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Sacramento's Farm to Fork Bridge Dinner
September 10, 2023
Photo by Chris Allan

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California News Publishers Association

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Rocklin Unified School District School Board's Forced Outing Policy Endangers California LGBTQ+ Students' Civil Rights

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a statement following the Rocklin Unified School District School Board's (Board) decision to implement a mandatory gender identity disclosure policy targeting transgender and gender-nonconforming students. Similar to other forced outing policies recently enacted by certain school districts, the policy requires schools to inform parents, with minimal exceptions, whenever a student requests to use a name or pronoun different from that on their birth certificate or official records, even without the student's permission.

The policy also requires notification if a student requests to use facilities or participates in programs that don't align with their sex on official records. The vote comes after Attorney General Rob Bonta sent a letter to the Board cautioning them of the dangers of adopting its forced outing policy, emphasizing the potential infringements on students' civil rights and educational opportunities.

"Despite our ongoing commitment to stand against any actions that target and discriminate against California's transgender and gender-nonconforming youth, Rocklin Unified has chosen to endanger their civil rights by adopting a policy that forcibly outs them without consideration of their safety and well-being," said Bonta. "I have said it before and I will say it again: We will not tolerate any policy that perpetuates discrimination, harassment, or exclusion within our educational institutions."

The Attorney General has a substantial interest in protecting the legal rights, physical safety, and mental health of children in California schools, and in protecting them from trauma, harassment, bullying, and exposure to violence and threats of violence. Research shows that protecting a transgender

student's ability to make choices about how and when to inform others is critical to their well-being, as transgender students are exposed to high levels of harassment and mistreatment at school and in their communities when those environments are not supportive of their gender identity.

In the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 10% of respondents said that an immediate family member had been violent toward them because they were transgender, and 15% ran away from home or were kicked out of their home because they were transgender. Fewer than one-in-three transgender and gender nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming.

Nearly 46% of transgender students reported missing at least one day of school in the preceding month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable there and 17% of transgender students reported that they left a K-12 school due to the severity of the harassment they experienced at school.

Seventy-seven percent of students known or perceived as transgender reported negative experiences such as harassment and assault, and over half of transgender and nonbinary youth reported seriously considering suicide in the past year.

Bonta issued a statement commending the San Bernardino Superior Court's ruling to issue a temporary restraining order against Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education's (CVUSD) mandatory gender identity disclosure policy, immediately halting its enforcement. Just last week, Bonta announced a lawsuit challenging the enforcement of CVUSD's forced outing policy. Prior to filing a lawsuit, Bonta announced opening a civil rights investigation into the legality of CVUSD's adoption of its mandatory gender identity disclosure policy. Prior to opening the investigation, Bonta in July sent a letter to Superintendent Norman Enfield and the Board of Education cautioning them of the dangers of adopting its forced outing policy, emphasizing the potential infringements on students' privacy rights and educational opportunities. Recently, Bonta issued a statement following Anderson Union High School District, and Temecula Valley and Murrieta Valley Unified School District Boards' decisions to implement copy-cat mandatory gender identity disclosure policy targeting transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

Attorney General Bonta Announces Lawsuit Challenging Chino Valley Unified School District's Forced Outing Policy

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a lawsuit to immediately halt the enforcement of the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education's (Board) mandatory gender identity disclosure policy. The policy, adopted in July, requires schools to inform parents, with minimal exceptions, whenever a student requests to use a name or pronoun different from that on their birth certificate or official records, even without the student's permission. The policy also requires notification if a student requests to use facilities or participates in programs that don't align with their sex on official records. In today's lawsuit, Attorney General Bonta challenges the policy, which violates the California Constitution and state laws safeguarding civil rights, and has already caused and is threatening to cause LGBTQ+ students with further mental, emotional, psychological and potential physical harm.

The lawsuit can be read at: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/082723.Complaint.pdf>

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Little Activisms by Judy Saint People Read. You Read.

How would it be if you helped other people in your community read books you really wish they would pick up and at least skim through, if nothing else?

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But today I don't want you to read the books. I want you to give them away. There is a wonderful system already in place where you can drop off books where you can be sure others will find them. They are called Little Free Libraries, and they're all over the place. I found about 50 around Sacramento.

So, today I have two ideas for you to consider. One, I wonder if you could find a few wonderful books you wish others would read and place them in these Little Free Libraries. Two, I wonder if you could find the time to build one of these small places for book sharing in your neighborhood.

It's just a small, local sharing box. Often you see a sign posted saying, "Leave One.

Take One."

To find existing Little Free Libraries, use the interactive map lookup here: littlefreelibrary.org/map. There is probably one near you, with empty space ready for your book donations.

Dropping off books can become addicting, honestly. You'll soon take delight in leaving books about Coming Out Stories, classic movies, or about self-esteem, or maybe you best love sharing adventure books. Ready. Go.

If you are interested in having your own Little Free Library, you can build one from scratch if you're handy, or you can put together a kit. You might even find ready-made small library boxes ready to be installed in your yard, along the sidewalk, or wherever your city or county allows them. Once you set yours in the ground, you are called a Steward of that Little Free Library.

Some Stewards are able to place a bench nearby or locate their Little Free Library near a serene pond, park, or along a walking trail. In your own front yard might be a good option for you.

Your responsibility as a Steward of the

little book box is to find a few books to keep it full if visitors remove too many at a time, and to make sure the selections of books match the theme of your Little Free Library, if it has one. For example, you might include a sign saying this Little Free Library is for children under 12 only, or it's for photo books only, or it's for hobbies and travel only. You could add a warning, if you want, that you will remove any books of a certain type (sometimes they have signs saying 'no religious or political books', for example.) Some have two shelves with labels for each shelf.

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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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Canada Issues Travel Advisory for Its LGBTQ Residents Visiting the US

by Chris Walker, TRUTHOUT

The Canadian government has updated its travel advisory for residents of the country who are planning to visit the United States, warning potential travelers who are LGBTQ that some states should be navigated with caution.



The change reflects concerns among Canadian officials about dozens of anti-LGBTQ laws that have been passed in the U.S. over the past year.

As recently as Tuesday morning, the country's travel advisory website didn't include a warning for Canadian LGBTQ travelers. But later in the day, the site was updated to caution travelers about policies that certain U.S. states had enacted.

The top of the site remains unchanged, instructing travelers to "take normal security precautions" and noting that "regional advisories" should be considered. Further down, the newly-added advisory for LGBTQ travelers states the following:

Some states have enacted laws and policies that may affect 2SLGBTQI+ persons. Check relevant state and local laws.

The advisory does not list specific states that have passed laws that may affect LGBTQ travelers.

Global Affairs Canada, the department that manages diplomatic and consular assistance, gave a statement to CNN about the developments that led to the change.

"Since the beginning of 2023, certain states in the U.S. have passed laws banning drag shows and restricting the transgender community from access to gender-affirming care and from participation in sporting events," the department said.

Canada is not alone in its warning to LGBTQ people – indeed, several advocacy groups in the U.S. have issued similar warnings, with some singling out specific states over draconian laws targeting LGBTQ people.

In April, for example, Equality Florida issued an advisory warning travelers from within the U.S. and abroad that Florida "may not be a safe place to visit or take up residence" because of its multitude of laws targeting LGBTQ people.

That advisory singled out Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Florida), stating that he "has also weaponized state agencies to impose sanctions against businesses large and small that disagree with his attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion."

In June, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a state of emergency for LGBTQ people living in the U.S. – the organization's first such statement in four decades.

"The sharp rise in anti-LGBTQ+ measures has spawned a dizzying patchwork of discriminatory state laws that have created increasingly hostile and dangerous environments for LGBTQ+ people," the group said.

Many of the new laws, particularly those targeting transgender people, have resulted in thousands of people fleeing their home states for parts of the country that may be safer or more welcoming. According to an analysis from Erin Reed, a journalist and trans rights activist, recently passed anti-LGBTQ state laws have prompted between 130,000 and 260,000 transgender people and their families to move from their homes.

Many more are considering a move.

"Over a million people, themselves contemplating relocation in the coming months, remain in a state of apprehensive vigilance, awaiting the potential signal that they too must bid farewell to their homes," Reed wrote. "The current trend doesn't just underline a social trend; it underscores a profound human rights issue unfolding on our soil."

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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Say A Prayer for Laura Ann Carleton

by Chris Narloch

The recent murder of Laura Ann Carleton, a beloved shop owner in California's San Bernardino mountains and a staunch LGBTQ+ ally who was shot and killed by a man solely because of the rainbow flag hung outside her store, really shook me to my core.



Photo of Laura Ann Carleton courtesy of @mountainprovisionscooperative/Instagram

Now, they're not just coming for us, I realized. They're out to get our allies as well, and there is little doubt that the far-right campaign against trans people, drag queens and all queer individuals has intensified to the point that conservative hatemongers like Florida Governor Ron DeSantis are partially responsible for whipping up homophobes like the man who killed Ms. Carleton.

Carleton was a beloved pillar of her community, according to family and friends. Although she herself did not identify as LGBTQ+, she preached "love, acceptance and equality," as her daughter, Ari Carleton, told the New York Times.

Her daughter also told reporters that Carleton would routinely put up another rainbow flag outside her store each time someone vandalized or removed it.

The 66-year-old shopkeeper was pronounced dead at the scene after police responded to a shooting at her Mag.Pi clothing store in Cedar Glen, near the resort town of Lake Arrowhead, on Friday evening, August 18, 2023.

Outword will not identify the 26-year-old man who murdered Carleton because we refuse to give nutjobs like him the notoriety

they crave. We can, however, share the good news that the suspect was shot and killed by police shortly after Carleton's murder, a hate crime that California Governor Gavin Newsom described as "absolutely horrific."

This horrendous murder has made me rethink my own behavior, considering the current climate of queerphobia that is on the rise in our country. Call me a coward, but I can't be an activist or an agent for change if I'm dead, so I won't be publicly displaying a rainbow flag on my car or in my window anytime soon, at least until the conservative campaign against the LGBTQ community cools down.

Laura Ann Carleton was most definitely not a coward, and she paid the ultimate, tragic price for her support of equality and queer rights. After I heard the sad news, I made her picture my screensaver so I will remember her sacrifice every time I log onto my computer to celebrate the queer community for Outword.

Please say a prayer for Laura Ann Carleton. She gave her life for you and me and the entire LGBTQ family, and she deserves to be remembered as the hero that she was.

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A Call to Action guest commentary by Dennis Mangers

There's an old saying that suggests you are not paranoid if they really are out to get you. I am writing this because, dear members of Sacramento's LGBTQ family, it's clear from what's going on around us today, that they really are out to get us. Again! Still!

In the late 70's I had the honor to arrive in Sacramento as a Democratic member of the California State Assembly representing coastal Orange County. And while I was still coming to terms with my own orientation epiphany at the time, I could see what the extreme right had in mind for those in the community I was soon to join.

It was a time when Republican Senator John Briggs of Orange County was promoting Proposition 6, calculated to prevent homosexuals from teaching in California schools. Other republican members like Senator John Schmitz and Assemblymember Robert Dannemeyer, cited scripture on the floors of their respective houses to rail against any legislative effort on behalf of our community.

Here in Sacramento, there were no protective ordinances, and our people could be fired without cause or denied an apartment simply because they were perceived to be gay.

When we formed in 1984 what would ultimately become the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, we couldn't use the word "gay" in the title because many of us were teachers and school principals and in other sensitive professions and were afraid for our personal and professional lives.

During the early dark days of HIV/AIDS there were extremists calling for those living and dying from the disease to be rounded up and quarantined, fanning the fires of fear and hysteria.

In the face of relentless attacks from the right, many among us rose to the occasion and began building a political infrastructure here in Sacramento designed to empower and engage the LGBTQ community.

At the State level we formed what we called "The Capitol Network" consisting mostly of gay legislative and gubernatorial staffers, agency personnel and lobbyists. We met secretly in my offices in the old Senator Hotel building and with the guidance of brilliant gay leaders like Stan Hadden, aide to Senate Pro Tem David Roberti, and others, we began to advise and support friendly legislators as they developed legislation to decriminalize our relationships and to weave a protective fabric around our community.

We promoted one of our own, Rand Martin, as the first openly gay lobbyist on behalf of our statewide objectives. And we formed CAP/PAC as the first LGBTQ political action committee in Sacramento which began working to elect LGBTQ people to elected office while making significant contributions to allies working on our behalf.

Locally, many of our men and women formed the "River City Democratic Club", the precursor to today's Stonewall Democratic Club. Those heroes of our political evolution set about to promote ordinances in Sacramento that would begin to provide the protections needed for our people to gradually start easing out of their (our) closets and asserting their rights. They became involved in the complicated business of re-districting that helped lead to the election of our first openly gay member of Sacramento's City Council, Steve Hansen, who is now running to be our first openly gay Mayor.

When HIV/AIDS appeared on the scene, with its almost overnight devastating impact on our community, our people and so many caring allies

stepped forward and formed the "Sacramento AIDS Foundation" and "CARES", promoting and funding care, services and research on behalf of our stricken, mostly young men.

One of our most politically savvy and capable local women, Laurie Mc bride, stepped forward and became the State's first AIDS lobbyist for what was called "The Life Lobby". Her service and impact will long be remembered by those of us who struggled to bring our community out of the shadows and into the fulness of our rights under the law.

I cite this history in brief, because once again, the barbarians are at the gates!

In their historically cyclical and dependable pattern, the right has come to the fore again under the demagogic goading of the orange one and his many cultish acolytes.

They are attacking us all over the nation. They are going after our beloved drag queens, they are attacking teachers and librarians and seeking to ban books that tell of our history, our struggle and our heroes.

They are systematically infiltrating our school boards, local city councils and Boards of Supervisors.

Hate crimes in this country and here locally have risen astronomically and just a short time ago, a beautiful ally was shot down by a right-wing fanatic for simply displaying a pride flag in front of her store.

It's not just us of course! As always, they are attacking Jews, women, people of color, immigrants and other marginalized minorities as they themselves slip inexorably into the minority of a country they seem to believe belongs only to them.

It is past time for us to realize we are currently the frogs in warming water, seemingly unaware of our impending boiling.

Many in our community, especially our younger members, have grown complacent in a city and its environs made relatively safe by those who came before them.

We party, we sing, we play organized sports and generally live the lives we deserve.

But, if we hope to continue to enjoy our place in the sun, we are going to have to engage politically to protect our advances and to ensure our future.

The right is moving on all our institutions with one goal. To erase us publicly and erode our public support by branding us as "groomers and pedophiles".

They call us "Woke". But what we're really doing is "awakening".

We are awakening to the reality that they are once again out to get us, and we need to engage as our leaders have in the past.

No matter how turned off we may be to the ugliness and polarization of today's politics, we are in a place where, frankly, it's a case of getting into politics or surrendering to the victimhood that lies ahead.

All of us need to become advocates for our special family and the rights we've fought so hard to attain. During the AIDS crisis we used the slogan "Silence=Death" which is still relevant today.

Each of us must determine how we will speak and act out in the face of the assaults aimed at our community.

But in the meantime, we have many among



Dennis Mangers

us who have felt called to step out and do the hard work on our behalf every day of their lives and they deserve our support.

At the national level we are strongly represented by the Human Rights Campaign and at the state level our rights are aggressively championed by Equality California. Locally, our Stonewall Democratic Club engages at all levels of government, following legislation and promoting supportive candidates for public office.

In a perfect world we would all join and become activists in organizations like these and others, but at the very least, every one of us should be making monthly contributions of whatever size meets our budget to those willing to do the work on our behalf. Please join forces with each of these organizations as soon as possible.

<https://www.hrc.org/get-involved>
<https://www.eqca.org/>
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When you join any, or all of them as my husband and I have done, you will begin receiving information, not just about the sinister things affecting us here and out there, but also what you personally can do about them.

Personal engagement, guided by our lawyers and leaders, arms and engages us in this war we did not start but have no intention of losing.

For most of my personal and political career I have been motivated by these ten little two letter words:

If it is to be, it is up to me!

Simply stated, it is up to each of us, in solidarity with others of like purpose, to stand against the forces of hatred and intolerance that seek to eradicate years of hard-fought progress and send us back into the closets of shame and fear.

THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION!

Dennis Mangers (Denny) is a former teacher, school principal, corporate vice president, legislator, lobbyist and long-time community activist. He recently retired as Senior Advisor to Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. He is married to local lighting designer, Michael Sestak and has two children and two grandchildren.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the [California State Library](#) in partnership with the [California Department of Social Services](#) and the [California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs](#) as part of the [Stop the Hate](#) program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to [CA vs Hate](#).

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Facilitating Safe LGBTQ+ Spaces Can Save Lives

Orlando Gonzalez

Executive Director, Safeguarding American Values for Everyone (SAVE)

In a world where diversity should be celebrated, it's disheartening to witness the persistent discrimination and violence spurred by anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and rhetoric that continues to plague our community. The need for safe spaces has never been more urgent. Beyond offering refuge, these spaces are crucial for nurturing the well-being and empowerment of LGBTQ+ individuals, holding the potential to uplift all marginalized identities.

Even in states plagued by anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments, like Florida, there is hope. The region boasts a vibrant array of LGBTQ+ organizations and initiatives like the recent City of Miami LGBTQ+ Community Survey and the Miami Beach Cares campaign. Our efforts can cultivate safe spaces in online groups, sanctuary cities, advocacy organizations, and inclusive faith communities and businesses. Our collective responsibility is to provide solace for marginalized identities, creating an environment where local communities are profoundly inviting to those who may be rooted in place by necessity or choice.

Raising awareness and adopting solutions

Safe spaces offer more than just protection; they are conduits for growth, empowerment, and empathy. Encouraging constructive dialogues and learning opportunities helps create an environment where isolated individuals find solace in the company of like-minded people. Considering LGBTQ+ individuals are at a disproportionately high risk of suicide, safe spaces can also serve as life-saving measures.

September serves as a poignant reminder, as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month sheds light on the vulnerability of our community, particularly LGBTQ+ youth. National organizations like:

The Trevor Project, and Trans Lifeline, and local initiatives like Pridelines, SunServe, Trans Social, Care Resource, and Alliance for LGBTQ Youth provide much-needed support and resources.

Sadly, the disparities in healthcare faced by the LGBTQ+ community are staggering. Rooted in systemic biases and a lack of understanding, these disparities make it evident that access to culturally sensitive care is a crucial to creating safe spaces. Organizations like Afro Pride and Latino Salud are prime examples of such culturally sensitive support, aiming to bridge this gap and ensure all community members receive assistance. Businesses also have a collective responsibility to support the LGBTQ+ community, and they can benefit from their allyship— a 2021 survey outlined that firms with LGBTQ-friendly policies tend to yield higher profitability and higher stock market valuations. Corporate support can go a long way, encouraging others to follow suit and inspiring allyship.

For students and parents, the LGBTQ+ journey is sometimes fraught with

challenges. Organizations like GLSEN, PFLAG and PRISM offer vital resources to navigate these hurdles. Meanwhile, affirming faith communities, highlighted by organizations that provide spiritual sanctuary for those seeking acceptance, reminding them that they do not need to forgo their spirituality.

We find ourselves at a crossroads where the battle for LGBTQ+ rights clashes with antiquated biases. The dangers of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and rhetoric cannot be underestimated; it has compromised the safety of marginalized identities, rendering safe spaces a necessity— not a luxury. The urgency to protect and uplift the LGBTQ+ community is palpable.

Becoming an LGBTQ+ ally and sustaining safe spaces

While there are many sanctuary cities nationwide like Peoria, Illinois and Kansas City, Missouri, safe spaces extend beyond physical locations, finding a presence in online forums, social media platforms, and virtual communities, where allies play a vital role. Safe spaces can serve as centers of education and platforms for change, and the strategies for providing safe spaces are as diverse as the community they serve. Even in regions burdened by anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments, we've witnessed remarkable resilience.

Equality and acceptance are not abstract ideals; they're tangible commitments that shape the environment in which we live. Contrary to the belief that these spaces stifle freedom of speech, they actually foster an environment where all voices are heard within the bounds of mutual respect. Inclusive policies and initiatives promoted by organizations like SAVE, PBCHRC, ACLU, Human Rights Campaign and Equality Florida catalyze local and national change. Allies can be part of this transformation by standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and challenging misconceptions.

We have the power to foster safe spaces in our spheres of influence. By becoming allies and advocating for inclusive policies, we actively contribute to an equitable society where LGBTQ+ individuals can thrive without fear of discrimination or violence. Organizations like SAVE embody this commitment, offering resources, voting education, and LGBTQ+ youth engagement. Together, we can shape a future in which safe spaces are not just sanctuaries; they're a way of life, a beacon of hope, and a testament to the boundless capacity for change.



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“All Pride, No Ego: A Queer Executive’s Journey to Living and Leading Authentically” by Jim Fielding

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Auditions are always nerve-wracking. Will the part be yours? You sure practiced enough before you were judged – and that’s what an audition is, a judgment. Can you handle the lines? Are you a fit for the part you want, or would you be better at a walk-on? Being someone else in a play is fun, but not always easy. Neither, says Jim Fielding in his new book “All Pride, No Ego,” is being someone else at work.



Born in Toledo into a big extended clan, Jim Fielding says that it looked like he was a member of “the perfect, nuclear family.” The truth was, though, that “vulnerabilities and dysfunctions were numerous” and that included homophobia, which was a problem: when he was six years old, Fielding realized he was gay.

To cover for it, he became an overachiever with a lack of self-confidence and an abundance of insecurities. To help him to conquer his weaknesses, he built a great support system but still, “I wish I had a book like this when I was starting out in my career.”

His first point here is his mantra: “Control the controllable, but leave space for the possible.”

Color “within the lines” if you must, but do it at «a company whose ethics and values align with your own.» If you’re in control, set clear goals, “hire people who are smarter than you are” and get to know them well.

“Never stop learning.” Accept that you can forgive without forgetting transgressions. Remember that if the job is right, you won’t have to change who you fundamentally are. Learn to “define FAMILY however it works for you...” Know the difference between want and need. Trust your intuition, tamp down impulsiveness, but be flexible – which will

help you attract and keep the best team possible. Know that selfishness is a righteous thing sometimes.

Strive always for “cultures of excellence.” And always “leave [your] corner of the world a better place than [you] found it.” Donate. Volunteer. Do good.

In his preface, author Jim Fielding says that he wrote this book because he “realized that my leadership style and success... are completely dependent on my personal journey.” Those words should alert readers that “All Pride, No Ego” is preponderantly a memoir, which isn’t a bad thing but it bears mentioning.

If you don’t have the patience it takes for rambling stories, you won’t like this book at all, in fact. Fielding is a storyteller, and he smartly uses his experiences to show, not tell, in a way that’s pleasant and relatable for anyone who’s ever struggled at work. Yes, the workplace tales mean that business advice is sometimes embedded, sometimes apparent, and sometimes down a rabbit hole for you to follow but for most readers, it’ll be a useful scavenger hunt.

While this book is perhaps best for the person who’s looking for a first job or who just found one and is sweating to fit in, “All Pride, No Ego” is worthwhile for anyone. Enjoy the memoir, find the helpful parts.

Midtown Farmers Market Celebrates Farm-to-Fork Month

Always in Farm-to-Fork style and celebrating the 10th season of the popular and thriving Midtown Farmers Market, the Midtown Association has plans for deliciously fun activations in September with more than 200 vendors along with special demos, activities, enhanced Second Saturday programming sponsored by Five Star Bank, and more. Plus, voting is nearing the end for the 2023 America's Farmers Market Celebration competition with the Midtown Farmers Market currently in the lead for first place in California (4th in the Pacific Region and 29th in the nation). Market enthusiasts are encouraged to cast their vote for the Midtown Farmers Market now through September 18.

Proudly presented by Sutter Health and always bursting with fresh fruit, produce, gourmet or locally made products and artisan goods, the open-air market is available year-round with spring/summer hours in effect from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October. In September, activities at the Midtown Farmers Market will highlight market vendors every weekend, have a special live art demonstration on Second Saturday.

Here is a schedule of just some of the fun and free activations and demonstrations happening in September at the Midtown Farmers Market includes the following:

Saturday, September 16

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. – Nudge Eco Store will be providing a demonstration at Boutique Boulevard about how to shop at the Midtown Farmers Market in the most sustainable way to minimize plastic waste

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Live music by Rumba Flamenco Jazz Guitarist David Perry Molina in the Market Square

Saturday, September 23

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Delectables and Felicidad Winery will be offering a decadent wine and chocolate pairing on-site at Savory Street

9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m. – Justin Ten Eyck, owner of Thera-Wishbone, will be offering a massage demonstration on how to use the thera-wishbone on the neck and shoulders in Artisan Alley

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Live music by the entertaining DJ Freequency (D'Aramis Byrd) in the Market Square

Saturday, September 30

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – On-site sponsor promotions and giveaways from Sac Republic FC in Producers Plaza and SMUD in the Market Square (while supplies last)

10 a.m. and 12 p.m. – Pl is offering a curd making demonstration on Savory Street

10 a.m. – In celebration of Library Card Sign-Up Month, a special Kids' Story Time is provided by Bookhaus in the Market Square

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Live music by DJ Bimes in the Market Square

Owned and managed by the Midtown



Association, the Midtown Farmers Market continues to grow and evolve to reflect the dynamic and eclectic tastes of the surrounding neighborhood. Spanning five city blocks, the Midtown Farmers Market lies in the heart of Midtown at 20th & K Streets. More detailed information about the Midtown Farmers Market plus a regularly updated market map are available at www.midtownfarmersmarketsac.com.

In addition to offering numerous public transportation options, Midtown Sacramento is walkable and bike/scooter/car-share friendly with plenty of parking available in

nearby garages plus various lots throughout Midtown. Also, a complimentary bike valet is available at the Midtown Farmers Market through September courtesy of Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA). For additional transportation information, visit www.easeintomidtown.com. For more information about Midtown Sacramento in general, special events and activities, and the Midtown Association, please visit www.exploremidtown.org or follow on social media – Facebook at www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/ and @ExploreMidtown on Instagram and Twitter.



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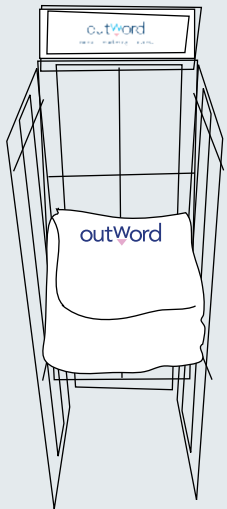
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Woodland's Mexican Food Trucks are ¡muy sabroso!

photos and text by Chris Allan

If you're looking for seriously fresh, affordable, and authentic Mexican food, check out Woodland. Yolo's capital city is just 20 miles northwest of Sacramento, and many consider it the area's best option for "la comida Mexicana." Menupix.com lists almost 60 Mexican food options, and the food trucks are a significant part of the culinary scene.

Woodland's Latino community largely started in the 1940s when the Bracero immigration program brought over 10,000 farmworkers to the fields. Today, the city's population is over 60,000, with almost 50% Hispanic or Latino, with another 15% identifying as two or more races. The community includes second and third-generation farmworkers, but Latinos are also involved in every sector of the region, from government leadership to business ownership.

Recently, *Outword* had the not-so-difficult job to seek out and sample some of the city's food truck's offerings. They are scattered throughout Woodland on both the main thoroughfares and in neighborhoods. Most of the clientele that day were Spanish-speakers, and most of the orders were to-go.

Robert Lavorito grew up in Woodland, but now lives in Washington State. "I just drove 400 miles to get here!" he said, noting that his family had made sure to stop in at Tacos El Jaliscience on their way to catch a Southern California cruise.

All the vendors we talked with said they sourced their food locally, and their menus go way beyond street tacos. Their typical parking lot ambience (often located near an auto parts or hardware store) may not be for everyone, but we can't remember the last time we paid \$4.00 for the best ceviche we've had in years. ¡Qué chévere!

Tacos Jalisquillo, 1820 E. Main Street (Home Depot parking lot, no seating), M - S, 11-6 p.m. Region: Jalisco. Specialty: Tacos de Tripa (tripe). Taste test: Grilled chicken taco (very flavorful)

Taqueria la Michloancana, 1047 North St. (covered, a few seats), M-S, 11-9 p.m. Region: Michoacán. Specialty: Tamales Elotes (roasted corn tamales, available after 3:00 p.m.). Taste Test: Chicken Synchronizada (like a stuffed quesadilla, but with two homemade delicious hot corn tortillas)

Birrieria Moooy, 801 East St. (Lopez Auto Repair parking lot, no seating), W-F, 10-sell out, S/S: 8:30 to sell out. Region: Jalisco, Specialty: Birrieria (goat or beef stew). Taste Test: None (sold out)

Taquitos la Bombonera 2, 1110 Gum Ave, M-S, 10:30-9/10 p.m. (great covered seating with picnic tables). Region: Central. Specialty: Tacos al pastor. Taste test: Fish taco (yummy, melted cheese, wonderful toppings)

Mariscos El Viejon, 5 W. Main Street (Chevron parking lot), M-T 11-8, Th-Sun, 11-7 p.m. (one picnic table). Region: Guanajuato. Specialty: Seafood cocktails. Taste Test: Ceviche (so good!)

Tacos El Jaliscience, 317 W. Main (True Value parking lot), M-Sun, 10:30-8 p.m. (No seating). Region: Jalisco. Specialty: Tacos de Birria (tacos with stew-style meat). Taste Test: Taco Birria (intensely flavorful)

Honorary mention:

Raspados (shaved ice)/Durito (pinwheel-shaped snacks)/Elotes (grilled corn) Snack stand, (entrance to Walmart Parking lot). Not a food truck, but a mobile cart vendor selling elotes-to-go (shaved boiled corn with mayonnaise, cheese, and chili). Taste test: Elotes (the chili pepper makes it!)



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Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region's Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

California Agriculture Museum

Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more. In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California's bounty.

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation

A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum's Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, "Farm to Fork: A Public History," and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento Children's Museum

Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children's Museum, including at the miniature Leo's Market and Leo's Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento's agricultural landscape in miniature, complete with mini livestock. Plus, the Children's Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.



SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity

MOSAC's interactive exhibits bring the story of water to life, demonstrating how our region is working together to conserve this natural resource for now and future generations. The "Water Challenge" exhibit lets museum visitors actively shape a watershed's flow, create a tune for saving water at home, and choose between local or non-local foods to buy based on how everyday decisions impact conservation efforts – all while learning about the environmental footprint along the way.

Utility Exploration Center

The City of Roseville's Utility Exploration Center (UEC) is a testament to the region's commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation. Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.



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Farm to Fork Festival Returns to Sacramento

Looking to have some fun this September? Visit Sacramento's 10th Anniversary of the free Farm-to-Fork Festival which will be held on Capitol Mall on Friday, Sept. 22, and Saturday, Sept. 23, combining fresh food, local beers and wines, cooking demonstrations, interactive exhibits, a concert series, and more. On Friday, the event runs from 4-9 p.m., and on Saturday, it runs longer from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



This year's festival includes a full lineup of live music that keeps the crowds entertained all day long. Canons is headlining the event on Friday night, and Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals will headline Saturday. Other festival performances include sets by Michael Franti & Spearhead, Danielle Ponder, Cautious Clay, Eric Gales, Zia Victoria, and other local bands and DJs. For the full performance schedule, including each artist's bio, visit farmtofork.com.

And the entertainment keeps on going! This year's demo stage presentations include a drag queen chef relay, Sacramento trivia with Local Roots Food Tours, a restaurant relay challenge, various food demos, and more.

When it comes to the food vendors, the best of the Sacramento region is showcased, and with Visit Sacramento's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, a series of vendor grants are offered in partnership with Bank of America for first-time vendors who identify as a minority/person of color and/or LGBTQ and demonstrate a financial need. A list of participating vendors will be announced as the festival gets closer on farmtofork.com.

To celebrate 10 years of Farm to Fork, Visit Sacramento will host two ticketed events

during the festival, allowing attendees to enhance their festival experience. On Friday night, chefs from 20 participating Sacramento restaurants will cook up an epic food experience at The Grand Tasting: 10 Years of Farm to Fork. On Saturday, the Farm x Fire x Fork with Tyler Florence event will combine music by country artist Lindsey Ell, a beer tasting, BBQ food made by the Food Network's Tyler Florence, and cocktails for an unforgettable evening. Tickets for both events are available for purchase at farmtofork.com.

Visit Sacramento's Farm-to-Fork Festival was created as a celebration of the region's incredible food and agriculture, and a chance to introduce people to the chefs, farmers, ranchers, vintners, and brewers who bring delicious food and drinks to our tables each day. Since 2013, the Farm to Fork Festival has become one of the country's most anticipated food and music festival, drawing thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world.

What are you waiting for? Come on down to Capitol Mall and celebrate the Sacramento region's incredible food and agriculture at the 10th anniversary of the Farm-to-Fork Festival.

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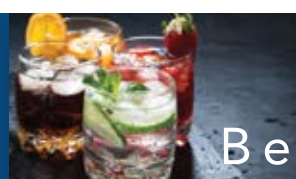
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Hadestown Arrives in SacTown Plus, Clyde's Kills at CapStage

by Chris Narloch

Once September rolls around, the fall theater season begins in earnest. This year is no different, and NorCal theater queens can choose from at least three must-see productions now playing – or opening soon.



Hippest Trip: The Soul Train Musical

This brand new, Broadway-bound musical is receiving its world premiere in San Francisco at A.C.T. (American Conservatory Theatre), which means you can check it out before the show gets dissected by New York City theater critics and fans.

Questlove (from The Roots) is a producer of “Hippest Trip,” and that should give you some idea of the quality and commitment behind the musical, which is an unabashed love letter to Soul Train, the legendary and ground-breaking Black music showcase, hosted by the visionary Don Cornelius, that ran for 36 years on TV.

The Black answer to Dick Clark’s popular American Bandstand TV show, “Soul Train” featured non-white dancers and funkier music, including rhythm & blues, hip hop, and disco.

When it sings and dances, “Hippest Trip” more than lives up to its title – the set, the costumes, and especially the dancers and singers are phenomenal. Unfortunately, the show is conceived as a biopic of Cornelius, and that’s where the musical runs into trouble.

Cornelius was a suave and sexy host on air, but by all accounts, a very difficult man behind the scenes. Prone to anger and arrogance, he sometimes treated his staff, the show’s dancers, and even his own family with disrespect.

Although the actor who plays the elder Cornelius (Quentin Earl Darrington) is terrific both vocally and dramatically, I would have preferred a book told from the point of view of his son, a much more sympathetic figure in the show.

The musical – in its current form – soars to the sky every time the ensemble tears into Camille A. Brown’s unbelievably great choreography, which is set to classic soul songs such as “Brick House,” “Superstition,” “September,” “I Will Survive,” “Good Times,” “Grooveline,” “Fight the Power,” and “Funky Town.”

My heart sank, however, each time the music stopped, and we returned to the dark and dreary tale of how Cornelius built his empire but lost himself.

“Hippest Trip: The Soul Train Musical” performs through Oct. 8, 2023. For more information, visit www.act-sf.org

Clyde's

If there is a more consistent and adventurous playwright than Lynn Nottage currently working in the American theatre, their name slips my mind after seeing “Clyde’s,” Nottage’s latest dynamite drama, now playing at Sacramento’s Capital Stage.

I was knocked out when I saw this play last year in Berkeley and impressed all over again after seeing Capital Stage’s very funny production. (I was worried that my peak experience might not be repeated, but I should have known that CapStage, which is almost as reliable as Nottage, would hit this one out of the park.)

The play is essentially about how formerly incarcerated individuals rise above their pasts (or don’t) after being released. The title character is a tough-as-nails dragon lady who rules her sandwich shop with an iron hand and a sharp tongue.

Clyde’s employees – all but one, persons of color – are on the receiving end of her wrath, but in the end, her cruelty fails to crush their dreams of a fresh start. The cast here is uniformly excellent, and Anthony D’Juan directs the play with a firm grip.

You have until Sept. 24 to see the magic currently on stage at Capital Stage on J Street. Don’t miss it. For more information, go to <https://capstage.org>



Hadestown

Another play I can’t wait to see again, “Hadestown” will grace the stage of the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center in Sacramento, courtesy of Broadway On Tour, this Sept. 19-24. The superb, Tony-winning musical is receiving a not-to-be-missed local premiere.

Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards® including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy® Award for Best Musical Theater Album, this acclaimed new show from celebrated singer-songwriter Anais Mitchell and innovative director Rachel Chavkin is a love story for today and always.

“Hadestown” intertwines two mythic tales – that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone – as it invites you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.

Performed by a vibrant ensemble of actors, dancers and singers, “Hadestown” is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.

Go to www.broadwaysacramento.com

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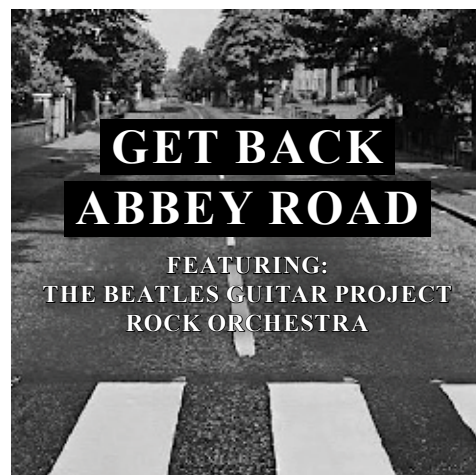
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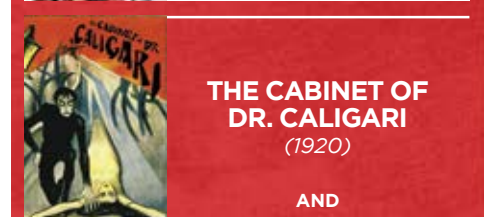
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A Trio of New Queer Movies by Chris Narloch

Here are mini reviews of three new queer films, including a very sweet, young adult, same-sex love story, a bad-ass biopic of a real-life gay luchador, and a lusty lesbian comedy about a high school female fight club.



Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

Charming is the perfect word to describe this big screen adaptation of a young adult novel about a pair of Mexican American boys who become best friends (and maybe more?) while struggling with their ethnicity and family relationships in El Paso, Texas circa 1987.

Max Pelayo and Reese Gonzales nail their lead roles, and they are ably supported by Eva Longoria, Eugenio Derbez, and the rest of the movie's talented cast. This is the type of small-scale film that doesn't receive much hype or publicity but deserves to be seen on the big screen. Don't miss it.

"Aristotle and Dante..." is scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on September 15.



Bottoms

This incredibly violent and raunchy queer comedy won't be for everyone, but it is without a doubt the finest female teen fight club film ever made. (That's a joke by the way, since "Bottoms" is the only such movie I know of.)

Two high school girls – one Black and one white – plot to lose their virginity with their cheerleader crushes, but things go haywire after their scheme is outed. Edgy doesn't even begin to describe this wildly subversive movie which would almost certainly give Ron DeSantis a serious stroke.

"Bottoms" was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre when we went to press.



Cassandro

One of my favorite actors, the great Gael Garcia Bernal, gives an Oscar-worthy performance in the fascinating, strange-but-true tale of Saul Armendariz, a gay amateur wrestler who refused to be the butt of the joke in the ring and instead turned the tables on an entire sport.

Cassandro was his stage name, and he became known as the Liberace of Lucha Libre, carving out a fearless queer identity within a very masculine sport, thanks to a very supportive mother and a female trainer (beautifully played by Perla De La Rosa and Roberta Colindrez, respectively). Available beginning September 22 on Prime Video.



Barbie 2.0

The surprise blockbuster of the year is officially the biggest U.S. box office hit of 2023 so far, and Warner Bros. is celebrating its success by releasing the movie in IMAX theaters for one week only, with new post-credits footage approved by the movie's director, Greta Gerwig.

Get your tickets now for this special super-sized engagement of the history-making comedy, which starts on September 22 at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Queen Of The Night! Remembering Whitney

OCTOBER 6, 2023

Queen of the Night! Remembering Whitney, starring Trina Johnson Finn is a 90-minute live entertainment show that brings the top selling hits of the late Whitney Houston to the stage and transports the essence and persona of Whitney for a night of exhilarating and gripping performances. Showcasing fan-favorite songs from Whitney Houston's past albums, along with snappy dialogue providing personal insight behind each song, some of Las Vegas' hottest musicians, two incredible background vocalists, and four dynamic dancers, this amazing production will be a wonderful treat for all the Whitney Fans around the world!

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NOVEMBER 2-5, 2023

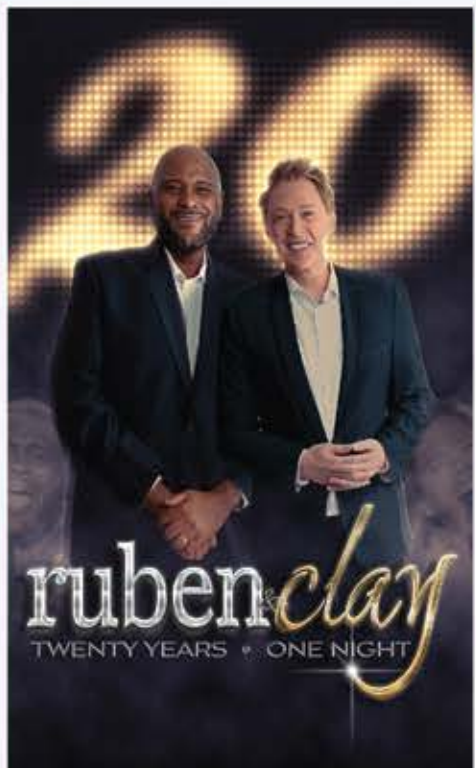
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On Your Feet! is the story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, two people who—through an unwavering dedication to one another and their pursuit of the American dream— showcased their talent, their music, and their heritage to the world in a remarkable rise to global superstardom.

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Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!



Ruben Studdard & Clay Aiken - Twenty | The Tour

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Ruben Studdard & Clay Aiken are thrilled to reunite 20 years after captivating audiences during their historic run on the second season of Fox's *American Idol* in 2003. Due to overwhelming demand, and on the heels of the first leg of their critically acclaimed *Twenty | The Tour*, the multi-platinum recording artists are hitting the road again for the second leg of their reunion tour. From Clay's iconic rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" to Ruben's soulful single "Flying Without Wings," join America's favorite odd couple for an unforgettable evening of music and memories, delivered as only these true superstars can.



David Sedaris

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

One of America's pre-eminent humor writers with over 16 million copies of his books in print, David Sedaris is a master of satire and one of today's most observant writers. Beloved for his personal essays and short stories, he has been nominated for five Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album.

He has been awarded the Terry Southern Prize for Humor, Thurber Prize for American Humor, Jonathan Swift International Literature Prize for Satire and Humor, *Time* 2001 Humorist of the Year Award, and the Medal for Spoken Language from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Tickets available online or call the box office:
HarrisCenter.net | (916) 608-6888

Out & About

Quintessential Sacramento!

words and photos by Chris Allan

As a gentle Delta breeze took the heat down a degree or two, 850 lucky diners gathered on Sunday afternoon, September 10th for the now-iconic Tower Bridge Dinner. White linen-covered tables with simple leafy garnishes stretched across the historic bridge as excited diners arrived in their summer chic to take part in the five-course gourmet meal.

With appetizers and desserts provided by 50 local eateries, and the entrees prepared by celebrated local chefs, the culinary extravaganza is one of several events that Visit Sacramento holds each year during the Farm-to-Fork Festival. Despite the high pedigree of the meal, however, the event was casual, colorful, and fun.

Glasses clinked, friends hugged, and strangers sat elbow-to-elbow as the sun glinted off the bridge's golden girders. Noting the tremendous logistics that the organization must put in place each year for this special event, Kari Miskit of Visit Sacramento believes

that fine dining on a piece of infrastructure that has one of the best views of the city is simply "quintessential Sacramento."

Proceeds from the Tower Bridge Dinner help fund the free farm-to-fork street festival held later in the month, as well as scholarships for the children of migrant farmworkers.





A Chat with Chef Rebecca Campbell

photo and article by
Chris Allan

While at the Tower Bridge preview event, *Outword* had the chance to chat with local chef Rebecca Campbell, of Sac City Brews and Nourish Event Kitchen. We asked her what life is like for a culinary artist.



Chef Rebecca Campbell

“The reason why I’m here at this event is not because of nachos and wings, which we sell every day, but also because we do seasonal beer dinners and wine pairings as well. We do a fourth quarter quarterly food and beer pairing. I find a region and four beers from there, and then build a menu around the five different beers.”

From rural Pilot Hill originally, Campbell has a perfect farm-to-fork background. She grew up on farms in El Dorado County, working at farmers markets before she moved on to use a degree in community development to help local farmers. These days she’s helping growers gain access to larger and

bigger institutional markets, like the Bridge Dinner event.

Notably, Campbell is the one female participating as a chef this year, a role that she’s used to but says isn’t always easy. “It’s intimidating a bit, I’m not gonna lie,” she says. “I’m walking in when you know, you’re the only woman in the room.”

Campbell’s the mother of two, with one newborn at home. “I’ve got a lot going on being a woman, but at the same time, these guys are really welcoming and very team oriented. This is a very collaborative group. And I love that.”

Go to www.farmtofork.com and www.saccitybrews.com



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In Your Prime? Then Join the PrimeTimers at One of Their Events

Here's a list of PrimeTimers of Sacramento events coming up. As usual, you can find details of these events on their Facebook page and on meetup.com, as well as their main website: <https://primetimersofsacramento.org>



Thursday, Sept 14th at 5:30 p.m., River City Brewing Co. (dinner)

Friday, Sept 15th @ 5:30 p.m., Eat Around the Globes at Maydoon (Persian Food)

Sunday, Sept 17th @ 12 noon, Museum Day (Crocker Art Museum) FREE admission.

Thursday, Sept 21st @ 11 a.m., LunchTimers Buckhorn BBQ & Grill on Howe Ave.

Friday, September 22nd @ 6 p.m., Farm to Fork Festival FREE admission. Meet at entrance 6pm and roam around with fellow PrimeTimers.

Happy Hour at Roscoes, 1st Friday of each month at 3 p.m.

Let Them Eat Cake at Crocker

Wisconsin poet laureate Dasha Kelly-Hamilton cuts into cake, revealing what its history and ingredients can teach us about race, class, and equity in America. Experience a live performance by Dasha and her baker, delicious conversation, and a sampling of cakes prepared by a wide array of bakers from the Sacramento region. Tasting and non-tasting tickets are available for this event, on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. For more information and to purchase, go to <https://my.crockerart.org/1178/1340>



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By, Linda Petavine

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THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE UPCOMING PET ISSUE OF OUTWORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2023

GOOD LUCK



Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Autumn is in the air! Or is it? Who knows! But Rainbow Festival is done for another year, the naughtiest of the season's private pool parties have come and gone, and deals on early Halloween decor are underway! So as we put away the floaties and clean out the BBQ, it's a perfect time to prepare our early autumn calendar with some fun events.

Sept. 18 is National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day, led by The AIDS Institute. It highlights the resilience and unique needs of individuals living long and fulfilling lives with HIV. Also, Sept. 27 is National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Launched in 2008 by the National Association of People with AIDS, it aims to acknowledge the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men.

A huge congratulations to the 65 NorCal AIDS Cycle riders, crew, and volunteers who raised over \$145,000, which was distributed to local beneficiaries on August 30. Information on the 2024 ride is posted on the NCAC website. Norcalaidscycle.org.

Tickets are limited for the 2023 9th Annual Farm 2 Scholar Dinner at American River College Culinary Arts Campus, 4700 College Oak Dr. Indulge in a Farm-2-Fork dinner and wine pairing with proceeds supporting LGBTQ and allied students through the Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Scholarship Program. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Sept. 28, from 6-9 p.m. RainbowChamber.com.

Make sure you're at the Rainbow Chamber's 2023 September Networking Mixer at the fabulous Hyatt Regency, 1209 L St. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Entry is just \$10 for non-members or absolutely FREE for RCC Members. Don't miss out! Rainbowchamber.com.

Don't miss the vibrant and hilarious Madagascar the Musical at Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom from Sept. 21-23. Join Alex, Marty, Melman, Gloria, and the clever penguins in an unforgettable journey of friendship, hope, and nonstop fun with catchy new music and larger-than-life characters. Harriscenter.net.

Get your costumes ready for the thrilling 31st Folsom Renaissance Faire & International Jousting Tournament on Sept. 23-24 at Folsom City Lions Park, 403 Stafford St. in Folsom. Immerse yourself in a captivating world of knights, jesters, wenches, and more. Enjoy jousting, crafts, music, comedy, magic, and the vibrant cosplay culture. Dress to impress in your finest time-traveling attire! Folsomfaire.com.

Resurrection Theatre's production of "Take Me Out" is a home run theatrical experience! Richard Greenberg's play



about a star center fielder confronting prejudices after coming out is a powerful narrative on America's favorite pastime. The show runs through Sept. 30 at the Wilkerson Theater, 2509 R St. Resurrectiontheatre.com.

The 2023 Regional Hispanic Economic Report is set to be presented at the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom on Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. Honorary Chairs Mayor Rosario Rodriguez and Dr. Art Pimentel highlight Latino leadership and provide a comprehensive perspective on the Hispanic impact in the Sacramento region. Sachcc.org.

Dive into the splashiest soirée of the season! Join the Imperial Court of Sacramento (CGNIE) at FACES Nightclub, 2000 K St., for a wet and wild pool party fundraiser. From 1-8 p.m. rub shoulders with HMIM 50 Uneke Chanel and ICP50/Mr. Gay 2023 Dario Mireles. Enjoy sizzling gogos, mouthwatering BBQ, Jello shots, and a sizzling swimsuit showdown. It's all for a good cause, as proceeds benefit the Monarch's Charity Fund. Don't miss the wave of fun! FACES.net.

Calling all artists! Dive into the creative waves and submit your masterpieces for the 57th National Mother Lode Art Exhibition! Join them for the grand opening on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m. at the Mills Station Arts and Culture Center, a California nonprofit gallery with an amazing history. With 16 dazzling ribbons up for grabs, it's an art extravaganza you can't miss! Entries accepted until noon on September 22, 2023. Placervillearts.com.

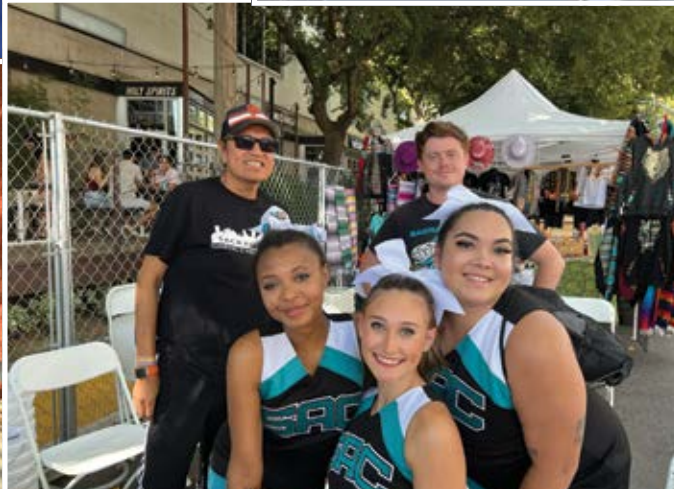
Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthew@hengemedia.com.



Out & About

Rainbow Festival 2023

photos by Ron Tackitt





Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 28 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 received 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.

Should you wish to support us please click on this ad and go to:
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Ghetto Gastro Launches Appliance Line 'CRUXGG'

CRUX, part of the Made By Gather™ portfolio of kitchenware brands, announced the launch of their updated kitchen electrics collection with Ghetto Gastro, the Bronx-born culinary collective. This highly-anticipated new CRUXGG line takes a curated approach – with a simple, sleek colorway (Calm Gray) that upgrades the countertop with every kitchen's must haves. Using direct consumer feedback and deep market insights, the line was designed with mass appeal and gets to the core of what we know the consumer wants.

The CRUXGG line is available exclusively at Target, both online at Target.com and on-shelves in all Target stores. To make the products even more accessible, the new line is being introduced with special introductory pricing.

Leading the pack is the new, and improved, 6.0 QT touchscreen air fryer now equipped with our patented TurboCrisp™ technology to ensure all your meals are crispy, perfectly cooked, and healthy – and cooking 50% faster than traditional ovens! The 5 featured cooking presets (air fry, bake, broil, reheat, and roast) makes it easy to use and the powerful 1750-watt heating system makes it faster than ever. Plus, each air fryer comes with a special CRUXGG recipe booklet packed with signature Ghetto Gastro recipes – such as red velvet cake and crispy sweet potato fries.

The first launch of CRUXGG kitchenware landed in 2020 and proved to be an instant bestseller with the TRNR, a double rotating wae iron, selling out just 48 hours after launch. The collection gained fans and praise from culinary professionals, enthusiastic home chefs, hypebeasts, and celebrities – including Diddy, Chef Matty Matheson, Ruby Rose, and more. The CRUXGG brand's continued commitment and vision for curating design-driven consumer countertops with purpose led to the creation of our continued partnership with Target.



Ghetto Gastro is Jon, Gray, Pierre Serrao, and Lester Walker

Born in the Bronx and inspired by a youthful generation of cooking enthusiasts, Ghetto Gastro, a dynamic group of food enthusiasts and thought leaders, utilizes food to empower communities and advance social justice by igniting conversations around race, class, diversity and inclusion. Ghetto Gastro's members Jon Gray, Lester Walker, and Pierre Serrão worked with the CRUX design studio to create this next wave of countertop kitchen electrics that serve up a shared vision of style and purpose, one that uplifts communities and fosters meaningful connections through food.

"We're committed to finding new ways to bring the best out of every kitchen," said Jon, Les, and Pierre of Ghetto Gastro. "We're excited about seeing this next iteration of CRUXGG available throughout the country in communities that mean the most to us. You know the vibes – with Ghetto Gastro, everybody eats."

Ghetto Gastro is the Bronx-born culinary collective of Jon, Gray, Pierre Serrao, and Lester Walker. The group has defined its own lane, merging food, fashion, music, art, and design. Claiming both the beauty and grit from the streets with the aspiration and aesthetics of the finer things, Ghetto Gastro's interdisciplinary approach celebrates the Bronx as a driver of global culture. The crew masterfully blends influences from the African diaspora, global South ingredients, and the pulse of hip-hop to create oerings that address race, identity, and economic empowerment.

www.ghettogastro.com

Thank You Outword Supporters!

Current as of September 14, 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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Why My Restaurant Has Learned To Make Lemonade

by Alan Irvine, Scott's Seafood on the River

For those of you who own or manage a business, and most specifically a restaurant, you know that even a slight interruption to your operation can cause a ripple effect. A boarded-up broken window may make customers think they're entering a gang zone instead of an eatery they've frequented comfortably and safely for decades.



Now multiply that a hundredfold and you'll have an idea of what a very needed levee restoration project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—on the shore of my wife's and my business, Scott's Seafood on the River—has been undergoing for a few months.

While we continue to draw longtime and even new customers to the restaurant, we've had to sacrifice roughly 80 percent of our outdoor-events business as well as the scenic view of the Sacramento River to accommodate a construction wall. Our parking now has to be handled entirely by valets—and even though the Westin Hotel, our landlord, has reduced those rates, we've definitely experienced a few customers pulling up to our entrance, noting that its valet-parking-only and hanging a hard u-turn off the property.

We've discovered the need to serve not only amazingly fresh seafood and appetizers, but also to make lemonade.

Yes, I'm referring to that tired old maxim about making lemonade when you're handed

perhaps unwanted lemons. But in my case, we hired a number of the Sacramento region's most creative people to help us offset an eyesore with beauty.

First and foremost has been a lighthearted sea-themed mural by Stephanie Taylor that stretches along the back of our outdoor patio. It's a rich-blue impressionistic under-water scene which, when you check in at the restaurant, can make you feel as though you're entering an indoor/outdoor movie set. The natural sunlight offers a delightful touch—and we've been pleased to see how many diners opt for the outdoor tables even though the actual view has been replaced with an entirely artistic interpretation.

As I wrote in the *Sacramento Business Journal* recently, once the project is completed, "citizens and property owners will enjoy a greater level of protection from flooding than they have in decades." Not a bad excuse to make lemonade, I hope you'll agree.

Irvine and his wife, Sigrid, own Scott's Seafood on the River.

Coming Soon



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Sept. 18, 2023

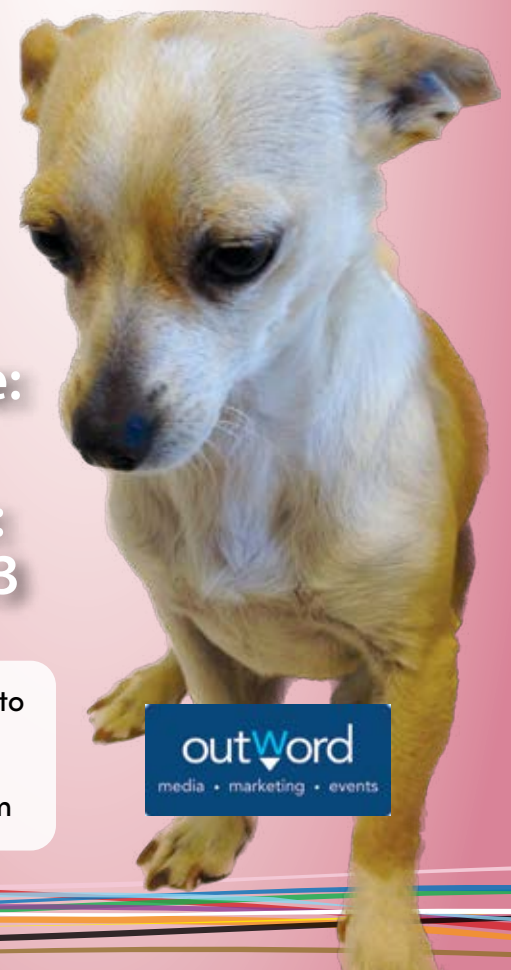
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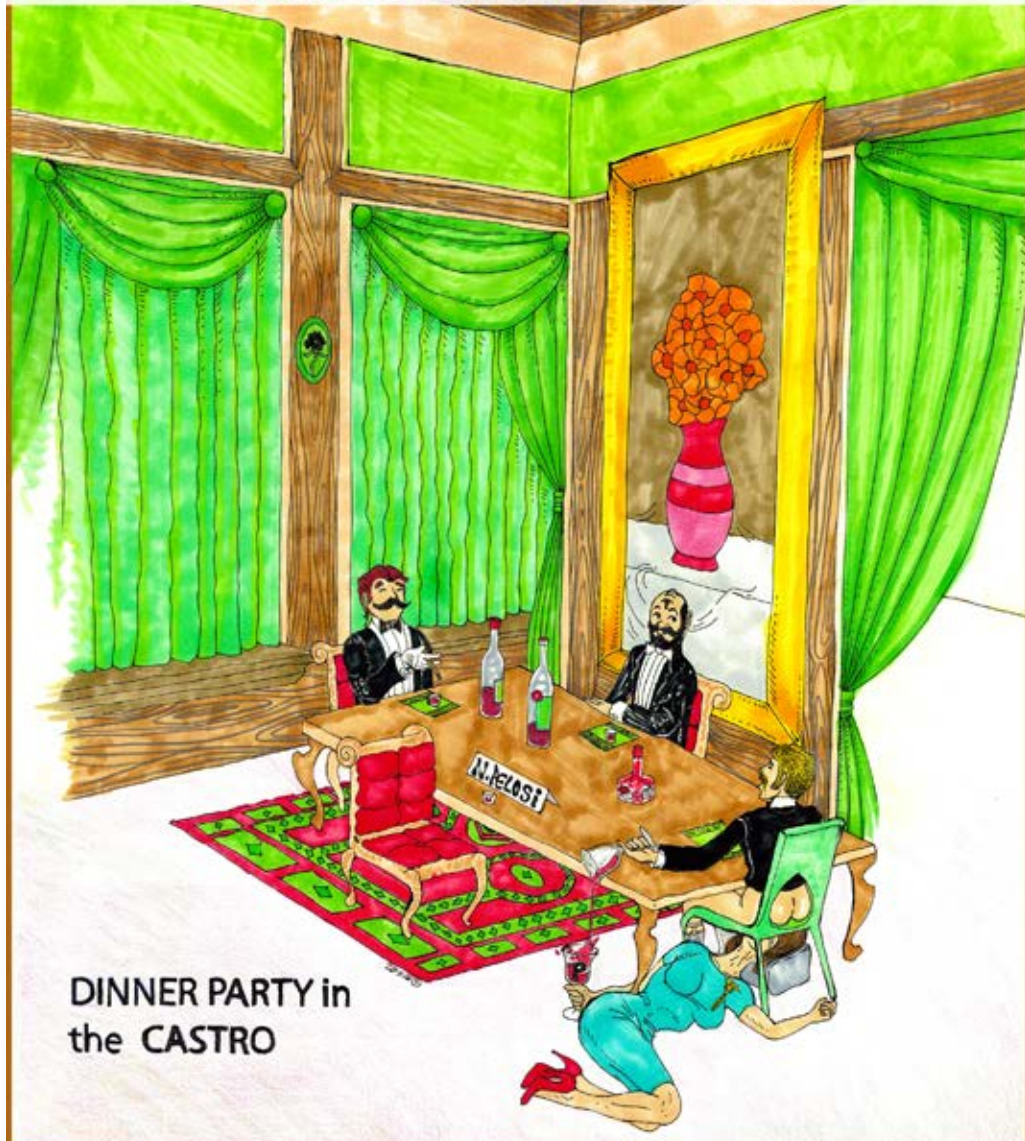
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This issue will include the Pet Photo Contest winner. It could be you, if you submit a photo now, to: graphics@outwordmagazine.com





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DINNER PARTY in
the CASTRO

Activating Taste Buds

Do you miss posting pictures of your food on social media? We do too. So, we would like to highlight your food pics here in the pages of *Outword*. Email your pics to graphics@outwordmagazine.com along with a one sentence description or location, and include your name. You can also tag your image with #outwordtastebuds and we will check them out. This isn't a contest, it's just for fun. Here are two more "gourmet" images. Now activate those buds!



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LaCosechaSacramento.com

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Roscoes916.com

SCOTT'S SEAFOOD - ON THE RIVER
916-379-5959
ScottsSeafoodontheRiver.com

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3100 O Street, Sacramento
916-452-7777 • www.eztitleandtags.com

FINANCIAL PLANNING

MIDTOWN FINANCIAL
Al Roche, 1750 Creekside Dr. Suite 215,
916-447-9220 MidtownFinancial.net

STEELE FINANCIAL PARTNERS
Judy Steele, Financial Advisor
916-846-7733
www.steelefp.com

HEATING & AIR

PERFECTION HOME SYSTEMS
916-481-0658
www.HotCold.com

HEALTH SERVICES

CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND
1912 F Street, 916-448-1110
PlayButPlaySafe.org

ONE COMMUNITY HEALTH
1500 21st St., 916-443-3299
oncommunityhealth.com

RIVER BEND MEDICAL ASSOC.
www.rbmafamlydocs.com

HOTEL/CASINO

HARD ROCK HOTEL AND CASINO
HardRockHotelSacramento.com

LIBRARIES

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8250 Belvedere, Ste. E,
916-731-8493

MUSEUMS

CROCKER ART MUSEUM
916-808-7000
CrockerArt.org

OPTOMETRY

CAMERON YEE, O.D.
6407 Riverside Blvd., 916-395-0673
DrCameronYee@aol.com

PERFORMING ARTS

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO
Safe Credit Union Performing Arts Center
916-557-1999
BroadwaySacramento.com

CREST SACRAMENTO
1013 K Street
crestssacramento.com

MONDAVI CENTER
UC Davis
mondaviarts.org

SBL ENTERTAINMENT
Sofia/B St. Theatre
bstreettheatre.org
sblentertainment.com

PEST MANAGEMENT

EARTH GUARD PEST SERVICES
916-457-7605
contact@earthguardpest.com

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PUCCT'S PHARMACY
3257 Folsom Blvd., 916-442-5891
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COLDWELL BANKER
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LYON REAL ESTATE
Tanya Curry, 916-698-9970
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outWord
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Visit IKEA at the Farm to Fork Festival!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday
SEP 28 ◀

Friday
OCT 13 ◀

Thursday
OCT 26 ◀

September

- 21 Snarky Puppy @ Mondavi Center
- ▶ 28 Farm to Scholar Dinner

November

- 2 Drag Queen Bingo
- 7-12 Ain't Too Proud @ Broadway Sacramento
- 13 Diversity Summit
- 16 Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens @ Mondavi Center
- 17 CoCo Live-to-Film Concert @ Mondavi Center
- 23 Chosen Family Feast Hosted by LGBT Community Center

December

- 2 Mark O'Connor's an Appalachian Christmas @ Mondavi Center
- 10 Chamber of Music Society @ Mondavi Center
- 13 Rainbow Chamber Holiday Mixer
- 27-31 Dr. Seuss The Musical @ Broadway Sacramento

October

- 4 Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer-Chico
- 5 Drag Queen Bingo
- 8 Q Prom Hosted by LGBT Community Center
- 17 Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer
- ▶ 13 Outword Happy Hour
- 24-29 Les Miserables @ Broadway Sacramento
- ▶ 26 Rainbow Chamber Boas and Bow Ties
- 29 Frankenstein @ Mondavi Center

2024 Events for future planning

- 1/25 You Better Werk! Career and Job Readiness Fair
- 6/2 10th Annual Run/Walk for Equality-Davis
- 6/8 Sacramento Pride Festival



DO YOU HAVE AN
UPCOMING EVENT? LET
US HELP YOU GET THE
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September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Healing can begin with a conversation



To learn more about One Community Health's Mental Health Services, visit onecommunityhealth.com or scan the QR code.

One Community Health is a primary healthcare and specialty care provider dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community.

We are dedicated to creating a healthier Sacramento by increasing access to care for all members of our community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or ability to pay.



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onecommunityhealth.com



📍 Midtown Campus
1500 21 Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

📍 Arden-Arcade Campus
1442 Ethan Way, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95825

📍 Wind Youth Clinic
815 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811