

outword

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From all of us here
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Magazine.



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Pope Francis Embraces Blessings for Same-Sex Couples

Marking a shift in the Vatican's approach to inclusivity, Pope Francis has officially sanctioned the blessing of same-sex unions by Catholic priests. This development in church policy hopefully signals a deeper understanding and acceptance of love and LGBT relationships.

Historically, the Catholic Church has maintained a firm stance on marriage, viewing it as a lifelong sacrament exclusively between a man and a woman. This view was echoed in a 2021 statement from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which categorically opposed blessings for same-sex unions. However, the latest document from the Vatican's doctrine office signals a remarkable reversal of this position.

The new policy, detailed in a document released by the Vatican, emphasizes that while the sanctity of traditional marriage remains upheld, the Church acknowledges the need for compassion and acceptance towards individuals in same-sex relationships. The document elaborates that those seeking God's love and mercy should not be subjected to rigorous moral analysis, thereby opening doors for blessings that were previously denied.

This decision by Pope Francis has been met with a mix of admiration and criticism. Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights within the church community see this as a long-awaited step towards equality and acceptance. On the other hand, traditionalists view it as a departure from established church doctrines.



Pope Francis

Interestingly, this announcement comes closely on the heels of the Church of England's decision to offer blessings for same-sex partnerships, although it continues to uphold a ban on church weddings for gay couples. This parallel development indicates a broader shift in Christian denominations towards a more inclusive approach to sexuality and relationships.

Pope Francis' decision is more than just a doctrinal change; it represents a significant cultural shift within the Catholic Church. By acknowledging and blessing same-sex

unions, the Vatican is taking a pivotal step towards embracing diversity and showing a deeper understanding of love in its many forms. This move, while controversial, is a testament to the evolving nature of faith and its role in addressing the complexities of modern life.

This historic decision by the Vatican is not just about changing rules but about opening hearts. It's a move that aligns the Church with the growing recognition of the diversity of human relationships, and it is likely to be a topic of discussion and reflection for many in the years to come.

Trump Blasted for Copying Historic Hate Rhetoric

There is widespread criticism of Donald Trump for his recent comments that have been compared to rhetoric used by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Trump's statements about immigrants "poisoning the blood of our country" and calling political enemies "vermin" have alarmed various commentators, including historians, journalists, and political figures, who see these remarks as echoing fascist dictators.

Historian Jon Meacham emphasizes the need to confront authoritarianism and recognize the gravity of Trump's statements. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow and CNN's Jake Tapper draw direct parallels between Trump's language and that of Hitler and Mussolini. Karen Finney from CNN personalizes the issue, relating Trump's words to racial prejudice experienced within her biracial family.

Jim Messina, President Obama's reelection campaign manager, and former

Senator Ted Kaufman express concern about the normalization of such extreme rhetoric. Historian Ruth Ben-Ghiat and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich also highlight the historical context of Trump's language, likening it to Nazi ideology.

Columnist Mike Godwin remarks on the undeniable thematic similarity between Trump's comments and Hitler's ideology, suggesting it's unlikely to be a coincidence. The consensus among these voices is that

Trump's language is not just politically extreme but also dangerous, echoing fascist tactics and ideologies, and posing a threat to democratic values and marginalized communities. It is important to remember that the Pink Triangle was used by the Nazis to identify gays and lesbians and to punish and divide them.

The broad range of voices calling out this behavior, underscores the severity of the situation and the need to address it immediately, if our democracy is to survive.

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The Outword Year in Review – by Matthew Burlingame

2023 was quite a year for us at *Outword*. This year was a mixed bag, as we suffered both personal and national losses. But, we are a community that rallies together to fight for a better future for everyone. That is evident as we take a brief look back on the stories that made *Outword*, once again, the source of LGBTQ+ news, politics and entertainment in Northern California. And, remember that if you missed any of these stories, back issues are available to read, free of charge, at our newly-refreshed web site: www.OutwordMagazine.com

Here we go!

In January, an insightful interview between author Anne Bannon and Chris Narloch offered readers a compelling exploration of Bannon's literary work. RedRover and DomesticShelters.org joined forces in a data-sharing partnership aimed at increasing access to domestic violence shelters and programs that cater to the needs of survivors and their pets. Also audiences eagerly anticipated the Mondavi Center's presentation of stand-up comedian Tig Notaro.

In February, Melinda Levy shared valuable insights on Premarital Agreements as acts of love when approached thoughtfully. The passing of Kate Moore was mourned, and a touching tribute from her wife, Tina Reynolds, highlighted their 18-year partnership. A constitutional amendment was introduced to remove discriminatory language from Prop. 8 (2008). Senator Wiener also introduced legislation to enhance access to PrEP.

In March, the Sacramento LGBTQ Film Festival closed its doors, leaving a positive legacy by donating \$5,000 to the Lavender Library. EQCA voiced concern over a Florida bill that aimed to expand the 'Don't Say Gay' legislation. Chris Narloch introduced us to "Cocaine Bear." Rainbow Chamber Awards honored Paul Lau, CEO of SMUD, Robert Nelsen, President of CSUS, Jake Bradley-Rowe of Sunburst Projects, and Pucci's Pharmacy. Conceptual artist Angie Eng contributed to social justice efforts with the creation of the "Right On! Social Justice Art Walk."

In April musician Tom Goss elevated spirits with a stellar performance at *Outword's* Liquid Therapy happy hour at Badlands. We mourned the passing of San Francisco drag icon Heklina who passed away while performing in London. Ken Magri spotlighted the impact of sexual violence on the LGBTQ+ community. Christopher Cabaldon announced his candidacy for the newly drawn State Senate District 3.

In May EQCA responded to a federal trans youth sports ban, expressing concern about

its potential exclusionary impact on trans students participating in school sports. Lambda Legal condemned a ruling that struck down insurance coverage PrEP. Local flower shop Poppy and Pot took a stand against bullies featuring Unieke Moore leading the store's third monthly Drag Queen Story Time. The Wisdom Project hosted the 7th Annual Senior Pride. A new multilingual statewide hotline and website was launched to provide safe, anonymous reporting for victims and witnesses of hate acts (CAVsHate.org). The community mourned the shooting death of Banko Brown, an unarmed, unhoused, transgender man, shot by a security guard. LGBTQ-owned and operated Roscoe's, opened in the heart of Lavender Heights, right next door to Badlands dance club. Aaron Thomas Piccirillo emerged victorious as Mr. Bolt Leather 2024.

Starting with the second issue of May, we celebrated Pride. First with the Sac Pride issue, then the first issue in June was our California Pride issue and we rounded out Pride Month with the Pride History issue on June 22. This History issue included our LGBTQ+ timeline that has been brought up to date and spans twelve full pages!

Also in June the 4th Davis Pride Festival drew its biggest crowd ever with over 5,000 attendees. The Senate passed a bill to protect LGBTQ+ youth from placement in hostile foster homes. Steve Hansen announced his candidacy for Mayor. Current Mayor, Darrell Steinberg, raised the Progress Pride flag at the capitol. And sadly, there was a bittersweet moment as Sacramento's beloved Kennedy Gallery, founded by Michael Kennedy, closed after 17 years.

In July, the community expressed outrage over the Supreme Court's ruling granting businesses the ability to discriminate based on their sexual orientation. In the "Wheels and Tech" issue, Chris Allen delved into the topic of ChatGPT, while coverage also included a feature on Subaru's debut all-electric vehicl, the Solterra. Ron Tackitt provided a review of the Pro-Ject Automat A1 Turntable, just in time for Chris Narloch to

share insights on the new special edition vinyl releases for Cher and Wham. The California Senate passed a constitutional amendment preventing future attempts to restrict marriage rights for same-sex or interracial couples.

August started with a somber moment as we mourned the loss of performer Paul Reubens a.k.a. PeeWee Herman. Cirque du Soleil made a triumphant return to the Golden 1 Center with the mesmerizing production "Corteo." LGBTQ+ sports took center stage in a piece inspired by enthusiast Cameron Yee. Patti Roberts highlighted the challenges faced by Sacramento's theaters due to declining audiences. Governor Newsom brought positive news by announcing that Jose Sarria would be included in the California Hall of Fame. Celebrations ensued as FACES Nightclub marked its 38th anniversary.

In September, the Rainbow Festival took center stage, featuring powerhouse headliner Robin S. The month was marred by tragedy as Laura Ann Carleton, a shop owner and staunch LGBTQ+ ally was tragically shot and killed by a man solely because of the rainbow flag displayed outside her store. Dennis Mangers penned "A Call to Action," urging the community to remain vigilant against anti-LGBTQ+ activists. The Midtown Farmers Market celebrated Farm-to-Fork Month, promoting local agriculture.

The first issue of October was a very special Anti-Hate resource issue and guide. We provided four full pages of resouces for combatting, reporting and surviving hate crimes. Along with the guide the issue included a crucial exploration of the distinctions between Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes. Chris Allen conducted an interview with Pastor Casey Tinnin following a thorough three-month investigation and a 30-page document that cleared Tinnin of any wrongdoing regarding the Landing Spot, which is a resource for LGBTQ+ and Trans youth. In October we had the somber task of honoring Senator

Dianne Feinstein, who passed away on September 29. Reflections on the Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Farm 2 Scholar dinner, that underscored the community's commitment to education and support within the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, the Pet issue added a delightful touch to the month, featuring some of the cutest local pets and celebrating the joy they bring to their humans, and now the community.

In November, Showtime launched the captivating period piece "Fellow Travellers," featuring Matt Bomer and Johnathan Bailey. Chris Narloch spoke about his lust for Adam Kinzinger. Anti-LGBTQ+ and MAGA leader Mike Johnson was unfortunately, elected House Speaker. Terri Schlichenmeyer provided a thoughtful review of "Letter to My Transgender Daughter" by Carolyn Hays. The Rainbow Chamber's annual Boas and Bow Ties Gala, themed after the "Rocky Horror Picture Show," was captured in a delightful pictorial. The State Capitol which was illuminated in red for the 35th World AIDS Day served as a poignant reminder that the fight against HIV/AIDS is still ongoing. Placer County Pride signaled plans to launch their own center.

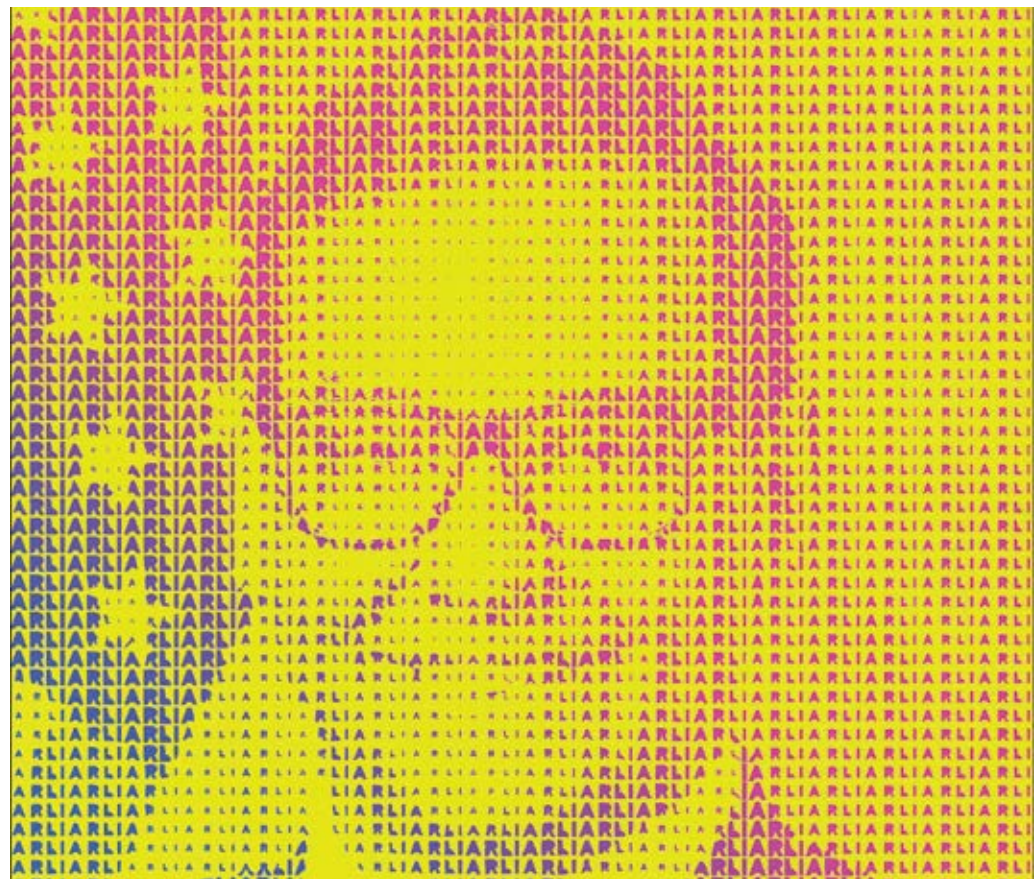
In December, *Time Magazine* declared Taylor Swift as the Person of the Year, acknowledging her influential role in shaping cultural conversations. The community explored the book "Bayard Rustin," featuring essays edited by Michael G. Long, offering insights into the life and contributions of the influential civil rights activist. Chris Narloch provided a festive touch by examining holiday albums, including Cher's latest release, adding a musical flair to the holiday season.

This brings us to this issue that you are now reading. But this also just barely scrapes the surface of what you can find in an entire year's worth of *Outwords*. As always, we provide our publication, for free, every second and third Thursday of the month - in printed format and digitally online. See you in 2024!
www.OutwordMagazine.com



“The Fabulist: The Lying, Hustling, Grifting, Stealing, and Very American Legend of George Santos” by Mark Chiusano *reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer*

Feel that little tug? It’s probably nothing to worry about, it’s not important. It’s just that someone’s trying to pull your leg, to make you believe something that’s not true or doesn’t exist. Just a little tug, right above your ankle, no problem. You might not even notice it unless, as in “The Fabulist” by Mark Chiusano, the wool’s pulled over your eyes, too.



A little more than four years ago, Mark Chiusano first spoke with former House Representative George Santos over the phone for a newspaper story, and red flags popped up immediately. Says journalist Chiusano, Santos kept offering conflicting stories about this or that in their initial interview and other, later, conversations featured uncomfortable inconsistencies. Soon, any contact with Santos began to have “an uneasiness to it.”

There was a reason: spinning stories, as it turned out, was something Santos had been practicing since he was young, and he was really good at doing it.

Santos was so good at tale-spinning that, while reporting on Santos, Chiusano watched as highly-experienced detectives and other professionals accept Santos’ lies as truth, though many of Santos’ stories were verifiably false. He was so well-practiced at lying, Chiusano says, that eventually, Santos’ habit of telling rich childhood whoppers grew into a talent for creating giant cons, including the biggest one of all: running for public office, and all that it entailed.

In politics, Chiusano notes, Santos was “suddenly surrounded by rich people” and they weren’t just random gullibles to cold-call.

“Now,” says Chiusano, “they were at his fundraisers, or on his call lists.”

It’s been said that to know the story, follow the money but that’s not easy when you’re trying to understand George Santos. But let’s

be clear, though: it’s not author Mark Chiusano’s fault here. The trail of allegations, cons, drag shows, pants-on-fire, money-grabbing, and tall tales is a long and convoluted one (or more), and it nearly requires a mathematical diagram to untangle. The difficulty lies in the lies that, as recounted in “The Fabulist,” are unrelenting, astounding, and (let’s be honest), ridiculous in flashing neon, which makes them almost ruefully funny in their brazenness.

Shake your head. Go on.

At just about every page, you’ll ask yourself how this ever happened at a time when claims can so very easily be fact-checked. Absolutely, this will lead to a thick air of disbelief in the sheer amount of cons that “George and Anthony and Devolder and Santos” is said to have pulled off – and one way or another you’re likely going to have emotions about that.

On that subject, Chiusano cautions readers not to be armchair psychologists. Indeed, while you’ll note a bit of extrapolating in what you’ll read here, Chiusano seems mostly facts-only neutral, outside his author’s note and introduction.

Readers may marvel at that, and the Herculean effort that might have taken...

Followers of politics and readers who’ve been watching the saga of George Santos will devour “The Fabulist.” If you love a good, romping head-shaker, pull this one off the shelves.



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¡Viva el Arte! Los Cabos' Art Scene is a Stunner

words and photographs by Chris Allan

While most of us won't turn down a relaxing day gazing out at emerald waves on the golden sands of a Baja beach, it turns out that's not the only thing to do in Los Cabos. Yes, the southern tip of Baja California has resorts and water sports galore, all-night clubs and top-notch culinary delights. But if you're a discriminating traveler looking for some human-made beauty on your spontaneous winter getaway, consider the Cabos.

The Sistahs

Los Cabos ("the capes") refers to the two towns of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo (SJD). The sister cities are connected by the Tourist Corridor, a 20-mile scenic stretch of coastline that includes some of the area's chichiest all-inclusives. Cabo is the party gal, the younger of the two, while San José del Cabo is the more mature, stylish sistah, the smoky mezcal to the tangy tequila.

San José's Art Scene

The area's obras de arte are found in the historic district near Plaza Mijares. The walkable area oozes with charm, complete with cobblestones, colonial architecture and vibrant papel picados (colored flags). Its dozen blocks are filled with artist-owned galleries and shops with curated collections of folk and fine art from all over Mexico. Artworks include painted and yarn canvases, ceramics, papier-mâché, metal and wooden alebrijes sculpture, beadwork, blown glass, jewelry and more. The Baja region itself does not have any significant indigenous art styles, so shops select works from all over the country, and galleries often feature exhibits from visiting artists.

Each Thursday from November to June, the city hosts an art walk. It's a busy, fun event that gives you the chance to wander the area eating stuffed caramel churros. You can meet lesser-known artists at their outdoor stalls, as well as sip cócteles with the more prominent Mexican or international creatives featured in the storefront galleries. While there is no shortage of tourist-grade souvenir shops, there is a lot of world-class art to be found.

Some of our recommendations:

- Frank Arnold Gallery: Most notable international artist in the area, huge collection of abstract/figurative oil paintings and sculptures in stunning gallery/studio/home space
- Silvermoon: Top-notch Mexican art curated by uber-knowledgeable Director Armando Sánchez Icaza
- Jonathan Sánchez Jewelry: The Sánchez family are generational artists with multiple shops in the area, including stunning wearable art pieces
- Emotions by Corsica: High-end, contemporary Mexican art
- Sacristia: Large, well-curated shop representing 20 artists from eight regions
- Sotomayor Sculptor Gallery: Whimsical hand-welded metal sculptures from Juan Sotomayor

Blowing by Cabo San Lucas

On our recent trip to Baja, we spent all of one night in CSL. Sure, after dinner and drinks at Playa El Medano, you can cruise to Chandeliers, the only queer nightclub in the area. While colorful, Cabo lacks charm and artistic aesthetic, but if you're staying in the area there are a few spots you may want to visit:

- The Glass Factory: On-site artisans creating hand-blown glassworks in a beautiful building
- Authentica: Well-curated gallery representing 18 artists from eight states
- Hector Estrada Gallery: Estrada is a Panamanian painter, sculptor, art professor who exhibits across Latin America

Adventuring out to Todos Santos

Not technically in Los Cabos, Todos Santos is one of the main cultural points of interest in Southern Baja. It's also a great excuse for a trip out to the surprisingly verdant desert hillsides and scruffy beach towns. (Who doesn't love buying Mexican blankets and hand-mixed margaritas under a palapa?) Originally more of a funky surf spot, Todos Santos started attracting artists in 1984 when the road from Cabo San Lucas was paved.

Today, it's located an hour north of Cabo on a four-lane highway. The town is one of only 122 designated by the Mexican government as a "pueblo magico," meaning that it offers visitors "cultural richness, historical relevance, cuisine, art crafts, and great hospitality." The program has helped increase tourism to smaller towns in rural areas like Todos Santos.

The pueblo offers a relaxing tourist-friendly village to explore. Like old town San José del Cabo, the central core features numerous galleries and shops, as well as restaurants with hidden courtyards that include desert-inspired landscaping and colorful bougainvillea.

The slower pace and generally smaller art spaces make it easier to chat with the gallerists and artists in the town. We would particularly recommend:

- Galería Logan: Beautiful gold and silver leaf canvases and rural Mexico-inspired paintings
- The Arturo Mendoza Gallery: Sophisticated Dali-meets-Rothko paintings with enigmatic small figures
- Rafael Brilanti Fine Art: Generational master silversmith in the Taxco tradition who makes his jewelry by hand on site
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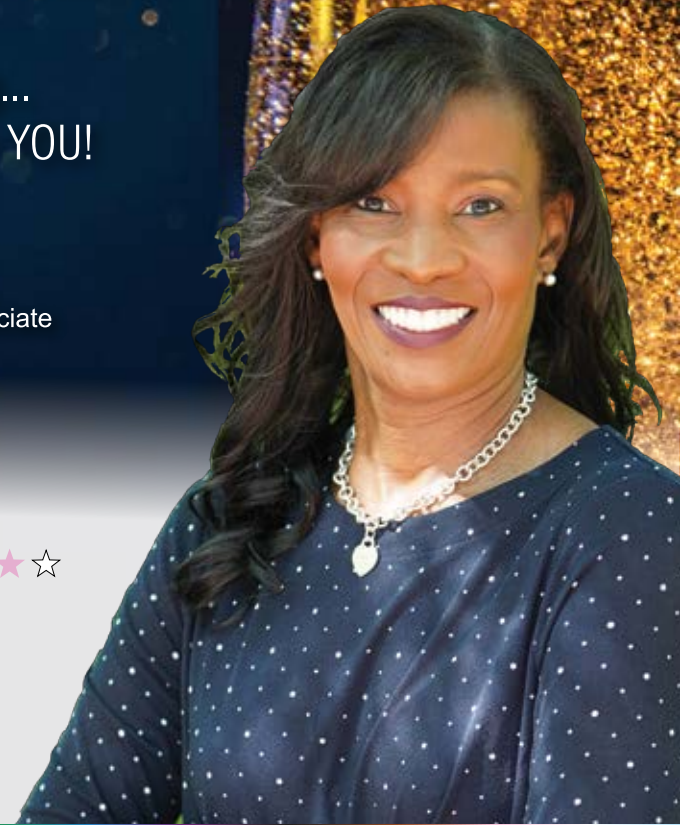


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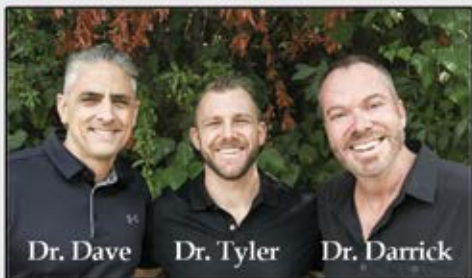
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Sacramento's Culinary Celebration "Dine Downtown" Returns January 12-21

Following the recent Sacramento restaurant feature in the New York Times, Downtown Sacramento Partnership's highly anticipated annual restaurant promotion, Dine Downtown, will return for its 19th year, January 12 through January 21, 2024. During those 10 days, central city restaurants will offer curated three-course dinners for \$45. Plus, several menus will be exclusive to Dine Downtown and will highlight the culinary expertise of the best chefs across the city.

In addition, Downtown Sacramento Partnership is partnering with the Food Literacy Center as the official charity partner of Dine Downtown. \$1 from every meal sold from a Dine Downtown menu will be donated to the Food Literacy Center, which teaches children in low-income elementary schools cooking, nutrition, gardening, and active play to improve their health, environment, and economy.

"This is the perfect opportunity for residents and visitors alike to celebrate the Farm-to-Fork Capital," said Michael Ault, Executive Director of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "Events like Dine Downtown shine a spotlight on the uniqueness of our region, while highlighting nationally ranked restaurants downtown for both new and loyal customers to look forward to every year."

Launched in 2005, Dine Downtown provides support to local restaurants during a critically important (and usually slower) period for the industry. In its nearly two decade run to-date, Dine Downtown has generated more than \$6 million in restaurant sales for central city restaurants.

2024 Participating Restaurants Include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
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| Rio City Café | Brasserie du Monde |
| Grange Restaurant & Bar | Tequila Museo Mayahuel |
| Butcher and Barrel | Bear & Crown British Pub |
| Frank Fat's | Magpie |
| Foundation Restaurant and Bar | Revolution Winery & Kitchen |
| Kodaiko Ramen and Bar | Hook and Ladder Manufacturing Company |
| Capitol Garage | Maydoon |
| 7th Street Standard | The Porch Restaurant and Bar |
| The Firehouse Restaurant | Tapa the World |
| Willow | Aioli Bodega Espanola |
| Frog & Slim | Hawks Provisions and Public House |
| Star Lounge | |



Dine Downtown menus will be available online at GoDowntownSac.com/DineDowntown. Reservations can be made with the restaurants directly. Dine Downtown is produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership with support from Kaiser Permanente, LAMAR, Yelp Sacramento, and others.



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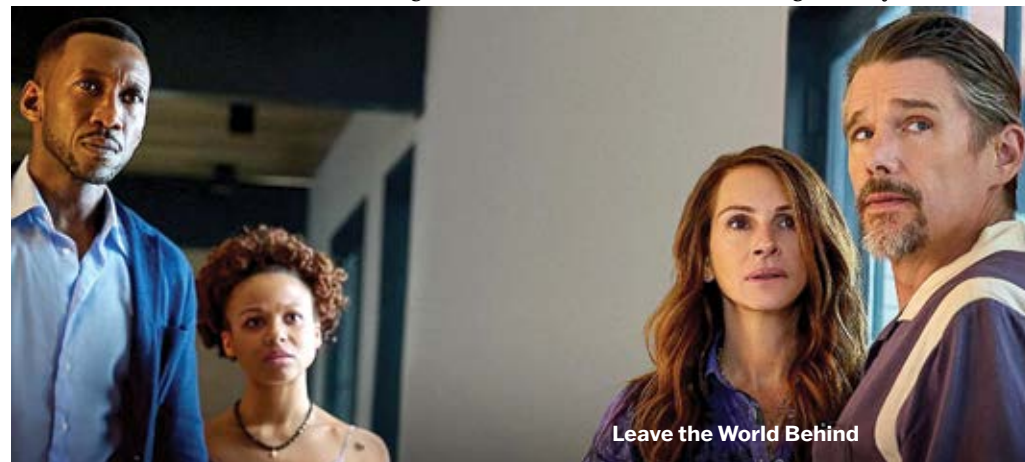
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What's New on Netflix?

by Chris Narloch

Netflix is still such a force in movie distribution, that big-name actors and directors now have multi-million dollar deals with the streaming service that sometimes bypass theaters entirely.

Read on for reviews of four fascinating films now available for home viewing courtesy of Netflix.



Leave the World Behind

Leave the World Behind

Talk about a starry pedigree! Co-executive produced by Barack and Michelle Obama, directed by Sam Esmail (of "Mr. Robot" fame), and starring Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke, Kevin Bacon, and Mahershala Ali, this new doomsday thriller has been a big hit on Netflix. I found it odd, slow in parts, and too long but very intriguing and well-acted. If you're still trying to figure out that ending, The Hollywood Reporter has an interesting breakdown.

The Killer

David Fincher, the talented director of projects such as "The Social Network" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," helms this portrait of a hired assassin, played by the fabulous Fassbender (Michael Fassbender, that is). A violent but stylish revenge thriller, "The Killer" is not particularly original, but the film is elevated by the talents of Fincher and Fassbender.



May December

May December

The great queer director Todd Haynes returns with this extraordinary character study of a man (Charles Melton) and his wife (Julianne Moore) – who began an illicit affair when he was underage – and the actress (Natalie Portman) who stirs up the past while doing research for a movie based on their lives. All three leads are superb, and Haynes is at the absolute top of his game.



Love and Monsters

Love and Monsters

This super-fun, futuristic monster movie was supposed to receive a wide release by its studio (Paramount) several years ago, and then the pandemic hit so it was dumped in a few theaters plus video on demand. Thanks to Netflix, the film is finally getting seen by a wide audience in this country. If you enjoy an action movie with heart, cool creatures, and great CGI, this is the movie for you.

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Charles Blow

Now an Op-Ed columnist at The New York Times, Blow previously served as the paper's Graphics Director, leading The Times to significant awards. He also worked as the Art Director of National Geographic Magazine and for The Detroit News.

Blow is the New York Times bestselling author of "Fire Shut Up in My Bones," which won a Lambda Literary Award, the Sperber Prize, and appeared on numerous "best of" lists. A memoir, the book was called "searing and unforgettable" by People Magazine and was adapted into a critically-acclaimed opera with a groundbreaking run at The Metropolitan Opera – the first performance of an opera there by a Black composer.

His second book, "The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto," draws on both his personal experience and observations of society to call for an end to systemic racism. Blow is a prolific and insightful commentator on politics, public opinion, and social justice, often challenging those in power with clarity and candor.

Mr. Blow is divorced and has come out as bisexual. He will undoubtedly have a great deal to say when he appears at the Mondavi Center in Davis, on Wednesday evening, Jan. 10. For more information, visit www.mondaviarts.org

Don't Miss the Kennedy Center Honors

This year's telecast of the Kennedy Center Honors promises to be another glorious celebration of the best of the best among our country's artists.

The Kennedy Center Honorees



Barry Gibb, the last surviving member of the iconic pop group the Bee Gees (and a consummate singer, songwriter, and musician), will be inducted, as will Renee Fleming, one of the most famous and accomplished sopranos in the history of American opera.

Hip hop pioneer and an award-winning actress, Queen Latifah will join the Kennedy Center club, along with funnyman Billy Crystal, who has made us laugh in movies and on stage for the last fifty years.

Finally, the classic soul and pop singer Dionne Warwick will receive her long-overdue inclusion as an honoree, when the Kennedy Center Honors airs on CBS and streams on Paramount+ beginning Wednesday evening, Dec. 27.

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Year-end Movies Wrestle at the Box Office *by Chris Narloch*

So many new movies were released in theaters in December, that even a film fanatic like me cannot keep up with all the titles coming and going, including “Napoleon” and Disney’s “Wish,” both movies worth seeking out despite receiving mixed reviews from critics. Read on for reviews of four other new titles.



The Color Purple

Unlike Steven Spielberg’s original film version, the shiny, new big screen musical version of “The Color Purple” doesn’t soft-peddle the lesbianism in Alice Walker’s beloved book about two sisters who are separated for years and then reunited.

Fantasia is sensational as Celie, the main character, who finds herself and her voice when she falls for Shug Avery, a sexy singer well-played by Taraji P. Henson. The supporting cast is terrific and so are the musical numbers. In wide theatrical release.



The Iron Claw

There aren’t a whole lot of movies that appeal to super-straight bros and gay men, but this film is one. Zac Efron and Jeremy Allen White star as two hunky members of a real-life family who were trained by their domineering dad to compete as pro wrestlers in Texas and beyond.

Five of the six sons died young, and the movie is a very moving cautionary tale about the dangers of parental pressure and toxic masculinity. There are also a lot of laughs in the film to balance the tragedy, and the entire cast and the director turn in first-rate work. In wide theatrical release.



Wonka

I was very much looking forward to this prequel to one of the favorite films from my childhood, 1971’s “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” starring Gene Wilder, and “Wonka” did not disappoint.

Timothee Chalamet is perfectly cast as a young, idealistic Wonka, and Hugh Grant is hilarious as the OG Oompa Loompa. The new songs and the CGI are well-integrated into the movie – a delightful family film that deserves to be a big hit. In wide release, including Sacramento’s Esquire IMAX Theatre through at least Jan. 7.



Poor Things

Where to begin with this film, probably the wildest mainstream movie of the year. Kudos to Searchlight Pictures for giving it a wide release in theaters considering the subject matter, which includes lesbianism, prostitution, misogyny, and domestic abuse.

Emma Stone has the gutsiest part of her career so far in the lead role of Bella Baxter, a feminist, Frankenstein-like creation who travels the world and eventually discovers her own backstory.

The Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos, who specializes in the bizarre, delivers that in spades this time out, and Stone, Mark Ruffalo, and Willem Dafoe also swing for the fences.

“Poor Things” will not be for everyone, but moviegoers who like to be challenged will find much to chew on here. This movie is currently playing at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Jesus Christ Superstar

JANUARY 10-13, 2024

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon, paying tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring.



Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience

JANUARY 18-19, 2024

With video of the "Man in Black" projected on a screen above the stage, a live band and singers accompany him in perfect sync as he performs some of his biggest hits, including "Folsom Prison Blues," "Ring of Fire," and more.



Step Afrika!

JANUARY 21, 2024

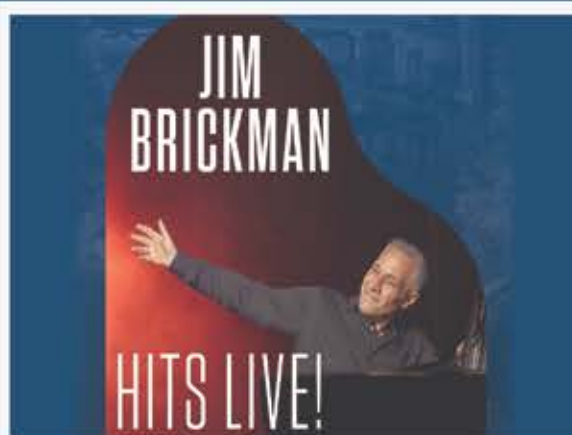
Blending percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional West and Southern African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a compelling, artistic experience.



Classic Albums Live: Sticky Fingers

JANUARY 28, 2024

Classic Albums Live takes the greatest albums and recreates them live on stage - note for note, cut for cut. This special concert event features the Rolling Stones' Sticky Fingers album, including "Brown Sugar," "Wild Horses," and more.



Jim Brickman: Hits Live! In Concert

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Brickman has amassed 27 Top 40 singles on the adult contemporary charts, including 14 Top Ten smashes. This uplifting concert features his music and stories, including his hit songs "Love of My Life," "Angel Eyes," and of course, "Valentine."



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Two Dynamite Queer Dramas Debut

by Chris Narloch

Neither film has received the publicity it deserves, but I highly recommend that you seek out this pair of new LGBTQ movies.



Our Son

Billy Porter is everywhere you look these days, and he gives a fine performance alongside Luke Evans in this first-rate new drama about a same-sex, married couple fighting over custody of their young son during divorce proceedings.

“Our Son” avoids cliches and melodrama, for the most part, and it’s great to see two queer actors playing queer characters. The movie is available via Prime Video.



Rustin

This is a long-overdue biopic about one of the most unsung heroes of the civil rights movement in the United States, who was queer before queerness was a badge of honor.

Bayard Rustin, advisor to Martin Luther King Jr., dedicated his life to the quest for racial equality, human rights, and worldwide democracy. Unfortunately, as an openly gay Black man, he was all but erased from the civil rights movement he helped build.

This excellent new film goes a long way towards righting that wrong, thanks to Colman Domingo’s towering, awards-worthy performance as Rustin.

Directed by the great George C. Wolfe, “Rustin” features a superb supporting cast that includes Audra McDonald, Chris Rock, Glynn Turman, Bill Irwin, CCH Pounder, Jeffrey Wright, and Da’Vine Joy Randolph. You can watch it on Netflix.

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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

The rush of the holidays is now in the rearview mirror, a new season has been ushered in and a new year approaches with untold promise for the dreams we aspire to achieve to come true. We have a fresh opportunity to embrace life and enjoy all the abundance it has to offer each one of us. May you find peace, prosperity and true happiness in the coming year. And below are a few ways to do just that!

Catch the comedic brilliance of Myq Kaplan at Happy Humbugs on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m.. Hosted by local comic Ben Rice, the event, held at Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., promises a night of laughter with Merrill Davis, Kevin Camina, and Maryam Moosavi. Headlined by Comedy Central's Kaplan, it's the ultimate year-end roast to bid farewell to 2023. Ages 18+; explicit content possible. Crockerart.org

Laugh the night away with comedian Brad Williams on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St.. Brad, whose comedy often revolves around his dwarfism,

Join us for the January Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. The venue is Roscoe's Bar & Burgers, 2007 K St. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow business owners and supporters of the LGBTQ business community. The event is FREE for members and \$10 for non-members. Don't miss this chance to network and build valuable connections. Rainbowchamber.com

Embark on an immersive nighttime adventure at the Sacramento Zoo with Unextinct, a groundbreaking experience



has graced TV shows like Mind Of Mencia, Live at Gotham, Tonight Show, and Jimmy Kimmel Live. Brad's unique humor will keep you entertained. Crestsacramento.com

Experience the nostalgia of the '80s with the classic teen angst film «Pretty In Pink» (1986) on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Follow Molly Ringwald as she navigates the complexities of choosing between her childhood sweetheart and a rich, sensitive playboy. Don't miss this timeless tale of love and choices. Crestsacramento.com

Secure your seats for an unforgettable evening with folk-rock icon Melissa Etheridge on Monday, Mar. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom. Don't miss the chance to experience the resonant voice of Etheridge, providing comfort and hope through her powerful music. Get your tickets at Harriscenter.net

Get ready for a fabulous night of Drag Bingo on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. hosted at Mango's, 1930 K St. Join the fun with a \$20 cash donation to play 8 exciting games, and all proceeds benefit the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus. Founded in 1984 during the AIDS epidemic, SGMC has become a vital part of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ and artistic communities, providing a warm and inclusive space. Rainbowchamber.com

that combines vibrant illusions with extraordinary wildlife. Witness over 40 extinct and endangered species come to life through state-of-the-art technology across 11 captivating scenes. Join the fun Dec. 26 to Mar. 9, every Thursday-Saturday, from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. A truly unique and unforgettable journey. Unextinctlive.com

Experience the magic of the holiday season with "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" from Dec. 27-31. This record-setting Broadway sensation, featuring hit songs like "You're A Mean One Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas," brings Dr. Seuss' whimsical world of Whoville to life. The SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. will host this enchanting production. Don't miss the opportunity to be transported to the heartwarming world of Dr. Seuss. Broadwaysacramento.com

Celebrate the New Year with a bang at Faces NightClub's Annual New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, Dec. 31! Join the excitement with an unforgettable night of fun and celebration, featuring a thrilling balloon drop at midnight filled with cash and prizes. Doors open at 8 p.m. Don't miss the festivities at FACES Nightclub, located at 2000 K St. FACES.net

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

Thank You Outword Supporters!

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

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New Year's Bash: Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road

As the end of the year approaches, excitement buzzes in the air of Los Angeles. Masterbeat has just announced its highly anticipated 23rd annual New Year's Festival, promising an unforgettable celebration for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. This year, the theme is a magical twist on the classic "Wizard of Oz," inviting attendees to dance their way into 2024 along the Yellow Brick Road.

A Magical Start: The Yellow Brick Road at The Belasco

The festivities kick off on December 30 at the Belasco Theater in downtown LA. Superstar DJs Shane Marcus and Micky Friedmann will lead the revelers on a musical odyssey from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

The Heart of the Celebration: The Emerald City at Mayan Theater

The main event, 'The Emerald City,' will be held on New Year's Eve at the Mayan Theater, the largest nightclub in LA. Transformed into a sparkling Emerald City, this night promises a nine-hour musical journey with Grammy-nominated DJ duo Rosabel. Masterbeat is renowned for its spectacular countdown to midnight, featuring a video montage of the year's highlights synchronized to the biggest dance tracks. This promises to be an immersive experience.

Continuing the Magic: Wicked Afterhours at Academy, Hollywood

Don't pause. 'Wicked' afterhours at Academy, LA will feature music by London DJ Tom Stephan, from 4 am to 10 am on January 1st. This is where the energy of the new year is palpable.

The Grand Finale: Over the Rainbow at Avalon

The festival concludes with the 'Over the Rainbow' closing party at Avalon. This event marks the return of DJ Brett Henrichsen, emerging from retirement for this special occasion. January 1st from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., end your festive journey on a high note.

Tickets for this spectacular series of events are selling fast. For the complete schedule, detailed party information, and to purchase tickets and VIP passes, visit Masterbeat.com.

Activating Taste Buds

Food pics needed! Send us a pic or two of something delicious you have, or are, enjoying on your weekly date night. Or if you are eating all alone, we like those pics too. We would like to highlight them here in the pages of *Outword*. Email your pics to graphics@outwordmagazine.com along with a sentence, description or location, and if you like, 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 new pics. WonderBuds activated!



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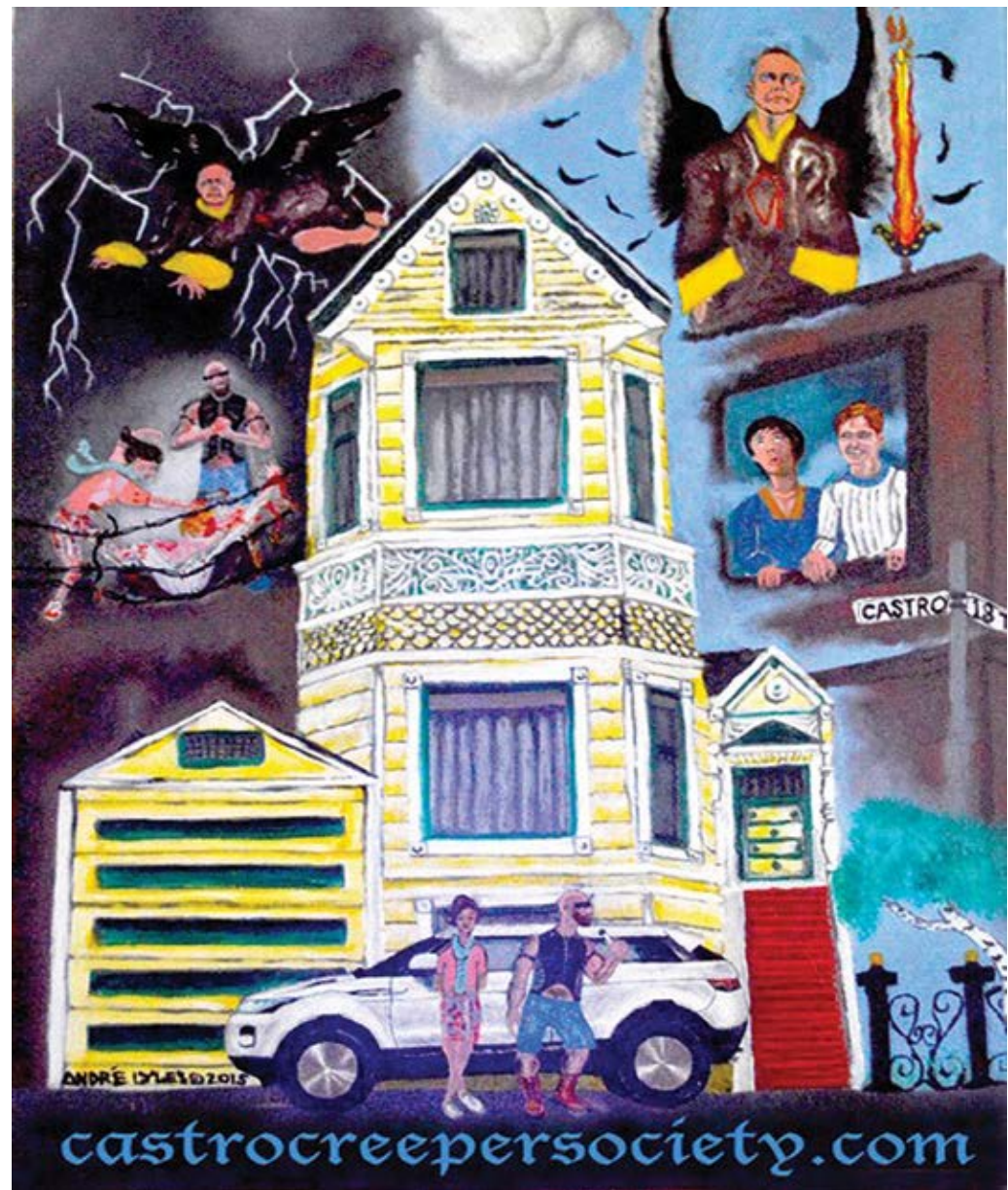
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UPCOMING EVENTS



December

Contact Julie Ebe to get your event on the Upcoming Calendar- Julie@OutwordMagazine.com

- 27-31 Dr. Seuss The Musical @ Broadway Sacramento
- ★ 31 FACES New Years Eve Bash

January

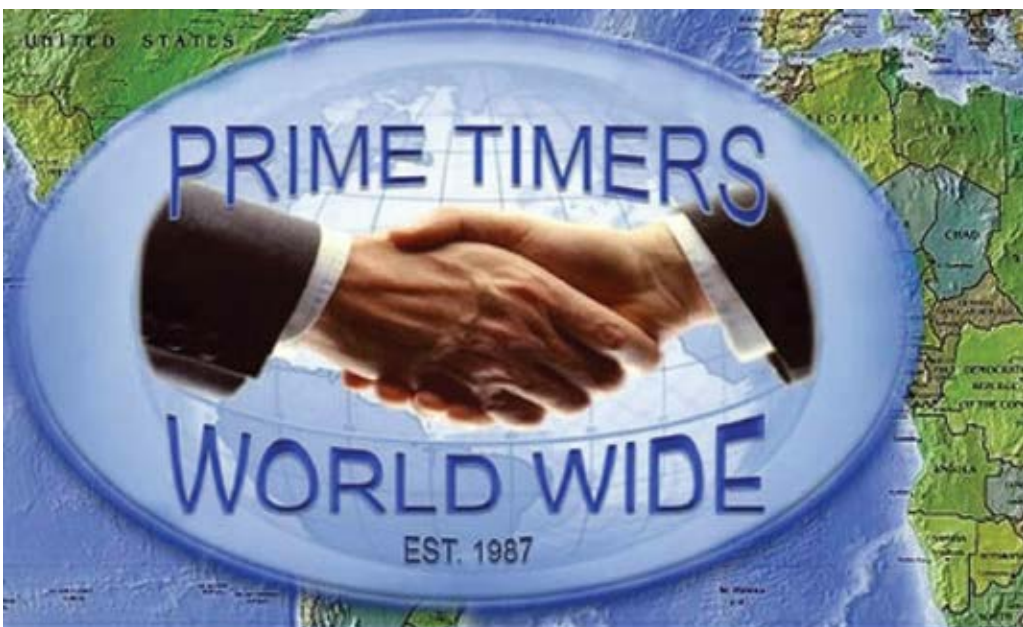
- ★ 4 Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo @ Mango's
- 10 Jesus Christ Superstar @ Harris Center
- ★ 12 Happy Hour with Outword @ Badlands- 5:30-7
- 16 Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer @ Roscoes
- 25 You better Werk! Career and Job Readiness Fair- LGBTQ Center

2024 Pride Events

- 6/1 Sonoma County Pride
- 6/8 Sacramento Pride
- 6/29 San Francisco Pride
- 9/8 Oakland Pride Parade & Festival



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

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From all of us here at Outword Magazine.



Cheers to 2024

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