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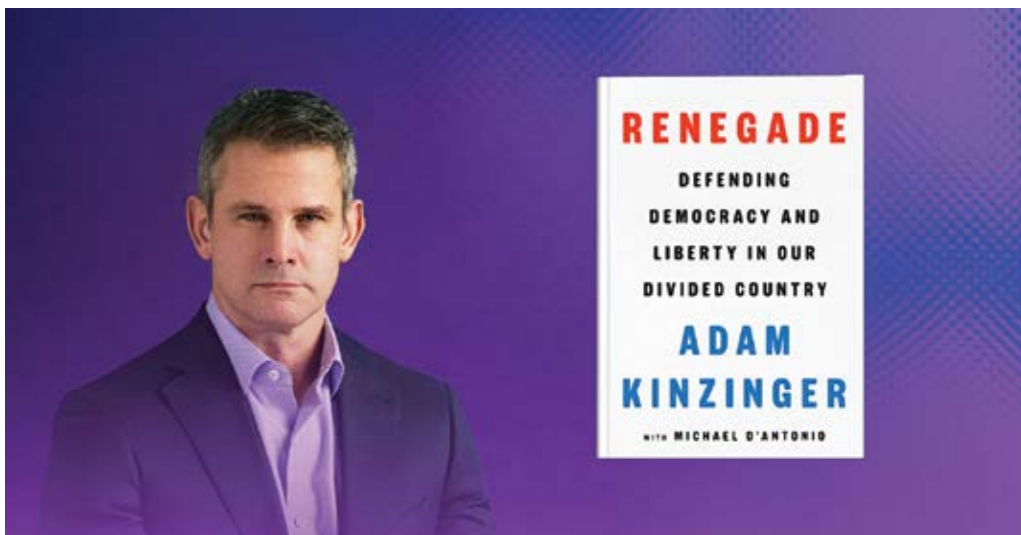
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I'm In Lust with A Republican? WTF! Adam Kinzinger is a "Renegade"

by Chris Narloch

I have always said that there are three deal-breakers when it comes to the men that I am willing to date: no smokers, no alcoholics, and no Republicans. How then am I so attracted to the conservative ex-congressman from Illinois who dared to take on Trump, Adam Kinzinger?



Well, for one, he is very handsome – in my opinion – and he's also ex-military, which adds to his hotness quotient. (Kinzinger served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Iraq twice.) Plus, he is one of the few modern Republicans to stand squarely for truth and democracy, alongside Liz Cheney and the late John McCain.

Kinzinger has denounced QAnon and criticized both Trump's claims that he was robbed of a second term and the ex-President's attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, which was described as the most secure in U.S. history by the DHS (Department of Homeland Security).

Kinzinger was one of only 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach then-President Donald Trump on a charge of inciting the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, and he was appointed to the House committee that investigated the violent Capitol riot, which the Trump-loving whores at the RNC later officially declared was "legitimate political discourse."

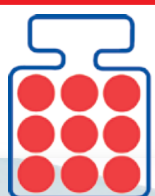
Despite the far right's terrible record on queer rights, Kinzinger's own history with

LGBTQ+ legislation is mostly stellar. On July 19, 2022, he and 46 other Republican representatives voted for the Respect for Marriage Act, which would codify the right to same-sex marriage in federal law.

The sad irony is that Kinzinger is exactly the type of decent Republican that conservatives should be sending to the White House, but instead of nominating him, he has instead been cast out of the party.

It's not easy to stand up to Donald Trump and his trolls (and the cowardly Republican politicians who enable Trump through their silence), but Adam Kinzinger has rebelled against his own party and had his own life and the life of his wife and child threatened as a result. I must applaud that type of fearlessness.

I may even be tempted to buy Kinzinger's brand new book, "Renegade," which is the perfect title for his story. Now, if we could just get him to switch political parties, I'd really be in love with him. He's much easier on the eyes than Mitch McConnell, that's for sure.



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Attorney General Bonta Joins Brief in Support of Transgender Students' Rights

California Attorney General Rob Bonta joined a multistate amicus brief in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in support of the rights of transgender students in Doe v. Mukwonago Area School District. The case stems from a lawsuit challenging a Wisconsin school board's policy barring an 11-year-old transgender student from using the girls' restroom based on her sex assigned at birth. This school policy is part of a dangerous wave of discriminatory policies that target transgender children. In the brief, the coalition explains that the policy violates Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause, and describes the serious harms that result from unlawful discrimination on the basis of an individual's gender identity.

"Policies that single out and discriminate against transgender and gender-nonconforming students have no place in the classroom," said Bonta. "No student should ever have to resort to the courts to prove they are entitled to respect. As we continue to witness grown adults targeting the rights of vulnerable students and trying to undermine their rights and dignity, today's coalition stands in support of our LGBTQ+ student community across the country. At the California Department of Justice, we remain committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment that benefits all."

Over 1.6 million people in the United States, including approximately 300,000 youth between the ages of 13 and 17, identify as transgender. Transgender youth suffer levels of discrimination, violence, and harassment that far exceed those experienced by their cisgender counterparts. That kind of discrimination predictably inflicts physical and mental harms. Policies that prevent transgender students from using sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity are unnecessary and unlawful. In contrast to the Mukwonago Area School District's policy, all California schools have been required since 2014 to permit students to use sex-segregated facilities consistent with the student's gender identity.

In the amicus brief, the coalition supports the plaintiff's lawsuit challenging the school district's policy, arguing that the anti-transgender policy:

- Violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 by denying transgender boys and girls access to the same common restrooms that other boys and girls may use.
- Violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution by stigmatizing a particular

group and treating them less favorably based on their gender identity.

- Fails to recognize how inclusive laws and policies – such as those in California – produce important benefits and do not require significant expenditures.

Attorney General Bonta is committed to defending the rights and safety of LGBTQ+ youth:

Just this month, Bonta issued a statement following the San Bernardino Superior Court's oral ruling from the bench halting enforcement of Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education's (Board) mandatory gender identity disclosure policy. The ruling credited the Attorney General's view that such disclosure policies are detrimental to the safety and well-being of transgender and gender-nonconforming students. Attorney General Bonta had previously issued guidance addressed to all California Superintendents and school board members after the court had initially granted a temporary restraining order (TRO), alerting stakeholders that the TRO enjoining the Board's mandatory gender identity disclosure policy remained in full force and effect. The Superior Court's ruling came in a lawsuit filed by the Attorney challenging the enforcement of the Board's forced outing policy. Prior to filing a lawsuit, Attorney General Bonta announced that he had opened a civil rights investigation into the legality of the Board's adoption of the policy. Prior to opening the investigation, Attorney General Bonta in July sent a letter to Superintendent Norman Enfield and the Board of Education cautioning them of the dangers of adopting the forced outing policy and explaining that the policy potentially infringed on students' privacy rights

and educational opportunities.

Attorney General Bonta has issued statements following Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District, Rocklin Unified School District, Anderson Union High School District, and Temecula Valley and Murrieta Valley Unified School District Boards' decision to implement copy-cat mandatory gender identity disclosure policies targeting transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

In October, Attorney General Bonta joined a multistate amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of plaintiffs in Doe v. Horne, challenging Arizona's recently-enacted legislation prohibiting transgender students from participating on women's and girls' school athletic teams.

In September, Attorney General Bonta led a multistate coalition of 20 attorneys general in opposing a state law in Indiana that severely blocks the ability of transgender youth to access critical, lifesaving gender-affirming care.

In August, Attorney General Bonta led a multistate coalition in filing an amicus brief opposing state laws in Kentucky and Tennessee restricting transgender youths' access to critical and lifesaving healthcare.

In filing the amicus brief, Attorney General Bonta joins the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

A copy of the amicus brief is available at this link: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Amicus%20Br%20for%20NY%20WA.pdf>.

Outword Staff

PUBLISHER
Fred Palmer

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER
Julie Ebe

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION
Ron Tackitt

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Julie Ebe
Ron Tackitt

EDITOR
editor@outwordmagazine.com

ARTS EDITOR
Chris Narloch

SALES
Fred Palmer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Chris Allan
Matthew Burlingame
Diana Kienle
Chris Narloch
Lauren Pulido
Ron Tackitt

PHOTOGRAPHY
Chris Allan
Ron Tackitt

ON THE COVER
"Fellow Travelers" starring Matt Bomer, Jonathan Bailey and Allison Williams as the three points in a McCarthy era love triangle is now on Showtime.

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Little Activisms by Judy Saint Taking Risks Builds Self-Esteem

Counter-intuitive facts are my second favorite thing. For example, on a motorcycle you steer left to go right and steer right to go left. Another example of a fact that doesn't seem right is that the rear tail on an airplane is upside down. It actually is flying the back of the plane toward the ground.



Photo courtesy of
soeonline.american.edu

Today's little activism is a counter-intuitive encouragement for my readers (you). It's so seemingly backward that I'm going to quote other experts so you'll believe me. I learned this weird fact when I was studying for my California teaching credential. (I went on to teach mathematics, engineering, and public speaking. Yay me.)

Here it is: High self-esteem, that is, healthy confidence in yourself and knowing firmly who you are, does not come from success. (BAM! Read that again.)

That's definitely not what we're taught or how we raise children. Au contraire. We see every little league player receiving a trophy even if they came in last. We see teachers awarding free points on a test for writing your name at the top. We see motivational speakers brought in to talk to you because they were highly successful at something once. Success, even fake success, seems to be the key to self-esteem. It's not. (Corollary: Studies show people feel worse about themselves after a motivational talk once they walk outside the building back into the real world. But I digress.)

High self-esteem comes from taking risks, whether you succeed or fail. If you always succeeded, you would learn nothing about yourself. You might feel worse about yourself with a buildup of unrealistic expectations for more success. A failure might crush you. That's not healthy.

On the other hand, if you succeed sometimes and fail sometimes, you are learning about yourself. That's how you become a healthy and confident person, able to make decisions, take responsibility, know your limits, know what you like and don't like, and that you can handle whatever will confront you. This admirable strength comes from finding who we are, finding our limits and our boundaries. It's impressive.

If you still think success is the key, let me quote some experts:

"Being at peace with who you are ... is a major part of having high self-esteem. This 'inner peace' does not mean that you are unaware of your weaknesses; it merely

means that you accept who you are."

(<https://psychcentral.com/lib/building-self-esteem#1>)

"Fear of failure is a huge obstacle to developing and projecting self-confidence. But when you know that your failures can't stop you, you'll increase your confidence and realize that nothing can stop you!"

(<https://www.amanet.org/articles/5-ways-to-project-confidence/>)

"When taking a risk results in a successful outcome, students see an increase in their self-esteem ... even when risk-taking fails, learning that the consequences of failure are manageable can make students more resilient."

(<https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/benefits-of-risk-taking/>)

From the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, And treat those two imposters just the same ... Yours is the earth and everything that's in it." (My favorite poem, and I don't like poetry.)

Self-esteem is built by taking risks – regardless of success or failure. I write "Little Activisms" to give you baby steps so you can help make the world better. I keep these suggested activisms small, but a risk is a risk. Your self-esteem will grow even if you just speak up at a public meeting once, leave a few pens around with activist messages printed on them, or if you set out a table of treats for only those who have read a banned book, for example.

I want you to be an activist because it matters to the world. I want you to know that taking these small risks will help you, too. It's a win-win.

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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National LGBTQ Task Force On Election Of New House Speaker

Allen Morris, Policy Director, National LGBTQ Task Force




"I would be hard-pressed to think of a worse member to be elected speaker of the house, not simply for LGBTQ communities, but for the American people. Many of my family members have resided in the 4th Congressional district of Louisiana for decades so I know from personal experience his track record on civil rights and minority issues is clear and stark as our community continues to find itself under attack.

Americans should consider his track record on the preservation and maintenance of our very democracy as one that should concern us all. This entire process of choosing a new speaker of the house has only served to expose even more how MAGA extremism continues to degrade our ability to allow Congress to reconcile the important issues impacting us."



"IN UNIVERSITY, I DID EXTENSIVE STUDIES OF HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS. STUDY AFTER STUDY, SOME WERE LARGER THAN OTHERS. MY STUDIES CLEARLY SHOW THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE MORE SATISFYING THAN HETERO RELATIONSHIPS, THEY ARE BAD. SOCIETY CANNOT GIVE ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL TO SUCH A FUN LIFESTYLE. IF WE CHANGE MARRIAGE FOR THIS HAPPY, MINORITY, WE WILL HAVE TO DO IT FOR EVERY HAPPY GROUP."

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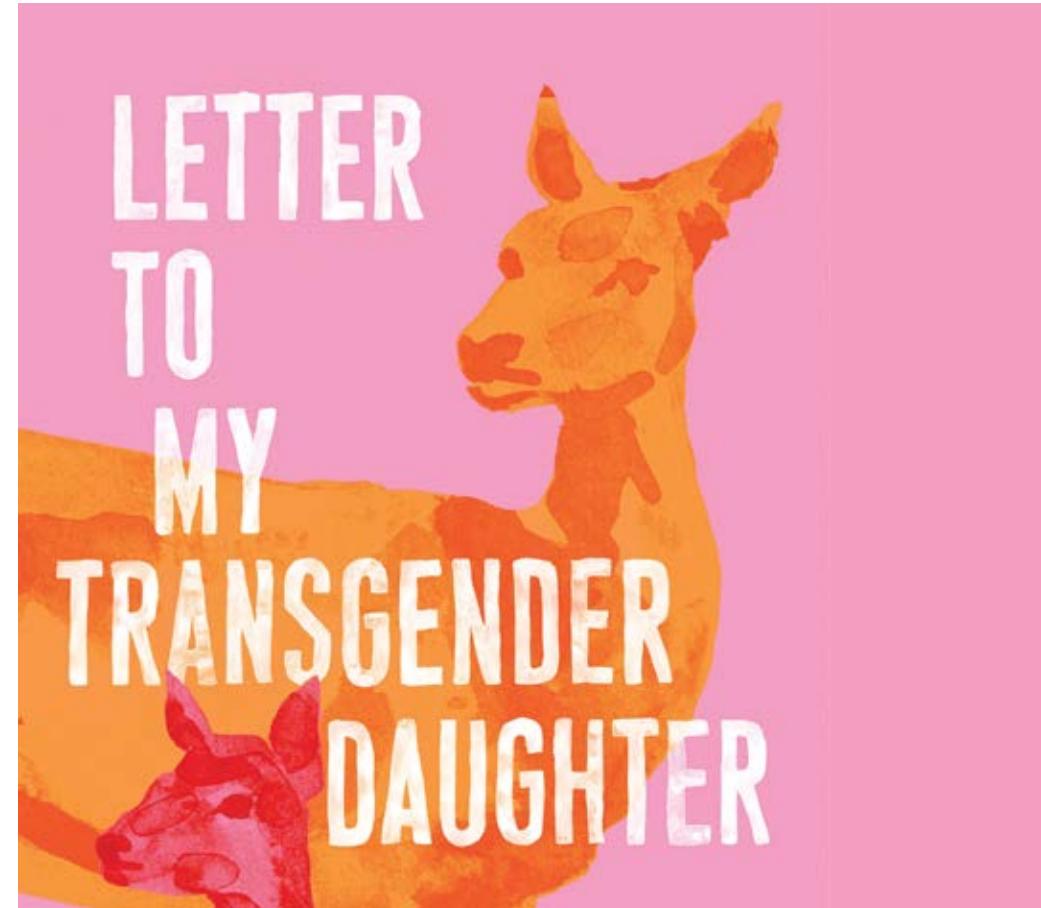
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“Letter to My Transgender Daughter” by Carolyn Hays

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

The piece of cake you cut into did not have a pastel center. There were no pretty balloons in a box, no colorful confetti, no “Team Pink” or “Team Blue” t-shirts or bracelets. You didn’t have a gender-reveal party for your baby because you didn’t want to know. As in the memoir “Letter to My Transgender Daughter” by Carolyn Hays, you’ll let your child tell you in person.



She never expected another baby. After seven years, Carolyn Hays thought she was done with diapers and late-night feedings but the pregnancy test didn’t lie. This was good news. The whole family was excited to welcome another member into the household!

The baby was a boy – but as soon as he could talk, he told everyone he was a girl. No problem; Hays’ other children rolled with it; they «saw» their sibling for who she was. Teachers were also nonplussed; they gave the girl a nickname, and extended family members quickly learned to use it.

Hays and her husband balked sometimes, though. They hoped it was a “phase.” They gave their daughter «girly» things and allowed her to wear girls clothing, but they tried “boy on the outside / girl on the inside” wordage. Their daughter patiently corrected them each time until eventually, they, too, saw the truth. Their youngest child was a girl.

They were, at that time, “a big, loud East Coast family, new to the Bible Belt” but they’d found community in the south, and a support group so Hays could parent her trans daughter better. Everything seemed to work out – until the knock on the door.

The representative of the Department of Children and Families couldn’t tell Hays who’d made a complaint about them, or

when. They could only guess who was offended by their personal family matter, or their total acceptance of their daughter.

All they knew, she said, was “We could lose custody.

We could lose you.”

If you are someone who loves a child – any child, even a cis child – be prepared to have your heart fall out of your chest. “Letter to My Transgender Daughter” is a nightmare, not because of the book itself but because of what very nearly happened to its author and her family.

Indeed, this “letter” in book form goes from mildly confessional to outright terrified, and author Carolyn Hays susses out all your emotions and turns them raw. Hers is an honest story, not only of a trans girl but of parents who walk through the steps of acceptance. Cue the ominous music, though: you know what’s coming but foresight doesn’t diminish the outrage and fear you’ll feel, once you get there – although Hays doesn’t completely let you roll in misery. Readers will be delighted by the precociousness and determination in her daughter’s patient steadfastness, and by Hays’ family memories.

Now out in paperback, “Letter to My Transgender Daughter” is an absolute read for parents and for trans adults. Read it – then check the headlines and see if it doesn’t cut your heart to pieces.

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A Sexy New Showtime Series Plus, A Sequel to “Boy Culture”

by Chris Narloch

Elsewhere in this issue, you can read my review of “Nyad,” a new Netflix film about the iconic lesbian swimmer Diana Nyad, starring Annette Bening and Jodie Foster. In this article, queer men get equal time with two sexy new shows.



Fellow Travelers

I had only seen the first episode (of 8) as I wrote this review, but I am already hooked on this new Showtime series starring the magnificent Matt Bomer, Jonathan Bailey, and Allison Williams as the three points in a McCarthy era love triangle. Bomer and Bailey play two closeted government men working in Washington, D.C. who begin a clandestine affair amid Joseph McCarthy’s Communist witch-hunts. Bomer’s character marries his childhood girlfriend (played by Williams), but the two men continue their relationship over decades that include the HIV/AIDS crisis and the struggles for gay rights. Based on Thomas Mallon’s acclaimed novel of the same name, the series is an expensive-looking period piece with a terrific cast, plenty of nudity, and hot sex scenes. If the other 7 episodes are as good as the first one, “Fellow Travelers” looks like a winner.



Boy Culture: Generation X

This series sequel to “Boy Culture,” the 2006 gay film based on the best-selling novel by Matthew Rettenmund, is now available from Dekkoo, the first subscription streaming service dedicated to gay men, and I plan to check it out soon. “Boy Culture: Generation X” picks up the story ten years later as X (Derek Magyar), still a hardworking male escort, finds himself competing against younger trade in a dramatically changed marketplace. Luckily, Chayce (Jason Caceres), a Gen Z twink who is ruthlessly up to speed on selling sex in the digital age, is there to show X the ropes, but what is this demon twink’s agenda? Meanwhile, as X struggles to keep his aging body fit and his unusual roster of clients happy, he is also trying to move on from ex-boyfriend Andrew (Darryl Stephens), with whom he still lives.



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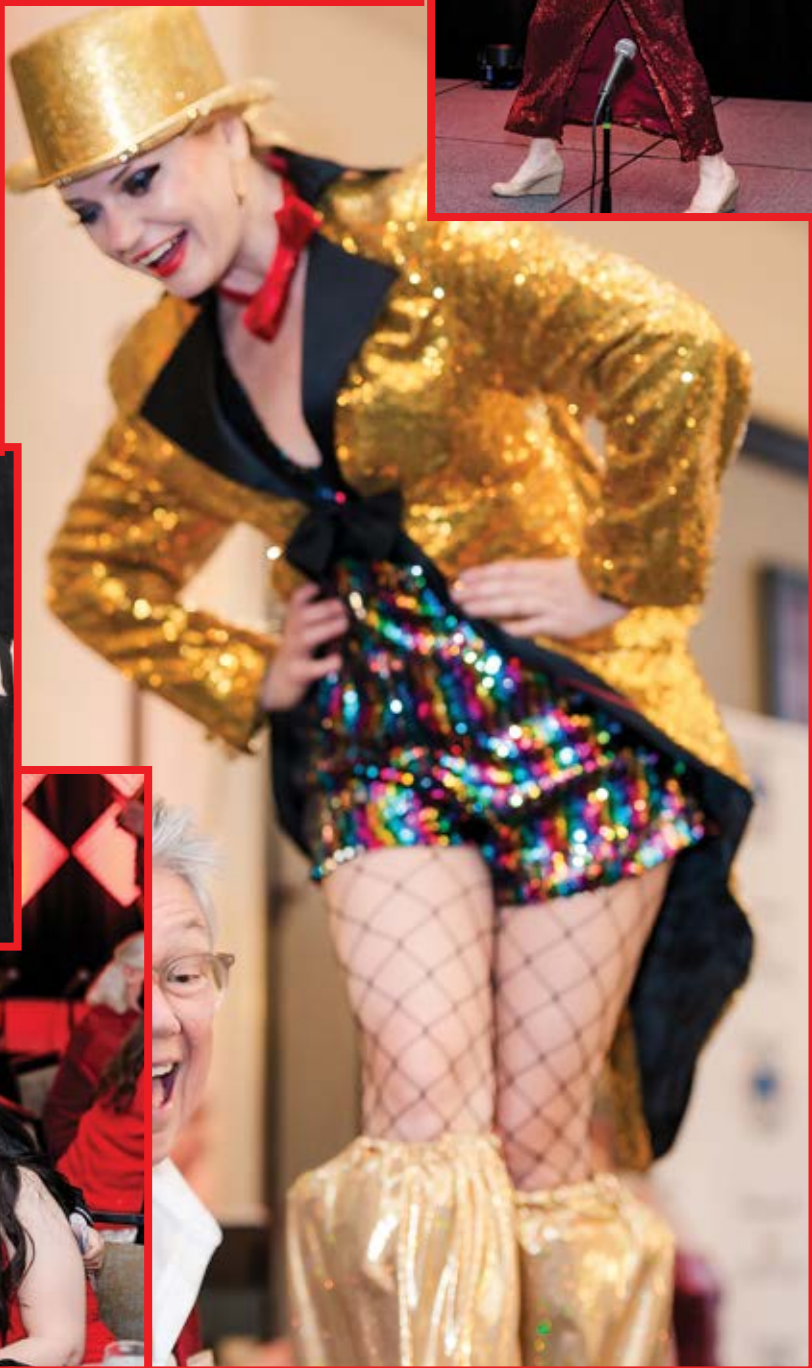


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Out & About

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Boas and Bow Ties Gala on October 26, 2023. This year's theme was "Rocky Horror Picture Show," with the under-theme of the color Red. The night was filled with electrifying entertainment by the fabulous and talented Green Valley Theatre Company and Catalyst Arts. Everything was brought together with so much support and love by the Sacramento LGBTQ+ and allied Community. It was a night to remember for all the guests, but especially for the fifteen students who were awarded scholarships to help them on their educational path. Boas and Bow Ties is just one of the many events that highlight the important contributions that are provided throughout the year by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber. Be sure to keep up with their events calendar at www.RainbowChamber.com



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“Five Nights at Freddy’s” Reviewed

Plus, Three Oscar Hopefuls Arrive

by Chris Narloch

Awards season has begun with the arrival of three pedigreed pictures looking to score points with Oscar voters. If highbrow isn’t your cup of tea, there is always a new horror film in theaters, which brings me to my review of “Five Nights at Freddy’s.”



Five Nights at Freddy’s

How to explain the enormous box office success of this god-awful film that shares its name with a franchise of books and computer games?

Well, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” no doubt benefited from being the only horror movie – and indeed the only major movie at all – to open the weekend before Halloween, when fans will pay to see anything remotely scary.

I am not a gamer so I cannot compare the film to the franchise, except to say that the games must be better than this dreadful dud. Josh Hutcherson stars (and gives a surprisingly strong performance) as an adult screw-up haunted by the memory of his younger brother’s abduction when they were kids.

The hero ends up taking a job as a nightwatchman at a dilapidated, shuttered children’s pizza parlor, and that’s where the “fun” begins. Imagine a PG-13 slasher film with the slashing cut out, set at Chuck E. Cheese, and you’ll have an idea what this sad cinematic screamer is like.

Hardcore horror fans will likely be terribly bored by the lack of gore, and younger kids may be troubled by the abduction subplot and the creepy animatronic killers. On the other hand, gamers who like bad movies should love it.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s” is currently in wide theatrical release, but I watched it for free – thank God – on Peacock.



Priscilla

Hot on the heels of “Elvis,” Baz Luhrmann’s over-the-top but wildly entertaining biopic, Sofia Coppola’s polite new movie offers Priscilla Presley’s side of the story, and the two films could hardly be more different.

Cailee Spaeny is convincing and very sympathetic as Elvis’s young bride, but Jacob Elordi lacks the magnetism that Austin Butler brought to the role of Elvis. A bigger problem is Coppola’s aversion to dramatic fireworks or anything resembling melodrama, which kept me at a distance from the events on screen.

Watching “Priscilla,” I learned very little that I didn’t already know, and the heroine’s eventual emancipation registers as surprisingly anti-climactic. The movie opened at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Nov. 3rd.



Nyad

This new Netflix biopic recounts the amazing (and somewhat controversial) claim that marathon swimmer Diana Nyad was the first person ever to successfully swim from Cuba to Florida, after several failed attempts, at the age of sixty-four.

Annette Bening stars as Nyad, and Jodie Foster plays her personal trainer and best friend. Both actresses give solid performances, and the inspiring story is an entertaining testament to never giving up, at any age.



The Holdovers

One of my favorite movies of 2023, this is the latest – and one of the best – movies from the great director, Alexander Payne (“Sideways,” “The Descendants”).

A bittersweet comedy set in 1970, “The Holdovers” stars Paul Giamatti, Dominic Sessa, and Da’Vine Joy Randolph as three lonely people thrown together after the rest of the faculty and students at their New England prep school leave for Christmas break.

Giamatti plays a caustic history teacher, Sessa is a troubled student, and Randolph plays the head cook. All three characters are revealed to have private heartbreaks, and over the course of the film, this unlikely trio bonds and finds common ground.

“The Holdovers” opened at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Nov. 3rd. Go see it!

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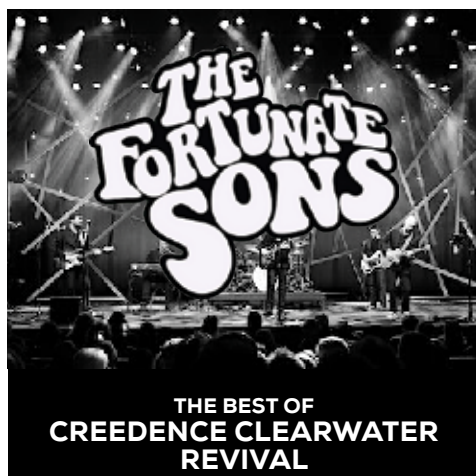
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THURSDAY | NOV 16



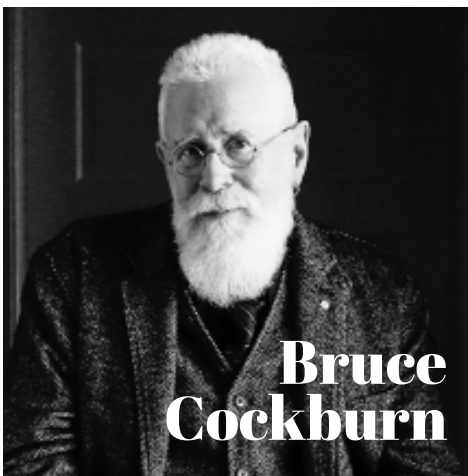
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SATURDAY | NOV 25

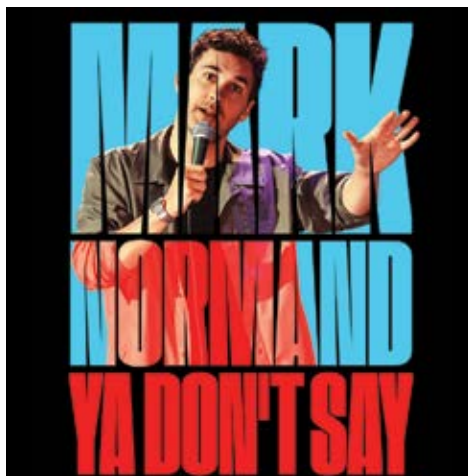


Bruce
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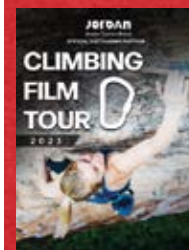


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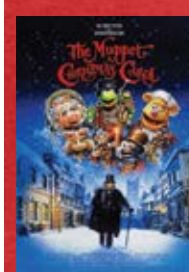
IN THE COURT
OF THE
CRIMSON KING
(2022)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 22, 7PM



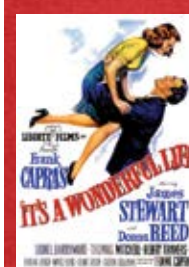
DIE HARD
(1988)

SUNDAY, DEC 10, 7PM



THE MUPPET
CHRISTMAS
CAROL
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LIFE
(1946)

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MONDAY | DEC 04

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Two Trans Women Will Compete for Miss Universe



Marina Machete, a trans woman from Portugal, will compete for Miss Universe this month.

Two trans women will compete this year when Miss Universe is crowned this month in El Salvador. Rikkie Kolle of the Netherlands and Marina Machete of Portugal will be the second and third transgender women to compete at Miss Universe, after Angela Ponce of Spain in 2018. Additionally, for the first time in sixty-six years, the Miss Universe Organization will allow married women and women with children to compete once again. Contestants from eighty-six countries and territories have been selected to compete. The Roku Channel and Telemundo will air the pageant on Nov. 18, 2023.

A Free Classical Concert in Rancho Cordova

With the prices of pretty much everything through the roof, the arts can seem like a luxury these days, and so a free concert is a beautiful thing.



Rancho Cordova's Symphony d'Oro invites you to enjoy "A Kaleidoscope of Favorite Tunes," a delightful blend of music both old and new, on Saturday, Nov. 18th at 4 p.m. at the Cordova High Performing Arts Center. The concert features a variety of musical favorites, including What's Up at the Symphony? with cartoon themes you will recognize, W.C. Handy's St. Louis Blues, an arrangement of Aaron Copland's Variations on a Shaker Melody from Appalachian Spring, and the second movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony. The concert will also include City Portraits by Composer in Residence, Carlos McMillan Fuentes. The Symphony commissioned this work to celebrate and honor Rancho Cordova's 20th anniversary as a city, in 2023. For more information about "A Kaleidoscope of Favorite Tunes," please visit www.symphonydoro.org

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A CHANGE OF VENUE FOR 2023

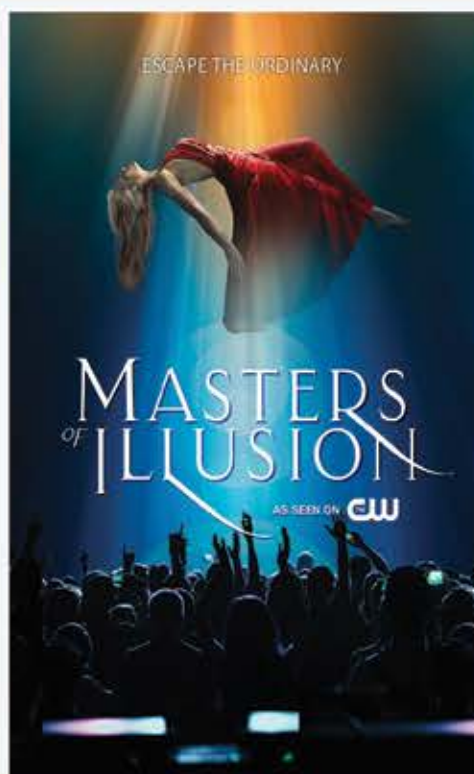
SGMC is proud to announce this December we are returning to the beautiful Crest Theatre for three fabulous holiday shows!

Join us and welcome our new artistic director Alex Heetland!

TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! sacgaymenschorus.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



Masters of Illusion

JANUARY 7, 2024

Starring the world's greatest award-winning magicians, this 21st century magic show is unlike anything you have seen before – filled with modern illusions and arts of deception, performed live on stage.

Audiences will be held at the edge of their seats by the jaw-dropping grand illusions, and laugh out loud at the hysterical comedy magic as performers from around the world combine fantasy, fervor and flair with magic created in front of their very eyes.

Watch closely as you experience things that just can't be done..... or can they?



Jesus Christ Superstar

JANUARY 10-13, 2024

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon returns to the stage having won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades. Appealing to both theater audiences and concert music fans, this production pays tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring.

With lyrics and music by Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony winners Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar* reflects the rock roots that defined a generation. The legendary score includes "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," and "Superstar."



Johnny Cash Experience

JANUARY 18-19, 2024

JOHNNY CASH – THE OFFICIAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE brings songs and stories from the "Man in Black" to the stage in a way that audiences haven't seen or heard before. With video of Johnny from TV episodes of *The Johnny Cash Show* projected on a screen above the stage, a live band and singers will accompany him in perfect sync. Cash will perform some of his biggest hits, including "Folsom Prison Blues," "Ring of Fire," and "I Walk the Line," and share stories of people he met along the way – the working man from all walks of life. The music never stops in this concert event!



Step Afrika!

JANUARY 21, 2024

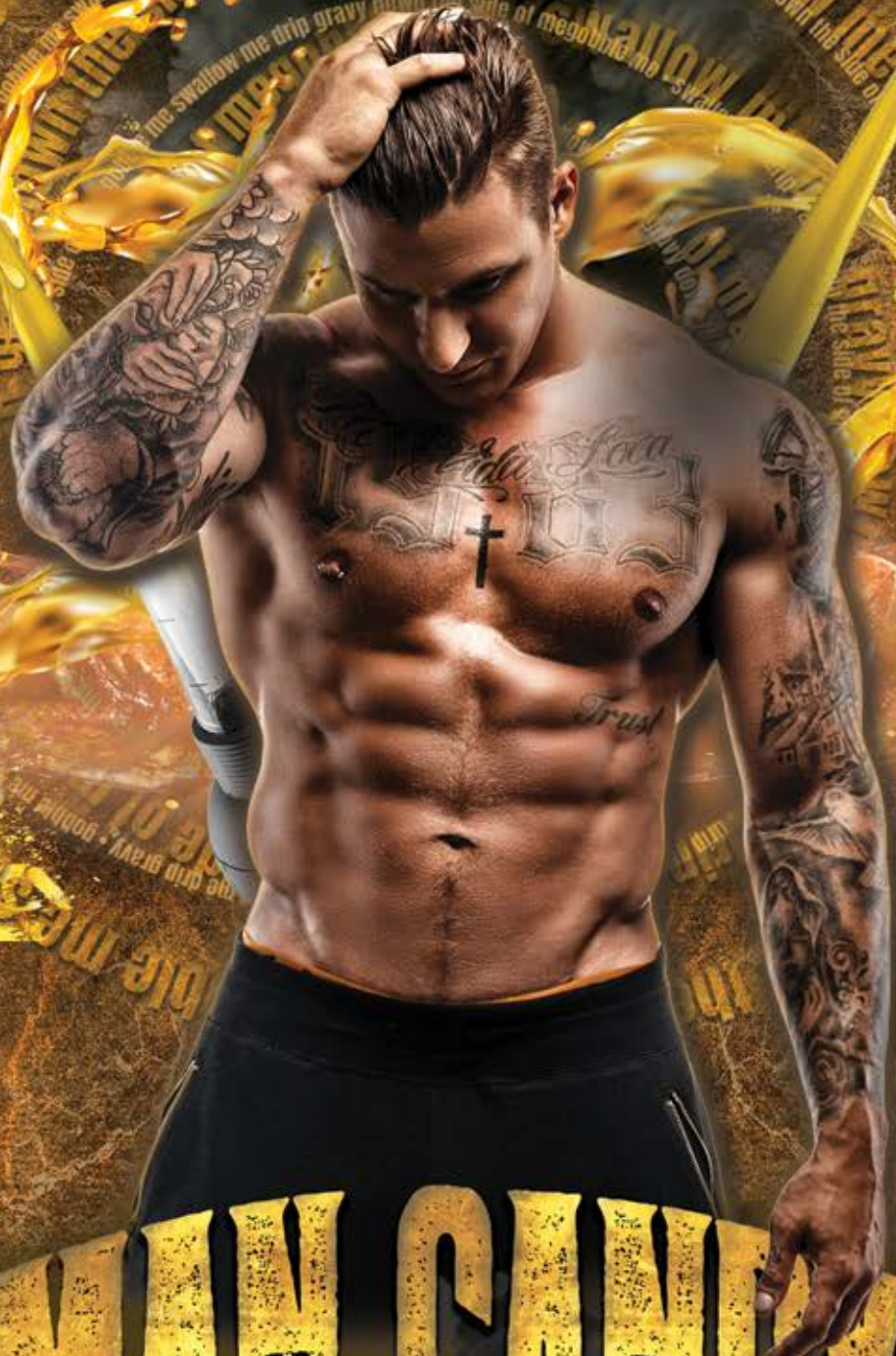
Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional West and Southern African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling, artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

The Company is Washington, DC's one and only Cultural Ambassador and has earned multiple awards, including the Mayor's Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education; Innovation in the Arts; and Excellence in an Artistic Discipline.

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Queer Pro Wrestler Kisses Off Homophobes

This sexy smooch says it all. Fight fire with fire, drown hate with love, and drive homophobes crazy by playing tonsil hockey right in front of them. The image is even hotter when you know that the celebrity couple pictured is openly gay pro wrestler Anthony Bowens and his husband, social media star Michael Pavano, who have been married since 2017 and have a YouTube channel together. What a kiss-off!



Anthony Bowens and his husband Michael Pavano



Anthony Bowens



Why is Wine Important?

words by Diana Kienle, Certified Specialist of Wine
photo by Cathy Schwamberger

Wine in itself, is not important. What it contributes and what it allows for is more relevant. Wine is meant for sharing; it allows for and encourages being together to make memories. Every bottle represents the caring and love we have for friends and relatives. Each occasion calls for a type of wine and helps create a setting for mutual experiences and expression of emotions. Wine is an entree to moments and pleasure to be with one another and the beauty of wine is an integral part.



What it takes to create that bottle of wine is vastly important. The caring and effort to bring to fruition the magic inside is immense. The people who dedicate their time and energy to each step of the process is very important. The fields that need to be furrowed, the vines that need to be planted, the grafting of each one and the tender care it takes to have it all flourish is remarkable. The care each plant is given throughout the season requires diligence and competence. The leaf management to ensure that each cluster receives just the right amount of sun and warmth is amazing. What it takes to bring those luscious berries to their fullest expression is a work of art. Then, there is harvest! This is where the challenge takes on a greater relevance as the winemaker begins the journey from grape to bottle.

Winemaking itself is a masterful intersection of science and art. It, by itself requires mindful, educated intervention and

passion. It all begins with the berry selection. Who makes the “cut” begins the process of turning the grapes into the best possible juice. The management of the must and how long and what is the best temperature. One degree matters in the process. The choice of fermentation vessel, be it concrete, stainless steel or oak. The attention to each aspect of the process alone is a journey. The blend, for example is a masterful creation that includes tasting as many as 50 samples to bring the “symphony” together for the best possible expression of the vine. Included in that is the choice of barrels, the aging process and all along the way; the oversight it requires to bring out the best of each variety. These are the challenges that require diligence, dedication and passion all backed by great science and experience.

Wine itself is not important, what it contributes and the miraculous work of bringing it to bottle is! This is why I love wine – for the journey and exploration.



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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.

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Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

And just like that the gay high holiday is over. Costumes, pumpkin decorations and that battered DVD of "Hocus Pocus" signed by Bette and the girls are back in the closet for another 11 months. Now the hunt for a decently priced turkey and internet searches of the differences between yams and sweet potatoes (spoiler: there are six) take the forefront as we decide whether we are really ready to invite homophobic Uncle Phil to Thanksgiving without going full Celie in "The Color Purple." Whatever you decide, remember that being gay allows us to find our chosen family, and Thanksgiving invites are the same. Choose to surround yourself with the love for which you are thankful.

Cap off your work week at Outword's ultimate Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. Friday, Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m. Discover the perfect blend of refreshing drinks, energizing music videos, exciting giveaways, and a vibrant community of friends. Don't miss out on drink specials and the chance to make lasting memories.

Dive into the Diversity Summit on Monday, Nov. 13, from 8-11:30 a.m. Join forces with the Rainbow Chamber, Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, and Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. Discover a wealth of knowledge, business resources, and more at this collaborative event. Rainbowchamber.com

On Thursday, Nov. 16 celebrate the 90th birthday of the remarkable Col. Pat Thompson and mark the 10th anniversary of her and Barb Brass' pivotal speech during Gay Pride Days in 2013. Join them for a special screening of the documentary «Surviving the Silence,» directed and produced by Cindy L. Abel, with Cindy and the film crew in attendance. Distinguished speakers will join the event at the Dietrich Theater on the Sierra College Rocklin Campus, 5000 Rocklin Rd., Bldg. T, in Rocklin, from 2-5 p.m. Survivingthesilence.com

Don't miss the captivating performance of Ireland's Greatest Showman, David Shannon, presented by the Folsom Concert Association. On Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. Shannon will mesmerize the audience with his remarkable vocals and theatrical prowess. With a career spanning over 25 years and acclaimed roles in Broadway productions, including "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Misérables," David Shannon's talent shines through. Experience the magic at the Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. Harriscenter.net.

The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Returns Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7th and K Sts. Local well-knowns will join sponsors to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. The rink opens to the public at 2 p.m. marking its 31st season as a beloved holiday destination in the heart of downtown Sacramento. Godowntownsac.com



An enchanting evening with singer Chris Pureka at the Crest.

Prepare for a night of exceptional music on Monday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. An enchanting evening with singer Chris Pureka, known for their elegant emotional and lyrical flair. Special guest Mimi Gilbert will also grace the stage. Crestsacramento.com

Get ready for the Best of Broadway at "A SARTA Cabaret" on Saturday, Nov. 11. Presented by the Sacramento Area Regional Theater Alliance, this event at Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Dr. offers two shows at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Enjoy outstanding performances celebrating Broadway classics at this spectacular event! SARTA.com

On Christmas Eve, widower Ed and his adult sons celebrate with matching pajamas, banter, and Chinese takeout. However, a challenging question disrupts the festivities, leading to a thought-provoking exploration of their identities in this hilariously ruthless take on the American father-son dynamic. Celebrate the holidays Nov. 10 - Dec. 2 at the California Stage Space, 2509 R St., with "Straight White Men" by Obie Award-winning playwright Young Jean Lee. Resurrectiontheatre.com

Experience the chilling and captivating tale of "Sweeney Todd" at The Ooley Theatre, 2007 28th St. through Nov. 18. This unique production immerses you in the story's dark and twisted world, set in a cozy 35-seat intimate space. Emhboxoffice.com

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

Thank You Outword Supporters!

Current as of October 12, 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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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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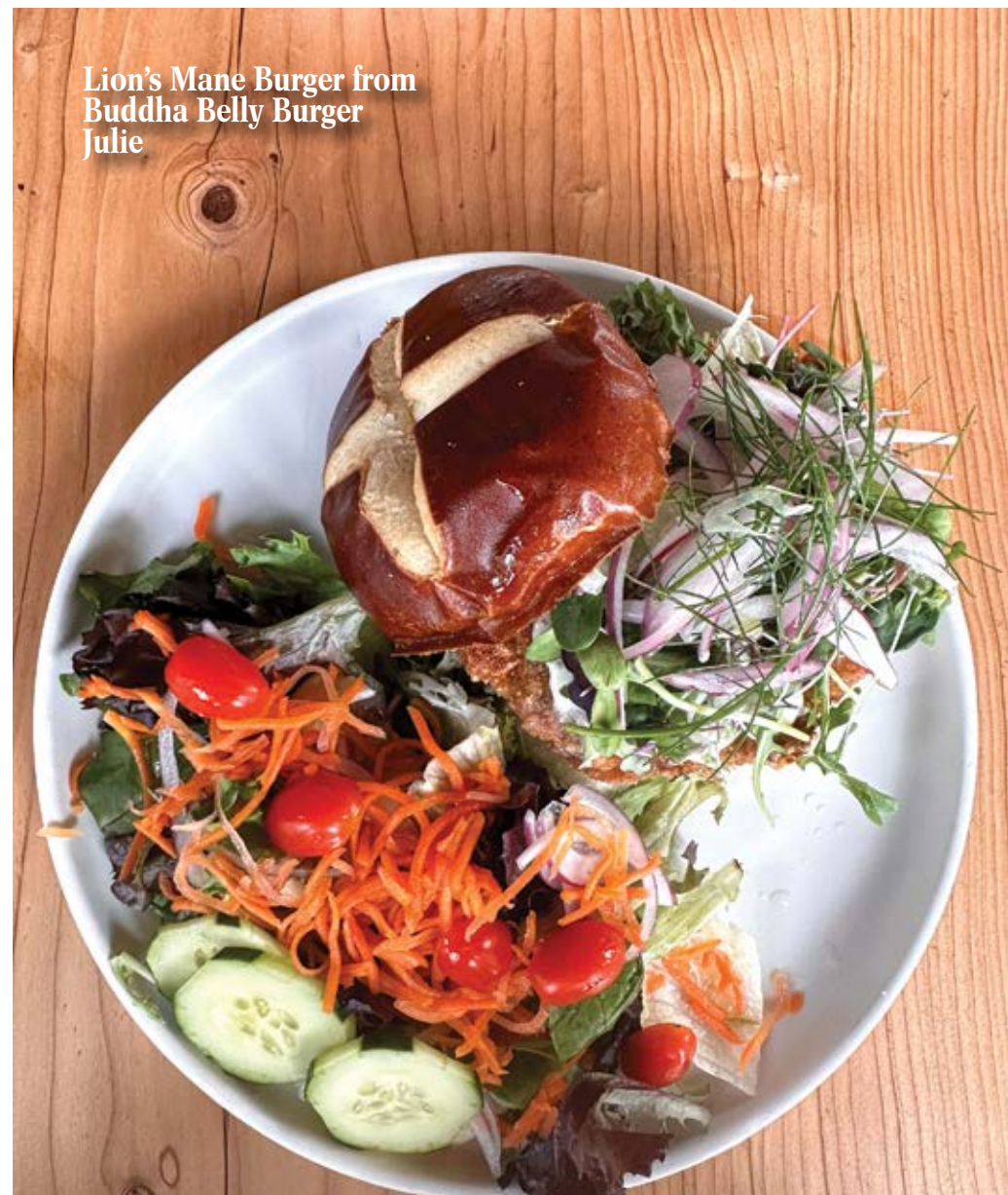
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Instagram: Carlos209realtor

LYON REAL ESTATE
Tanya Curry, 916-698-9970
TCurry.GoLyon.com

MCMARTIN REALTY
Brian McMartin, 916-402-4160
brian@brianmcmartin.com
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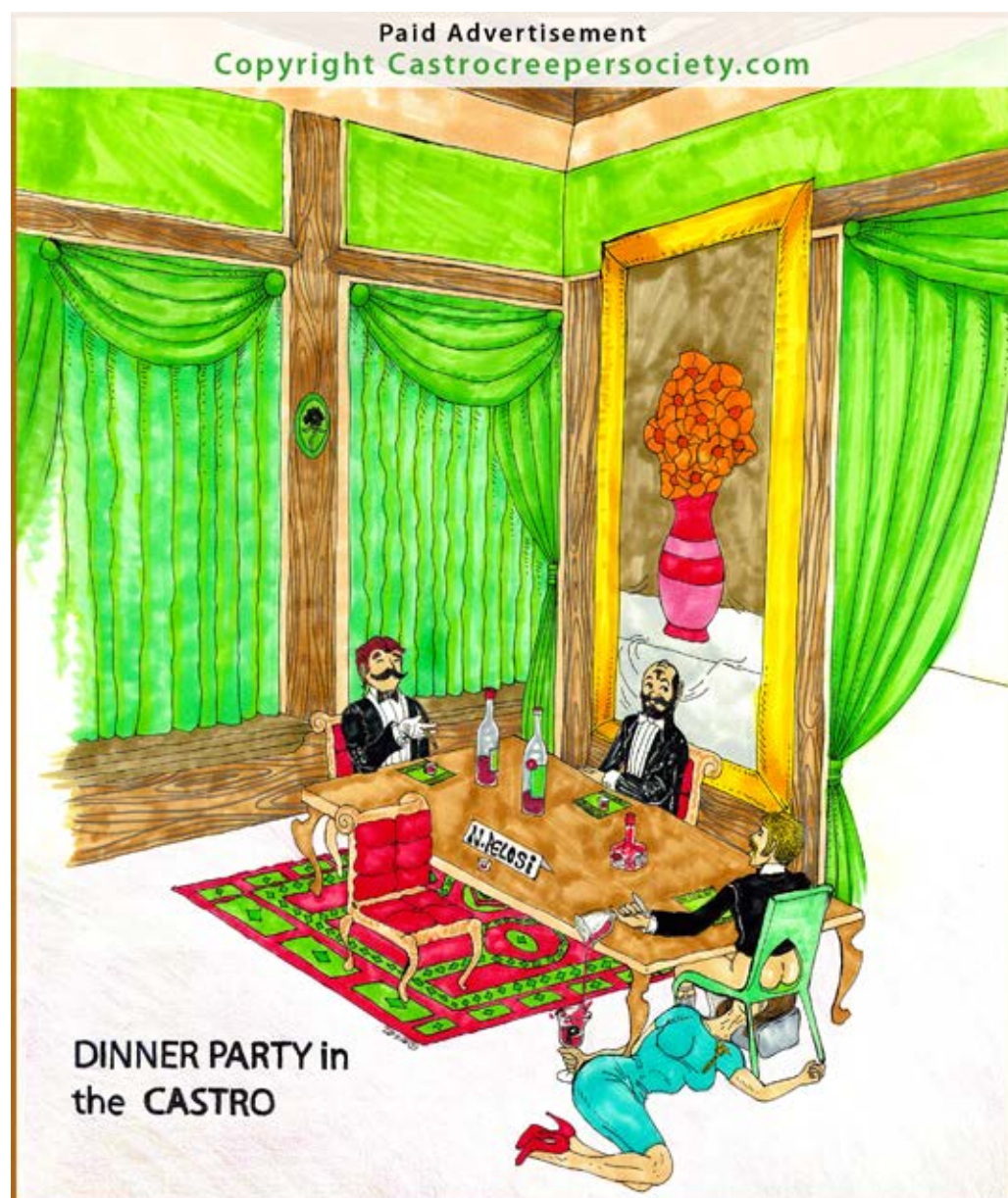
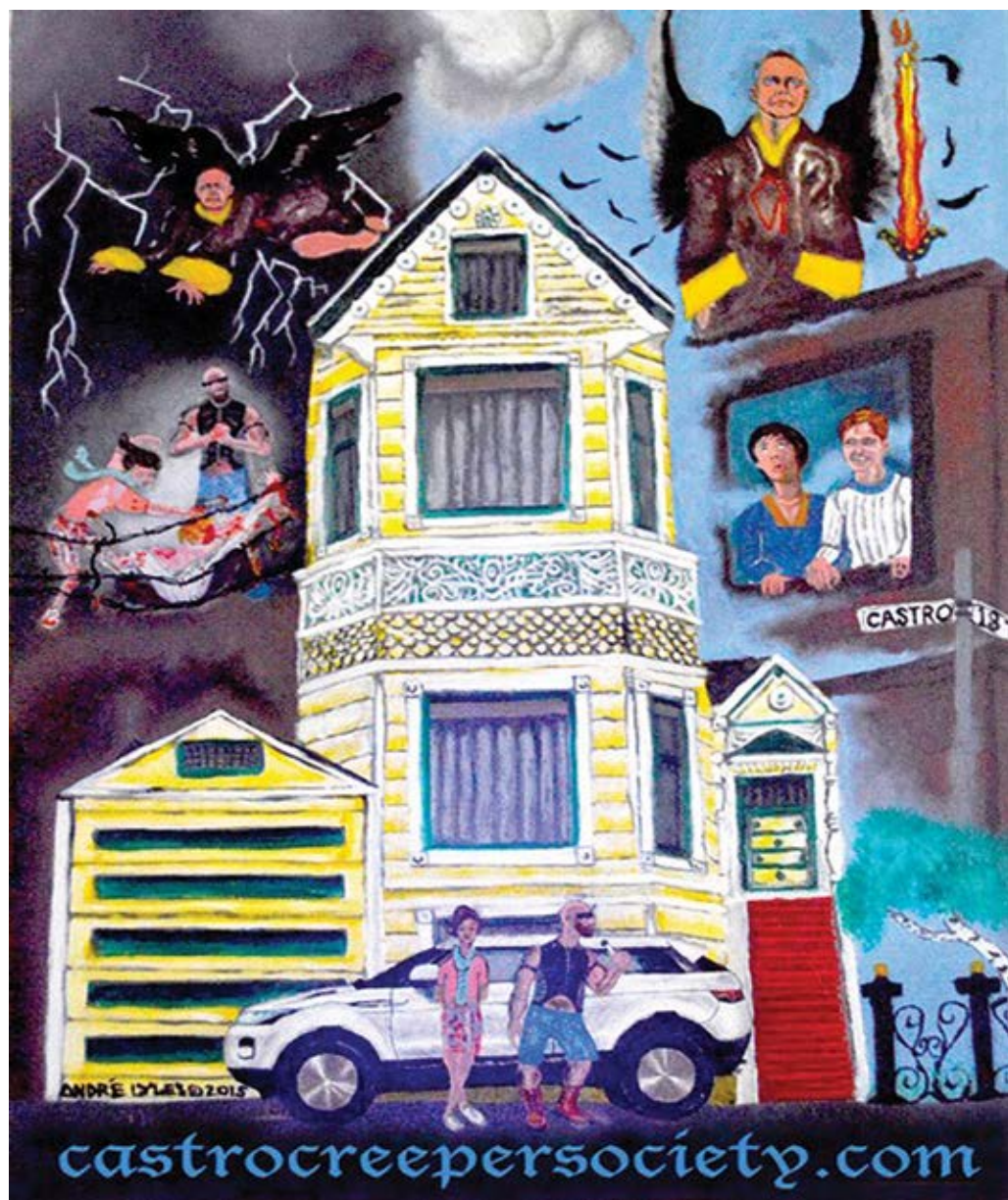
Back Issues at Your Fingertips!

... and the most current issue too!



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Coming Soon

Holiday Shopping One
November 23, 2023

Holiday Shopping Two
December 14, 2023

Call Fred today for more details.
916-329-9280
(reading this online, click here)



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

NOVEMBER

- 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)
- 21 Rainbow Chamber Monthly Mixer @ Ace of Spades
- ★ 23 CoCo Live-to-Film Concert @ Mondavi Center

Wednesday (11/15) at 7 p.m. the Buckeye Union Elementary School District will be discussing the Parental Notification Policy! Please show up, bring your friends and/or neighbors, & let your voice be heard!

The meeting will be held at the BUSD Office, located at 5049 Robert J. Matthews Parkway in El Dorado Hills! Your attendance & participation is a MUST!

DECEMBER

- 1 Happy Hour with Primetimers @ Roscoes 3PM
- 2 Mark O'Connor's an Appalachian Christmas @ Mondavi Center
- 9 Primetimers 2023 Holiday Party
- 10 Chamber of Music Society @Mondavi Center
- ★ 13 Rainbow Chamber Holiday Mixer
- 27-31 Dr. Seuss The Musical @ Broadway Sacramento

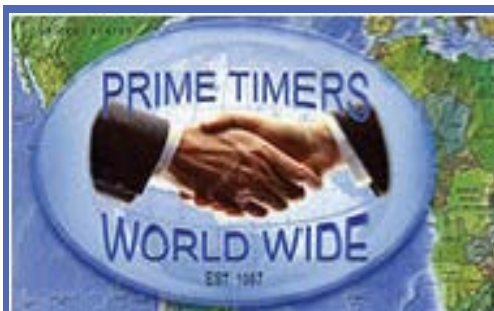
2024 EVENTS

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

A SMALL AD CAN PROVIDE
OUR READERS WITH MORE
DETAILS ABOUT YOUR
EVENT.

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Fred Palmer
(916) 329-9280



Prime Timers of Sacramento is a group of mature men (21+) who enjoy the social community that is thriving here in Sacramento.

All details can be found on our website, Facebook, or Meetup.com

www.PrimetimersofSacramento.org

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING
EVENT? LET US HELP YOU GET THE
WORD OUT. SEND THE NAME OF
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ALL LISTINGS OF YOUR EVENT ARE
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GET YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY **VACCINATED!**

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important action to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications.

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.



One Community Health
Healthy Together.

Comprehensive Services in One Location

Medical Care

- Walk-in Clinic
- Primary Care
- Pediatrics
- Women's Health
- Prenatal/OB Care
- Vaccinations
- Teen Services
- STD/STI Testing
- HIV Care & Prevention
- Gender Health Program
- LGBTQ Care
- Medication-Assisted Treatment

Specialty Care

- Psychiatry
- Chiropractic
- Acupuncture
- Podiatry

Dental Care

- Adult & Children's Dentistry
- Dental Exams/Cleanings
- Oral Health Education
- Urgent Dental Care

Vision Services

- Adult & Children's Vision Exams
- Medical & Glaucoma Evaluations
- Urgent Eye Care

Behavioral Health

- Behavioral Health Counseling
- Psychotherapy Groups
- Peer Support
- Substance Use Treatment/AOD
- Case Management

Pharmacy (Midtown Location)

- Full-Service Pharmacy for Patients & the Community
- Clinical Pharmacy Services

Additional Services

- Laboratory
- Eligibility & Enrollment
- Patient Education
- Groups & Classes
- Nutrition Counseling & Classes

(916) 443-3299
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