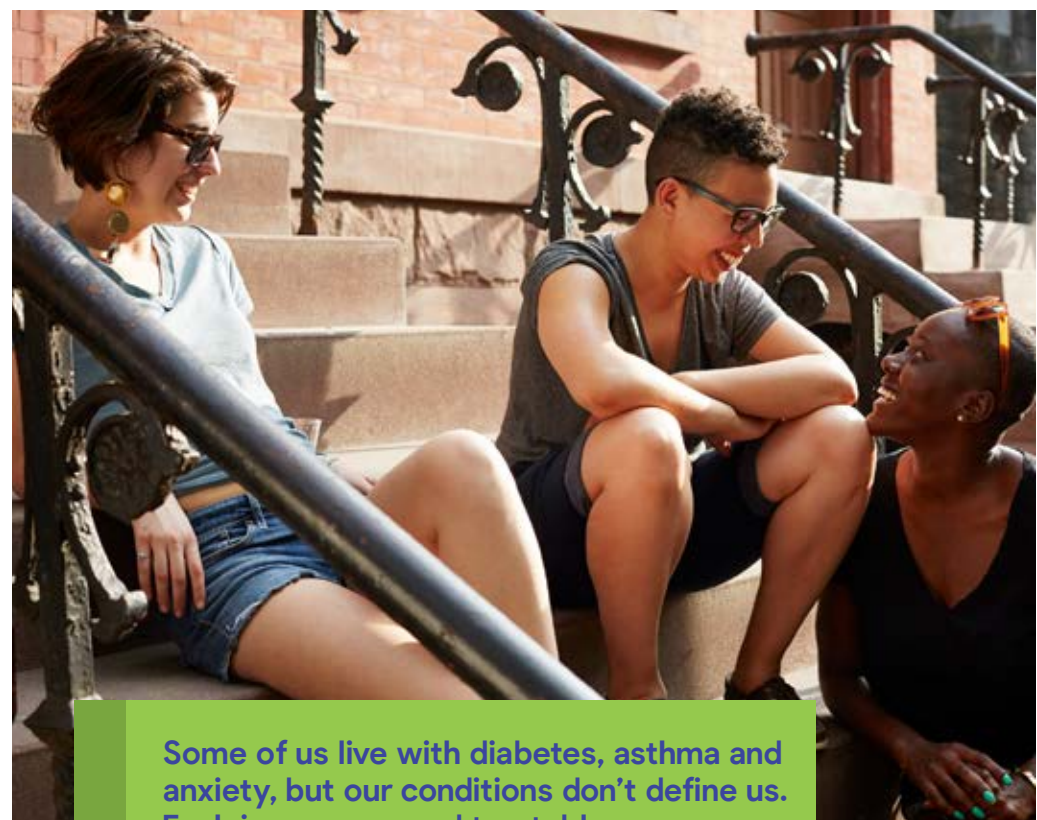
"It's incredibly meaningful when fans reach out and say that they can relate to my music," said Ava Max. "Pride is a time for everyone to come together, to relate to each other and find community in the shared experience of love. With our WEBTOON Pride Month collaboration, I'm excited to celebrate Pride, the LGBTQ+ community, and the beauty of queer love."

"I have such a soft spot for telling and sharing queer stories, so being able to see my own inspire a webcomic on WEBTOON is so sick. I hope it helps others within the LGBTQ+ community feel seen," said MAY-A. "Providing a platform for creators to tell

authentic, personal stories has been at the heart of WEBTOON's mission since day one," said WEBTOON's VP of Content, David Lee. "WEBTOON is home to amazing stories and voices from the across LGBTQ+ community, where artists are bringing new diversity and perspective to comics with their work. We're incredibly proud to have our creators collaborate with these iconic recording artists to celebrate and elevate the LGBTQ+ community in a new medium during Pride Month."

With its innovative, mobile vertical scroll format, WEBTOON has transformed the global comic industry, making it possible for anyone to become a creator and share their stories with a global audience. The platform has 900,000 creators around the world publishing webcomics on the platform, including artists and stories celebrating LGBTQ+ communities and experiences all year long.

WEBTOON's partnership with Atlantic Records and their artists follows a string of recent collaborations to bring the biggest names in pop culture, gaming, and entertainment to webcomics on WEBTOON. Recent partners and projects include Ubisoft for the much-anticipated "Assassin's Creed: Forgotten Temple" series, Discord, DC, Archie Comics, Marvel, Riot Games' VALORANT, KRAFTON's PUBG universe, HYBE, and more.



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Tel Aviv, Israel

June 5-11, 2023

Known as the gay capital of the Middle East, Tel Aviv celebrates with people of every gender, color, and religion. Celebration of LOVE and JOY.



Zurich, Switzerland

June 16-18, 2023

The peaceful demonstration procession of Zurich, is the political manifestation of the LGBTQ+ community throughout Switzerland.



Madrid Pride

June 23- July 2, 2023

Celebrating a half century of LGBTQ+ liberation



Paris

June 24, 2023

This is a historic event you don't want to miss taking place in the French capital.



Mexico City

June 25, 2023

Truly one of the largest, wildest, and crazy pride events in the world of Latin America.



Toronto

June 25, 2023

A fun and colorful weekend with lots of fun activities.



Dublin, Ireland

June 28, 2023

Parties, lectures, meet-ups, marathons and more.



London

July 2, 2023

"About the people, for the people."



Berlin

July 20, 2023

One of the biggest European Pride events of the year.



Amsterdam

July 29-August 6, 2023

One of the biggest and most unique pride events in the world. Street parties and the famous Canal Parade.



Montreal, Canada

August 3-13, 2023

The largest Francophone Pride gathering in the world.



Reykjavik, Iceland

August 12, 2023

This year marks the 24th year of LGBT celebrations. Party it up for 10 days with a parade, festival, and a huge party.



Copenhagen Pride

August 19, 2023

Massive celebration of equality and diversity



Taipei, Taiwan

October 22-29, 2023

This pride event attracts thousands of people from surrounding countries creating a truly wonderful, and international, event.



Buenos Aires

October 27-November 4, 2023

Celebrating diversity with a week of LGBT festivities.



Johannesburg, South Africa

October 28, 2023

One of the most established and well-attended Pride events in South Africa.

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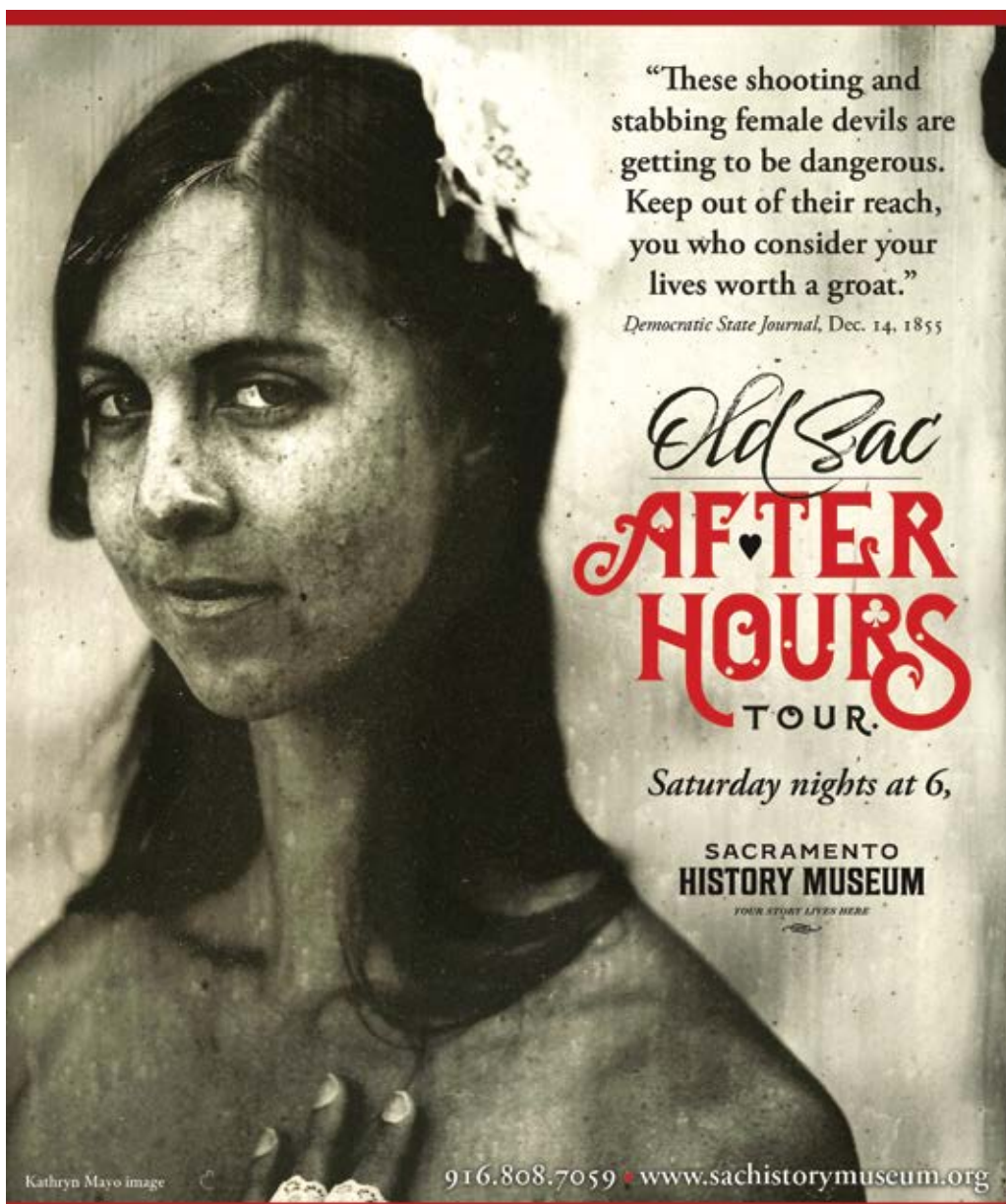
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Democratic State Journal, Dec. 14, 1855

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Out & About with Matt Burlingame

Summer is here which means Pride events, pool parties, vacations, camping, Independence Day festivities and all the other fun things we cram into the mix before Labor Day rolls around. But for some hosting a gathering just means weeks of stress and preparation with no actual enjoyment on the day of the big event. Playing host is more than providing enjoyable comforts for your friends, it includes the pleasure of spending quality time with them. Don't forget that as you think over how large or small the invitation list will be for your big event this season.



Cabaret plays at the Sutter Street Theatre

Join us Friday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. for the *Outword* & Badlands Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. Escape the cold and come enjoy drink specials, music videos, giveaways, and friends.

The Sacramento Pride March and Festival returns June 10-11 on Sacramento's Capitol Mall in downtown Sacramento. The two-day festival brings community members together to celebrate our colorful and diverse LGBTQ culture and community. Saccenter.org

If you like the music of Queen then the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus' latest choral triumph "Queens For A Night" is for you! The three performances run June 16-18 at The Sofia, Home of the B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave. Sacgaymenschorus.org

Can't get enough of RuPaul's queens? RuPaul's Drag Race Season 15 Takeover continues at FACES Nightclub, 2000 K St., on Sunday, June 11 with Luxx Noir London! Faces.net

Lesbians are the funniest people. Uh oh—did I just start a culture war? Well, come judge for yourself on Wednesday, June 21 as Two Dykes and a Mic take over the Punch Line, 2100 Arden Way. An all-female touring stand-up comedy show hosted by McKenzie Goodwin and Rachel Scanlon is a night of guaranteed fun and laughter. Punchlinesac.com

SFX. Makeup. Horror icons. Panels. Cosplay. And a ton of vendors! Sinister Creature Con returns to the Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St., June 17-18. Featured guests to appear include Nick Castle (John Carpenter's Halloween), Clint Howard (Ice Cream Man), Jeffrey Combs (Re-Animator), Scout Taylor Compton (Rob Zombie's Halloween I & II), Rachel True (The Craft) and horror hosts Lord Bloodrah and Miss Misery. Sinistercreaturecon.com

On Saturday, Jun. 10 Second Saturday is back in a big way! What was once a popular monthly evening art walk for visitors and residents to explore local galleries is being

transformed into an all-day celebration of local artists, live music and theater, culinary arts, galleries, family-friendly park activities, nightlife and more. Learn more at Midtownsecondsaturday.com

Attend the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce June Networking Mixer on Tuesday, June 20 at 6 p.m. at Wells Fargo, 400 Capitol Mall. Meet and collaborate with other local business leaders from all over Sacramento with hosted appetizers and drinks! Free to members.

Celebrate Pride with the Women Lawyers of Sacramento and SacLegal on Thursday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the fabulous Sequoia at the Cannery, 1601 Alhambra Blvd., Ste. 200. Drinks, appetizers and lots of pride! Tickets available at eventbrite.com

Can you feel the antici...pation?! Rocky Horror Picture Show with Amber's Sweets Shadowcast hits the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. on Saturday, June 24 at 8:30 p.m. 18+ only. Lovehorrorevents.com

Sacramento Magazine and Sky River Casino present the Sacramento Whiskey Festival. Enjoy a wide array of top-shelf national and local brands of whiskey, bourbon and restaurant samples on Thursday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the California Railroad Museum, 125 I St. Must be 21 years or older to attend. Proceeds go to KidsFirst Family Counseling and Resource Centers.

Are you in the mood for a little Cabaret, old chum? Step back into the 1920s when Cliff, a young American writer, and English singer Sally maneuver through the ins and outs of the rise of the Third Reich. Unforgettable musical numbers, and a stunning live production directed by Sam Williams, David Williams and Sarah Williams. Cabaret plays through Jun. 25 at the Sutter Street Theatre, 717 Sutter St. in Folsom. Sutterstreettheatre.com

Events, birthdays, announcements? Send them to matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

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MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL
(1975)
SATURDAY, JUN 17, 7:00PM

PREMIERE
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO EARL
(2023)
SUNDAY, JUN 18, 4:00PM

JAWS
(1975)
FRIDAY, JUN 30, 8:00PM

SUMMER SCREENTIME
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS
(2009)
WEDNESDAY, JUL 12, 3:00PM

SUMMER SCREENTIME
GOOSEBUMPS
(2015)
WEDNESDAY, JUL 19, 3:00PM

MUPPETS FROM SPACE
(1999)
SUNDAY, JUL 23, 3:00PM

MUSICAL MONDAYS
ANNIE
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MONDAY, JUL 24, 6:00PM

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Queer Films for Days at Frameline47 this June

In the tradition of "Stop Making Sense" (Jonathan Demme's brilliant concert film with Talking Heads), "Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music" is described as the rare concert film that leaves you feeling like you were there.

In 2016, the gender-fluid, avant-garde theater superstar Taylor Mac, with 24 musicians and a team of mischief-makers, staged a 24-hour performance showcasing the popular music of every decade in American history: from "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to Pansy Division, with stops along the way to unpack Stephen Foster's minstrel songs and remake Laura Branigan's "Gloria" as an orgy anthem.

Decked out in Machine Dazzle's astonishing costumes, Mac embodies "drag as metaphor:" a white-picket-fence marabou stole for a segment on gentrification, and a wig curled around sticks of dynamite to conjure the horrors of war.

Oscar winners Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman ("The Times of Harvey Milk," "The Celluloid Closet") know when to stay close on Mac's expressive face and when to pull back to reveal the audience coaxed into eager participants. "An artist's job is to dream the culture forward," Mac asserts, and by the end of this emotional psychedelic spectacle, you'll be transformed too.

"Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music," which will screen at the Castro Theatre on Saturday evening, June 24, 2023, is just one of the 127 total titles being shown across the Bay Area this June 14-24 as part of Frameline47, including 58 narrative features, 23 documentaries, and 46 short films from 36 countries.

Frameline is the world's largest virtual LGBTQ+ film festival, and this year's fest (Frameline47) will offer a streaming encore from June 24-July 2, after the theatrical event – for folks in the U.S. who can't make it to the festival in person.

Other hotly anticipated titles at this year's festival include Amy Sedaris in "Theater Camp," Billy Porter in "Our Son," a documentary on Rock Hudson and one about Indigo Girls, "God Save the Queens" featuring drag icon Alaska, and Andrew Durham's "Fairyland," which will feature an in-person appearance from producer Sofia Coppola.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.frameline.org

Take The Yellow Brick Road To A.C.T.

by Chris Narloch

After this issue of *Outword* "comes out," I will be heading to San Francisco for Opening Night of a new theatrical production based on my favorite film of all time, "The Wizard of Oz," the 1939 movie that cemented Judy Garland's status as an icon for queer people everywhere.



Needless to say, I am over the moon (and over the rainbow) that A.C.T. (American Conservatory Theater) is presenting a new live staging of this timeless classic. I am old enough to remember the days before streaming – even before videocassettes – when the only way one could watch that marvelous movie was once a year, when it aired on network television.

"The Wizard of Oz" was the first full-length film I remember seeing all the way through as a child, and everything about it enthralled me: Dorothy, Glinda, and, of course, the Wicked Witch, whose malevolent green skin and pointy chin terrified me when I was little.

The story still casts a spell, and the score is ravishing, so I can't wait to see what A.C.T. does with their version. "The Wizard of Oz" performs through June 25 in San Francisco. For more information, visit www.act-sf.org

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Pride Events Are Coming Up in Northern California

by Cynthia Laird, News Editor, Bay Area Reporter

Pride Month is rapidly approaching, and several Northern California cities and counties will be holding festivities to celebrate the LGBTQ community.

Sonoma County

Sonoma County will hold its 38th annual Pride Month, with many events taking place June 2-4, including the Pride parade and festival on Saturday, June 3. This year's theme is «Community.» There will be a Pride flag-raising June 1. Most of the weekend events take place at or near the Old Courthouse Square in downtown Santa Rosa. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. at Fourth Street and Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa.

Other activities that weekend include a movie night, after-party, and the Wigs and Waffles brunch. Later in the month there will be the Outwatch LGBTQI film series (June 9-11), Out at NASCAR (June 11), and an open drag night (June 17).

For more information, visit sonomacountypride.org.

Pacifica, Half Moon Bay

Coast Pride based in Half Moon Bay is sponsoring two events in coastsides San Mateo County communities. Saturday, June 3, is the second annual Pacifica Pride celebration along Palmetto Avenue. The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Palmetto Avenue, followed by a festival from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the quad at Ingrid B. Lacy School, 1427 Palmetto Avenue. There will be food trucks, entertainment, a family zone, and youth music area, according to a flyer.

Half Moon Bay will see its inaugural Pride event Sunday, June 11. There will be a parade starting at 12:30 p.m. on Main Street followed by a festival from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mac Dutra Square, 504 Main Street. There will be entertainment, food, drinks, and a family fun zone. An after-party takes place at 3:30 with DJ China G at San Benito House, 356 Main Street.

For more information, go to coastpride.org.

Clayton

In the East Bay, the city of Clayton will celebrate Pride with its second annual parade Sunday, June 4, beginning at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Clayton Pride organizes the event and this year's theme is «All the Colors in the Rainbow.» Gay Contra Costa County Supervisor Ken Carlson will be riding in the parade, which will be led by kids on their bikes, according to the Pride organization.

Afterward people can picnic in the park or dine at a local establishment. There will be information and vendor booths, and face painting.

The Rainbow Community Center in Concord is a co-sponsor and fiscal sponsor of the Pride organization. For more information, go to claytonpride.com.

Sausalito

In Marin County, Sausalito will hold its first-ever citywide Pride celebration beginning June 9 and continuing through July 1.

Events include a multi-exhibit, «Pride Not Prejudice,» in celebration of Pride Month at the Sausalito Center for the Arts, 750 Bridgeway. An opening reception is set for Friday, June 9, at 6 p.m.

On Friday, June 30, at 6 p.m. there will be Pride Night at Jazz and Blues by the Bay at Gabrielson Park at Anchor Street and Humboldt Avenue along the waterfront. People can enjoy live music by Banda Sin Nombre.

Sausalito Pride is co-sponsored by the city, the arts center, the Spahr Center, the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce, and Gene Hiller Menswear.

For more information, go to sausalitopride.org.

San Mateo County

San Mateo County's 11th annual Pride event will be held Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at San Mateo Central Park, 50 E. Fifth Avenue in the city of San Mateo. «Free to Be Me in 2023» is the theme for the event that will feature resource and vendor booths, food trucks, DJ China G, and more. The emcee will be Manang.

The county this year is hosting its first-ever Pride parade ahead of the celebration. It will kick off at Second and B Street at 10 a.m. with marchers taking a route that leads to the park. A full route map and a way for groups that want to march to sign up for the parade can be found here.

Admission is free to this family-friendly and sober event.

Concord

Finally, the Rainbow Community Center will present Pride in the Plaza Saturday, June 17, from noon to 6 p.m. at Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Road in Concord.

The family-friendly event will include vendor and information booths, food and beverages, and LGBTQ+ entertainment. There is no charge for admission but donations are welcome.

To register, visit the EventBrite page

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SCHEDULE A TRAINING, CONTACT JESS LEMOS AT [JLE MOS@WEAVEINC.ORG](mailto:jlemos@weaveinc.org) OR CALL (916) 319-4918



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**The Hamptons Community Foundation Invites You
to Continue to Celebrate Pride Month at
The Natomas Bazaar on June 17!**



Special Guests Include:
Second Saturday in Natomas and Hair Gone Wild!
Emcee: Ed Perez, Trustee, Reclamation District 1000

Natomas Bazaar
Saturday, June 17, 2023 • 11am to 2pm
Valley Oak Park
2780 Mabry Drive, Sacramento

Hamptons Community Foundation is dedicated to empowering, transforming and improving the lives of people in our diverse communities. We are focus on enabling community resiliency, advocating for diversity and inclusion of all abilities. We support children's education in under-served communities, healthy lifestyles and environmental sustainability for a more livable communities for all ages and bring about real and lasting improvements

Meet these community partners on June 17!
Second Saturday in Natomas was created to support the emerging art scene in the Natomas Community of Sacramento. **Join us!**

Contact: info@hamptonsfoundation.org
Website: <http://hamptonsfoundation.org>
IG: [@hamptons.foundation](https://www.instagram.com/hamptons.foundation)
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Trans Queer Youth Collective
Youth Development Office of EGUSD
The Center for Spiritual Awareness
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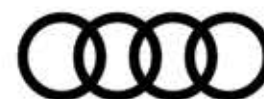
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Sacramento Pride Festival 2023: Uniting the Community and Celebrating Diversity

It's officially Pride Month! Here in Sacramento, we're known for our vibrant and inclusive community, and we're gearing up for the most anticipated event of the year—the Sacramento Pride Festival! Produced by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, this annual extravaganza is not just a celebration of love and equality, but a powerful statement against the backdrop of the increasing anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and rising hateful rhetoric we unfortunately have been seeing in the recent months.

With over 22,000 people in attendance each year, the Sacramento Pride Festival is a beacon of hope, unity, and resilience. This year, the festival will take place on Saturday, June 10th, from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, June 11th, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The festival grounds will come alive with the vibrant energy of hundreds of exhibitors and vendors from across the region, representing a diverse array of community retailers, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and more. It's a space where everyone, regardless of their background, can come together, be entertained, educated, and inspired.

But the heart of the Sacramento Pride Festival lies in its entertainment. This year, the festival proudly showcases a stellar lineup of performers from both the local Sacramento region and the broader LGBTQ+ community. Prepare to be dazzled by breathtaking performances including our main headliner Rebecca Black and our recent addition to the lineup, G Flip! We'll also have performances by RuPaul's Drag Race queens Naomi Smalls, Plastique Tiara, and Mistress Isabelle Brooks! For full performer schedule and times, visit sacmentopride.org (schedule is subject to change).

Don't miss out on the artistry that speaks to the strength and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to the exciting entertainment, the festival will feature multiple activations and attractions designed to engage guests of all ages. From interactive workshops promoting inclusivity and understanding to engaging discussions on current LGBTQ+ issues, there is something for everyone to explore and participate in. It's not just a festival; it's an opportunity for education, growth, and building stronger connections within the community.

The Sacramento Pride March is set to take place on Sunday, June 11th, at 11 a.m. The Pride March embodies the spirit of the LGBTQ+ movement. Inspired by the historic Stonewall Uprising of 1969, this march is both a demonstration of activism and a joyous celebration of the diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and two-spirit communities and culture.

The Pride March will see a vibrant display of walking contingents, vehicle contingents, and larger-than-life floats, all parading from Southside Park to the Capitol along 10th Street. Thousands of supporters, allies, and community members will line the streets,

cheering on the marchers, reveling in the colorful spectacle, and showing their support for LGBTQ+ rights. The Pride March is free and open to community members starting at Southside Park to the Capitol along 10th Street. Getting to the March: Any place along 10th Street will provide a view of the passing Pride March. We suggest using public transportation, using ride share, walking, or biking as the most accessible and environmentally friendly way to travel to and from Pride events. Free street parking is also available downtown on Sundays. Limited paid parking lots along the route may also be available. Festival and March details such as location, event hours, route and program are subject to change with little notice.

It is important to recognize the significance of events like the Sacramento Pride Festival and March in today's social and political climate. As anti-LGBTQ+ legislation threatens the progress made in recent years, and hateful rhetoric grows louder from right-wing factions, standing together as a community becomes crucial. These events serve as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community. Our Sacramento Pride Festival is not just a celebration—it is a statement. It is a testament to the commitment of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community and its accomplices to create a more progressive, more inclusive future. It is a defiant response to those who seek to roll back the hard-fought rights and protections that have been won. By coming together, celebrating diversity, and showcasing unity, the festival reminds us all that love will always triumph over hate. Join us at Sacramento Pride, June 10 & 11. For more information, visit sacmentopride.org

It takes a diverse group of professional staff and extraordinary volunteer leaders to produce the Sacramento Pride March and Festival. The Sacramento LGBT Community Center, which produces the Pride March and Festival is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The Sacramento LGBT Community Center is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Community organizations, businesses, or volunteers who are interested in participating in Pride month activities can contact hollis@saccenter.org. More details and a full list of events will be updated on sacmentopride.org as they become available. and follow our Social Media outlets [Facebook.com/sacpride](https://www.facebook.com/sacpride) or [@sacpride](https://www.instagram.com/sacpride) on Instagram, and [@sacmentopride](https://www.tiktok.com/@sacmentopride) on Tik Tok.

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Davis Pride Rocked!

The number one accessory at Davis Pride this year was definitely the rainbow fan. With temperatures in the 90's, the People's Republic of Davis got the region's Pride month off to a very steamy start. Drag queens shimmered in the heat as they amazed the crowd with their acrobatics, and the Sacramento Women's and Gay Men's Chorus crowded under the main stage awning as they belted out crowd-pleasers like "Dancing Queen."

Davis Pride organizer Wendy Weitzel was delighted by the crowd's enthusiasm, despite the hot weather.

"The turnout is amazing!" said Weitzel,

"People are fired up." She estimated that attendance was up two to three times what organizers have seen in the past.

Kay and Brian Williams, a non-binary,





words and images by Chris Allan

bisexual, multiracial and partially deaf Davis couple said they came out for the community “and a chance to celebrate.”

Politically, the event definitely had a non-binary and pro-drag-queen bent to it. Sequined pantsuits and penciled mustaches were all the rage. M.C. Mercury Rising noted all the shade thrown the DQ community’s way recently, and encouragements to be kind and politically active were part of the day’s program..

Besides Mercury, other drag performers included Naysha Lopez (of RuPaul’s Drag Race fame), along with Shay D, Xena

CyberGoth and Tilly Creams. The 1980’s tribute band Tainted Love closed out the entertainment portion of the day with their upbeat pop tunes.

The fair portion included educational booths, food, drink, a grassy picnic area, and vendors coordinated with the assistance of Davis Craft and Vintage Market. There were also special zones for youths, teens and seniors.

Davis Pride is the large-scale fundraising event produced by the Davis Phoenix Coalition and developed each year by a volunteer planning committee.



Join us in Yountville for Pride Celebrations and Inclusion for All!

The Yountville Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its inaugural Yountville Pride Week Celebration, Monday, June 5 through Sunday, June 11, 2023 in the town of Yountville and surrounding Napa Valley. From Pride Trivia, Winemaker’s Dinners, Sip & Supports, Complimentary Tastings, a Chandon Pride Celebration, and a Free and Family Friendly Pride Music in the Park – there is something for everyone!

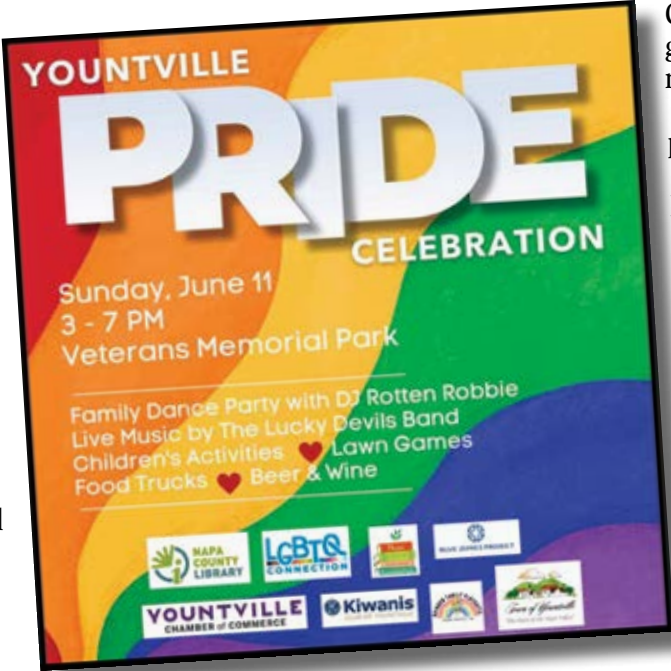
This celebration includes special offers and packages from Chamber Members throughout the town of Yountville and the Napa Valley. The Town of Yountville will be raising the Pride Flag at Town Hall at 2:00pm on Tuesday, June 6, and the following businesses will be celebrating and embracing inclusivity for all:

- Napa Valley Bike Tours in collaboration with Bouchon Bakery and Stewart Cellars is hosting a Pedal for Pride Bike Rental Package the entire month of June. The Package includes Bike rental and souvenir water bottle from Napa Valley Bike Tours, a slice of rainbow cake from Bouchon Bakery, and your choice of either a glass of Sauvignon Blanc or Tartan Red Blend from Stewart Cellars.
- Clif Family Winery is hosting a fundraiser for LGBTQ Connection featuring Rainbow Pride Cookies available for \$5 each during the entire month of June. 100% of the proceeds from every cookie sold June 1 -30 will be donated to LGBTQ Connection.
- Celebrate Pride all month long with

- Graze Provisions as all Grazing Boards purchased during the month of June will be donated to the LGBTQ Connection.
- Groth Vineyards & Winery is hosting A Taste of Groth, daily from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. during the week of Monday, June 5 – Sunday, June 11.
- Hoopes Vineyard is hosting Pride Week at the Oasis by Hoopes Vineyard which includes one free 4-pack of minis to enjoy during your visit, daily from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. during the week of Tuesday, June 6 – Sunday, June 11.
- Cornerstone Cellars is hosting a Pride Trivia Night on Thursday, June 8.
- Jessup Cellars in collaboration with Handwritten Wines and Lloyd Cellars is hosting a Playbills and Platters Dinner event featuring Jacob Langfelder of Broadway and Vine and visual artist Cynthia

- Carey, with proceeds being donated to a local organization supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, on Friday June 9.
- North Block Hotel is hosting a Winemaker’s Dinner featuring Gentleman Farmer Wines on Friday, June 9.
- Foley Johnson and Silverado Vineyards will present a magical tea dance party inspired by Lewis Carroll’s classic story, Alice in Wonderland, on Friday, June 9.
- Chandon is hosting a Pride Celebration Picnic Day on Saturday, June 10.
- Migration Wines will celebrate Pride Month and National

- Rosé Day in style at their Drag Brunch Experience on Saturday June 10.
- Pride week culminates with Pride Music in the Park event on Sunday, June 11. The Yountville Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Town of Yountville will be hosting this event is free and open to all, featuring a family dance party led by DJ Rotten Robbie; live music from The Lucky Devils Band; delicious food for purchase from Di Filippo Wood Fired Pizza, The Original Burger Dog, and TJ Dim Sum; wine and beer for purchase with proceeds going to Yountville Kiwanis and the LGBTQ Connection; family friendly activities, crafts, games and information offered by local non-profits and more.
- Please check yountville.com/pridecelebrations for the most up to date list.
- “The Town of Yountville, and the entire Napa Valley, honors diversity every day,” stated Yountville Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Whitney Diver McEvoy. “We are pleased to be able to come together during June to celebrate Pride with a week full of special programming and fun, inclusive activities. We invite all to join this celebration in the Heart of the Napa Valley!”
- For more information and events during the Yountville Pride Celebrations, please visit <https://yountville.com/pridecelebrations/> or call the Yountville Chamber of Commerce at 707-944-0904.







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141 Join in Statement: Solidarity with Prides and the LGBTQ+ Community Against Escalating Threats

141 organizations, institutions of faith, businesses, and community, faith, and elected leaders have come together to issue a joint statement expressing their unwavering support for Pride events and the LGBTQ+ community amidst a rising tide of threats and hostility.

In a powerful expression of unity, these diverse community leaders have condemned the growing threats against Pride events and the LGBTQ+ community, specifically from anti-LGBTQ+ groups and extremist factions. The statement highlights an alarming increase in public hostility and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, resulting in fear and concern over safety within the community.

The joint statement underlines the crucial importance of Pride events, not just as celebrations, but also as potent symbols of defiance against hate, resilience against oppression, and an affirmation of existence. The leaders also pledge to work tirelessly to safeguard the LGBTQ+ community and Pride events with a call to action for all leaders, community members, and allies, asking them to stand in unity against fear, hate, and violence.

The joint statement is signed by 72 organizations, institutions of faith, and businesses, as well as 69 community, faith, and elected leaders.

United in Pride: Solidarity with Prides and

the LGBTQ+ Community

As leaders in our diverse communities, we stand united in condemning the growing threats against Pride events and the LGBTQ+ community at large. We are deeply concerned by the escalating attacks and

LGBTQ+ community, leading to fear of physical violence and harm. The ongoing attacks and threats have reached a point where our Pride celebrations, symbols of joy and unity, are now being targeted. This is an affront to our cherished American principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

We firmly believe that safety is a fundamental right, not a privilege. No ideological differences should culminate in life-or-death consequences. We pledge to work tirelessly to safeguard our LGBTQ+

We call to action all our fellow leaders, community members, and allies. Let us stand in unity against fear, hate, and violence.

disruptive activities perpetrated by anti-LGBTQ+ groups, including extremist factions such as the Proud Boys. These attempts to incite fear, spread disinformation, and sow division within our society are unacceptable.

We have seen a record number of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and an alarming increase in public hostility towards our

community and Pride events.

We condemn these threats and stand unwavering in our support of the LGBTQ+ community. We will use our collective platforms to counteract the false narratives propagated about our community to foster a climate of understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

We are not fair-weather friends of the LGBTQ+ community. We understand the importance of Pride for our LGBTQ+ community. These events are not mere celebrations, but potent symbols of defiance against hate, resilience against oppression, and an affirmation of existence. The vibrant Pride events planned for this year all across San Diego County will not be marred by hatred. They will remain shining beacons of diversity, love, and unity.

To all those spreading hate, we say this: We are not strangers to adversity. We have faced it before and we will face it again. Our LGBTQ+ community is resilient, born from the crucible of struggle, and hardened by a history of vibrant resistance and radical love. Your fear, hate, and violence cannot silence us. We are many, we are diverse, and we are powerful.

We call to action all our fellow leaders, community members, and allies. Let us stand in unity against fear, hate, and violence. Let us ensure the power of our intersectional solidarity leads to positive action. We are LGBTQ+ and allied leaders in business, faith, community, and elected office. Our collective strength is our best weapon in the face of adversity. Together, we can and will continue to Thrive! Now, more than ever, it's time for Pride.

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She Was “Simply the Best” by Chris Narloch

Most artists are lucky if they have one iconic signature song, but the late, great Tina Turner had at least one for each phase of her amazing, six decade-plus career.

There was, of course, “Proud Mary,” her most famous early hit from the days when she was still with her abusive ex-husband, Ike Turner.

Years after she finally extricated herself from that horrendously toxic relationship and started her career over from scratch, she released the single “What’s Love Got to

Do with It” which would become a comeback solo success of epic proportions.

Five years on, with an arena-filling solo career going strong, Tina released the international smash “The Best,” which boosted her later career and also summed up her status as a living, breathing soul survivor.

Despite health woes, Turner found true love late in life and was able to transcend her decidedly painful early days. I was fortunate to see her twice in concert, and she came alive on stage to an extent that solidified her status as the undisputed queen of rock and roll.

She was simply the best.



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June 10 & 11, 2023



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“Let The Right One In” at Berkeley Rep Plus, BroadwaySF’s “Into the Woods”

by Chris Narloch

Theater fans should not miss these two must-see theatre productions, one already playing and the other coming soon to the Bay Area. Read on for details.



Into the Woods
Direct from Broadway, the critically acclaimed and much beloved recent production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s Tony®-winning triumph is coming to San Francisco with its Broadway stars on board.
“Into the Woods” features Montego Glover as The Witch, Stephanie J. Block as The Baker’s Wife, Sebastian Arcelus as The Baker, and Gavin Creel as Cinderella’s Prince/Wolf -- all reprising their Broadway roles -- in a production called “radiant” (Variety), “enchanting” (The Wall Street Journal), and “a priceless revival with a perfect cast” (The Washington Post).
Directed by Lear deBessonet, this theatrical event honors Sondheim’s memory and his Broadway masterpiece like never before. Do not miss this rare, one-week engagement of one of the legendary composer’s finest works.
“Into the Woods” performs this June 20-25 at San Francisco’s Curran Theater, courtesy of BroadwaySF. For more information, go to: www.broadwaysf.com

Let The Right One In
I had the astounding pleasure recently of seeing perhaps the scariest play I have ever seen in my life, courtesy of Berkeley Rep’s stunning new offering, “Let The Right One In,” a brilliant stage adaptation of a highly-acclaimed Swedish horror film of the same name.
Directed by John Tiffany, this National Theatre of Scotland production is first-rate in every respect: superb scenic design and lighting, horrifically realistic special effects, and a brilliant cast that successfully transfers a chilling story from screen to stage without losing any of its incredible power.
You don’t have to have seen the original movie (or its surprisingly good American remake) to enjoy this live adaptation of the Swedish novel and film about vampires, bullying and bloodshed. In case you haven’t seen the movies, I won’t tell you anything else. If you like to be freaked out, trust me, and just go see this play.
“Let The Right One In” performs through this June 25 in Berkeley. To purchase tickets, please visit www.berkeleyrep.org



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Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who played a vital role in making the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empires' 50th Anniversary an exceptional event. As a dedicated member of this organization for the past four decades, I am truly honored to have been a part of this milestone celebration alongside such incredible individuals.

I am proud to serve as a member of the International Court Council, a position that allows me to contribute to the growth and success of our organization on a global scale. Moreover, I have the privilege of chairing the Jose Sarria-Nicole Murray Scholarship Fund, which has now amassed an impressive sum of over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This fund, held in perpetuity, represents our unwavering commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of deserving individuals.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some remarkable contributions that have been made in recent times. Personally, I am honored to have awarded five one thousand dollar scholarships in the name of FACES Nightclub, in collaboration with Senate Pro-Tem Toni Atkins. Additionally, our non-profit organization, Rainbow, has donated \$20,000 to the Sacramento Lavender Library, furthering our commitment to fostering inclusivity and education within our community. Furthermore, FACES proudly sponsors the VIP area at Sacramento Pride with a generous contribution of \$25,000. Recognizing the importance of supporting essential services, FACES has also donated \$5,000 to Golden Rule Services.

Lastly, I have personally donated the MGW San Diego News magazine to San Diego's LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, as a testament to our dedication to promoting LGBTQ+ voices and businesses.

In light of our ongoing efforts to uplift our community, I extend an invitation to each and every one of you to join us at our 35th Annual Rainbow Festival on September 3rd, 2023. This vibrant and inclusive celebration will take place from 11am to 10pm, providing a platform for us to come together, celebrate our diversity, and reinforce our shared values.

Once again, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all those involved in making the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empires' 50th Anniversary a resounding success. Your unwavering support, dedication, and generosity have been instrumental in furthering our mission and creating a positive impact within our community.

Thank you for your continued commitment and for embodying the spirit of unity and progress that defines our organization.

*Terry Sidie
Faces Nightclub, Rainbow Festival*



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Out & About

Drag Queen Bingo at Mango's on June 1 benefitted the Sacramento SPCA. Over \$3000 was raised to help the animals in need. And, there was a special guest appearance by Mr. Monopoly.!

photos by Ron Tackitt



Two New Multiplex Movie Reviews Plus, A Trans Journey at The Tower

by Chris Narloch

While I enjoy some of the superhero cinema, and I can appreciate a franchise film if it's well-made, I just could not bring myself to sit through another "Fast & Furious" film, so *Outword* readers will not be getting a review of "Fast X" from me. If the moviemakers had added Billy Porter in a pink Lamborghini to that franchise, I would have been at the theater with bells on, but, alas, they have not yet realized that some queers are also fond of fast cars (and fast men and women). Here are reviews of four new movies I did find time to watch recently.



You Hurt My Feelings

Funny lady Julia Louis-Dreyfus brings the laughs and then some in Nicole Holofcener's new dramedy about whether it's better to tell your loved ones the truth or save their feelings with little white lies. Louis-Dreyfus plays a professor and author who discovers that her husband doesn't like her latest novel after all, a revelation that sends their marriage into a tailspin. A smart script and a terrific supporting cast help create an original movie that is very funny and surprisingly moving. Currently in wide theatrical release.



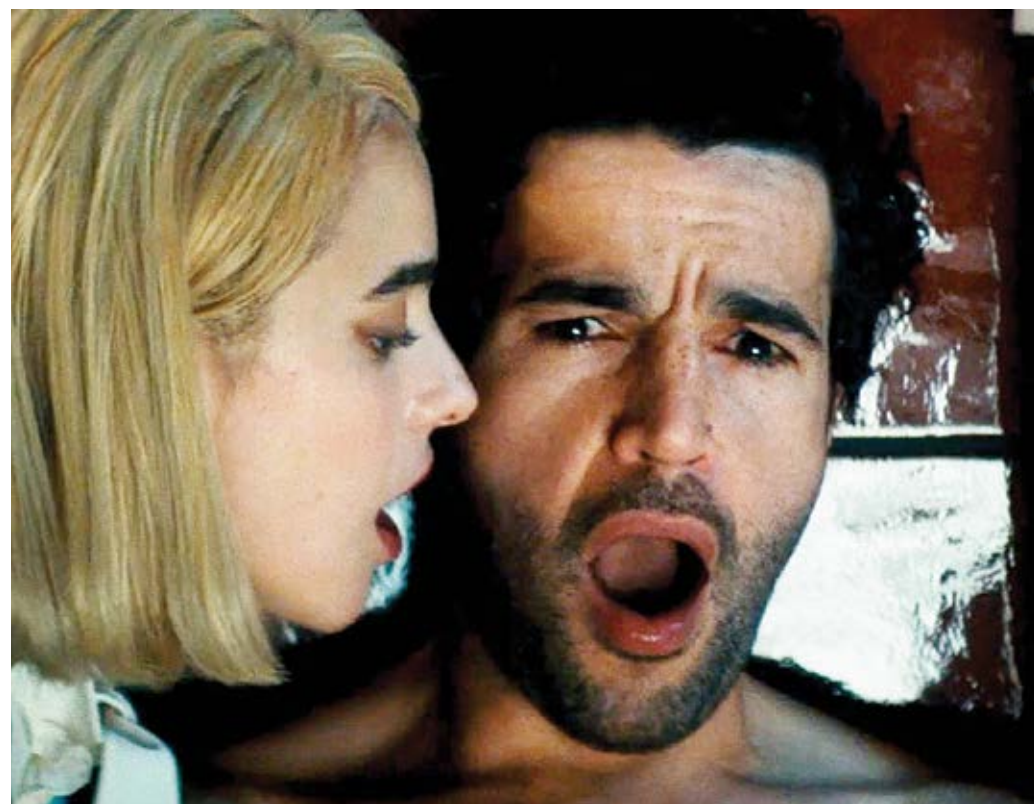
L'Immensita

Do not miss this superb drama starring the great Penelope Cruz as the mother of a preteen girl who moves with her family to a new apartment in Rome during the 1970s and gradually rejects her name and identity, in an attempt to be seen as a boy. The child's father is not thrilled, but the supportive mother played by Cruz is a model for how every parent of a trans child should show them unconditional love. "L'Immensita" should be mandatory viewing for all the narrow-minded, transphobic people currently discriminating against gender-fluid folks around the world. This autobiographical Italian film opened at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on June 2nd. Do yourself a favor and see it before it's gone.



About My Father

Unlike "You Hurt My Feelings," the new comedy starring Sebastian Maniscalco and Robert DeNiro employs tired tropes and sit-com stereotypes, in an attempt to wring laughs out of an overly familiar plot about a man (Maniscalco) and his father (DeNiro) who spend the weekend with the wealthy family of the son's fiancée. Mr. Maniscalco is a funny guy (and handsome too), but this attempt to turn his real-life relationship with his dad into successful comedy is an unfortunate misfire. Currently in wide theatrical release (but not for long).



Sanctuary

The less said about this contrived, obnoxious indie flick the better. Christopher Abbott and Margaret Qualley play a rich jerk and the dominatrix he tries to dump one night after the pair meet in a hotel room to sort out their relationship. A twisty battle of the sexes ensues, and we are supposed to be on the edge of our seats as to the outcome. Unfortunately, I was so irritated by both leads – the characters and the actors – that I didn't care who came out on top. Hopefully, this movie, which opened at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on June 2nd, will be gone soon.

What's New at Music Circus & Celebration Arts?

by Chris Narloch

This year is flying by, and it is already time for summer theatre courtesy of Broadway at Music Circus. I also spotlight the latest offering from another of Sacramento's long-standing theatrical institutions, Celebration Arts.

Music Circus

The Sacramento summer staple known as Broadway at Music Circus returns this June and kicks things off with the hit-filled jukebox musical "Beautiful," which showcases the glorious catalog of one of the most prolific singer-songwriters in the history of pop music, Carole King.

In its Music Circus premiere, "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" tells the Tony* and Grammy* Award-winning inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.

"Beautiful" performs this June 13-18, at the UC Davis Health Pavilion on H Street. Please visit: www.broadwaysacramento.com



Celebration Arts

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage takes audiences back to the Golden Age of Hollywood in "By the Way, Meet Vera Stark," where we meet aspiring starlet Vera Stark, who works as a maid to Gloria Mitchell, an aging star grasping at her fading career.

Worlds collide when Vera lands a trailblazing role in an antebellum epic starring her boss. Yet, while Vera's portrayal of an enslaved person turns out to be groundbreaking, decades later, scholars and film buffs still grapple with the actress's legacy in Hollywood and race's impact on her controversial career.

Through the fictionalized characters, Nottage hints at both unknown and celebrated performers and Hollywood executives during that time. Directed by Nicole Limon, "By the Way, Meet Vera Stark" promises to be a charming and comedic play that Nottage says "focuses on African American women, or women from the African diaspora, who've been marginalized by circumstance and who are trying to assert their presence."

"By the Way, Meet Vera Stark" performs through this June 25, at Celebration Arts, in what was formerly the B Street Theatre complex. For more information, go to: www.celebrationarts.net

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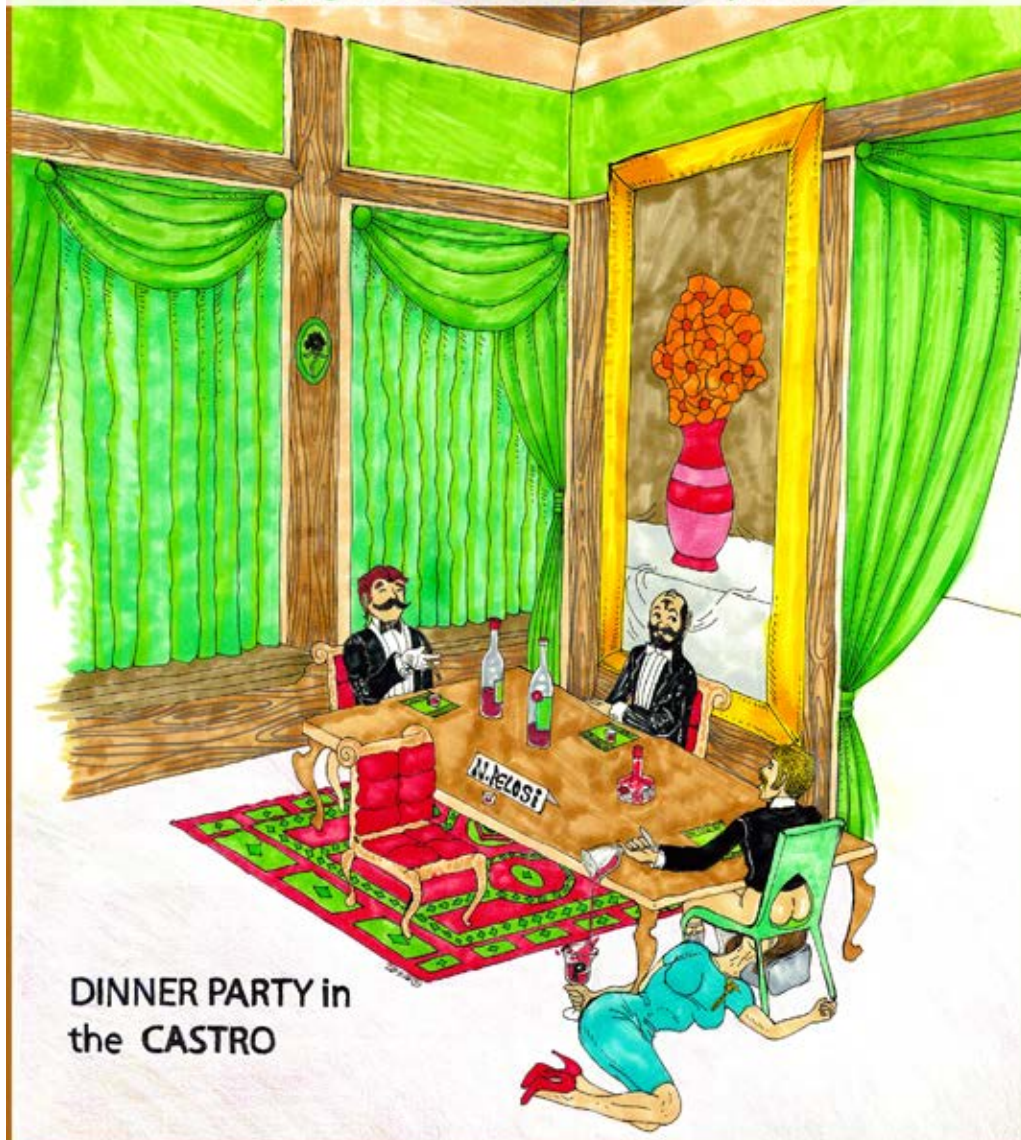
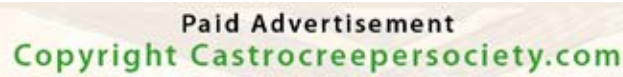
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* New California law for 2022, requires all insurance to cover the cost of at-home STD testing.





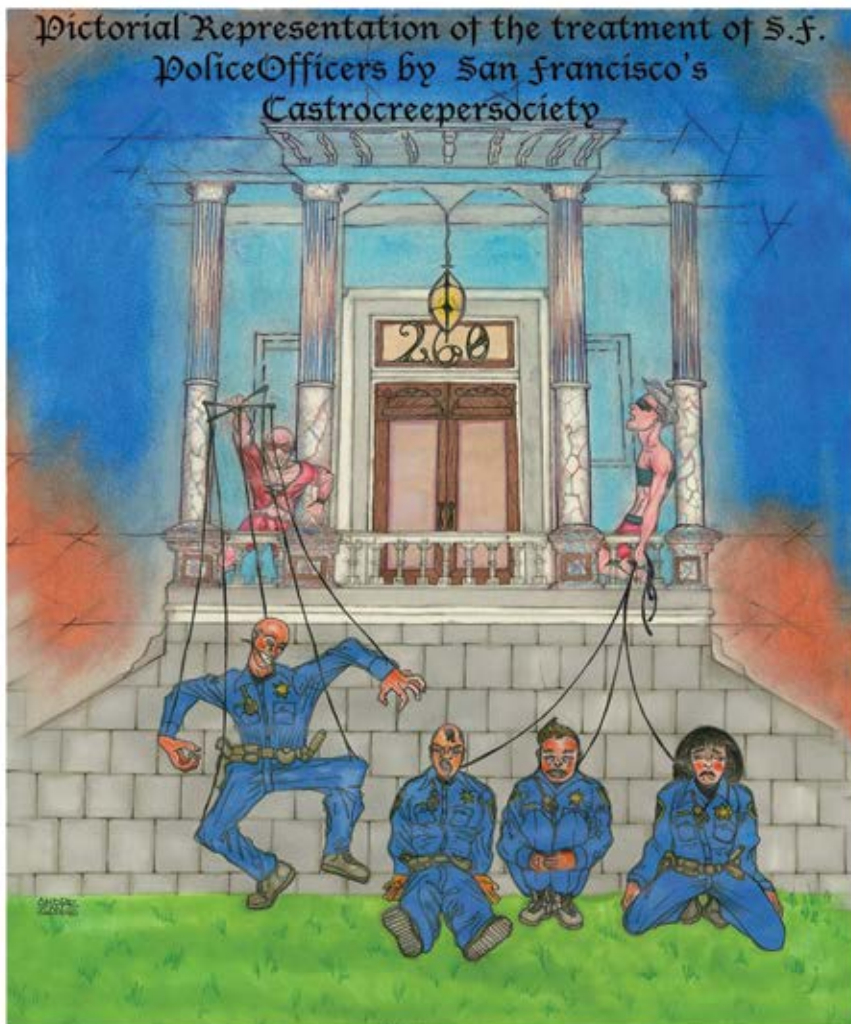
In Celebration of Pride Month, The Habit Burger Grill Announces Its Rainbow Shake

The Habit Burger Grill, the California-based restaurant company renowned for its award-winning Charburgers grilled over an open flame, signature sandwiches, fresh salads and more, announced today, the launch of the Rainbow Shake in celebration of the LGBTQ+ community and allies during Pride Month. Making its first appearance as a limited-time offer (LTO), the Rainbow Shake will be sold in the vast majority of its restaurants throughout the month of June, while supplies last.

The creamy, flavorful Rainbow Shake features vanilla ice cream blended with rainbow cereal, topped with strawberry puree, passion fruit puree, blue raspberry syrup and finished with whipped cream sprinkled with crunchy rainbow cereal.

In honor of Pride Month, \$1 for every Rainbow Shake sold (up to \$50,000 total) will be donated to the It Gets Better Project, whose mission is to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth around the globe.

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“The Last Dream of Frida and Diego” in S.F.

Alongside fresh takes on classics, SF Opera continues to program exciting new work, and fans of Mexican art should not miss “El último sueño de Frida y Diego,” a new opera inspired by the lives of the artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. In the fictional story, three years have passed since the death of Frida, and Diego still grieves for his wife. On Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), he prays for her return, and La Catrina, keeper of the underworld, grants his wish, allowing Frida and Diego to rekindle their passionate relationship one more time. “El último sueño de Frida y Diego” (The Last Dream of Frida and Diego), which performs June 13-30, 2023, at San Francisco’s War Memorial Opera House, is the first opera by Grammy-Award winning composer Gabriela Lena Frank, and its libretto was written by the Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright Nilo Cruz. For tickets and more information, please visit <https://www.sfopera.com>



“Broadway Bares” Strips Down in San Francisco



“Broadway Bares” brings NYC’s sexiest charity strip show back to the Bay Area this June, with “SF Strips VI: ChampionSTRIPS,” the West Coast version of the hottest BCEFA (Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS) event of the year. San Francisco’s DNA Lounge will host this year’s steamy strip show, featuring some of the hottest men and women around, taking it off for a good cause on Saturday, June 17. For tickets, go to: www.dnalounge.com

Aboriginal-owned Gali Swimwear Celebrates Pride



Model Heath Thorpe - Photographer Jose Yutiu

The Australian First Nations fashion label GALI Swimwear is releasing a special limited-edition swim brief for Pride. Their “Gathering Papis” men’s swim brief was designed in collaboration with Jake Simon, an out Aboriginal artist from the Worimi-Biripi clan. The suit draws inspiration from Simon’s childhood spent gathering small, edible saltwater clams called papis. “My family and I would collect papis on the shoreline of the Myall Lakes, part of the country of the Worimi Aboriginal people in Australia,” Simon recalls. The overlapping semi-circles in the swim brief depict the clams while the vibrant colors are representative of his identity as an LGBTQIA+ person, and of the papis and their environment. “The light pinks and purples are reminiscent of the insides of the shell, while the yellows and greens represent the beach and surrounding wildlife areas where the pips would grow,” he explains. GALI Swimwear’s “Gathering Papis” men’s brief is available now at GALISwimwear.com.au.



27th

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Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 27 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the response we have recieved after returning to print has been fantastic!

However, we are continuing to ask that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our production staff, staff writers and distribution costs among other things.

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Canine Influencer Unleashes Fierce New Line of Drag Queen-Inspired Apparel for Dogs

Instagram sensation “RuPawl the Doggie Drag Queen” is launching a collection of canine clothing and accessories inspired by the queens from “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” Dubbed Doggie Drag, the fashion line features an array of stunning and flamboyant pieces that capture the essence of drag culture. “Our line of dog clothing and accessories are about celebrating individuality and self-expression,” says, José Lizárraga founder and CEO of Doggie Drag. “Four-legged divas can shine as bright as the queens on the show. They deserve the opportunity to express their resplendence, nerve, and talent, too.”



The collection features a range of eye-catching outfits, from brightly colored feather boas to sparkling sequined dog tags and bold statement charms. Pooches can be transformed into blonde bombshells in Doggie Drag’s Queen Mutha wig. It comes with a tulle bow with metal clip and adjustable chin straps. Or they can sashay away in the Mutha of the Runway gown, an opulent tulle explosion that includes glistening silver embellishments. Dogs can rule the racetrack in a hot pink and checkered Start Your Engines jumpsuitinspired by the outfit RuPaul wore in the poster art of the first season of RuPaul’s Drag Race. It features color patches and crystal silver ornamentation. Or they can join the Pit (bull) Crew and serve masculine realness in their Doggie Drag Bandana.

Every piece is designed with a keen eye for detail and a commitment to quality, ensuring that dogs look and feel their best while strutting their sassy tails on the streets.

“Doggie Drag is fun and humorous but it is also important,” Lizárraga continues. “We are living in a time when the drag community is being targeted and attacked by right wing conservatives. We see Doggie Drag as a part of the effort to promote drag as a form of resistance and joy, to highlight the artistry of leading drag talent and showcase the beauty and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community.”

The RuPawl phenomenon started in the spring of 2017 when Dr. Lizárraga began posting images of the little pup that he and his partner Dr. Arturo Cortez rescued from the San Francisco SPCA. Fans loved the playful and curious chihuahua, not only for their super-cute look, but for their fierce and fabulous lewks. Lil RuPawl, as the pup came to be known, lit up Instagram wearing replicas of the gowns seen on RuPaul’s Drag Race, created by their owner, Dr. Lizárraga.

Over the past few years, RuPawl has modeled Dr. Lizárraga’s canine-crafted interpretations of some of the most iconic RuPaul’s Drag Race creations including Ginger Minj’s Pop Art look from All Stars 6, a stunningly accurate rendering of Maddy Morphosis’s Rain Clowd gown, and Willow Pill’s blue strawberry gown reimaged with blue Kong chew toys. RuPawl recently wowed fans with Dr. Lizárraga’s version of Mistress Isabelle Brook’s puff gown and Sasha Colby’s gown that paid homage to Beyoncé.

RuPawl has become a staple within the drag community, even appearing at 2018’s Drag Con in Los Angeles where they met fans and interacted with stars from RuPaul’s Drag Race. Vanessa Vanjie Mateo, in particular, couldn’t get enough of Lil RuPawl, gushing over RuPawl’s outfit and wig.

RuPawl’s social media content has gained an international following that, in addition to well-known drag artists, includes LGBTQ+ scholars, activists, and celebrities. The @RuPawl_official page has won two Webby Awards (and is currently nominated for a third), recognizing it as an important platform for socio-political issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

Doggie Drag couture items are currently available in small and medium sizes, however some accessories are for dogs of all sizes. Pride items including a Rainbow gown will be available in early June.

Visit DoggieDrag.com

Thank You Outword Supporters!

Current as of June 8, 2023

Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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