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# Nation's Leading LGBTQ+ Groups Endorse Biden-Harris 2024

To date, Equality PAC, Human Rights Campaign PAC (HRC PAC), and the National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund (NCTE AF) have endorsed Biden-Harris 2024 – the first time the groups have jointly endorsed a presidential ticket. This endorsement comes amidst an unprecedented spike in anti-LGBTQ+ state legislation, with more than 550 bills introduced in 43 states, and more than 80 signed into law – more than doubling last year, which was previously the worst year on record. In their endorsement, leaders of these groups highlighted President Biden and Vice President Harris' actions to strengthen protections for LGBTQ+ Americans, and their steadfast commitment to passing additional federal legislation to strengthen LGBTQ+ rights.

"At a time when the forces of hatred seek to divide us by race, place and identity the choice in this election is clear," said Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson. "LGBTQ+ Americans are living in a state of emergency and the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration is needed now more than ever. In their first term, President Biden and Vice President Harris have worked closely with HRC and other advocates to secure historic, landmark victories for LGBTQ+ Americans – and we proudly endorse them and look forward to continuing that work together."

"The National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund is proud to announce its endorsement of President Joe Biden for a second term," said Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen, executive director of the NCTE Action Fund. "Since taking office, President Biden has surpassed the efforts of all preceding administrations in his dedication to advancing the protections & rights of the transgender community. Without question, the Biden Administration has been the strongest advocate for the needs of transgender Americans of any presidential administration in American history."

"Throughout his first term, President Biden has laid the groundwork for a new era of strengthened rights and improved well-being for transgender Americans. We anticipate and look forward to further momentum for the advancement of transgender rights that could be accomplished in a second term, and toward a future where collaborative initiatives continue to thrive," said Heng-Lehtinen. "The pursuit of equality remains an ongoing journey, and the Biden Administration's accomplishments of today lay a solid groundwork for an even more promising tomorrow."

"Equality PAC is proud to stand with the most pro-equality Administration in the history of the United States – and we will do everything we can to help re-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris next year," said Equality PAC Co-Chairs Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA) and Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY). "Since taking office, President Biden and Vice President Harris have worked tirelessly to expand LGBTQ rights, protect our community, and advocate for passage of the Equality Act. The LGBTQ community is under seemingly constant attack from extremists that want to roll back

history and take away the basic rights that we have fought for and won in recent years. It is critical that we elect strong allies into office at every level of our government, including the presidency and vice presidency – allies like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris that will stand up for our community and speak out against injustice and hate. Make no mistake, LGBTQ rights are on the ballot in 2024 – and Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the only candidates where we can put our faith, trust, and vote next year."

Combined, these groups represent more than 60 million Americans across the country. In their endorsements, the groups announced critical actions to activate and mobilize LGBTQ+ voters and their friends, families, and allies – including in critical battleground states. LGBTQ+ voters are one of the fastest growing voting blocs in the nation, especially in battleground states, and are projected to represent nearly one-fifth of voters by 2040.

HRC PAC has committed to activating its three million members and grassroots supporters to mobilize 62 million Equality Voters (voters for whom LGBTQ+ equality is a top priority), who stopped a Red Wave from materializing in the last election cycle and will have an outsized impact next November, nationwide and investing in direct voter engagement in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. HRC PAC will run a paid media campaign in battleground states targeting Equality Voters and will funnel significant and expanded investments into battleground states where HRC has already built up considerable infrastructure, including full-time staff and organizers who have remained on the ground since 2018 to help keep Equality Voters engaged and geared up for November. HRC PAC will prioritize outreach to the nearly 13.5 million Equality Voters in these states.

NCTE Action Fund has committed to a national voter registration effort focused on registering thousands with the goal of empowering transgender, non-binary, and intersex voters across the nation like never before. The NCTE Action Fund also looks forward to leading a comprehensive voter education campaign, designed to educate the public on the significance of Biden's candidacy for the future of transgender community.



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# Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Reopens November 8

The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink will open on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 7th and K streets in the heart of downtown Sacramento. To celebrate the kick-off of the rink's 31st season, elected officials, community leaders, and valued partners will participate in a special ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. that day. At 2 p.m., the ice rink opens to the public with a reduced \$2 Opening Day admission.



"The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is a long-standing tradition for the Sacramento region, and we're excited to bring this community space back downtown," said Michael Ault, Executive Director of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "As the central social district, the holidays are the perfect time to gather with friends and loved ones, support local, and enjoy the season in

our city." Located downtown just steps away from the Golden 1 Center, popular retail shops and restaurants, and the historic Old Sacramento Waterfront, the outdoor Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is open Tuesdays through Sundays with its closing day on Monday, January 15, 2024. Additionally, a series of exciting events and activations are planned for the Downtown Ice Rink, offering a variety of ways to enjoy the holiday season with community partners. Special events and activations lineup:  
 Opening Day: 2 – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8  
 On Opening Day, visitors can skate freshly made ice and join Downtown Sacramento Partnership and valued partners in kicking off the season; reduced admission is \$2.  
 Veterans Day: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 and 11  
 Downtown Sacramento is celebrating the people in uniform this Veterans Day. Active military and veterans skate FREE all day and throughout the season (with valid military ID).

Princess & Superhero Day with Reading: 12 – 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18  
 The annual Princess & Superhero Day returns to the Ice Rink where skaters of all ages are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite princess or superhero and can expect visits from special characters. In addition, local author and news anchor, Leticia Ortiz will read her books aloud in both English and Spanish at 2 p.m.  
 River City Food Bank Donation Drive: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19  
 Get into the holiday spirit and give back to the community at the ice rink this season. Presented by Western Health Advantage, bring nonperishable food items or toiletries to donate to River City Food Bank and receive \$5 off skate admission.  
 For more information about the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, special holiday hours, or to book a group reservation, visit [www.GoDowntownSac.com/icerink](http://www.GoDowntownSac.com/icerink) and join the conversation using #DowntownSac.

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Poppy getting a drink.  
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- SKK Developments
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- The Fall of the House of Usher
- Phil Plukebaum
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## Campus Pride Releases the 2023 List of "The Absolute Worst, Most Unsafe Campuses for LGBTQ+ Youth"

Campus Pride's list of the worst colleges and universities for LGBTQ+ students in the United States has grown to 196. This year, three new campuses were added and updates were made to nearly one-third of the campuses on the list, documenting new instances of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

"The Worst List provides prospective college students and their families with crucial information about the most blatantly unsafe campuses in the country for LGBTQ+ people," said Campus Pride Founder, CEO and Executive Director Shane Mendez Windmeyer. "It is absolutely necessary to bring attention to campuses that have a documented history of anti-LGBTQ+ actions or that have chosen to openly discriminate against LGBTQ+ people, often shamelessly using religion as a justification to discriminate."

In order to be on the Worst List, a campus must have a documented history of anti-LGBTQ+ actions, programs and practices, or have applied for a Title IX religious

request permission regarding a specific issue, policy or practice — essentially stating a specific intent to discriminate against LGBTQ+ students.

One highlight from this year's updates to the Worst List is the egregious case of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The campus was granted a Title IX religious exemption that not only covers housing, admissions, and the requirement to provide "comparable facilities," but also includes sexual harassment. In the letter from the OCR approving Baylor's exemption, a note states: "the University requests assurance 'that the belief in or practice of its religious tenets by the University or its students' would not constitute 'unwelcome conduct' under the

Oak Valley College (Rialto, CA), which received a Title IX religious exemption in March 2023 and mentions "homosexuality" as immoral sexual activity that goes against the personal conduct honor code, along with other statements in the Student Handbook that negatively target LGBTQ+ students.

exemption. Religious colleges often ask the federal government for Title IX exemptions so that they can discriminate against LGBTQ+ students, while still receiving federal taxpayer funding.

### The new additions to the Worst List are:

Faulkner University (Montgomery, Alabama), which received a Title IX religious exemption to openly discriminate against LGBTQ+ people in March 2023.

Oak Valley College (Rialto, CA), which received a Title IX religious exemption in March 2023 and mentions "homosexuality" as immoral sexual activity that goes against the personal conduct honor code, along with other statements in the Student Handbook that negatively target LGBTQ+ students.

Welch College (Gallatin, Tennessee), which has a recent history of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination with an alleged Title IX violation.

Under Title IX statutes, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance, any educational institution "controlled by a religious organization" may apply for an exemption if adhering to the requirements of Title IX "would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization."

However, a Title IX exemption does not offer a carte blanche to discriminate in all areas. When a college applies to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) for an exemption, they must

Department's definition of 'sexual harassment' under Title IX." Baylor is the first known university to have requested and received a Title IX religious exemption that covers sexual harassment.

"The freedom of religion is important — but that freedom doesn't give anyone the right to discriminate, harass and inflict lasting harm on students, and that's what's happening at every single college and university on the Worst List. Discrimination against LGBTQ+ people has become more visible and blatant on many college campuses this year, even under the current Democratic administration," said Shane Mendez Windmeyer. "The fact that, in 2023, our federal government is still granting campuses like Baylor an exemption from laws protecting LGBTQ+ students from sexual harassment is something that's shocking and disturbing. It is cause for great alarm — and is sure to embolden other religiously-affiliated colleges and universities."

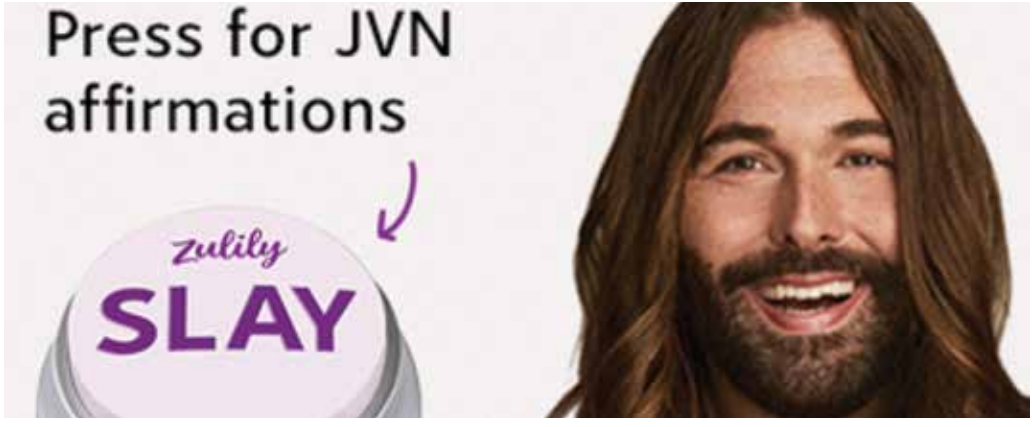
Another Worst List college that raised special concern this year is Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, California), where a dean was allegedly fired for "insubordination," because he sided with a colleague who had been terminated due to her support for LGBTQ+ rights.

View the complete "Worst List: The Absolute Worst, Most Unsafe Campuses for LGBTQ+ Youth" and profiles of individual colleges and universities on the list at: [CampusPride.org/WorstList](http://CampusPride.org/WorstList).



# Jonathan Van Ness to Help Reduce Stress This Holiday Season

The holidays are meant to be a time of celebration and togetherness, but for many moms, they can also be a time of stress as they carry the weight of the season on their shoulders. So, online retailer Zulily announced a new partnership with TV personality, author, podcast host, and hair stylist Jonathan Van Ness (“Queer Eye”) to reduce this stress by uplifting, empowering and celebrating millions of moms who do it all with the first-ever Slay Button.



Eighty-six percent of moms are the primary manager of the holidays for their families<sup>1</sup>, with 61% estimating they spend more than 75 hours on holiday tasks each year<sup>2</sup>. Between shopping for gifts, decorating their homes, coordinating gatherings and all the other holiday season to-dos, moms are juggling a lot, and many feel pressure to get everything done.

To reduce stress for the 85 million moms in the U.S., and to make the holiday season more magical, Zulily is launching a limited edition Slay Button that plays five inspirational and empowering affirmations from Jonathan Van Ness, reminding moms that they’re slaying the holiday season and every day while encouraging

them to celebrate themselves and everything they do.

“I’m ecstatic to partner with Zulily to bring the Slay Button to life and help moms find small moments of self-love, which is so important every day, but especially during the holidays, which can be really stressful and exhausting for moms,” said Jonathan Van Ness. “I’m excited to be part of their hype squad and make sure they know they’re slaying the holidays by being their fabulous, lovable selves.”

Starting today, moms can get their own Slay Button on Zulily, while supplies last. For more information visit: [www.zulily.com](http://www.zulily.com).

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# When the War is Won

words and photos by Chris Allan

It took almost three months of investigation and a 30-page document to say what Pastor Casey Tinnin already knew. “Nothing fixes things like the truth. I knew the facts. But I only know what I know.”

Tinnin is referring to the Van Dermyden Makus Investigations Law Firm report on behalf of the Western Placer Unified School District. The document cleared Tinnin of any wrongdoing concerning the Landing Spot (the LGBTQIA+ youth group meeting on campuses within the district), and the hit video created by Project Veritas.

As the report explains, “All of the criticism and commentary about Pastor Tinnin and The Landing Spot we received and read is based upon ideological differences and beliefs about the LGBTQIA+ community in general, and about a school’s role in the LGBTQIA+ community in particular, and not any personal knowledge about wrongdoing by Pastor Tinnin towards students or against parents.” (p.22)

The report then lists statistics about the prevalence of suicide among youth related to gender and sexual orientation and notes a majority consensus that schools should have trained counselors available to support these youths.

Tinnin speaks with gratitude about the findings, noting how helpful it was “to have an outside source come in and really

articulate well that this work is desperately needed in the community.”

Tinnin was similarly exonerated by Placer Unified School District the previous week, and Roseville Joint Union High School District did not undergo a formal investigation.

Since the report’s release last June, Tinnin says things have calmed down considerably. The Landing Spot (parents and youth) is still meeting regularly, albeit off any school campus. A record 40 youth attended last summer’s Camp Fruit Loop.

“I feel so thankful for all the support that we’ve received,” Tinnin says, confirming that over \$30,000 was donated after The Landing Spot’s drag show fundraiser was canceled. Next year they hope to extend the camp to a full week for up to 50 youth.

Tinnin spent four months on a pre-planned sabbatical before returning to the pulpit at Loomis Basin Congregational UCC in mid-August. Outword went to visit Tinnin on a Sunday morning, noting that the church still has a security presence as a precaution. We found Tinnin in the pulpit wearing a rainbow stole discussing “What’s Love Got to



Pastor Casey Tinnin



Pastor Casey Tinnin with parishioners

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Do with It?” across the sanctuary from a rainbow ocean landscape painting.

He was energetic and focused, sharing humorous stories from his travels and reflecting on the patient love of his husband. He engaged the congregation with call-and-response, discussion questions and contemplative music.

The 128-year-old church is the oldest in Loomis and was strongly supportive of Tinnin throughout his ordeal. The Landing Spot started with \$2,000 as a church ministry, and the organization’s mission statement speaks of eliminating “injustice, bigotry and racism,” and working toward equality for all people.

Parishioner Diana Madoshi, who led the children’s sermon, said the anti-racist statement was why she started attending the Loomis UCC. Heather Rockwell said she realized she could not stay at her old church after their family told a social worker that they would be willing to foster an LGBT child.

“We started to look for a new church and we found Loomis UCC and it’s just been a fabulous fit and so wonderful.”

A strong culture of caring appears to be what both The Landing Spot and Loomis Basin UCC have in common. We asked Tinnin how these groups help address violence toward queer people.

“We do that by being a community of

support for those who are actively experiencing racism and homophobia in our community. We are literally a landing spot,” he says.

However, Tinnin is also a realist. He is well aware of the book bans and forced-outing policies that school districts are backing and knows that the journey is far from over. When asked about a song that comes to mind at this point in his life, he mentions “Glory,” from the movie Selma. Part of Tinnin’s sabbatical took him into the Deep South, looking for inspiration from the country’s great Civil Rights leaders. He says he came away realizing that, like then, we are also “up against a nation that is not ready to see or believe that this sort of hateful violence exists.”

One day when the glory comes  
It will be ours; it will be ours  
Oh, one day when the war is won  
We will be sure, we will be sure  
Oh glory.

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



# Providing Emotional Support for Weary Travelers

We've entered the busiest quarter for travel of the year. The holidays are approaching and that comes with a whole set of stressors, but Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has a special team dedicated to providing emotional support for harried travelers.

BARC is here to help. These special pups' friendly faces and "Pet Me" vests relieve some of the anxiety that comes with travel for many passengers. BARC – short for the Boarding Area Relaxation Corps – greets guests once they pass through security, with big smiles and wagging tails. Studies show spending time with dogs can reduce blood pressure and anxiety while boosting feelings of relaxation and well-being. As traveling can be stressful for some people – from fear of flying to worrying about delays or cancellations – these dogs provide a furry dose of relief.

Sophie, a King Charles Spaniel, has been with the program since the beginning and loves to meet new people. Logan, a Great Pyrenees with soulful eyes, is a hit with even the littlest passengers – even though he's much bigger than they are. Colbert, a 14-year-old black Lab, was one of the first dogs in the program and is nearing retirement. He is happy to pose for photos and get in a few snuggles with adults and

kids before they head off to their gate. BARC dogs have been lifting spirits and calming nerves at SMF since 2015. There are now 22 BARC teams making travel a little less "ruff" in both Terminal A and B. All the BARC dogs were officially badged, like all SMF employees, last month. [note for Ron: there is a photo is of Ranger getting his badge] "The BARC teams make the airport experience less stressful and more fun," said Cindy Nichol, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Airports. "Travel can be a hectic experience and with these friendly faces around, passengers can't help but stop, take a breath and relax before continuing their journey."

These four-legged friends typically "work" the terminals from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. They also sometimes pick up extra shifts for special events and high-traffic travel times.

Each dog and its handler are part of the Lend A Heart Animals Assisted Therapy organization, a Sacramento-area non-profit



that provides animal-assisted therapy throughout the region. The organization has additional teams that visit hospitals, nursing

homes and libraries. For more information on SMF, visit: <https://sacramento.aero/>



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# Top Pet Friendly Experiences in Sonoma Valley

Novelist Milan Kundera said that “dogs are our link to paradise.» Dog lovers know this to be true, so why not bring your dog to Sonoma Valley – another kind of paradise!



In Sonoma Valley, you'll find plenty of options to accommodate you and your furry family member. Dogs are welcome at both The Lodge at Sonoma Renaissance Resort & Spa and the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa, which provides your pet with a dog bed and bowls. The boutique Olea Hotel will pamper your dog with a special welcome basket filled with treats and other pet amenities. The 16-room Sonoma Creek Inn has four dog-friendly guest rooms available. More pet-friendly properties include the Inn at Sonoma and Best Western Sonoma Valley Inn.

2-1/2 miles from Sonoma Plaza features a half-acre dog park while the 202-acre Sonoma Valley Regional Park boasts a one-acre dog park with drinking fountain and shade gazebo.

Hike the park's many scenic trails with your dog on leash. You'll also find designated dog areas in the famed Jack London State Historic Park. No need to skip a wine country excursion when traveling with your dog as numerous wineries in Sonoma Valley are pet-friendly; more than 50 allow dogs in their tasting rooms, like Larson Family Winery whose Three Lab label is inspired by their beloved family Labradors. Pups can also visit Sonoma Springs Brewing and our two craft distilleries, Hanson of Sonoma and Prohibition Spirits.

You can share a bite with your four-legged friend at about 20 dog-friendly cafes and bistros in Sonoma Valley, including Sunflower Caffé, Hopmonk Tavern and La Salette Restaurant. Make your pup's day with a stop at Sweet Scoops Homemade Ice Cream where the artisan ice cream shop whips up doggy ice cream sandwiches or head to Three Dog Bakery for a special treat.

Know before you go: Most hotel properties require advance reservations and an extra fee when bringing your dog. Be sure your canine companion is licensed and up to date on vaccinations. Bring water and pet bowl when hiking and keep plenty of doggie waste bags on hand. For more information on Sonoma Valley, visit [www.sonomavalley.com](http://www.sonomavalley.com) and follow us on Instagram at @sonoma\_valley.

When your pooch is ready for playtime, head out to one of the destination's many parks and trails, including five off-leash dog parks. Ernie Smith Community Park located



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# A Favorite Among Four-Footed Friends... Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade

Presented by Midtown Sutter, the Midtown Association is excited to announce a four-footed-favorite – the Midtown Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade – returns on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from noon to 3 p.m. at James Marshall Park (915 27th Street).

Each year, Midtown Sutter restaurants – including Barwest, Blue Cue, Café Bernardo, Centro Cocina Mexicana, Four Palms, Harlow's, INK Eats & Drinks, Paragary's Midtown, and Tea Bar & Fusion Café – partner with the Midtown Association for the canine-friendly event that is highlighted by a much-anticipated Pooch Parade scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. Furry friends will strut and stroll by while competing in an always-entertaining costume contest that will include prizes (Midtown Sutter gift cards and Midtown Love swag) for the winning pooches.

The entertaining and highly anticipated parade of costumed pooches will be emceed by Good Day Sacramento reporter “Big Al.” Before and after the Pooch Parade portion, there will be plenty of family-friendly outdoor activities such as live music from The Hoots, arts & crafts, a fun dog-shaped bounce house, photo-friendly pet backdrops, an entertaining magic and puppet show, face painter, and more. While the Midtown Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade is free to attend, interested participants and pet owners are encouraged to register in advance via this link (that includes a map and more detailed



information as well):  
<https://exploremidtown.org/pooch-parade/>.

Early that day, special and spirited activities will be available at the Midtown Farmers Market that takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Market Square (20th & K Streets). Costumes are encouraged and a variety of participating vendor booths will offer trick-or-treats.

The Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade and the Midtown Farmers Market are presented and supported by the Midtown Association, which is committed to ensuring Midtown remains a thriving center for

culture, creativity, and vibrancy.

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. For more information about Midtown Sacramento in general, special events and activities, and the Midtown Association, please visit: [www.exploremidtown.org](http://www.exploremidtown.org) or follow on social media – Facebook at [www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/](http://www.facebook.com/exploremidtown/) and @ExploreMidtown on Instagram and Twitter.

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## Why You Should Make Pet-Friendly Hotel Reservations Early by TripsWithPets.com

**W**inging it can be a good thing. It takes the pressure off of having to plan and make decisions – and opens the door to spontaneity and free spirit. However, winging it also comes into play when you’re simply procrastinating. There is a time and a place for winging it and reserving a hotel room for you and your pet is not the time (or place).



If you really want a stress-free and enjoyable trip with your furkid, you should start by planning where you’re going to stay and book your accommodations ahead of time. Booking your pet-friendly hotel room well in advance has many advantages that definitely outweigh the lure of being spontaneous and/or procrastinating.

### Get the room you want (and need)

When traveling with your pet, there are typically unique preferences or requirements when it comes to room selection. Booking a room on the first floor is a common request from pet parents. Rooms on the first floor make pet potty breaks easier. Plus, pets with mobility issues prefer first floor accommodations. In addition, a room away from “busy” areas such as an elevator or stairway are favored by people traveling with their pets to avoid potential barking and stress. There are also some hotels that have an allotted number of specific rooms designated for people traveling with pets.

Booking early helps to ensure you’ll get a room that will definitely welcome you and your four-legged traveler. And of course, booking early will help to ensure that you’ll get a room with all the highly desired “human” features and amenities that you’d like.

### YOUR pets need to be welcome, right?

Lest we forget, not all hotels allow pets. And those that do allow furry guests have specific pet rules. This includes pet weight limits, number of pets allowed, types of pets, and pet fees – among other things. The reality is that it’s going to take a bit more effort to find a hotel that will welcome your 80 lb. dog and three cats than if you’re traveling with one 10 lb. chihuahua.

Booking your hotel in advance will allow you the time to find a pet-friendly hotel that will accommodate your whole crew. It will

also give you time to find the best options when it comes to pet fees.

### Get good deals

In general, saving on hotel room rates is one of the biggest reasons people make hotel reservations ahead of time. Booking early typically equates to getting a better rate. As the departure date gets closer, availability wanes as the demand for rooms increases. This means you will very likely have to pay more for your pet-friendly hotel room. This is commonly the case when travel plans are around holidays and weekends. In addition, starting your pet-friendly hotel search early affords you more time to “shop” for the best deals.

### Stress-free for the win

You’re taking a trip with your precious pet. It’s supposed to be an enjoyable, bonding, and stress-free experience.

Anything to reduce stress is always recommended. Securing a hotel room is probably the most important thing you have to do when taking a trip with your pet (unless you’re flying). Why wouldn’t you take the time to ensure that you have the perfect pet-friendly place to stay when you arrive at your destination? Having that big question mark hanging over your head is unnecessary. Do yourself a favor and be sure to book your pet-friendly hotel early.

For more information, pet parents can go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to find and book the perfect place to stay with their pets – including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.

As passionate animal advocates, TripsWithPets supports local and national 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations by raising much needed funds through their annual Partners for Animal Welfare Series (PAWS)



# Know Your Options When Boarding Your Dog by Robert Espinosa

There are many options to consider in choosing the right care for your dog(s) when you need to be away from home and the right choice is dependent on your dog and their temperament and needs. Dog owners have many options when it comes to boarding their pups when going out of town. Here is a rundown of the main options.

The first option is a conventional kennel; it's what most of us think of when sending our dogs somewhere to spend the night. Generally, they are kept in their own cage and possibly let out for play time depending on temperament and facility set-up. These can be fine for dogs comfortable being alone for long periods of time but can be stressful for social dogs or dogs not accustomed to being caged.

Because so many of our pets are intimate, loving parts of our family, the idea of being isolated in a cage for long periods can be upsetting. Fortunately, there are other options. One is app-based care like Rover and Wag. These sites allow people to offer their pet care services in one of two ways: they come to your home to care for your pet (overnight or occasional daily visits) or you take your pet to their home. Having a caregiver come to your home enables your pet to stay in their own home, which is comfortable for them and a good option for dogs that aren't suited to a group environment. These caregivers undergo background checks and you can read customer reviews. It's important to be

cautious and read reviews and make sure the person is trustworthy before having them in your home.

The final option is cage-free boarding. Most haven't heard of it but it's an exciting niche option for people that want the security and reliability of a kennel but the personal attention of in-home boarding. Cage-free boarding consists of play areas where dogs are always supervised in an open setting. During the day, they are free to play, make friends, nap on the couch, get love from staff or a little of everything. When it's bedtime they will go into a boarding room where they will sleep with a group of dogs. It's like a bedroom with dog beds for all the guests but the big difference is the staff sleep with that group all night. They are there to make sure everyone is safe and give love and attention to any dogs that may be nervous.

A good cage-free facility will do two important things; first, they will evaluate every dog prior to boarding to ensure they are a good fit. Some dogs are too nervous or aggressive and don't do well in group settings. Second, they will have staff sleep in the room with the group. Some facilities will



offer cage-free, but the overnight staff are in the building doing other tasks and only occasionally looking in on the guests. This can be a concern if something were to happen between two dogs and staff are not there to address it.

Regardless of the type of boarding option you choose, it's important to make sure it's a good fit for your dog. Like us, every dog is different, and some will do better or worse in different boarding settings. You know your dog best, so think about what environment

they would be most comfortable in. And, finally, ask questions of the person that you are potentially entrusting your dog to. Some good questions are: Is someone staying with the dogs? How long has the person/facility been in business? What happens if your dog becomes sick or injured? Are you insured? Can you see where your dog will be staying? This should get you on a good start to finding a boarding arrangement that puts your dog, and their comfort, first.



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# Support Sadie Grove Nurture Farm, a Queer Owned Therapeutic Animal Farm Sanctuary

by Melanie Ernould, Psy.D. and Taylor Urban  
photos taken by Courtnet Carlmark

In 2020, Child Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Melanie Ernould, and Accountant, Taylor Urban, set out on the adventure of a lifetime. With no experience raising livestock or living in a rural setting, they sold their fabulous mid century Sacramento home and, with their four canine friends and two children in tow, moved to five acres in Wilton to set up an animal farm sanctuary. While they loved their suburban home, their appetite for rescuing and providing a loving forever home to animals was surpassing their capacity in the Sacramento house.

Shortly after moving to the farm, Melanie and Taylor rescued two large dogs that had been abandoned on a property in Redding. The owner had died and the family was unwilling to take care of them. A kind person who had been hired to clean up the property advertised to find someone who could take them in. After Melanie saw their photos on the post, she couldn't stop thinking about them and agreed to take them. Shortly after arriving at Sadie Grove, Bear the lab mix tore her ACL and had to surgically repair the tear. She returned to happily running around the farm with her partner in crime, Wolf the malamute mix, but has since passed. Wolf is still relaxing at Sadie Grove.

Melanie and Taylor have taken in 3 rescued pigs; 11 trapped and gentled feral cats; a giant bunny; several rehabilitated

rescued horses or mini horses; 17 rehomed goats; 2 rehomed sheep; many rehomed chickens; and several rescued dogs. The Farm currently has a total of over 60 animals on property and almost all of them have been rescued or rehomed. Many have been rehabilitated.

Missy, the alleged poodle mix is one of those cases. Missy is a small white dog with big ears that point out to the side like Dobby the House Elf, and an even bigger biting problem. The rescue Missy was at asked Sadie Grove to take her because they felt she could not be anywhere else. When the farm realized how bad her biting was, they were not sure they could keep her either. However, Missy has been with Sadie Grove Farm for almost a year and she is learning to be less insecure and aggressive and more of a happy, normal dog. The key with Missy has

been to help her feel secure, allowing her to choose when to interact with humans, giving her a safe crate space away from commotion, and giving her firm boundaries and not letting her push people around. Her transformation has been very rewarding!

Cookie is a miniature horse who could not walk for a period of time due to a condition called laminitis. He needed to be restricted from eating any grass and needed to come live with at the farm for that reason. With a proper diet and hoof trims, he has been thriving. In fact, this past Summer, a group of camp kids decided to jump him over small jumps and he seemed to love it, flying through the air!

Picard is a young thoroughbred who lived his previous life as a racehorse. As some may know, horse racing is difficult on a horse's body and many present with a variety of difficulties. Picard was significantly underweight and refused to allow himself to be tied or to have his feet picked up. In fact, when the farrier would come to put his shoes on, Picard would become aggressive and kick out. Many people had attempted to work with Picard by getting angry and aggressive back with him. Melanie had studied horse trainers who talked about emotion coregulation in

horses and knew there had to be a different way. Applying what she knew about horses and psychology to Picard, she began to allow Picard to practice the desired behaviors and expressing 'no' in acceptable ways, then would calmly ask again. At this time, Picard is still a work in progress but he is tying mostly calmly and picking up all four feet while being tied.

In addition to rescuing animals, the farm provides several children's camps over the year, equine assisted and farm therapy, as well as riding lessons. The concept of the childrens' programs was born of a desire to save animals and create a full circle experience. Taylor and Melanie rehabilitate the animals, the children reap the benefits of the animals, and they give back to the animals during their time at the farm, which is also part of their own healing experience.

Sadie Grove Farm, a 501c3, is accepting donations that go toward the care of the animals day to day, rehabilitation projects, or camp programming.

The farm will be having a Halloween open house on October 29, 3-6 pm with a raffle, bake sale, yard sale, costume contest, and face painting.

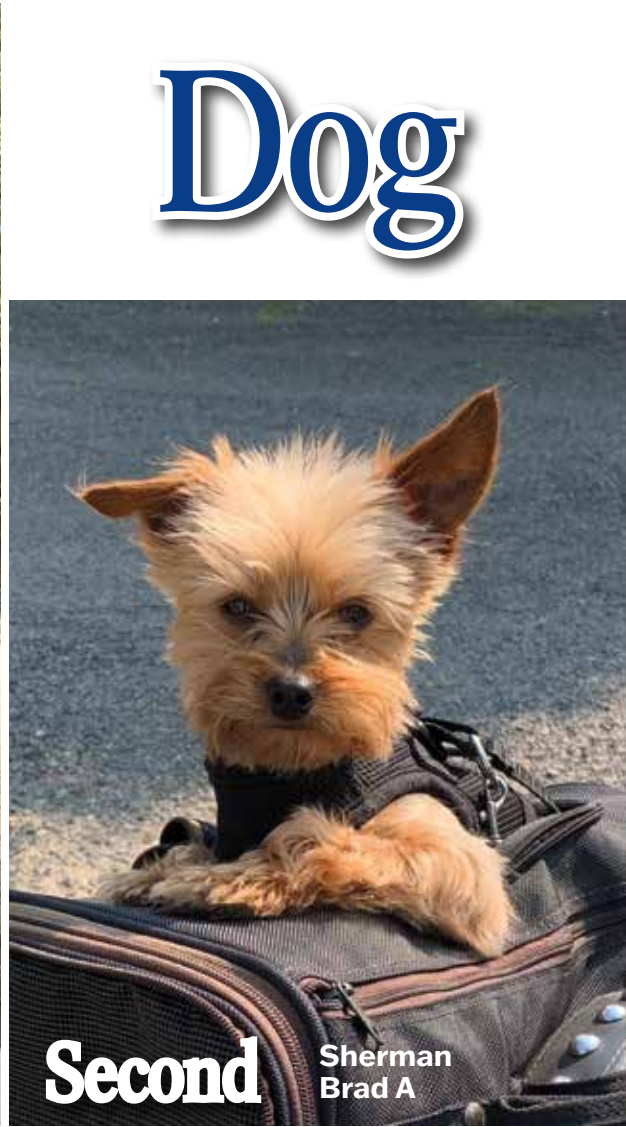
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**Second** Sherman  
Brad A



**Third** Jackson  
John L



**Fourth** Arlie  
Fitzgerald -  
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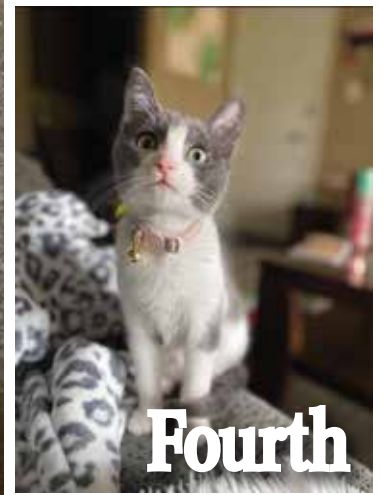
**First** Nash  
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**Second** Chandler  
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**Third** Jack  
Kaye B



**Fourth** Candy  
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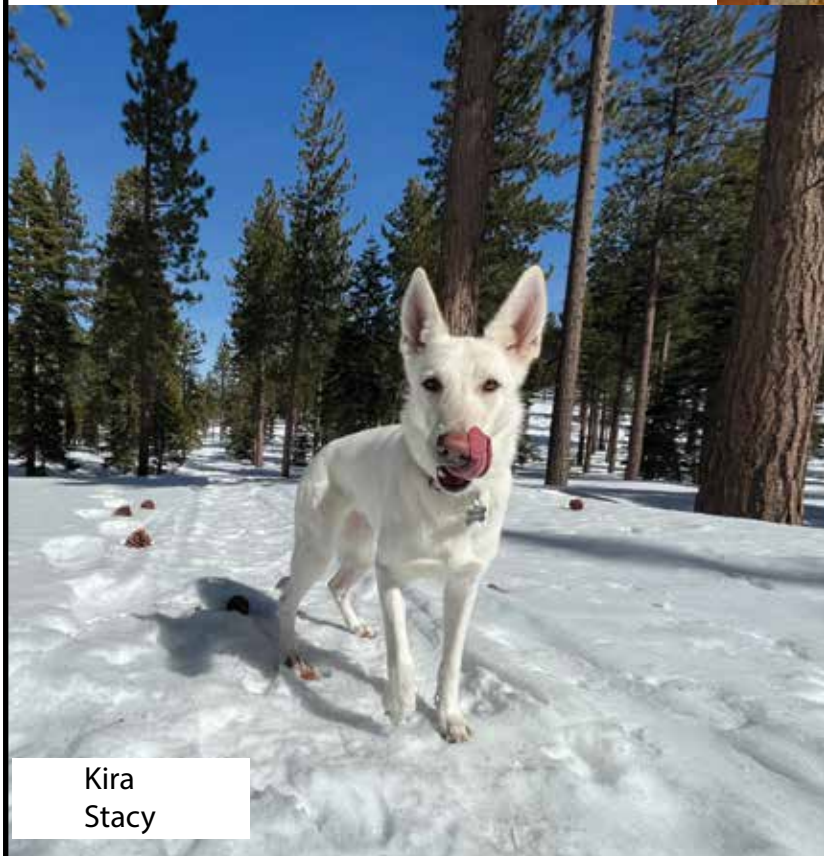
Riley  
Christopher H.



Frankie  
Maddie R.



Goat  
Ann



Kira  
Stacy





Thomas  
Linda G.



Ollie  
Larry L.



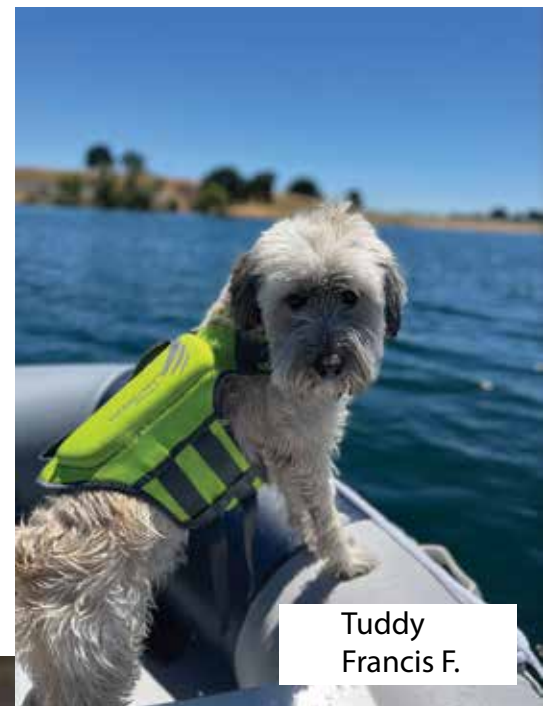
Lilywen  
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Ellie  
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Ellie Mae  
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Echo  
Sara N.



# Top Dog-Friendly Beach Destinations You and Your Pooch will Love

by Kim Salerno, CEO/Founder TripsWithPets, Inc.

Lots of pets love the beach as much as their pet parents do. Fortunately, if you're looking for a beach vacay you and your furry kid will both enjoy, there are plenty of pet-friendly options to choose from.

I've compiled a list of ten of some favorites - in no particular order, along with the reasons to love these beaches. And, there are local pet-friendly accommodations either oceanfront or a short walk to the beach, with a range of prices and room types. Choose your favorite, and head out for some surf, sand, and sun!

### Atlantic Beach, NC

This cozy beach, located in scenic coastal North Carolina, is an ideal spot to bring your pooch for some fun in the sun. Dogs are welcome to come and play year round on the main strand. However, they're not allowed to venture further than 20 feet from the shore in lifeguard-protected areas. Besides the beach, there are pet-friendly breweries, restaurants, and attractions, such as the Fort Macon State Park, a Civil War memorial that features nature trails, guided tours, and its own beach area.

### South Padre Island, TX

If you're looking for a pet-friendly beach, you can't do better than South Padre Island in Texas. The entire Padre Island National Seashore welcomes pets at nearly every beach and park, both onshore and in the water, as long as they are leashed. The area also features pet-friendly shops, events, and even boat rides.

### Portland, ME

Portland, Maine is not the first place you'd think of for a beach getaway, but the Portland area actually has a wealth of beautiful beaches, and many if not most are pet friendly. Each beach offers a bit of a different experience. Peaks Island is a quaint and charming spot that's slow-paced, quiet, and ideal for enjoying the scenery. Higgins beach is perfect for beach combing or kayaking. If you enjoy history, head to Cape Elizabeth Beach, where you can tour a variety of lighthouses and experience New England charm. Willard Beach is a small sand-and-pebble beach where you can go for a swim and watch the lobster boats as they go out and come in. East End Beach is a popular spot located in the heart of the city. Portland is a pet-friendly destination, and dogs are very welcome on beaches, but they must be on leashes at certain times of the year.

### Nags Head, NC

This gem of a beach locale, located in North Carolina's scenic and pristine Outer Banks, welcomes pups to play on the sand and in the waves. Dogs must be leashed, and leashes should not be longer than 10 feet. You and your pooch can also explore the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway, and the nearby Wright Brothers Memorial together.

### Hollywood, FL

Want to head to a beach that's beautiful, tropical, and warm all year, without ever leaving the country? Dog Beach of Hollywood is the perfect Florida getaway for you and your pet. Dogs are welcome on the beach as long as they are leashed. You can also visit the Yellow Green Farmer's Market, the Topeekeegee Yugnee Park, or one of several Hollywood dog parks.

### Jekyll Island, GA

There are several different beaches on Georgia's Jekyll Island, and each has something a little different to offer you and your pooch. You can also explore the island on a pet-friendly hiking trail, or even take a dog-friendly dolphin tour! Dogs are allowed on most beaches, however, pets are restricted from a specific area designated for the protection of sea turtles and migratory birds. Pets must be under their parents' direct control, and pet parents must dispose of their pet's waste.

### Key West, FL

Famed for its laid-back vibe, its vintage Florida charm, and its position as the southernmost point in the United States - and the only place in the U.S. that boasts colorful sunrises and sunsets, Key West is also a paradise for pooches. Leashed dogs are welcome on the island's beaches, and some beaches will allow unleashed dogs as long as they're under voice control. The most popular off-leash beach is notably named "Dog Beach."

### Huntington Beach, CA

Huntington Beach is known as one of the country's most pet-friendly beaches, and for good reason. There are off-leash beaches to explore, a giant dog park in the center of town to play in, dog-themed events to attend, and even doggie surfing lessons available so he can learn how to hang ten. When he's had enough lessons, he can participate in the yearly dog surfing competition!

### Seaside, OR

This Oregon destination guarantees a fun-filled beach getaway for people and pooches alike. Seaside welcomes dogs to play in the sand and surf - unleashed! In addition to pet-friendly beaches, you can walk along the Prom with your furkid, or hike with them along Tillamook Head. Pet parents must remain attentive to their pets, clean up after them, and practice discernment as to when and whether to have them off-leash..

### Hilton Head Island, SC

Hilton Head Beach is the perfect place for you and your pet to run and play...or relax and do nothing at all. The spectacular Lowcountry beaches are warm and inviting year round, and they welcome four-legged visitors. The island has its own double-gated dog park where your furry kid can safely play.

There are a number of other pet-friendly beach getaway options. Head out to one of these or pick another destination. Just get out there and enjoy the surf, sand and ocean breeze with your doggo by your side. For more details and more travel ideas check out: [TripsWithPets.com](http://TripsWithPets.com)



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**DIE HARD**  
(1988)

SUNDAY, DEC 10, 7:00PM



**THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
(1992)

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 3:00PM



**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**  
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## A Day in East L.A. words and photos by Chris Allan

If you're so over the usual Los Angeles tourist traps or you've found yourself with an extra day in the metropolis, why not grab the 101 and head out to Boyle Heights? It's one of several communities in "East Los," a vibrant, colorful area full of Chicano culture.

This historic urban zone offers a non-glitzy, often gritty, but always fascinating opportunity to experience something new in the City of Angels. And yes, there is even queer culture to be found in this Latino hotspot of exceptional ethnic eateries and outdoor art.

### Location

The Eastside is the sprawling region east of the Los Angeles River. It runs roughly west to Monterey Park, north to Lincoln Heights and south to Bell Gardens. It includes about a dozen neighborhoods, but the most famous is Boyle Heights. This area is predominantly Mexican American and home to many Spanish-speaking businesses.

This was where the Zoot Suit riots took place in the 1940's and then the Chicano Moratorium protests of the 1960's and 1970's. It was the birthplace of lowrider culture on Whittier Blvd and the set for iconic films like "Stand and Deliver."

First-time ever Latino superhero hottie Ramario Xolo Maridueña of D.C. Comics' "Blue Beetle" fame is also originally from the area.

### Desayuno (breakfast)

First, consider picking up some fresh-made pan dulce at any of the area's panaderias. I stopped in at La Favorita, a family-owned chain of local bakeries that makes delicious conchitas, and sometimes has champurrado (a creamy and chocolatey Mexican drink thickened with masa harina).

### Shop Queer

To make the most of your day on the Eastside, plan to go during the Queer Mercado. It's held the third Saturday of every month at the East Los Angeles Civic Center next to the Certified Farmers Market. The mercado has 80 vendors selling a variety of artisanry like recycled fashion, artwork, healing items, flowers, and live music. Diana Diaz founded the event in 2021 with support from the L.A. Unified School District. Today, she says, "We don't charge the artists. We just have them register because we're trying to elevate our community with art that can also inspire others to create art." She hopes to bring in queer mariachis, and last year the event even hosted Cello Azul, the first Chicano, queer, classically trained cellist.

### Los Murales

Next, you'll want to see some of the over 200 murals in the area. Inspired by the great Mexican muralists, East L.A. has the distinction of birthing the Chicano art movement in the 1960's. The public artform here developed as a way to share history, culture, pride and political commentary. Murals can be found everywhere on the walls from lower-income housing areas to community centers to local restaurants.

Many of the artworks are simply stunning and are literally a big part of what makes the area so colorful. (For some indoor Chicano artwork, you might head to Riverside, where last year Cheech Marin opened the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture.)

#### Boyle Heights Self-Guided Walking Tour

Another way to get a feel for the region is on foot. Consider taking the self-guided Angeles Walk L.A. Tour, which includes some of the area's history, architecture, artwork, and other iconic sites. It's just 1.4 miles and you can download the guide at [www.angelswalkla.org/walks/boyle-heights](http://www.angelswalkla.org/walks/boyle-heights) or pick up a hard copy at Libros Schimbros, a non-profit bookstore and lending library on N. Boyle Avenue.

### La Gastronomía

If the smells of the local restaurantes are starting to drive your estomago crazy, then it's time to sample some of the best Mexican food in L.A. At Lilliana's Tamales, hard-working ladies in the kitchen stir gigantic vats of masa for their delicious corn husk tamales. Mariscos El Jato is a family-friendly seafood restaurant with huge fish taco plates and fat bowls of cócteles de mariscos.

For a queer-friendly place to practice your Spanglish and down a Modelo or two, head to neighborhood bar Redz (@redzangelesbar). As the gay history film "Nancy from East Side Clover" explains, in the 1950's this was an underground, working-class lesbian bar. Nancy Valverde remembers, "We started going to [Redheads] on 1st Street. The old man Charlie was the owner, and he made the mistake of hiring a lesbian for waitressing. Well, that was his mistake because it's been gay ever since!"

Today the bar serves primarily Mexican and Mexican American queer clientele, and has regular drag shows, female impersonators, and dancing. Owner Ahtziri Hernandez says things have changed a lot in the area over time. "Now (being queer) is very acceptable!" The nearest gay nightclub is much further east in Montebello at Club Chico (@Club\_Chico).

### Los Lowriders

As of October 2023, the area may be able to return to its iconic "low and slow" lowrider roots. Governor Newsom just signed AB436, which will prohibit cities like L.A. from banning cruising by the custom-modified classic mobiles. Meanwhile, Ruby's Diner on Whittier regularly has Friday night cruise car shows, and fliers are often posted online.

### ¡Arriba, arriba!

En fin, if you're in search of an authentic Los Angeles community that's rich in history, art and all things Latino, then pull up your Spotify and start driving. We particularly recommend the music of Thee Midneters, one of the first Chicano rock bands to come out of the Eastside. Their 1965 surf-vibes meets Mexican grito hit "Whittier Boulevard" feels just about as fun as it did then: "Let's take a trip down Whittier Boulevard! Arriba, arriba!"







# UPCOMING EVENTS



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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.



## MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS

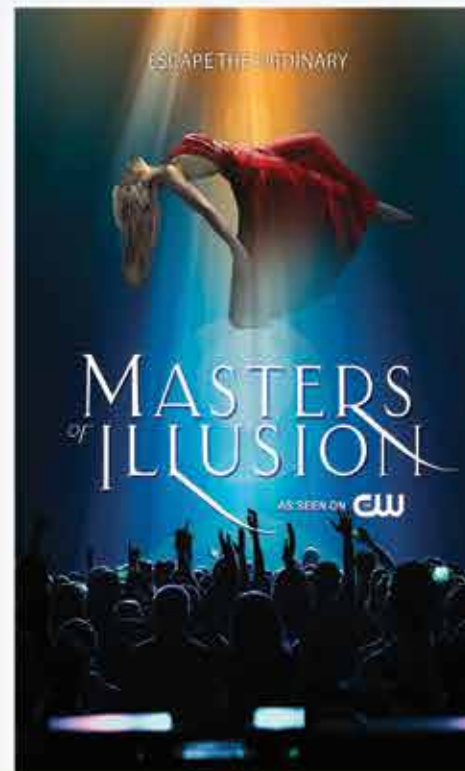
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**The Temptations Ain't Too Proud Plus, A New Play at Capital Stage**

by Chris Narloch

Two very different productions are either now playing or coming soon to a River City stage. One show is a smash hit jukebox musical that celebrates the classic Motown sound, and the other is a play about the assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914.



**Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations**

This is the electrifying, recent smash-hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

With their signature dance moves and silky-smooth harmonies, The Temps rose to the top of the charts, creating an amazing 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one.

Nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, "Ain't Too Proud" tells the thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal, as the group's personal and political conflicts threatened to tear them apart during a decade of civil unrest in America.

The unforgettable, must-see story of this legendary quintet is set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," and so many more.

The musical runs Nov. 7–12, 2023 at Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. For more information, go to: [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

**Archduke**

Sacramento's Capital Stage continues to present ambitious, provocative plays like this one, which could hardly be more relevant, given the recent horrific attacks by the terrorist group Hamas in which Israelis were butchered in their beds.

The type of brainwashing that results in younger men being sent to commit evil deeds for what they believe is a good cause, usually by older men, gets an audacious comic spin in "Archduke," a surreal satire that recounts some of the events that led up to the First World War, including the assassination in 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Scott Coopwood, who has played the Captain before, commands the stage with sly intensity as the master manipulator who sends three impressionable insurgents on their date with destiny. (The three clueless "patriots" are played by the talented trio of John Lamb, Chris Sharpe, and Cole Winslow.)

The indispensable Jamie Jones plays my favorite character in the play, the Captain's sharp-tongued housekeeper, who – in Jones' hilarious hands – reminded me a little of Frau Blucher, the classic comic character created by the late, great Cloris Leachman in Mel Brooks' timeless movie, "Young Frankenstein."

Director Michael Stevenson does a fine job of balancing the comedy and the pathos in "Archduke," which is another winner for Rajiv Joseph, the acclaimed playwright of "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" and "Guards at The Taj."

"Archduke" continues through Nov. 12, 2023. For tickets, visit <https://capstage.org>

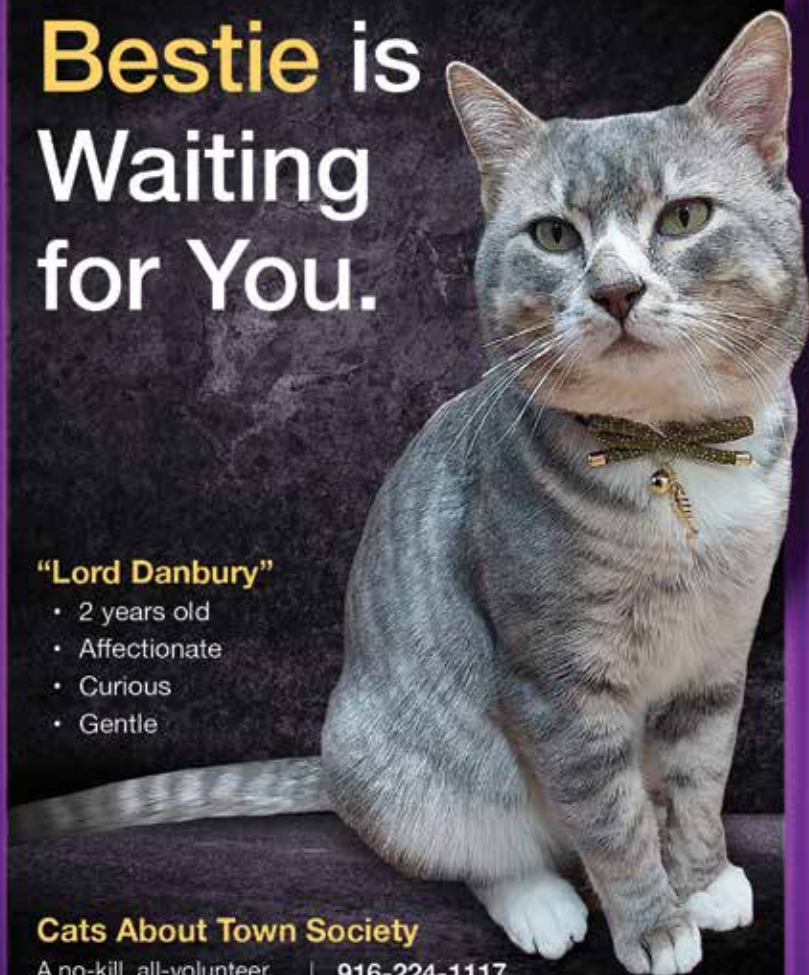


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- Special sales during the year will be posted on our website: <http://www.saclibfriends.org>.

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# Pixar's "Coco" In Concert Plus, Clay & Ruben Live

A beloved animated movie reimaged, and a concert of co-headliners are among the almost-certain-to-sell-out local events this November.



## "Coco" Live-to-Film Concert

Your family won't forget the "Coco" live-to-film concert, a unique screening of the heartwarming film with composer Michael Giacchino's musical score performed by the 20-member Orquesta Folclórica Nacional de México.

A Pixar classic about a young boy discovering his family's history and the power of music, "Coco" also features the Oscar-winning song "Remember Me" by songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez.

See "Coco" in a new light on Friday evening, Nov. 17 at Mondavi Center in Davis. Visit [www.mondaviarts.org/events-and-tickets](http://www.mondaviarts.org/events-and-tickets)



## Ruben Studdard & Clay Aiken

On the heels of the first leg of their critically acclaimed "Twenty | The Tour," American Idol favorites Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken are hitting the road again for the second leg of their reunion tour.

Ruben and Clay are thrilled to reunite twenty years after captivating audiences during their historic run on the second season of Fox's "American Idol" in 2003. Both were plucked from the relative obscurity of their hometowns in the South, and the unlikely pair quickly became audience favorites instrumental in helping propel Idol to the top of the Nielsen ratings.

Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College presents multi-platinum recording artists "Ruben Studdard & Clay Aiken - Twenty | The Tour" on Friday evening, November 10, 2023. Go to [www.harriscenter.net](http://www.harriscenter.net)

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# “Dicks” & “Down Low” Reviewed Plus, New Scorsese and Pelosi

by Chris Narloch

It's been quite a year at the movies. Most motion picture pundits (including me) predicted that Tom Cruise would rule the box office again in 2023, with his latest “Mission Impossible” sequel. That didn't happen.

Instead, two smart blondes – Barbie and Taylor Swift – broke records with their new movies and are on track to be the undisputed queens at the box office this year.

I was very happy to see packs of young women and girls returning to movie theaters for Greta Gerwig's “Barbie” and Taylor Swift's current concert film. Read on for reviews of four more movies you can check out this month.



## Down Low

If you're in the mood for something rude and crude, consider this deliberately trashy but funny new comedy that puts a queer spin on movies like “Rough Night” and “Very Bad Things” in which accidental deaths happen and bodies must be disposed of.

Lukas Gage cowrote the script and costars, with Zachary Quinto, as a gay masseur who summons an online trick to the home of his closeted client (Quinto) to help him “come out.” Let's just say things don't go according to plan.

I can't really defend this movie on any artistic grounds, except to say that I did laugh out loud, and the supporting cast is first rate, including Audra McDonald, Simon Rex, and especially a hilarious Judith Light, who steals every one of her scenes, as a lonely, Ambien-addled, nosy neighbor. You can now rent “Down Low” via Amazon Prime or Apple TV+.

## Dicks: The Musical

Crass humor is in, and nobody does raunch quite like the gays, two of whom wrote this crazy comedy that offers a queer twist on “The Parent Trap.”

Screenwriters Josh Sharp and Aaron Jackson also star as the long-lost twins in this iteration, who are determined to reunite their parents, played by the dynamic duo of Megan Mullally and Nathan Lane.

Another Megan, as in the Stallion, is also on hand for one of the film's funniest musical numbers, Nick Offerman shows up as well, and SNL's Bowen Yang plays God. What more could you want out of a movie? “Dicks: The Musical” is currently in limited theatrical release.



## Killers of the Flower Moon

I wish I could report that the latest cinematic effort by the often-great director Martin Scorsese is worth 3.5 hours of your time, but I was very disappointed by this movie, which takes an important, tragic episode in our country's history and fails to turn it into satisfying drama.

The unlikely romance of Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone) plays out amid the suspicious murders of members of the Osage Nation, who became some of the richest people in the world overnight after oil was discovered underneath their land in the 1920s.

Not surprisingly, some greedy white men hatched a depraved plan to cheat the Native Americans out of their land, and frequent Scorsese collaborator Robert DeNiro plays the baddest of the bad guys, in a dull, one-note performance.

Unfortunately, DiCaprio's character is also rotten, and, given the film's epic run time, that was too much evil for me. This sickeningly sad tale could have made a fantastic documentary, but a three hour-plus contest between two male movie stars to see who can frown the most is not my idea of a good time.

“Killers of the Flower Moon” is currently in wide theatrical release, including Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street. Visit [www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo](http://www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo)

## The Insurrectionist Next Door

I had never seen any of the documentaries directed by Alexandra Pelosi, but I will be tracking them down after seeing her riveting new doc, wherein she interviews men and women who went to DC on January 6th and are now doing jail time or awaiting trial.

The director's disarming sense of humor and engaging personality prompt her subjects to open up to her in startling ways. Several of them admit that they found purpose for their broken, fucked-up lives through supporting Trump, and some are totally without remorse for their involvement in the riots.

I was especially horrified by one half of a gay male, married couple, who confesses that he voted for Barack Obama but is now a rabid Trump loyalist. “The Insurrectionist Next Door” is available to stream via HBO Max.



**28<sup>th</sup>**  
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## Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Welcome to Outword's Pet issue! As the spooky season wraps up, we take a moment to honor our animal besties and all the love they bring to us. Below are lots of fun events, including ones to enjoy with our pets, honor those who have passed, and maybe even connect with a new one.

Join the fun at Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at Mango's Nightclub, 1930 K St. For just \$20, play 8 bingo games and score fabulous prizes, with all proceeds benefiting the West Sacramento Historical Society. The organization collects historical items and promotes West Sacramento history through various traveling exhibitions. [RainbowChamber.com](http://RainbowChamber.com)

Celebrate Día de los Muertos at El Panteón de Sacramento 2023 on Friday, Nov. 3 at 5 p.m. Located at the Latino Center of Art and Culture, 2700 Front St., this annual event showcases live dance, music, and traditional offerings honoring departed loved ones. Free off-site parking is available at 2300 Front St., with ride-sharing options nearby. Don't miss this joyous remembrance and celebration. [Thelatinocenter.org](http://Thelatinocenter.org)

The Tahoe Park Halloween extravaganza-Spooktacular 2023 is the ultimate Halloween bash! On Friday, Oct. 27 from 4-8 p.m. at Tahoe Park, 1299 10th St. Enjoy a costume parade, carnival games, and Trunk or Treat. Don't miss this family-friendly extravaganza in partnership with Food Truck Mania and TPNA Maker's Market

Experience the chilling and captivating tale of "Sweeney Todd" at The Ooley Theatre, 2007 28th St., from Oct. 26 to Nov. 18. This unique production immerses you in the story's dark and twisted world, set in a cozy 35-seat intimate space. Follow the narrative of love, loss, and revenge, as Sweeney Todd returns to London in this thrilling musical. [Emhboxoffice.com](http://Emhboxoffice.com)

Rock on down to the 87th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show on Oct. 28-29 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St.



"On Your Feet" photo courtesy of DJ Corey.

Don't miss "On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan," playing from Nov. 2-5 at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom. Experience the inspiring journey of two people with a dream who rose to global superstardom through their talent and dedication. [Harriscenter.net](http://Harriscenter.net)

Front Street Animal Shelter is dressing things up for a Howl-o-Ween treat at Paws to Party! Enjoy live music, silent auctions, costume contests, and more. Hosted by Sacramento's own A La Mode. This human-only, 21+ event takes place Saturday, Oct. 28 from 6-9 p.m. at the Elks Tower Ballroom, 921 11th St. Costumes are encouraged, but all attire is welcome. [Friendsoffrontstreet.com](http://Friendsoffrontstreet.com)

"Evil Dead The Musical," runs through Oct. 31 at Sutter Street Theatre, 717 Sutter St. in Folsom. Whether you're a horror enthusiast or just love fun, this unique production is a must-see, complete with a 'Splatter Zone' for the ultimate experience. [Sutterstreettheatre.com](http://Sutterstreettheatre.com)

Hosted by the Official Sacramento Mineral Society and Glenda Green, this event offers a treasure trove of minerals, fossils, gemstones, and more. Participate in the raffle for a chance to win over 50 prizes, including a stunning amethyst cathedral. Enjoy educational displays, demonstrations, and activities. Free parking is available! [Sacgemshow.com](http://Sacgemshow.com)

"The Graduate" plays at Fallon House Theatre, 11175 Washington St. in Columbia through Oct. 29. A young man with a bright future embarks on an unexpected encounter that sends him on a disastrous sexual odyssey. [SierraRep.org](http://SierraRep.org)

Don't miss "Archduke" by Rajiv Joseph running through Nov. 12. Three bumbling young men, torn between patriotism and pudding, embark on a mission targeting Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Join Gavrilo, Nedeljko, and Trifko on their darkly comedic quest for immortality at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. [Capstage.org](http://Capstage.org)

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



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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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THIS MONTHS BENEFICIARY

## Life Is a Cabaret in the Bay Area Piaf, Plus John Cameron Mitchell

by Chris Narloch

Singers with a flair for drama are often categorized as cabaret performers, and that description can be applied to the fabulous artists below, who are coming soon to theaters in the Bay Area.



### PIAF! The Show

In two 45-minute parts, "PIAF! The Show" chronicles the storied career of the famous French singer Edith Piaf through her unforgettable songs, in an original scenography with projections of previously unpublished images of the singer.

Nathalie Lermite channels Ms. Piaf and infuses the show with her own style, backed by four outstanding musicians: Philippe Villa (piano); Frederic Viale (accordion); Benoît Pierron (percussions, xylophone); and Gilliard Lopez (double bass).

"PIAF! The Show" performs one night only, on Monday evening, Nov. 6, at San Francisco's Herbst Theater. For tickets, please visit: [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)

### Cassette Roulette

Tony Award-winning star of stage and screen John Cameron Mitchell ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch"), one of queer culture's boldest creators, joins forces with international cabaret star Amber Martin for a hilarious romp of songs, stories, and characters, all chosen by you and the hand of fate in the magical "Cassette Roulette."

With a house band led by Grammy nominated music director of "Hedwig" on Broadway Justin Craig, some very special surprise guests, and a new set list every night, it's never the same show twice.

One performance only, on Saturday evening, Nov. 4, at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. For more information, go to <https://calperformances.org/2023-24-season>

## Whip It, Whip It Good!

The band's first show sold out so fast that it had to add a second one, and last time I checked there were still tickets left for Devo's concert in the Bay Area on Sunday evening, Nov. 5.

Famed for the iconic '80s hit "Whip It," Devo hailed from Akron, Ohio and shot to fame in the late '70s with a lineup comprised of two sets of brothers. The synth-pop band became known for a satirical stage persona and wacky costumes that crossed science fiction with surreal social commentary.

A pioneer in new wave music and music videos, Devo has influenced many subsequent acts with their progressive, tongue-in-cheek melding of art rock and electronica.

Devo will celebrate 50 years of de-evolution at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.broadwaysf.com/events](http://www.broadwaysf.com/events)



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# Marcus, Dermot & Ed

## Sensitive Men Singers *by Chris Narloch*

All three of these discs have been out for more than a minute, but I couldn't let any more time pass without showering some love on these marvelous men. Taylor Swift is inarguably the queen of pop right now, but it's high time that we give props to some pop kings as well.



Marcus Mumford, photo by Eric Ray Davidson

### Marcus Mumford – Self-titled

If you haven't heard this debut solo album by the lead singer of the successful band Mumford & Sons, you need to rectify that fact. This is one of the rawest and most personal records in recent memory.

The cd's shocking first single, "Cannibal," and its stunning Steven Spielberg-directed video, set the tone for the rest of the album, which is centered around the artist's recent confession of a sexual assault he suffered when he was a child.

The cd's final song, "How," a collaboration with Brandi Carlile in which Mr. Mumford forgives his abuser so that he can move on, is guaranteed to put a tear in your eye and a lump in your throat.

### Dermot Kennedy – Sonder

This handsome Irish artist has some sandpaper in his singing, and I am a sucker for his sexy, soulful voice and vibe. "Sonder" is Kennedy's second studio album, and although not quite the stunner that his previous album, "Without Fear," was, it does contain enough examples of Kennedy at his best, that his fans will not be disappointed. Key tracks: "Kiss Me," "Something to Someone," and "Better Days."



Dermot Kennedy



Ed Sheeran  
Photo by Annie Leibovitz

### Ed Sheeran – Subtract

Like Taylor Swift, the 32-year-old British singer Ed Sheeran is so talented and prolific that he already has another new CD out since this one came out in May of this year.

I have not heard "Autumn Variations" yet, and I love this cd, so I am reviewing "Subtract" instead, which contains three superb singles ("Eyes Closed," "Boat," and "Life Goes On"), plus around a dozen more dynamite songs.

"Subtract" feels like a more vulnerable, less aggressively commercial album for Sheeran, and like his buddy Taylor Swift, his status as a consummate pop poet is apparent on every track.

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







**Liquida Therapy**

November 10, 2023  
5:30 - 7 pm

Dr. Seuss' **How The GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! THE MUSICAL**

Prizes for this evening's event will include tickets to Broadway On Tour's production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and a \$50 gift card to the Melting Pot!

Happy Hour

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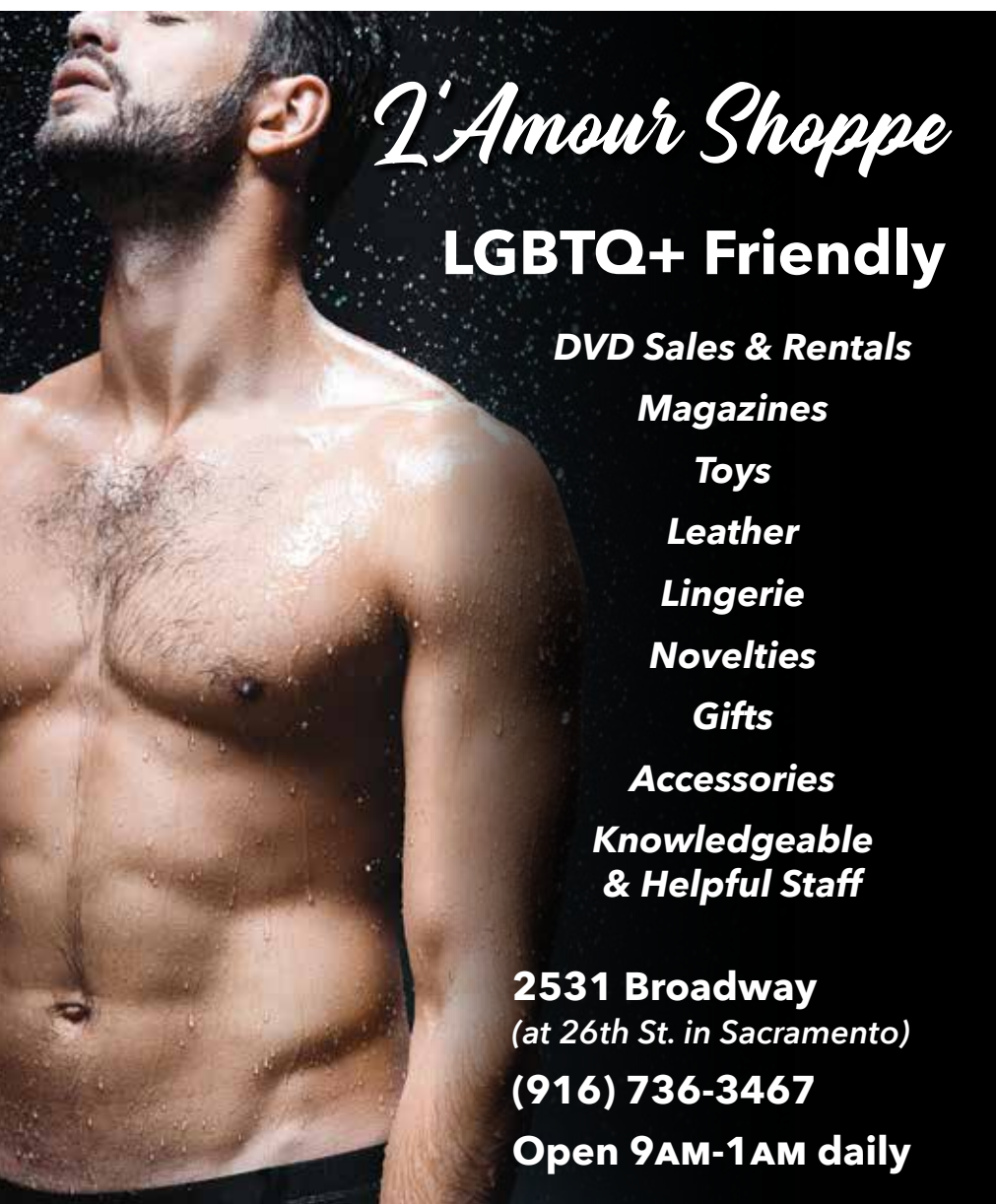
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## Activating Taste Buds

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](mailto: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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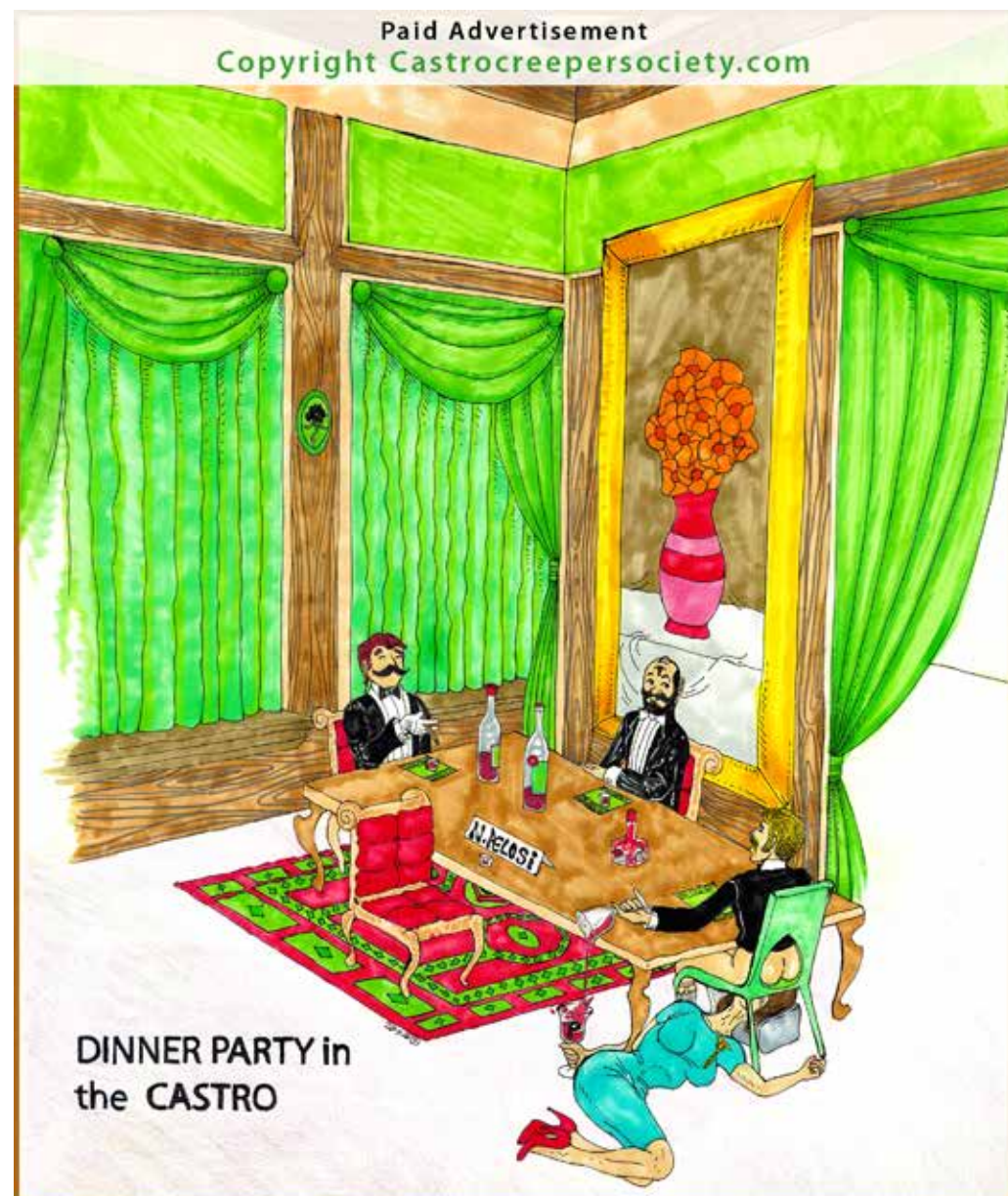
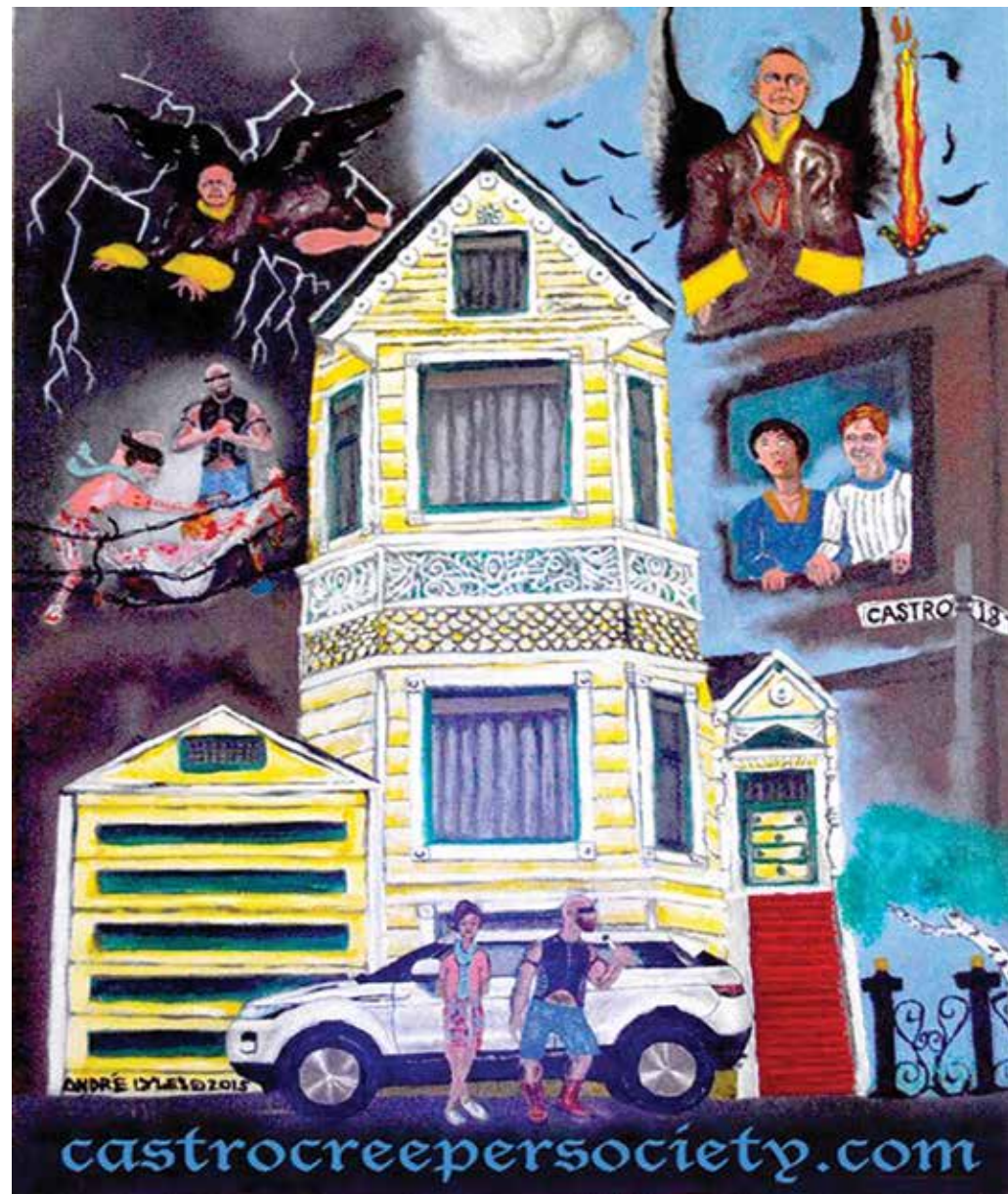
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Thursday  
**NOVEMBER 02** ◀

Monday  
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Wednesday  
**DECEMBER 13** ◀

## October

- 27-29 Les Miserables @ Broadway Sacramento
- 29 Frankenstein @ Mondavi Center
- 30 7pm Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Crest-Primetimers

## 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

## November

- ▶ 2 Drag Queen Bingo
- 3 Celebrate Dia de Muertos Davis
- 3 Happy Hour @ Roscoe's with Primetimers
- 4 Tower Theatre (Holdovers) 2pm + early dinner-Primetimers
- 7-12 Ain't Too Proud @ Broadway Sacramento
- 10 Straight White Men
- 11 Best of Broadway- A SARTA Cabaret
- ▶ 13 Diversity Summit
- 16 Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens @ Mondavi Center
- 17 Nov 16th (Thursday) River City Brewing @ 530pm (dinner)
- 23 CoCo Live-to-Film Concert @ 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

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# 3.9%

APR for 36 months



SPECIAL APR OFFER VALID ON NEW AND UNREGISTERED 2024 MDX VEHICLES (EXCLUDES TYPE S VEHICLES) FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023. TO WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS ON APPROVED CREDIT BY ACURA FINANCIAL SERVICES THROUGH PARTICIPATING DEALERS. MUST TAKE NEW RETAIL DELIVERY OF VEHICLE FROM DEALER STOCK BY OCTOBER 31, 2023. NOT ALL BUYERS MAY QUALIFY. HIGHER RATES APPLY FOR BUYERS WITH LOWER CREDIT RATINGS. EXAMPLE FOR 2024 MDX: 10% DOWN PAYMENT, 3.9% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING AT \$19.48 A MONTH FOR EVERY \$1,000.00 FINANCED. DEALERS SET ACTUAL PRICES. SEE YOUR ACURA DEALER FOR DETAILS.

## 2023 TLX SH-AWD ADVANCE

Lease for only  
**\$419**  
per month for 48 months



CLOSED-END LEASE FOR 2023 TLX 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC VEHICLES (EXCLUDES TYPE S) AVAILABLE FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023. AVAILABLE TO WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES APPROVED BY ACURA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL LESSEES WILL QUALIFY. HIGHER LEASE RATES APPLY FOR LESSEES WITH LOWER CREDIT RATINGS. LEASE OFFERS VARY BASED ON MSRP. MSRP \$46,345.00 (INCLUDES DESTINATION, EXCLUDES SALES, TITLES, LICENSE AND DOCUMENTARY SERVICE FEES). ACTUAL NET CAPITALIZED COST \$2,025.41. NET CAPITALIZED COST INCLUDES BUYER ACQUISITION FEE. DEALER CONTRIBUTION MAY VARY AND COULD AFFECT ACTUAL LEASE PAYMENT. TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS \$419.20. OPTION TO PURCHASE AT LEASE END \$8,972.70. MUST TAKE NEW RETAIL DELIVERY OF VEHICLE FROM DEALER STOCK BY OCTOBER 31, 2023. LESSEE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE, EXCESSIVE WEAR/TEAR AND 24/MILE OVER 10,000 MILES/YEAR FOR VEHICLES WITH MSRP LESS THAN \$30,000, AND 20/MILE OVER 10,000 MILES/YEAR FOR VEHICLES WITH MSRP OF \$30,000 OR MORE. SEE YOUR ACURA DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

## 2024 INTEGRA A-SPEC TECH

# 3.9%

APR for 36 months



SPECIAL APR OFFER VALID ON NEW AND UNREGISTERED 2024 INTEGRA VEHICLES (EXCLUDES TYPE S VEHICLES) FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023. TO WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS ON APPROVED CREDIT BY ACURA FINANCIAL SERVICES THROUGH PARTICIPATING DEALERS. MUST TAKE NEW RETAIL DELIVERY OF VEHICLE FROM DEALER STOCK BY OCTOBER 31, 2023. NOT ALL BUYERS MAY QUALIFY. HIGHER RATES APPLY FOR BUYERS WITH LOWER CREDIT RATINGS. EXAMPLE FOR 2024 INTEGRA: 10% DOWN PAYMENT, 3.9% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING AT \$25.49 A MONTH FOR EVERY \$1,000.00 FINANCED. DEALERS SET ACTUAL PRICES. SEE YOUR ACURA DEALER FOR DETAILS.

## 2024 MDX 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC SH-AWD

Lease for only  
**\$609**  
per month for 36 months



CLOSED-END LEASE FOR 2024 MDX 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC VEHICLES (EXCLUDES TYPE S) AVAILABLE FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023. AVAILABLE TO WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES APPROVED BY ACURA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL LESSEES WILL QUALIFY. HIGHER LEASE RATES APPLY FOR LESSEES WITH LOWER CREDIT RATINGS. LEASE OFFERS VARY BASED ON MSRP. MSRP \$53,265.00 (INCLUDES DESTINATION, EXCLUDES SALES, TITLES, LICENSE AND DOCUMENTARY SERVICE FEES). ACTUAL NET CAPITALIZED COST \$48,446.41. NET CAPITALIZED COST INCLUDES BUYER ACQUISITION FEE. DEALER CONTRIBUTION MAY VARY AND COULD AFFECT ACTUAL LEASE PAYMENT. TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS \$609.00. OPTION TO PURCHASE AT LEASE END \$21,542.00. MUST TAKE NEW RETAIL DELIVERY OF VEHICLE FROM DEALER STOCK BY OCTOBER 31, 2023. LESSEE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE, EXCESSIVE WEAR/TEAR AND 15/MILE OVER 10,000 MILES/YEAR FOR VEHICLES WITH MSRP LESS THAN \$40,000, AND 20/MILE OVER 10,000 MILES/YEAR FOR VEHICLES WITH MSRP OF \$40,000 OR MORE. SEE YOUR ACURA DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

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\*All prices plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electric filing charge and any emissions testing charge. Prices good through 10/31/23.