

**SATURDAY AND  
SUNDAY,  
10/24-25**

**Sacramento  
Theatre Company  
presents Radium  
Girls**  
SACRAMENTO THEATRE  
COMPANY, VARIOUS  
TIMES, \$10



PHOTO FROM WIKI COMMONS

The story of the Radium Girls is a tragic part of American

**ON STAGE** history. In the early 1920s, women in three factories owned by the U.S. Radium Corporation in New Jersey, Illinois and Connecticut painted watch dials with radium so they would glow green. Part of the painting process involved “pointing” the tip of the brush, which caused workers to ingest trace amounts of radium. The radioactive substance caused severe illness, but it took 10 years to hold the company accountable. In the meantime, several women died from radiation sickness. Sacramento Theatre Company, Young Professional Conservatory students will be performing the story of one of these women, Grace Fryer, as she fights for her day in court. [sactheatre.org](http://sactheatre.org).

◀ **CALENDAR LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40**

region’s farm-to-fork season to enjoy and honor the bounty of the region’s local farmers. 1pm, no cover. [davisfarmtoschool.org](http://davisfarmtoschool.org).

**SUNDAY, 10/18**

**ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET:** Celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday with the Alexander String Quartet performing String Quartet No. 1 in F major, Op. 18, No. 1 and String Quartet No. 9 in C major, Op. 59, No. 3. This year the quartet introduces a new member, violist David Samuel, joining cellist Sandy Wilson and violinists Fred Lifshitz and Zakarias Grafilo. 2pm, \$60. Mondavi Center, [mondaviarts.org](http://mondaviarts.org).

**FRIDAY, 10/23**

**SIX FEET APART ALEXANDER BOLDACHEV:** Alexander Boldachev, guest artist of Bolshoi Theater and founder of the Harp Festival Zurich, has been breaking the mold with virtuosity on both the concert pedal harp and the Salvi Delta electric harp. 7pm, no cover. [B Street Theatre, bstreettheatre.org](http://BStreetTheatre.com).

**SATURDAY, 10/24**

**RADIUM GIRLS:** In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity and luminous watches the latest rage—until the workers who painted them became ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. 2pm, \$10. [Sacramento Theatre, sactheatre.org/shows/radium-girls/](http://SacramentoTheatre.com).

**VIRTUAL ARTFUL MEDITATION:** Calm your mind and experience art in new ways with longtime meditation practitioners and instructors Matthew Roselli and Teresa Sedano. 11am, no cover. [Crocker Art Museum, crockerart.org](http://CrockerArtMuseum.org).

**THURSDAY, 10/29**

**CANDY CORN ENGINEERING WITH GIRL SCOUTS:** Test your engineering skills using candy. Join Girl Scouts and Extreme STEAM Science Kids in this family event as they dive into the design process and complete

a fun challenge. In this Halloween-themed activity, girls and their siblings will be able to build with their hands while working towards meeting an objective. 5pm, no cover. [Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Webinar, extremesteamscience.com/girl-scouts-candy-corn-engineering](http://GirlScoutsHeartofCentralCaliforniaWebinar.extremesteamscience.com/girl-scouts-candy-corn-engineering).

**FRIDAY, 11/6**

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS:** The Falcon’s Eye Theatre at Folsom Lake College presents William Shakespeare’s hysterical farce about two sets of identical twins lost at sea. A wacky, pop art-inspired landscape is collaged together rather than being your average Zoom square. 7:30pm, \$5. [Zoom Webinar, falconseyetheatre.com](http://ZoomWebinar.falconseyetheatre.com).

**SATURDAY, 11/7**

**BOLD AND VIBRANT LANDSCAPES WITH**

**JOE A. OAKES:** During the 90-minute demonstration, Joe A. Oakes will create a bold and vibrant landscape using acrylics. He will answer any questions about his process. 10am, \$35. Sacramento Convention Center Complex, [sacfinearts.org](http://sacfinearts.org).

**LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE WEBINAR KEYNOTE**

**ADDRESS:** Join Bear River Library for its third annual Local Author Showcase, featuring authors from all over Nevada County and partnering with local bookstores. Noon, no cover. Bear River Library, [facebook.com/nevadacountylibrary](http://facebook.com/nevadacountylibrary).

**SURFACE HISTORY LAYERED MIXED MEDIA**

**PAINTINGS WORKSHOP WITH SARA POST:** Using mostly materials you have on hand, learn a variety of techniques for creating abstract, layered paintings through this Zoom workshop with artist Sara Post. Artists will work on mixed media or oil paper, adding and subtracting a creative mix of collage, drawing and painting. 9:30am, \$225-\$250 Pence Gallery, [pencegallery.org](http://pencegallery.org).

**THEATRE LOVERS CLUB:** Theatre lovers of Nevada County, join Bear River Library in this watch party to check out the latest releases from many different theaters. 2pm, Bear River Library, [facebook.com/nevadacountylibrary](http://facebook.com/nevadacountylibrary).

**Real Reviews**

# The Rise of Plutocracy

How the Right Got Power and How the Left Can Take it Back

by Robert Speer  
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**There’s an old saying among Democratic politicians: If you want to live like a Republican, vote Democratic.**

Why, then, do so many working- and middle-class Americans vote Republican? After all, it’s been clear for at least 40 years that the GOP doesn’t have their interests at heart, but rather is doing the bidding of corporate and financial interests and the superrich.

Two recent scholarly books by well-regarded political scientists—*Let Them Eat Tweets: How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality*, by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, and *Merge Left: Fusing Race and Class, Winning Elections and Saving America*, by Ian Haney López—attempt to answer that question. They also offer a way to upend the toxic relationship between working-class voters and the superrich.

Incidentally, they provide a welcome respite from the flood of tell-all books about Trump. As much as the president has dominated the news during his tumultuous tenure, these writers “consider the tweeter in chief more consequence than cause.”

Hacker and Pierson say their book is “about an immense shift that preceded Trump’s rise, has profoundly shaped his political party and its priorities, and poses a threat to our democracy that is certain to outlast his presidency.”

That shift, they say, is “the rise of plutocracy—government of, by, and for the rich.” As they remind us, “The richest 0.1 percent of Americans now have roughly as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent combined.”

This wealth gives them the financial power to control the political process, but it’s not infallible. Ordinary Americans may not have vast amounts of money, but they do have democracy on their side, and for that reason are sometimes able to foil the superrich’s shakedowns. For four decades or more, the superrich and their allies in the Republican Party have sought to find ways to overcome this vulnerability.

For them, the key resides in the cohort of voters who occupy “the great middle” composed of independent working-class white voters. Deploying “dog whistles”—covert appeals to implicit racism—they instill fear and resentment in these voters and make



them forget about the issues that really matter in their lives (education, health care, jobs) and turn for protection to the “law-and-order” party.

Early on that party turned to populist entities adept at ginning up racial outrage among its target audience—groups such as the National Rifle Association and the Moral Majority and conservative media provocateurs such as Rush Limbaugh and Fox News.

But as the GOP became increasingly dependent on these “outrage groups,” Hacker and Pierson write, it “increasingly lost the capacity to shape its own agenda and fight elections on its own terms.”

It also set itself up for takeover by Trump, “a true master of outrage.”

*Let Them Eat Tweets* is a highly readable political history of the past four decades. It does a superb job of showing how the Republican Party has sacrificed its moral authority in favor of a cynical power grab that puts plutocracy before people.

So where to from here? What can the progressive Left do to counter the plutocracy’s immense power?

That’s the question Ian Haney López, who teaches at UC Berkeley and is the author of *Dog Whistle Politics*, sought to answer when he launched the Race-Class Narrative Project.

For two years, a diverse group of activists traveled the country, interviewing and surveying thousands of voters in search of a way forward.

At the forefront of their research was the issue of how best to approach electoral politics. What left-wing appeal works best at attracting voters? They posited three possibilities:

1. An appeal that is colorblind and speaks only to economic issues such as poverty so as not to alienate white voters.
2. A “race-forward” stance that emphasizes racial justice.
3. A cross-racial approach that speaks to progressive whites as well as people of color. Call it the solidarity option.

What Haney López and team learned surprised them: The groups surveyed strongly favored the solidarity option. They wanted to work together—white, black and brown—unconcerned about class and racial differences.

“For democracies under demagogic assault,” Haney López concludes, “the most effective defense is to vigorously promote social solidarity.” *Merge Left* is an invaluable guidebook to creating that solidarity.

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