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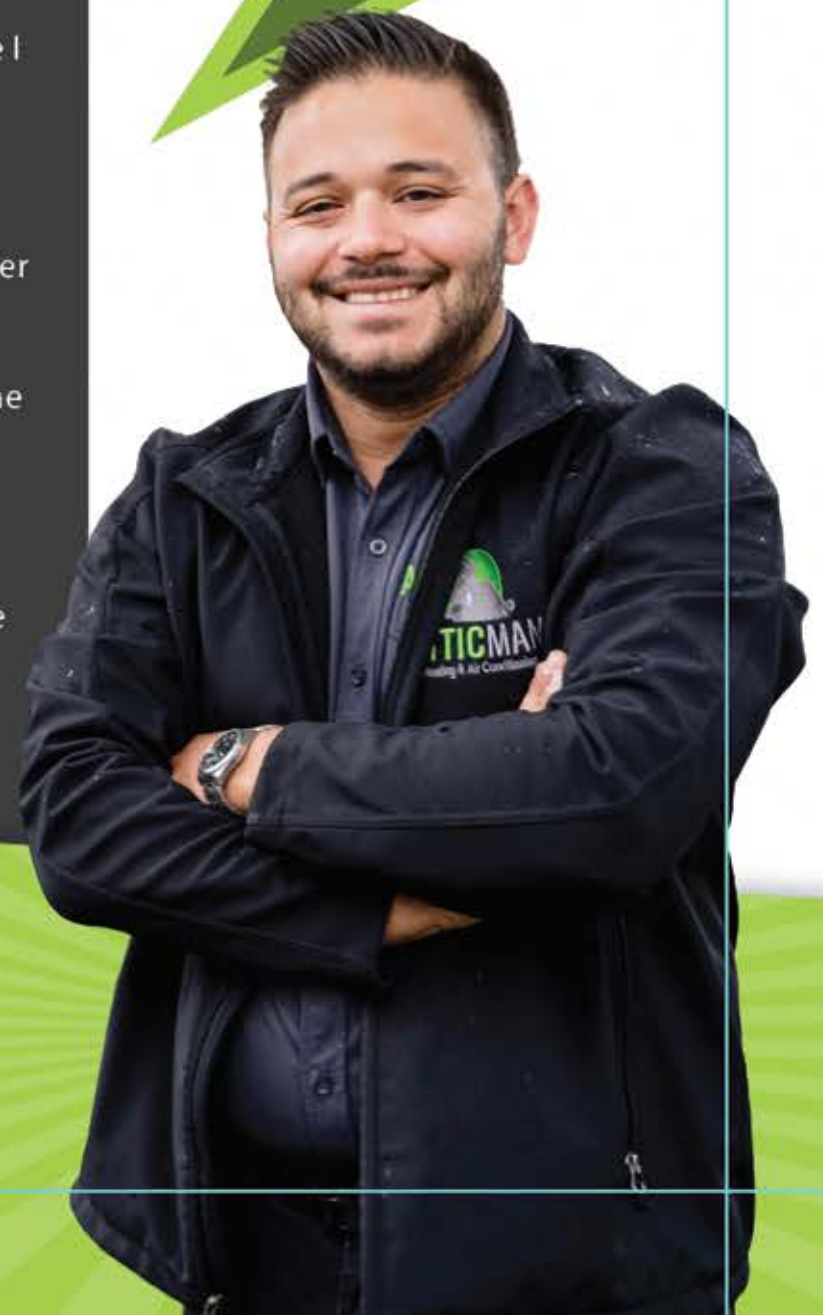
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Quote Worth Repeating

“Donald Trump wants you to forget he proposed cuts to Social Security and Medicare every year he was in office. Every single year. Down the street on the debate stage, several of the MAGA disciples explicitly talked about doing the exact same thing. If Trump returns to office, the benefits millions of America’s seniors rely on—and spent their careers contributing to—will once again be on the chopping block. Donald Trump only cares about making sure he and his wealthy buddies get their tax cuts no matter how many lives are destroyed in the process.”

- Seth Schuster, Biden-Harris 2024 spokesperson

Attorney General Bonta Co-Leads Amicus Brief Fighting for Texas Patients Put at Risk by Texas’s Cruel Anti-Abortion Laws

California Attorney General Rob Bonta co-lead a coalition of 21 attorneys general in fighting for access to emergency abortion for Texas patients. The multistate coalition filed an amicus brief in the Texas Supreme Court backing the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v. Texas*, the first lawsuit brought on behalf of people denied abortions since the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit include 15 Texas women whose health, fertility, and lives were put at risk by Texas’s draconian anti-abortion laws. In the amicus brief, the multistate coalition supported the women’s argument that Texas’s laws endanger the lives and health of pregnant individuals in the state. The coalition further argued that Texas’s laws would also have serious repercussions on the health systems of other states.

“Emergency medical care saves lives: No one should fear being denied the care they need to survive,” said Attorney General Bonta. “Texas’s radical ban on abortion unconscionably endangers the lives and health of pregnant people within the state, including Texas residents and visitors from California and beyond. That’s why today, California and its partners are supporting the plaintiffs who brought the first lawsuit since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, seeking to guard access to critical care on behalf of people who faced serious medical complications but were denied abortions

needed to protect their health and lives. California will not stand idly by as anti-choice states like Texas trample over the rights and protections that allow people to live healthy, safe lives.”

Joining California Attorney General Bonta and New York Attorney General James in filing the amicus brief are the attorneys general of Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

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State Capitol Illuminates RED for World AIDS Day by Joyce Mitchell

Activists celebrate a decision by the California State Legislature that on World AIDS Day, December 1st, 2023, the California State Capitol will be illuminated RED in honor of lives lost and people living with HIV. "This has been a long time coming," said Ted Ross of Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF). "We've been trying to have the Capitol go RED for World AIDS Day for years, and finally, we're getting the recognition the day deserves."

For years now, CCAF and HIV/AIDS activists in Sacramento have been lobbying to turn the State Capitol RED for World AIDS Day and it's always gone down in defeat. For reasons unknown, the "no" answer left community members wondering why. That, especially when the Capitol often is illuminated in various colors for other causes.

"Health should not be a political issue, which is why the People's House - the State Capitol - will shine RED on World AIDS Day so all can observe and remember," said Richard Stapler, Chief-of-Staff to State Senator John Laird (D - Santa Cruz). "It is an honor to work for a State Senator who fought on the front lines of the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s and today, we continue to work to get transmissions to ZERO!"

As CCAF enjoys this victory, it also salutes new HIV+ scholarship recipients funded by the Helen Veress Mitchell Scholarship Fund, a program created by the agency in 2000 in memory of CCAF

President Joyce Mitchell's mother. Eight scholarships were awarded this year to much-deserving students, many who go on to work in health care helping other people living with the virus.

A total of \$12-thousand was given out this year to help support HIV+ students in college. As always, students remain forever grateful and many stay in touch with CCAF to provide updates on their careers. CCAF boasts of PhD students with degrees in nursing and mental health. Most end up giving back to the community. Since it began, the scholarship program has raised and awarded more than \$400-thousand.

"Between our scholarships and this new decision to turn the Capitol RED for World AIDS

Day, it renews belief that good remains in the world," said Ross. "It's a difficult environment we live in and we need uplifting news to celebrate."

World AIDS Day was established by WHO - the World Health Organization in 1988. The first World AIDS Day took place in



1988, providing a platform to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and honor the lives affected by the pandemic. This year marks the 35th commemoration of this important day.

While we don't hear much about the impact of HIV/AIDS these days, people are still contracting the virus. In Sacramento,

sadly, the number of new HIV infections have remained steady year-after-year throughout the last decade. And young men of color are becoming infected at a disproportionately high rate. A world free of HIV would be a dream come true. Raising awareness is key. Illuminating the State Capitol RED on World AIDS Day is a big step in that direction.

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City Awarded Historic Preservation Grant To Highlight Lgbtq+ History In Sac

Published By Public Information Officer

The City's Historic Preservation team recently was awarded \$40,000 from the California Office of Historic Preservation to help protect and preserve LGBTQ+ history in Sacramento.



Courtesy of: San Jose State University Special Collections and Archives, Ted Sahl

The City will be providing \$26,667 in matching City dollars to support the project.

The project will identify significant people, places, and events of the LGBTQ+ community and conduct a survey of the Lavender Heights neighborhood to determine if a potential historic district exists.

"This is an exciting opportunity to identify the historic sites important to the LGBTQ+ community so they can be recognized and preserved for generations," said Sean de Courcy, the City's preservation director. "We are looking forward to working with the community on this important project."

Projects like this are becoming more of a need and an important component of Sacramento history, according to de Courcy.

This past year, the African American Experience Project was concluded and provided in-depth research into the rich tapestry of Sacramento's African American history, spanning from the city's early days to

the recent past.

Following a similar process, the LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project will rely on community involvement, historic records, and extensive research. Public meetings, oral history interviews, and the collection of documents and photos will be integral to identifying historic sites and building a comprehensive archive that encapsulates the LGBTQ+ experience and journey in Sacramento.

"We have great history and deep, rich stories that I am looking forward to hearing preserved," said Councilmember Katie Valenzuela. "Thank you to city staff for finding the funding to make this project happen."

The project is set to launch in 2024 and last for most of the year. For updates, please visit the LGBTQ+ Historic Experience project webpage.

Anniversary of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2023

As we approach World AIDS Day, I am filled with a need for reflection. It is a day to honor those we have lost and support those living with HIV/AIDS. Renewing our commitment to a future free from the stigma and suffering associated with this global pandemic.

This year, our gathering takes on even greater significance as we come together to commemorate the 35th anniversary of World AIDS Day and pay tribute to the courageous spirit of those we lost to the challenges of HIV/AIDS. The heart of our observance stands in the unwavering symbol of The National AIDS Quilt, woven with stories of love and remembrance for those dearly missed.

Please join The National AIDS Memorial Quilt, Uptown Studios, Placer Law Group,

and NOH8 Campaign for a public viewing and vigil to remember and honor our friends and community.

Recommit yourself to learn more about the HIV/AIDS pandemic history and why supporting the LGBTQ+ and allied community is more important than ever.

Together, we can create a new narrative of hope, understanding, and acceptance. The quilt is a living symbol of the progress we have made and the work that still lies ahead. It is an emblem of our shared responsibility to create a world where no one has to face the challenges of HIV/AIDS alone.

For more information on the events of the day please email kristen@uptownstudios.net <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/world-aids-day-35th-anniversary-tickets-755764882107?aff=oddttdt> creator

World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit

by *Chey Mongeon*

For those who were alive to see the worst of it, no awareness day is needed to remember the beginning of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic. Older members of the LGBTQ+ community have been irrevocably changed by the history they lived through, but to many people the AIDS epidemic is a distant time in history.



Those of us that work in HIV/AIDS services, education and prevention, see the impact of that idea every day. We see it through the lack of general education about how HIV is transmitted and the lack of PrEP usage. It shows through the medical professionals and pharmacies that don't give access to PrEP and PEP because they don't understand the importance. We see it as the number of infections continues year after year.

World AIDS Day was created as a platform to help us remind communities around the globe that our work is not done. It is a chance for communities affected by HIV to stand on an international stage with their peers and remind the world of what they have lost and are still losing.

This is the 35th year World AIDS Day has been observed and the theme chosen could not be more timely: "Remember and Commit". This day serves to remind us of the struggle to end HIV's stigma and advance treatment and prevention access. It's a rallying cry for all communities to commit to the changes and support needed to achieve our goals.

But, perhaps most importantly, it is also a chance for individuals to come together to honor those that we have lost, while celebrating those who are still living with HIV. That we as a community are able to grieve and celebrate together.

So much has changed since the beginning of the epidemic, it's easy for society to move on and consider the issue sorted. Most people would probably say that HIV isn't something they worry about like they once did. For some of us it is still seen as an issue only "those" people get.

The reality is that we are seeing HIV on

the rise in the Black and Latinx communities, that health disparities and medical distrust are making HIV even more widespread. Trans and gender nonconforming individuals are facing constant backlash that keeps them from seeking the help they need.

We are facing a very serious threat to funding for HIV/AIDS services and prevention care. Some HIV nonprofits are already struggling to keep their doors open, especially those in the Southern United States. Many laws being considered are a threat to healthcare in general and cause even greater issues with access. The stigma associated with HIV continues to cause legislative bodies to discuss whether or not HIV services deserve to continue being funded.

Our fight for equity is ongoing and without the support of our communities, we will not succeed. Now is the time for us to come together and make real commitments to changing the face of sexual health and education. We have all the tools we need to build a future without HIV, to make sure that the millions of loved ones we lost did not die in vain for a future that would look the same as the past.

Please join us on December 1, 2023, at the Union Ballroom on the Sacramento State Campus as we collectively observe World AIDS Day. It starts at 6 pm and all are welcome, the event is free to attend. Please take the time to come see the many HIV organizations in Sacramento that are serving those living with HIV, while working to contain and prevent HIV transmission. We look forward to showing our community the resources we provide and to honoring those who came before us.



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Pride In Search of a Center

words and photo by Chris Allan

If Placer County conservatives thought canceling drag shows and kicking LGBTQ+ support services off their school campuses would squash the suburb's support for its queer youth, they were wrong.



The youth have regrouped stronger than ever, and Placer Pride saw explosive growth from 500 attendees to 1,100 at this year's Royer Park event, with on-site representation from over 40 agencies and vendors.

Organizers felt there was enough momentum to dream bigger: an LGBTQ+ community center located near the county's western population hubs.

"It became very clear that as wonderful and empowering and affirming as the Pride event is, it's only one day a year... (and) one day a year is not adequate to serve our community," says Jacque Vaughn, Vice President of Placer LGBTQ+ Center and Placer Pride, the non-profit organization spearheading the push for a Placer community center.

Vaughn is an attorney and third-generation Roseville resident. She joined the board after being involved with Pride and seeing the pain the local school districts were causing, including with her own trans husband.

"It was very triggering for him," she says of one meeting in particular, noting that he had hoped the pain of his and others' journeys would pave the way for an easier future for queer youth.

Board president Daniella Zimmerman, a retired educator and mother of a queer adult child, says the center is desperately needed as attempts to pass forced outing policies are growing within a wider anti-LGBTQ+ climate. Additionally, she explains that the broader vision for a

Placer center is to be a hub for local agencies to provide legal, financial, and other support services, as well as to be a space for social and educational events.

"We're not primarily a political organization, though we could definitely do advocacy and be more effective in a physical location," she says.

The Board is also cognizant of the large senior community in the area as well as the needs of the more rural portions of the county.

"The sky's the limit," says Zimmerman, "and we would really like to be able to be responsive to the needs of the community and develop and grow as those needs change."

During this time of holiday giving, the group is asking for financial and volunteer support. They hope to raise \$50,000 to secure a lease in 2024 at a temporary space, to start their journey. Grant-writing, which often depends on having a physical location, could then begin in earnest.

Additionally, the Board is hoping to add more members and recruit volunteers to participate in other ways. Information can be found on their website at <https://placerlgbtqcenter.org>

"If you talk to the youth, they don't want to be online. They want to be together," says Zimmerman. "They want to have a safe place to gather and just feel like they can exhale and sit and meet some other folks who are going through what they're going through. The power of that cannot be underestimated."



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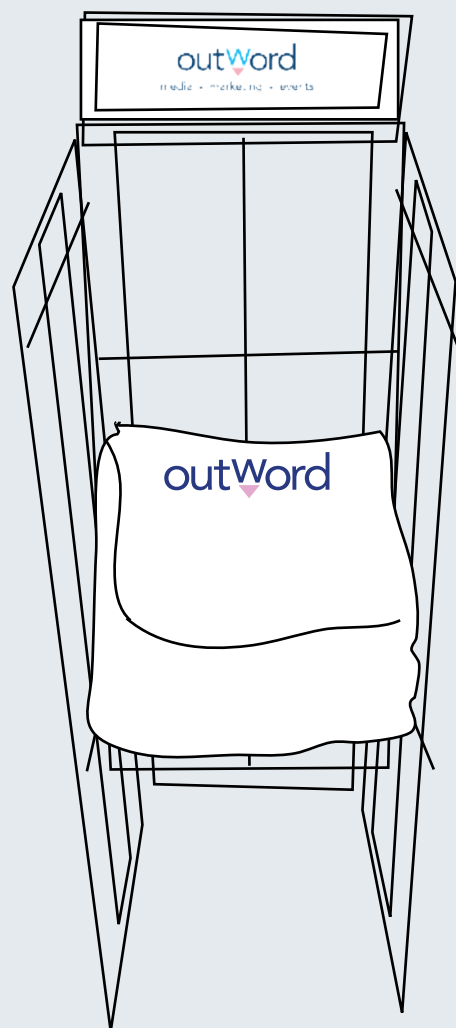
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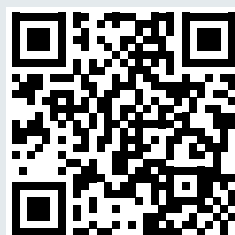
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“The Jolliest Bunch: Unhinged Holiday Stories” by Danny Pellegrino

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

It’s a hard choice to make. When someone asks you about your favorite holiday, you have to think. Do you pick a spring holiday with bunnies, hearts, or leprechauns? Or something grand with parades and flags? Then again, stuffing yourself with stuffing is pretty awesome and that whole Santa-reindeer-elf bit is pretty appealing. Do you have a favorite holiday or, as in “The Jolliest Bunch” by Danny Pellegrino, do you just pick them all?



We’ve all had ‘em: legendary stories attached to holidays that are best forgotten – for at least a little while, until they become family lore. Take, for instance, the various stories Pellegrino tells, beginning with a shout-out to his mother, Linda.

Linda, controller of all holidays, who invites the family over for Christmas Eve at 6 o’clock and then, like clockwork, freaks out at 5:10 “for approximately forty-nine minutes.” Linda, who rents chairs for the holiday from a local funeral home. Linda, who once fashioned a passable angel costume from a woman’s white shirt.

For a holiday we love, we’ll do almost anything to be home with family, including taking a cross-country ride with a half-drunk driver who’s on her way to see a former lover with six kids. For a holiday we love, we hold onto Christmas Past by welcoming gay ghosts into our lives. We work retail and endure the same eight holiday songs on every store speaker, then go home and watch the same four holiday specials on TV. We hope we get the gift we didn’t ask for. We celebrate with family and friends, “and sometimes we’re surrounded by people we don’t like all that much.”

And then there are the traditions and the things that make the holiday a holiday: a string of beloved lights that a childhood pet

nearly destroyed. Cookie cutters in the shape of the south end of a cat. Enjoying «Midwest comfort foods... that are incredibly delectable and anything but healthy.» Knowing that you’ve wrapped the 100% exact right gift for someone you adore, but also knowing “that even the most special presents are not as important as how you make them feel.”

So, here’s the brilliance of “The Jolliest Bunch”: no matter who you are, man or woman, gay or straight, author Danny Pellegrino has a universal memory to share that’s hilariously close to something you’ve experienced. Awkward relatives, check. Meals gone wrong, check. The gift you wanted more than anything, check. Bad holidays at a stranger’s house, yep. Decorations that are older than you are, uh-huh. It’s like he was at that same get-together.

This may make you cringe, but you’ll also laugh because Pellegrino is a funny writer with a keen eye for a great (and relatable) story. Just beware, though: holidays also bring out nostalgia, longing, missing, and regrets, so watch your heart.

In his introduction, Pellegrino says this book is for holiday haters as well as for those who start singing Christmas carols in August. That means “The Jolliest Bunch” is for you, and reading it’s an easy choice to make.

Local Museums Encourage Community to Shop with a Purpose

Complete with a variety of holiday specials and plenty of in-stock inventory on-hand, a number of Sacramento area museums are proud to participate in the 7th Annual Museum Store Sunday on November 26, 2023. In partnership with the Museum Store Association (MSA), more than 2,100 museum stores representing all fifty states, 25 countries and five continents will offer relaxing, inspired shopping inside favorite museum stores and cultural institutions. Museum Store Sunday offers an opportunity for the community to shop with a purpose while supporting the missions and programs of each participating museum and cultural institution. For more information about the 7th Annual Museum Store Sunday happening on November 26, please visit www.museumstoresunday.org.



Photo courtesy of SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity



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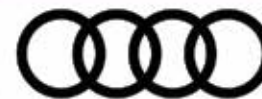


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Little Activisms *by Judy Saint* You Can Say Anything With a Smile

Maybe the best activism for a particular moment is not what you do, but what you don't do. And how you don't do it.

Every time I send out this Little Activism column for you to read, my hope is that you will consider doing a particular little thing that will help the world and help you. This column today, though, is backward – I am hoping you consider not doing something as a means to help the world and yourself. Let me set the stage with a story about a Thanksgiving of mine from years ago. True story.

My dad had five kids. (Well, more, but that's another story.) When all five of us were becoming young adults, he invited us to a Thanksgiving dinner up in the small trailer where he lived as a boat dock caretaker for a private boating club. Beautiful, quiet surroundings, only peppered with an occasional slurp of water lapping the bank or a few nice folks backing their boat and trailer into the river. Inside his trailer were the smells of the holiday and laughs made funnier with a large like-minded family.

A loud knock startled us because the trailer door was only a few feet from our ears. My dad may have sworn under his breath something about who it could be as he got up to answer it. We heard cheers from several happy folks at his door, holding out a

bottle of wine as they invited him over to the clubhouse for a party, thinking he might be lonely. They didn't know my dad. 'Lonely' was precious to him, not a problem.

Anyway, my dad interrupted what they were saying as he quickly opened the screen door to grab the wine, jovially saying, "Oh h***, you know I don't like parties. Thanks for the wine."

To my amazement, he shut the door on them very quickly, bringing the wine to the table. They offered well wishes from behind the shut door as they left. I remember my dad saying, "You can say anything with a smile." He added that they'll be less likely to bother him with party invitations in the future. He spoke up for himself. Everyone seemed happy. And here he had a nice bottle of wine. Wow, I thought. How did he do that?

That Thanksgiving moment helped shape a lot of my life since. In fact, years later, I was helping another teacher with her computer class as she called me over for a quick word. "I'd love for you to come to my party next week. It's a jewelry party."

Breathing in all my dad's bravery and joviality, I smiled as I responded, "Oh heck, I don't like those parties, thanks anyway." I

walked away, having smiled my best, and attended some students not understanding why their coding wasn't working. She was fine. I was fine. She knew me better. I knew me better.

If you read my recent Little Activism column about how taking risks builds your self-esteem, this is a prime example. Without my dad's role modeling, I would have had a difficult time knowing how to answer with honesty while keeping relationships friendly.

If someone says, "Let's pray", you can just look around or even sip some water as they do their thing. You don't owe them anything. If someone wants to shop at a store you know donates heavily to anti-LGBTQ+ causes, you can say no, with a smile, then suggest somewhere else. If they offer dinner and wine to go with it, accept the dinner and wine!

Not doing something can be activism just like doing something. Remember, you can

If someone says, "Let's pray", you can just look around or even sip some water as they do their thing. You don't owe them anything. If someone wants to shop at a store you know donates heavily to anti-LGBTQ+ causes, you can say no, with a smile, then suggest somewhere else. If they offer dinner and wine to go with it, accept the dinner and wine!

I took the risk. It worked.

Now, as for you. Can you learn from this story that you don't always have to say yes? That you don't always have to attend events that aren't really reflective of who you are? Even if it's an invitation from relatives, you can say no in a friendly way. Being yourself shouldn't alienate anyone. If it does, that's on them. You be you.

always say no with a smile.

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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Out & About

On Monday November 13, The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce partnered with The Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, and The Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and hosted the 7th Annual Business Diversity Summit and Expo. Promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in a business is crucial for fostering a thriving workplace. Companies benefit when individuals from varied backgrounds collaborate harmoniously, creating a dynamic and resilient organizational culture that reflects the richness of the broader community. By prioritizing these principles, businesses not only enhance employee satisfaction but also contribute to a more equitable and just society.



A Joyous Season Welcomes the New Year in Provincetown

Provincetown, MA, the free-spirited LGBTQ+ capital of the United States, embraces the holiday spirit and welcomes 2024 with a splash. The celebration starts with a nod to the Pilgrims, continues with concerts and parties, and concludes with the bracing Polar Bear Plunge in Provincetown Harbor. Holiday shopping at Ptown's fantastic array of inspired, festive, and fabulous shops happens all month, with free parking as a bonus.



Lobster Pot Tree

The lighting of the Lobster Pot Tree in Lopes Square on November 25, 2023, has been an annual Provincetown tradition since 2004, with carol singing and a countdown to the lighting. This sculptural «tree» is made from over 100 stacked lobster pots adorned with ribbons and lights, a yearly celebration of the local fishing community.

Canteen Holiday Market

The Canteen's Holiday Market is a month-long pop-up celebration on weekends from November 24 to December 31, 2023. The Canteen is transformed into a magical, cozy place to gather, enjoy holiday food and drink, and buy handcrafted goods from 25 local artisans. The Canteen's beach bar is transformed for the holidays with twinkling lights, snug blankets, fire pits, and steaming mugs of holiday drinks. The Winter Lodge is a chalet-style pop-up restaurant featuring holiday-themed dining rooms serving classic European winter dishes like homemade pretzels, raclette, and grilled sausages in addition to the everyday Canteen menu.

Holly Folly

Provincetown's holiday festivities kick into high gear with Holly Folly from December 1-3, 2023. The nation's original LGBTQ+ Holiday Celebration, Holly Folly, began in 1997 and celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2022. It's about community, fun, and holiday shopping at the unique shops, boutiques, and galleries that line Commercial Street.

The fun begins at the Crown & Anchor, which presents Holly Folly Follies: A GAY Holiday Extravaganza! on December 1 at Town Hall. Doors open at 7:30 PM.

On Saturday, December 2, it's time for the 2023 Annual Holly Folly Jingle Bell Run & Brunch Fundraiser. The event calls itself a "one-horse-open-slay your way down Commercial Street in as little clothing as you dare for this frosty fun-run." The race starts at Fanizzi's for coffee, followed by a dash through Provincetown to the Lobster Pot Tree before adjourning to a Brew Brunch at Provincetown Brewing Co.

For more Holly Folly events, visit the Provincetown Business Guild.

First Light

To welcome in 2024, there's First Light Provincetown, from December 29, 2023 - Jan 1, 2024. First Light is the year's finale, a four-day-long event featuring holiday parties, events, and performances. The end-of-year festivities begin with Well-Strung in Home for the Holidays, a Holiday Reunion Show at Town Hall, presented by Mark Cortale. The string quartet plays classical pieces while singing pop music hits from Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Kelly Clarkson, and other pop stars.

Everyone can join the Lite Bright Bike Ride on New Year's Eve and watch the annual town fireworks display over Provincetown Harbor.

Fireworks ring in the New Year on December 31st at McMillan Pier at dusk. If it's not too cold, the best views of the fireworks are on the beach by the pier. Revelers can also watch the fireworks from nearby bars, clubs, and restaurants with decks and indoor seating.

On New Year's Day 2024, Provincetown will celebrate the seventh annual Provincetown Polar Bear Plunge. The event brings together hundreds of intrepid swimmers, inspired by music spun by a New Year's Day DJ, for an event to support The Center for Coastal Studies. At noon, weather permitting, registrants will run, splash, and plunge into the waters of Provincetown Harbor. The cost for single registrants is \$60.

For more on Provincetown's Events, Festivals, and Weekends, visit: <https://ptowntourism.com/>

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SIX
THE MUSICAL

JAN 31 - FEB 11, 2024

A promotional image for the musical "Six" featuring six performers in elaborate, historical-style costumes singing into microphones. The word "SIX" is written in large, white, serif font with a crown on the letter "I". Below it, "THE MUSICAL" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The dates "JAN 31 - FEB 11, 2024" are at the bottom.

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

DEC 27 - 31, 2023

A promotional image for "How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" featuring the Grinch character on a red background. The text "Dr. Seuss' How The GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! THE MUSICAL" is in white. The dates "DEC 27 - 31, 2023" are at the bottom.

jagged little pill
THE MUSICAL

JAN 2 - 7, 2024

A promotional image for "jagged little pill THE MUSICAL" with a teal background and a grid pattern. The title "jagged little pill" is in a stylized, jagged font, and "THE MUSICAL" is in a smaller font below it. The dates "JAN 2 - 7, 2024" are at the bottom.

Annie

APR 16 - 21, 2024

A promotional image for the musical "Annie" with a yellow-to-orange gradient background. The word "Annie" is written in a large, red, bubbly font with a white outline. The dates "APR 16 - 21, 2024" are at the bottom.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

A promotional image with a dark blue background and a white border. The text "TICKETS ON SALE NOW!" is written in white, bold, capital letters.

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plus tax for 36 mo



\$4,999 due at signing

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Stage Nine Entertainment Announces Top 12 Hot Toys & Holiday Trends

Stage Nine Entertainment, Inc. is proud and excited to announce their much-anticipated Top 12 lists of hot toys and holiday trends for 2023. The locally owned retail shops are fully stocked and prepared for the holiday shopping season with plenty of popular games, toys, pop culture items and collectibles on hand. Outlined below are the much-anticipated local lists of the Top 12 holiday toys and toy trends for 2023 as compiled by Stage Nine Entertainment, Inc., a retail leader in the world of fun, creativity, and entertainment.

Top 12 Toys of Christmas

- Barbie
- Smisky/Sonny Angels
- Baby Alive
- Madame Alexander Dolls
- Rilakkuma
- Bluey/Paw Patrol
- Squishable Plush
- Otamatone
- Instrument
- Elastikorps
- DIY Kits (Robotime)
- Bitzee Interactive Pet
- Robosen Robots

Top 12 Toy Trends

- Blind Bags/Boxed Toys
- Barbie
- Disney 100
- Wednesday
- Retro Board Games
- The Grinch
- RSVLTS® Shirts
- Luxury Disneyana
- Loungfly/Funko
- Studio Ghibli - Totoro, etc.
- Sideshow Collectibles
- Steiff Plush

Steiff Winnie The Pooh 95th Bear
\$379.99

Located at the corner of Front & K Streets (102 K Street) at the Old Sacramento Waterfront, Stage Nine Entertainment is well known as the area's premier entertainment retail destination that showcases approximately 20,000 unique items related to movies, television, toys, and pop culture. Stage Nine is well known for hosting retail events attended by celebrities, artists, and entertainers. Plus, the on-site art gallery - The Vault - is California's #1 independently owned retailer of Disney Fine Art.

Stage Nine retail stores are open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information about Stage Nine Entertainment, Inc., Stage Nine Family of Specialty Retail Stores, or renting The Underground Vault event space, please call 916-447-3623 or visit www.stagenine.com.



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ACURA

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SAVINGS



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2023 RDX 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC

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SAVINGS



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7pm to 9 pm

THIS MONTHS BENEFICIARY

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Welcome to the Outword Wine Club!

the Outword **wine club**

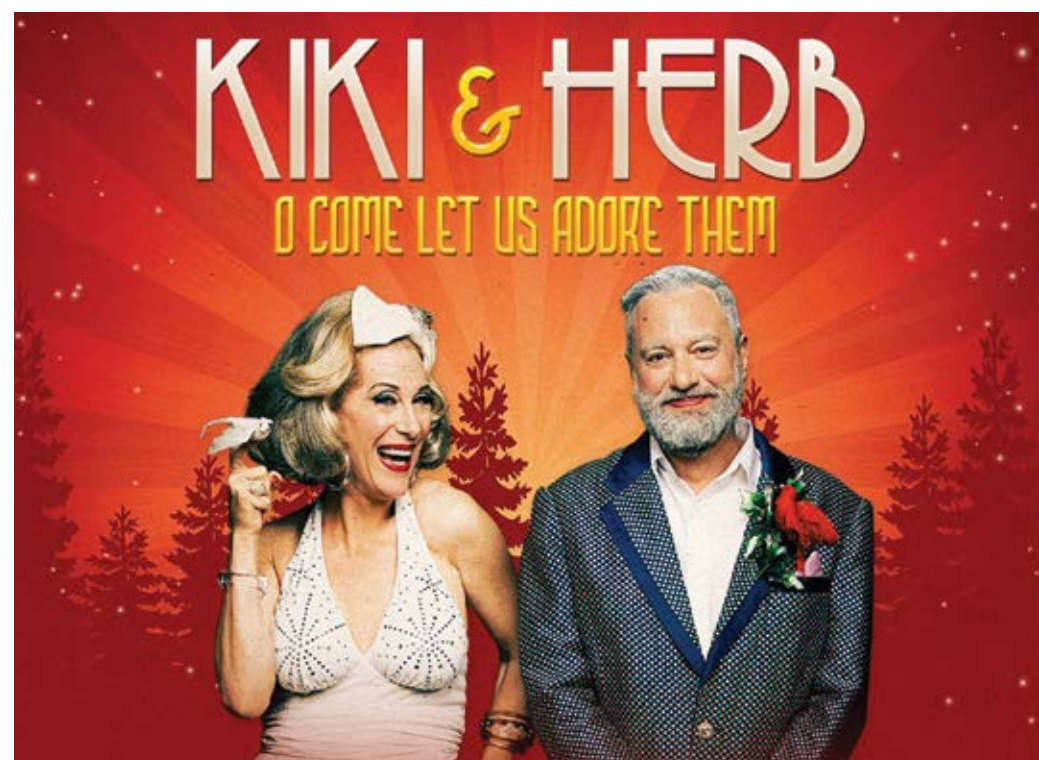
Join Us at Roscoe's Bar and Burgers for Wine Tasting with Appetizers
December 19, 2023 · 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Roscoe's Bar and Burgers · 2007 K Street, Sacramento CA 95811
Advance purchase required. \$50* per person.

Join us for a delightful evening of wine tasting and great company at Roscoe's Bar & Burgers in Sacramento, Tuesday, December 19 · 5:30 - 7:30pm. Our event is perfect for wine enthusiasts and those looking to expand their knowledge and appreciation of wines. Get ready to indulge in a variety of exquisite wines and discover new flavors. Whether you're a seasoned wine connoisseur or just starting your wine journey, this event promises to be a fun and enjoyable experience for all. Don't miss out on this opportunity to sip, savor, and socialize with fellow wine lovers. Grab your friends and come raise a glass with us at the *Outword* Wine Club! Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Kiki & Herb Let Us Adore Them

by Chris Narloch

Last time I checked, there were still tickets left for the upcoming Castro concert by my favorite musical-comedy cabaret artists, Kiki & Herb.



This holiday season, the prayers of a lost and divided nation will be answered as Kiki & Herb - the saviors we all deserve - rise again to deliver us from darkness with their deliciously deranged musical stylings.

The infamous double act, created and performed by Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman, return for a new edition of their now-legendary Christmas concerts.

This year's resurrection brings Kiki & Herb's whiskey-soaked gospel to the masses like never before. So spread the good word: salvation is upon us. Grab a pew, ye sinners; sup your sacramental wine and sing...O Come Let Us Adore Them.

Kiki & Herb will grace the stage of the historic Castro Theatre for one show only, on the evening of Dec. 15, 2023. To purchase tickets, please visit <https://linktr.ee/kikiherb>

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January 5th - 10% off for members
February 2nd - 10% off for members
March 1st - 10% off for members
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March 16th, 9am - 3pm

General Public Bag Sale
March 23, 9am - 3pm
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DE JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

SATURDAY | NOV 25

**Bruce
Cockburn**

THURSDAY | NOV 30

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FRIDAY | DEC 01

Crest CLASSIC MOVIES

BABE
(1995)

FRIDAY, NOV 24, 7PM

**ALL CREATURES
GREAT & SMALL
ON MASTERPIECE SEASON 4
SCREENING PARTY**

WEDNESDAY, DEC 06, 7PM

**SAVING PRIVATE
RYAN**
(1998)

THURSDAY, DEC 07, 7PM

DIE HARD
(1988)

SUNDAY, DEC 10, 8PM

SCROOGED
(1988)

TUESDAY, DEC 19, 7PM

THE HOLIDAY
(2006)

WEDNESDAY, DEC 20, 6PM

WHITE CHRISTMAS
(1954)

FRIDAY, DEC 22, 7PM

ELF
(2003)

SATURDAY, DEC 23, 1PM

**MOVIE PARTY
GREMLINS**
(1984)

SATURDAY, DEC 23, 8PM

SACRAMENTOCCLASSICMOVIES

**MARK
NORMAND
YA DON'T SAY**

SATURDAY | DEC 02

AN EVENING WITH TRAVEL EXPERT
Rick Steves'

MONDAY | DEC 04

DOGSTAR
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE
POWER LINES AND PALM TREES **TOUR**

TUESDAY | DEC 05

ALL CREATURES
GREAT & SMALL
SEASON 4 SCREENING PARTY

WEDNESDAY | DEC 06

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Presents:

**HOLIDAY
HITS!**
With a Splash of Sass!

At the beautiful
Crest Theatre

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! DEC. 8 @ 7PM
DEC. 9 @ 7PM
DEC. 10 @ 3PM

TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! sacgaymenschorus.org

WED-FRI | DEC 08-10

tommy emmanuel
with special guest:
the jerry douglas duo

cgp

WEDNESDAY | DEC 13

JAMES GARNER'S TRIBUTE TO
JOHNNY CASH
Live in Concert

FRIDAY | DEC 15

**PETER PETTY'S
HEPCAT'S HOLLA'DAZE!
SWINGIN' YULETIDE REVUE**

SATURDAY | DEC 16

NIMESH PATEL

Fast & Loose Tour

SUNDAY | DEC 17

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT CRESTSACRAMENTO.COM



Don Ye Now Your Gay Apparel SGMC Ushers In the Holidays

SGMC (Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus) will perform three concerts at the historic Crest Theatre this December, when "Holiday Hits with a Splash of Sass!" rings in and sings in the holiday season.



The Holiday Hits show features a dynamic mix of traditional and contemporary holiday music, ranging from beloved classics to modern songs, all performed with a unique twist that reflects SGMC's distinctive personality.

With powerful harmonies, emotive solos, and energetic choreography, SGMC creates a festive atmosphere that promises to fill your heart with joy.

Join SGMC for a delightful and heartwarming experience that combines exceptional musical talent, holiday cheer, and a celebration of love and inclusiveness.

Tickets are going fast for all three performances the weekend of Dec. 8-10, so get thee to the SGMC website to purchase before it's too late: www.sacgaymenchorus.com

MONDAY
BOGO Burger
Buy One Get One for \$1



TUESDAY
All Night Happy Hour



MONDAY - FRIDAY
HAPPY HOUR 3PM - 6PM



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... and the most current issue too!



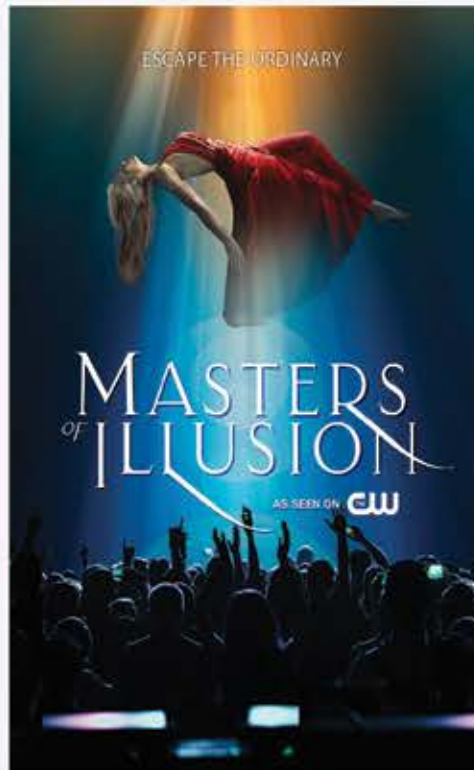
To read past issues of Outword as PDFs, just point your phone's camera at this QR and click!

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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!

JUST ANNOUNCED!



Melissa Etheridge - I'm Not Broken Tour

MARCH 18, 2024

Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, multi-Grammy Award winner Melissa Etheridge has remained one of America's favorite female singers for more than two decades. Her popularity grew around such memorable originals as "Bring Me Some Water," "No Souvenirs," and "Ain't It Heavy," for which she won a Grammy in 1992.

Etheridge hit her commercial and artistic stride with her fourth album, *Yes I Am* (1993). The collection featured the massive hits "I'm the Only One" and "Come to My Window," a searing song of longing that brought Etheridge her second Grammy® Award for Best Female Rock Performance.

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

Shop Sustainable and Local

Tis the season to go all out and try not to get yourself all in! As we try to live more sustainably and more locally, I try as much as possible to incorporate local shopping as well as shopping small (near and farther afield). It's easy to get caught up in the big sales at those big stores, but don't forget the little businesses (who usually make for higher quality pieces anyway) – not to mention that customer service and appreciation!

One holiday practice I've come to love is making a shop list alongside my gift list. Make a list of all the local/small companies you'd like to support. It'll help you move down your gift list all while supporting small business owners and creatives!

Here in Sacramento, we have a slew of businesses to support (online and in person). Here are 5 local shops along with a item or two of interest to start your holiday shopping (even for yourself)... www.lucismorsels.com



CABINE MONDE

Locally made, handcrafted jewelry is always a perfect gift. Cabine Monde offers everyday essentials and those memorable pieces for any jewelry wearer/lover on your list. All their jewelry is gold fill or sterling silver – no plating here. Gift a matching set or get a few people the same pieces to always keep each other in mind!

These tiny arches slip on easily and fit any aesthetic. www.cabinemonde.com, \$24



BLOCK & BOWL

Looking for the entertainer, the host, or the food lover? Made locally by a carpenter and chef, these custom wood pieces are unique and gorgeous! See the variety of serving boards, cutting boards, and custom pieces (yes, they also do furniture!) to get just the right piece (or pieces)! Gift on its own or with your favorite charcuterie board accoutrement! Then just await your invitation!

Pictured here is the Padley collection Served Board. www.blockandbowl.com, \$70

by Luci Petlack, Sustainability Blogger
Instagram: @lucismorsels



LUCI'S MORSELS

Gift to a food lover? Local, sustainable living blogger, Luci Petlack, self-published seasonal cookbooks that will make you hungry. Organized by fruits and vegetables in each season, each section offers tips for storing food, so it doesn't spoil quickly as well as helpful information on varieties. All recipes have large, beautiful photography. You'll be salivating in no time.

Available individually or sold as a set. www.lucismorsels.com/cookbook (\$22 each, \$40 for the set)

BLOOM SACRAMENTO

Not sure what to get the person that has everything? Try a local flower bouquet delivery. Bloom Sacramento offers one-time and recurring deliveries of locally-grown, seasonal flower arrangements – a sustainable alternative to flown-in, pesticide-sprayed flowers. That's a mouthful none of us want!

Choose the arranged bouquet or DIY bouquet option for your recipient. Sacramento area delivery only – see website for details. www.bloomsubscription.com (starting at \$45)



A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Finish off your list with A Seat at the Table, a favorite local bookstore of ours for every genre. Get the latest reads, your favorite fantasies, the must-read classics, and all kinds of books for the little ones on your list. They feature banned books, LGBTQ favorites, and new releases. Grab some stickers and activity books for the younger ones too!

Stop in the store to grab a coffee and morsel while you shop, or order online for easy pickup. Shipping available. www.aseatatthetablebooks.org/

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scan this to buy tickets

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wine club

*plus \$5.20 Eventbrite processing fee

Don't Wait Till the Last Minute Gifts by Ron Tackitt

I am notorious for waiting until the last minute and then scrambling around to get what I want. So, I'm writing this for those of you out there that do the same. Some really cool things that you might want to share as a gift or buy for yourself for the holidays need to be purchased in advance so they will arrive in time. I think it will be worth the effort.



Auris BluMe Pro

This is pretty specific item, but for that someone that listens to Pandora all the time around the house (and in the car) this little device is a miracle. The BluMe Pro is a Bluetooth receiver that catches the signal from your phone or iPad and feeds the sound to a stereo set in the old fashion way, by a left and right analog signal. If your stereo doesn't have Bluetooth capability this little guy is all you need. And, in case you're wondering, the sound that will come out of your speakers is pretty amazing. Look for a full review coming soon. <https://theauris.com/products/blume-pro>

Caudabe iPhone Case

I recently upgraded to an iPhone 15 and thought I would try one of Apple's own silicone protective cases. I've had a silicone case before and didn't like it, but I thought an actual Apple version had to be better. Nope. Just as terrible. It sticks to the inside of your pocket, yet slowly slides out of your grip. It looked and felt smooth, but it was a total pain. I should have just bought another Caudabe case. I have had three, now, and highly recommend them. They are not fancy, but they fit firmly, they have a nice texture so you won't have re-grip your phone constantly. But mostly, your phone will come out of your pocket without turning it inside out. Caudabe cases are not fancy but they are made well, look nice and do what they are meant to do. <https://caudabe.com>



DeBuyer Cookware

If you have read my review on two non-stick skillets, you know I loved the DeBuyer 9" non-stick Affinity skillet, and I use it almost every day. DeBuyer makes several different lines, one with a gorgeous copper outer layer, and it's expensive. However, I imagine any of their cookware pieces should last a lifetime, if taken care of, and would be perfect for making holiday meals. <https://debuyer-usa.com>



Pro-Ject Automat A1 Turntable

Again, this is not an inexpensive present, but for the person looking to reconnect to music that is reproduced by scraping a needle in a vinyl groove, this is the one. Why? Because it is fully automatic! No more rushing to take the needle off at the end of the record. Go ahead, have an edible, relax into the music and if you fall asleep on the couch, no biggie. (I might be speaking from experience) It has a clean, elegant design, is very simple to setup and sounds wonderful. <https://www.project-audio.com/en/turntables/>

Neo-Charge Smart Splitter

What the heck? And Why? It's a splitter that will allow you to charge your new EV using your electric dryer's plug. Without having to plug and unplug the cables all the time. Set up this splitter and leave it. It will also only allow one device to pull electricity at a time so your outlet is not overwhelmed. That's a very good thing. Putting a dedicated EV charger circuit can be a very, very expensive proposition. I know, I've looked into it. For those that have an electric dryer in the garage, this is a great solution, and if you get your juice from SMUD, they will give you a rebate of \$300 (as of this writing). The smart splitter will be around \$350 with adapter cable, tax and shipping. <https://getneocharge.com/products/neocharge-smart-splitter>

Top Coat F-11 Pro

Yes, I talk about F-11 all the time. I like the way it keeps my car looking. Shiny, smooth and easy to keep that way. This stuff is not cheap, but it makes a good gift for that hard to buy for person who loves their car as much as I do mine. They might shy away from the price (\$80) of the starter kit, but that will set them up with the polish, a small "travel" bottle and two super soft micro fiber towels to wipe on and wipe off. Top Coat is out of Florida, so expect at least a week to get your order. Amazon does carry it, but I find the manufacturer usually offers a better price. <https://topcoatproducts.com>

Liquia Therapy

December 8, 2023
5:30 - 7 pm

Toy Drive

BENEFITTING WEAVE™

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for WEAVE's Holiday Toy Shoppe! Toys for all kids and gender-neutral toys as well.

(See WEAVE's wish list)
<https://www.weaveinc.org/event/weave-winter-wonderland-returns>

Jagged Little Pill

SIX - The Musical!

Prizes for this evening's event will include two gift packs, one featuring tickets to Broadway On Tour's production of "Jagged Little Pill" and the other will include "Six - The Musical!" Both prize packs will have a \$50 gift card to the Melting Pot! Yum!

Happy Hour

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Mature Queens of Pop Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

We all know that the music business can be both sexist and ageist, and mature female vocalists sometimes get left behind while teen and twenty-something pop princesses like Renee Rapp, Billie Eilish, and Olivia Rodrigo get all the attention. The reviews in this article pay tribute to five “older” pop queens with millions of queer fans.

Dolly Parton – Rockstar

The reigning queen of country music is now 77, and she has no fear of branching out into other genres, including pop music, bluegrass, dance music and now rock-n-roll. Encouraged by her recent induction into the Rock Hall of Fame, Dolly Parton set out to earn that distinction, and she more than succeeds on her new CD, the aptly titled “Rockstar.”

When Parton calls, you answer, and the singer has gathered a phenomenal list of costars on this disc, including Sting, both surviving Beatles, Pat Benatar, Melissa Etheridge, Simon Le Bon, Sheryl Crow, Lizzo, Elton John, Debbie Harry, P!nk, Mick Fleetwood, Brandi Carlile, Miley Cyrus, Chris Stapleton, Michael McDonald, Joan Jett, Peter Dinklage, Stevie Nicks, Steven Tyler, Steve Perry, Ann Wilson, John Fogerty, and Kid Rock.

Since I am a Dolly Parton fan-atic, I had to have the HSN extended edition of “Rockstar,” with three extra songs for a bonanza of 33 total tracks. To be honest, not everything works. Even with Ann Wilson still sounding amazing, Dolly’s duet on “Magic Man” is nowhere near as magical as the Heart original, and the talented trio of Parton, Sheryl Crow, and Emmylou Harris cannot touch Linda Ronstadt’s classic version of “You’re No Good.”

Almost everything else hits the bullseye, however, especially Parton’s unlikely covers of classic rock hits like “Free Bird,” “Stairway to Heaven,” “Night Moves,” “I Hate Myself for Loving You,” “Purple Rain,” and “We Are the Champions/We Will Rock You.”

Dolly’s sweet tone adds a fragility that reinvents those songs, which is also true on her cover of the Beatles’ “Let It Be,” one of the finest pop songs ever written and my favorite cut on this album. Parton lends that Lennon/McCartney lyric a gospel fervor that makes the song sound like it was written for her, by her.

Kelly Clarkson – Chemistry

This 40-something pop diva and successful talk show host is anything but over-the-hill on this triumphant recent divorce album, which spills the tea on her nasty breakup with her ex-husband.

Clarkson’s powerful voice was made to belt out angry lyrics like “I Hate Love,” plus (on the deluxe edition) “I Won’t Give Up,” “Goodbye,” and “You Don’t Make Me Cry.”

With the upbeat track “That’s Right,” the non-deluxe edition ends on a welcome happy note that feels like a catharsis after all the singer’s soul-baring, personal pain.

Natalie Merchant – Keep Your Courage

After a scary spinal surgery that left her unable to sing for a time, this 60-year-old singer came back in a big way with her eighth studio album, which finds her in fine voice and once again writing the type of thoughtful lyrics that endeared Natalie Merchant to fans of her famous former group, 10,000 Maniacs.

While there is nothing on “Keep Your Courage” quite as thrilling as 10,000 Maniacs hits like “These Are Days” and “Candy Everybody Wants,” it’s great to have Merchant back in business on terrific new songs like “Come On, Aphrodite” and “Tower of Babel.”

Jessie Ware – That! Feels Good!

After Robyn and Dua Lipa, this almost-40-year-old UK artist is my favorite living dance-pop diva. Third place is nothing to scoff at, and Jessie Ware continues to produce one sexy, soulful CD after another.

“That! Feels Good!” finds Ware in an especially lustful mood on party tracks like the title song, plus “Freak Me Now,” “Pearls,” “Shake the Bottle,” and “Free Yourself.” This is one of my favorite albums of 2023.

Olivia Newton-John – Just the Two of Us: The Duets Collection

This posthumous release from earlier this year is a lovely collection of collaborations by the late, great Olivia Newton-John, who died in 2022 at age 73, after a thirty-year-plus battle with cancer.

The CD enlists famous friends like Cliff Richard, Michael McDonald, Paul Anka, Barry Gibb, Jim Brickman, David Foster, and Richard Marx, to celebrate Olivia’s newer songs and past ONJ hits like “Suddenly” and “Take A Chance,” plus a divine duet with Dolly Parton on “Jolene.”



Dolly



Kelly



Jessie



Natalie



Olivia

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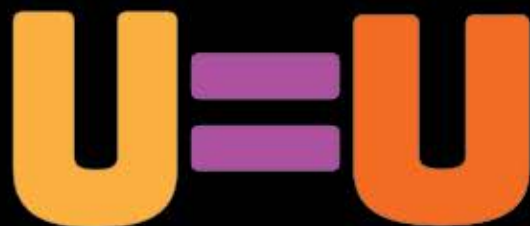


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"The Hunger Games" vs. "The Marvels" Plus, A Horror Movie for Thanksgiving

by Chris Narloch

I was hoping to review Ridley Scott's latest big-screen epic, with Joaquin Phoenix as "Napoleon," but this was not in the cards, as it turns out. You can see that film at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street, through at least Nov. 30. Here are reviews of four movies that I did see recently.

The Marvels

Superhero cinema is looking very sad lately, and the MCU may need to pause and reset, or fans will get tired of paying good money for bad films.

Brie Larson is back as Captain Marvel in "The Marvels," and she is joined this time out by two lovely female costars (Iman Vellani and Teyonah Parris), who provide welcome representation for women of color.

Unfortunately, indie movie director Nia DaCosta is in way over her head given the film's enormous budget and technical complexity. The plot is too confusing, the action sequences are repetitive and chaotic, and the movie's CGI often looks shoddy. In wide theatrical release, but not for long.

Thanksgiving

I enjoy the occasional slasher film, if they're not too sadistic or stupid, and by that measure, the latest horror movie from Eli Roth succeeds.

"Thanksgiving" has fun with its holiday setting, and the attractive cast includes veteran actors Gina Gershon and Patrick Dempsey, along with a bunch of attractive younger actors who, of course, get picked off one by one.

Those kill scenes are often clever, and so over-the-top that they made me laugh, plus I didn't guess the identity of the killer until very late in the film. In wide theatrical release.



The Hunger Games

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

I only read one of the books these movies are based on, and not this prequel novel, which allows me to review the new film in strictly cinematic terms. I don't know how faithful "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is to the book, but I am able to tell you that solely as a big screen experience, the film is mostly a dud.

The beautiful and talented young actors who play the central couple (Tom Blyth and Rachel Zegler) are not the problem. My issue is with the inferior script by Michael Arndt and Michael Leslie, which feels too much like a retread rather than an expansion of the earlier movies.

Coming after the similar but far-superior series "Squid Game," the latest installment of "The Hunger Games" feels overlong, too depressing, and frustratingly open-ended. I did, however, enjoy hearing Rachel Zegler sing several times during the movie. In wide theatrical release.

Frybread Face and Me

This sweet and funny drama was still rated 100% by critics last time I checked Rotten Tomatoes, and I can see why.

The modest story, about two adolescent Navajo cousins from different worlds who bond during a summer on their grandmother's ranch in Arizona, has a naturalistic quality that is very charming.

As the cousins, Kier Tallman and Charley Hogan give sophisticated performances, and director Billy Luther doesn't hit us over the head with the movie's pro-family message. "Frybread Face and Me" is available via Netflix.

Sacramento has a Microtheater? Welcome to Dreamland Cinema

by Chris Narloch

A couple years ago, a lovely young queer couple decided that Sacramento needed a microcinema, and it turns out they were correct. Dreamland Cinema, a cute mini theater with just 23 seats that has been in business for over a year at the corner of P and 19th Streets, is now selling out most of their screenings five days a week.

When Lauren Hess and Tish Sparks spotted a beautiful Victorian with an empty basement that formerly housed the Thistle Dew Dessert Theatre, they envisioned an arthouse cinema in the modest midtown location and proceeded to persuade the lawyer who owns the building to rent them the downstairs.

After repainting and refurbishing the space, Dreamland Cinema was born, and the rest is history/herstory, with Hess and Sparks determined to bring to town the type of classic or recent (and often obscure) indie films that sometimes bypass Sacramento.

Microcinemas, which resemble private screening rooms or home theaters, have been enormously popular in Japan and other countries since the 1970s but are beginning to catch on in the United States, where prohibitive real estate prices and the recent explosion in streaming entertainment at home make opening new large chain theaters a very risky proposition nowadays.

Dreamland Cinema, on the other hand, has succeeded via word-of-mouth and successful social media efforts, by going small and amassing a loyal cult following of movie buffs, and fans of foreign films, queer movies, sci-fi, and hardcore horror.

The business has also kept their overhead down (for the time being) since Hess and Sparks are the owners, the managers, and currently the only employees at Dreamland Cinema. The pair are looking to expand in 2024, however, as they have already outgrown their small space thanks to so many sold-out shows.

I spoke with the women recently about the inspiration for Dreamland Cinema, and the challenges and rewards of running your own microcinema. It turns out the couple had a revelation during COVID, as many people did, that they wanted to do something more fulfilling with their lives and careers.



Tish

Lauren



Outword: Congratulations on the success of Dreamland. How do you two decide who does what?

Tish: I have a background in film programming and film studies from college, so I do most of the programming and the website, and then Lauren's background is in retail management and so she handles all the front of house stuff and ordering, etc.

Lauren: I also handle rentals for private parties and special events, and fundraiser shows and most of the customer service things like that.

Outword: Are you from Sacramento originally?

Tish: We moved here from Austin, Texas, but Lauren is originally from Sac.

Lauren: I moved to Austin in 2010, and then Tish and I met about a year after that. Tish was working a corporate job, and I had a small business, and then the pandemic happened, and we asked ourselves, "What

do we want to be doing with our lives? Things are chaos so what do we want to do?" Tish really wanted to get out of corporate, and I really wanted to move home to California. I always thought Sacramento would be the perfect place for a microcinema.

Outword: What made you have faith in that?

Lauren: I was involved in the music world when I lived in Sac. I was in a band for about ten years, and we played all around town, and there is such a strong local arts community, so I had a feeling that people here would love this concept of a funky little movie theater.

Outword: What's your story, Tish?

Tish: I'm originally from Ohio and moved around a bit, and then I ended up in Austin working in tech for a start-up, but I got kind of burnt out on that world and really wanted to do something I cared about. Dreamland opened in June of 2022.

Outword: How did you get the word out in the beginning?

Tish: We've just sort of grown organically, mainly through word of mouth and Instagram, and we have a loyal following now, of regulars who trust our vision and taste, and then new folks all the time.

Outword: How do you choose the films you show?

Tish: I tend to gravitate towards genre films, cult movies, and horror, and that's what's been successful for us too. I'm always on the hunt for hidden gems we can program that folks have never seen or might want to see again, everything from spaghetti westerns to vampire movies.

Outword: Did Dreamland catch on immediately?

Lauren: I was worried at first that I was going to have to beg all my friends and family to

come to the theater, like "Please just come and sit in a seat." But honestly, it was kind of the opposite. We were reaching people who I had never met before and had very consistent attendance from the start.

Tish: The economics are precarious, but the theater is profitable, and we will need to look for a larger location in 2024.

Outword: Final question: favorite movie of all time?

Tish: "Mulholland Drive."

Lauren: "Pee Wee's Big Adventure."

Note: If you want to check out their calendar of upcoming film screenings or rent Dreamland Cinema for a private event, please visit: www.thedreamlandcinema.com



Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 28 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

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

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

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

World AIDS Day has been a collective effort to combat HIV/AIDS stigma and commemorate lives lost to the virus. Worldwide, an estimated 38 million contend with the virus, and over 35 million lives have been lost in the past four decades. World AIDS Day serves as a beacon, spotlighting the experiences of today's HIV-positive individuals, championing resilience, and advocating for a future where HIV is no barrier to anyone's life. WorldAidsDay.org



Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Matt Christine Photography

Check out pages 5,6,7 and 9 for various events commemorating World AIDS Day here in Sacramento.

Join the Rainbow Chamber for a fabulous evening of Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 7-9 p.m. Hosted by the sensational Do Me Moore at Mango's, 1930 K St., it's a night of laughter and excitement. Proceeds support the Adopt an Elder Foundation, dedicated to empowering low-income, high-risk elders with housing, nutrition, and healthcare. Admission is first-come, first-served, so arrive early for a night of entertainment with a purpose! Mangosac.com

Also, get into the festive spirit at the Rainbow Chamber's "Naughty and Nice December Holiday Mixer." Enjoy a lively evening at Hilton Arden West, 2200 Harvard St., on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Indulge in hosted appetizers and beverages, and bring your holiday cheer! RainbowChamber.com

The Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom, proudly presents Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis, the best-selling Christmas artist of all time. Davis will perform two shows on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Celebrating over 35 years of the longest-running Christmas concert tour, enjoy an intimate show featuring classic holiday hits and mesmerizing multimedia effects. HarrisCenter.net

Be sure to mark your calendars because Grammy-award-winning rockstar Melissa Etheridge is bringing her "I'm Not Broken Tour" to Folsom's Harris Center for the Arts on Monday, Mar. 18, at 7:30 p.m. HarrisCenter.net

Kick off your holiday season with Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus' "Splash of Sass" at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., from Dec. 8-10. This Holiday Hits show offers a vibrant blend of traditional and modern

holiday tunes, all with SGM's unique twist. Experience powerful harmonies, emotive solos, and lively choreography, filling your heart with festive joy. Join us for a heartwarming celebration of love and inclusiveness! Sacgaymenschorus.org

Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St., Ste., and Melissa McGillicuddy Productions present "Queermedians," an LGBTQ stand-up comedy show on Friday, Dec. 8, at 9 p.m. Hosted by Graciella Hamilton and featuring Jaclyn Weiland, Melissa McGillicuddy, and Frida Sierra. Enjoy the best comics from Sacramento and the Bay Area 130. Saccomedyspot.com!

Join the California State Indian Museum for the annual Native Arts and Crafts Market on Nov. 24-25 in Sacramento. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., explore unique, handcrafted gifts from Native vendors across the state. Fuel your early bird shopping with Indian Tacos and treats from food trucks parked outside the museum at 2618 K St.

Experience the transformative power of Lorraine Hansberry's classic stage drama, "A Raisin in the Sun," from Dec. 1-24 at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St. This historic play, the first written by a Black woman produced on Broadway in 1959, has been hailed for changing American theater. Celebrationarts.net

Experience the magic of the holiday season with Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "The Ghosts Of Christmas Eve" on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Golden 1 Center, 500 David J Stern Walk. Celebrating their 20th year on the road, the band presents a new production that promises to rock the holidays harder than ever. Golden1center.com.

Happy birthday to Markcurtis Otani on December 4.

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 November 23, 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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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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- 23 CoCo Live-to-Film Concert @ Mondavi Center
- 23 Trans Support Group @ LGBT Center

DECEMBER

- 1 Worlds Aid Day @ Uptown Studios
- 1 Happy Hour with Primetimers @ Roscoes 3PM
- 2 Mark O'Connor's an Appalachian Christmas @ Mondavi Center
- ★ 7 Drag Queen Bingo @ Mango's With the Sacramnto Rainbow Chamber
- ★ 8 Outword Happy Hour @ Badlands- Toy Drive with WEAVE
- 9 Primetimers 2023 Holiday Party
- 10 Chamber of Music Society @Mondavi Center
- ★ 13 Rainbow Chamber Holiday Mixer
- 19 Wine club with Outword @ Roscoes
- 27-31 Dr. Seuss The Musical @ Broadway Sacramento



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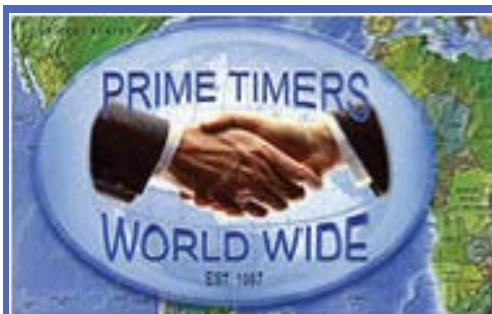
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