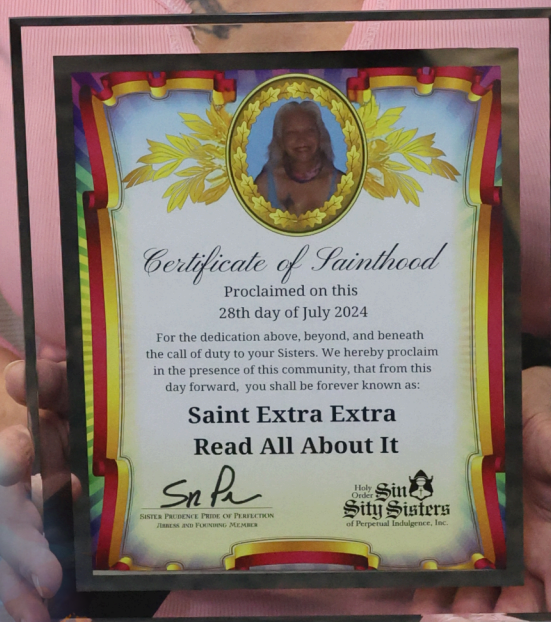




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QEGAS

JULY 31 - AUGUST 6, 2024



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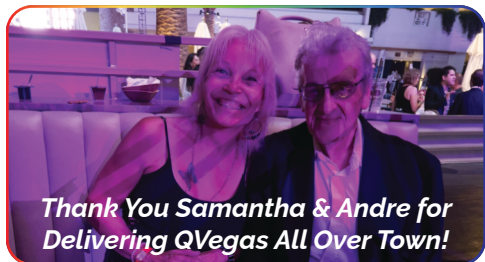
Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence hosted a brunch honoring seven new Saints as well as community impact awards. With performances by the Las Vegas Men's Chorus and Miss Uchawi, and a moving keynote by Latoya Holman, the brunch embodied the best of our community. *(A very special shout out to our very own Samantha Palaggi, Saint Extra Extra Read All About It)*

The Center invited Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahon and LVPMD to a community event where the sheriff reaffirmed his commitment to working with and protecting the LGBTQ+ community. Several out members of LVPMD shared impassioned personal stories from academy training to on-the-job discrimination. While some have vocally opposed the event, the intent of the event was to bridge the local law enforcement community with the LGBTQ+ community.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
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View this week's horoscopes at qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag.



PISCES

AUGUST 2024

Honey, let me spill the cosmic tea for you, cause August 2024 is going to be a dazzling month for all you fab Pisces fish out there. The stars are lining up to serve you some realness, giving you all the sparkle and glow-up you need. Now, you better werk, cause opportunities are sashaying your way, and it's your time to shine, darling. Remember, keep it fierce, stay fabulous, and always strut your stuff with confidence. The universe is your runway, so show 'em how it's done, boo!



CAESARS
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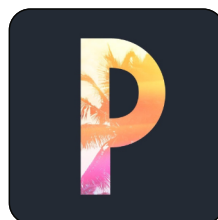
WYNN RESORTS



VIRGIN HOTELS
LAS VEGAS



THE VENETIAN RESORT
LAS VEGAS



PALMS
RESORT & CASINO



BENT INN & PUB

Hotels

These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.

CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT
caesars.com

Caesars Palace
The Cromwell
Flamingo
Harrah's
Horseshoe (formerly Bally's)
The LINQ
Paris
Planet Hollywood

THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS
venetianlasvegas.com

These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100

MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL
mgmresorts.com

Aria
Bellagio
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas
Delano
Excalibur
Luxor
Mandalay Bay
MGM Grand
New York New York
Park MGM
Vdara

WYNN RESORTS
wynnlasvegas.com

Wynn Las Vegas & Encore Las Vegas

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BOX OFFICE

SHOW OF THE WEEK

DISCO SHOW

Get ready to party like its 1977! This new Vegas show wants you out of your seat. The audience at DiscoShow will be invited to step inside the action with the characters who were there at the birth of disco; into their lives; on the streets; at the club; encouraged at every moment to lose themselves in the music and on the dancefloor.

DiscoShow covers the action of the Disco Demolition Night on July 12, 1979 in which a riot ensued over the burning and explosion of disco records by anti-disco campaigners through a major league baseball promotion.

Opening Soon at The Linq!



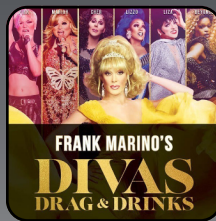
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RUPAUL'S
DRAG RACE LIVE



DRAG BRUNCH



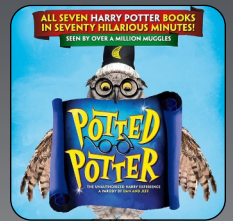
FRANK MARINO



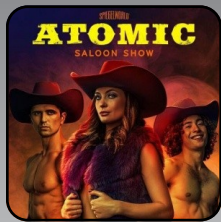
AUSSIE HEAT



MAGIC MIKE LIVE



POTTED POTTER



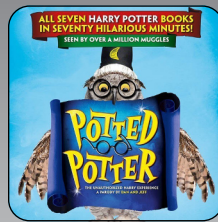
ATOMIC SALOON SHOW



ILUMINATE



CARROT TOP



POTTED POTTER



ZOMBIE BURLESQUE



CHASE BROWN



SPICE WANNABE



DIVA ROYALE



WOW - THE VEGAS
SPECTACULAR



ROUGE



CHIPPENDALES



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SATURDAY **AUGUST 3**

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AUGUST 3

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Angeria Paris VanMicheals Crowned Winner of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Season Nine, to Perform at Piranha Nightclub on August 3

Angeria Paris VanMicheals has been crowned the winner of RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS Season Nine. Angeria earned a coveted spot in the "Drag Race Hall of Fame" and secured a \$200,000 donation to the National Black Justice Coalition, the charity she represented throughout the season. This donation was provided by The Palette Fund, a foundation dedicated to advancing social change in under-resourced communities.

In a season marked by philanthropy, Angeria stood out with her kindness, uniqueness, nerve, and talent. This season was historic, as it was the first time queens competed for charity, using their drag skills to raise funds for various organizations.

The season nine finale featured a special guest appearance by Vice President Kamala Harris, who encouraged viewers to fight for LGBTQ+ rights and register to vote. Harris was joined by RuPaul's Drag Race judge Michelle Visage, Jamal Sims, Lance Bass, Leslie Jones, and Cheyenne Jackson.

Kylie Sonique Love, winner of RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS season six, surprised the queens in the Werk Room with a pep talk before the "Grand Finale Slay It Forward Variety Extravaganza." On the main stage, RuPaul was joined by Michelle Visage, Ross Mathews, and guest judge Connie Britton. Nina West was awarded the "Double Diamond," and each All Star received an extra \$5,000 for their charities. Angeria and Vanessa Vanjie advanced to the final top three alongside Roxxy Andrews.

The final lip sync battle featured a performance to Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation," where Angeria emerged victorious. Kylie Sonique Love presented her with the crown and scepter.

Angeria will perform at Piranha Nightclub on August 3, offering fans a chance to see the newly crowned queen in action. This performance promises a night filled with glamour and talent, celebrating Angeria's well-deserved victory.





Celebrating Our Saints: Honoring the Pillars of Our Community

In a vibrant room filled with anticipation and joy, the Sin City Sisters gathered to honor the Saints of our community—individuals whose dedication and tireless work have made a profound impact on the lives of many.

The first order of business was to recognize the current Saints in the room, asking them to stand so they could be appreciated. Following this, the announcement of new Saints began, each introduction filled with heartfelt stories of dedication, passion, and unwavering support for the community.

Samantha Palaggi: Saint Extra Extra Read All About It

Samantha Palaggi, affectionately known as "Mom" to many, was the first to be honored. A tireless supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, Samantha's passion for the Sin City Sisters and the broader community is evident in her boundless energy and enthusiasm. She is known for her warm hugs and smiles that have the power to uplift even the most solemn individuals. Beyond her emotional support, Samantha has been instrumental in spreading the good word about the Sisters by delivering QVegas magazines throughout Las Vegas and volunteering to distribute flyers without being asked. Her efforts keep the community connected and informed. For her incredible dedication, Samantha was bestowed the title of "Saint Extra Extra Read All About It."

Anita Phat Muffin: Saint Desert Empress of the 24th Fuck Off-She-Did-It with Whiskey & Diet

Next, Anita Phat Muffin was recognized. An iconic figure within the Las Vegas LGBTQ+ community, Anita's advocacy for inclusion and equality is unparalleled. Crowned Empress 24 of the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, she has tirelessly championed for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, raising significant funds and awareness for crucial causes. Known for her humor, passion, and

commitment, Anita's ability to entertain while making a tangible difference in people's lives is truly remarkable. Her reign has been marked by incredible fundraising efforts and initiatives that make tangible differences in the lives of many. For her outstanding contributions, Anita was honored with the title "Saint Desert Empress of the 24th Fuck Off-She-Did-It with Whiskey & Diet."

Mei V: Saint UHaulen Boobvacious of the Silent Bidding

Mei, discovered the Sin City Sisters over 12 years ago and has been a beacon of support and dedication ever since. Her passion for the Sisters' cause shone brightly as she demonstrated her commitment to helping in any way possible. Mei started by assisting with silent auctions and quickly transformed them into formidable fundraising events. Beyond her contributions to the Sisters, Mei has flourished in her personal life, becoming an integral part of the Kink Community as the Headmaster for Toolbox. Her ability to balance kindness with authority has made her an invaluable asset. For her unwavering support and dedication, Mei was named "Saint UHaulen Boobvacious of the Silent Bidding."

Rikki "Melya" Leenerts: Saint Craftina of the the Everlasting Assistance

Rikki, also known as Melya, began her journey with the Sin City Sisters through Guard Humility and quickly became an enthusiastic supporter. Her adventurous spirit takes her across the country to various music festivals, but she always returns to Las Vegas to support the local community. Melya's boundless energy, passion, and willingness to go above and beyond make her an invaluable member of the Sin City Sisters family. Her dedication and love for the community inspire everyone around her. For her contributions, Melia was named "Saint Craftina of the the Everlasting Assistance"

Andrew Dort: Saint Lending a Prideful Hand

Andrew's journey with the Sin City Sisters began three years ago during the Las Vegas Pride Festival. From the start, his warmth and enthusiasm were infectious. He organized fundraisers and promoted the Sisters' efforts, quickly becoming an integral part of the community. Andrew's presence at events, his positivity, and his dedication to the cause have made a significant impact. Recognizing his invaluable contributions, he was honored as "Saint Lending a Prideful Hand."

Richard Lynk: Saint Happy Pappy Ray of Fucking Sunshine

Richard, nominated by Sister Aura, has been a beacon of support since joining the Sin City Sisters over four years ago. His practical skills in fixing and creating anything needed have made him a true asset. Richard's support extends beyond his practical skills; he embodies the spirit of community and kindness. His dedication to the Sisters and the broader community has enriched many lives, earning him the title "Saint Happy Pappy Ray of Fucking Sunshine."

Anthony Cortez: Saint Cocky Blocky King of the Stage

The final individual to be sainted was Anthony Cortez. Moving to Las Vegas from Los Angeles, Anthony brought a fresh sense of community and event planning expertise. His dedication to organizing pride events and other community initiatives has made a profound impact on the LGBTQ+ community. Anthony's ability to unite people and create inclusive events is truly remarkable. For his incredible contributions, he was honored as "Saint Cocky Blocky King of the Stage."

Miracles Performed by the Saints

As part of the sainting ceremony, each nominee had to perform a series of miracles to demonstrate their dedication

and earn their sainthood. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and amusement as the nominees took on these challenges with enthusiasm.

The first miracle was to walk on water. Each nominee was given a cup of water and asked pour the water on a tarp in front of them. This whimsical task symbolized the ability to walk on water.

The second miracle was to create fire. Equipped with lighters, the nominees were tasked with igniting them and keeping the flame alive. This represented their ability to ignite passion and inspire those around them.

The third and final miracle was the hardest of all: to be in two places at once. Each nominee turned around to face a mirror to create the illusion of being in two places simultaneously. This challenge symbolized their ability to extend their influence and impact beyond physical boundaries. .

With the miracles successfully performed, the Saints were ready to receive their titles and certificates. Each certificate was a testament to their dedication, passion, and unwavering support for the Sin City Sisters and the broader community.

Celebrating the Saints

As the newly sainted individuals received their certificates and titles, there was a sense of unity and gratitude in the room. Each Saint's story was a testament to the power of love, dedication, and community support.

The Saints honored at this event represent the best of our community. Their dedication, passion, and unwavering support have made a significant impact on the lives of many. As we celebrate their contributions, let us also commit to being allies and advocates for each other.

The celebration of Saints is a powerful reminder of the impact that individuals can have on their communities. It highlights the importance of recognizing and honoring those who work tirelessly to support and

uplift others.

Honoring Nevermore Productions

As Sacred Sister Supporters, the Sin City Sisters have a profound appreciation for organizations in Las Vegas that consistently exceed expectations. Nevermore Productions is a shining example. Their partnership began three years ago when the Sisters hosted their largest event at The Usual Place, managed by Danielle and her exceptional team at Nevermore Productions.

From the outset, Danielle and Nevermore Productions have been invaluable, bringing expertise and creativity to the Sisters' events. Together, they have successfully hosted two memorable Red Dress Events and are now planning Project Nunway, set for September 7, 2024.

Nevermore Productions has also opened doors to unique venues like ARIA's Easy's Speakeasy and Cowabunga Bay, allowing the Sisters to expand their reach. Their commitment to excellence and dedication to unforgettable experiences have made them a treasured ally.

Danielle and her team's passion for inclusivity and community shines through in everything they do. They are cherished partners in the Sisters' mission, and their continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Beatitude Award: Celebrating Champions of LGBTQ+ Issues

The first award presented was the Beatitude Award, designed to honor a continued champion of LGBTQ+ issues. The nominees included the Trans Pride Center, the Henderson Pride Festival, and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Each nominee was recognized for their significant contributions to the community, highlighting their dedication to advocacy, inclusivity, and support.

The Trans Pride Center was honored with the Beatitude Award for their tireless advocacy and support for trans individuals. The Center provides essential services,

including medical advocacy, name changes, and emotional support, ensuring that trans individuals have the resources and support they need to live authentically. Jamie Lee Sprague accepted the award with an emotional speech, sharing personal experiences and the profound impact of their work.

In her speech, Jamie highlighted the challenges faced by trans individuals and the importance of visibility and personalized support. She spoke about the daily struggles of many trans individuals, including discrimination, lack of acceptance, and the difficulties of accessing necessary medical care.

The Heretic Award: Honoring Unwavering Support and Kindness

The Heretic Award, given for unwavering support and kindness to the LGBTQ+ community, was awarded to Keyska Diva. Known for her fierce advocacy and vibrant personality, Keyska's contributions to creating inclusive and supportive spaces were celebrated.

Keyska's involvement in various community events and organizations has made her a beloved figure within the LGBTQ+ community. Her dedication to inclusivity and her ability to bring people together have had a profound impact, fostering a sense of belonging and support. Her acceptance of the Heretic Award was a testament to her unwavering commitment to making the world a better place for everyone.

The Jezebel Award: Embracing Joy and Inclusivity

The Jezebel Award, celebrating those who bring joy and inclusivity to every situation, was next. Dani Dawson, a passionate trans advocate known for her bright smile and unwavering dedication, received the Jezebel Award. Her vibrant personality and tireless work in supporting trans individuals have made her a beloved figure in the community.



The Las Vegas Men's Chorus opened the event. Now over 100 members strong, the chorus performs throughout the year. Closing the event was Miss Uchawi, Her new show opens in August at DUST where she combines drama, fashion, award-winning magic, southern sass, and a charming persona.

Dani's involvement in various events and her ability to bring joy and light to every interaction have had a significant impact. Her work in advocating for trans rights and her dedication to creating safe spaces for all individuals have earned her the admiration and respect of many. The Jezebel Award was a fitting recognition of her contributions and the positive influence she has within the community.

The Gabriel Award: Lifetime Achievement and Exceptional Service

Victor Rodriguez received the Gabriel Award, a lifetime achievement award recognizing exceptional service and dedication to the LGBTQ+ community. Victor, a long-time supporter of the Sin City Sisters, was praised for his unwavering commitment and contributions to the community.

In his acceptance speech, Victor highlighted the importance of self-expression and support. He reflected on the impact of the Sin City Sisters on his life and the broader community, emphasizing the need for spaces where individuals can be themselves without fear of judgment or discrimination. Victor's journey with the Sin City Sisters has been one of mutual support and collaboration, and his recognition with the Gabriel Award was a testament to his lifelong dedication to the community.

Victor's involvement with the Sin City Sisters and his support for various community events and initiatives have made him a cornerstone of the LGBTQ+ community in Las Vegas. His passion for advocacy and his commitment to creating inclusive spaces have had a lasting impact, making him a deserving recipient of the Gabriel Award.

The Blessed Award: Honoring Continued Volunteerism and Support

The Blessed Award, honoring a current saint who continues to volunteer and support events, had nominees including DJ Axis, Doug Graf, and Christopher M. Each nominee was recognized for their exceptional dedication and support for the Sin City Sisters.

DJ Axis, known for his exceptional DJ skills and dedication, was awarded the Blessed Award. His contributions to the Sin City

Sisters' events and his seamless integration into the community were celebrated. DJ Axis's ability to create a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere at events has made him a beloved figure within the community.

In his acceptance speech, DJ Axis emphasized the importance of giving back to the community and the joy of providing good music for everyone to enjoy. His work as a DJ has been instrumental in creating memorable and inclusive events, and his recognition with the Blessed Award was a testament to his ongoing commitment to the community.

The Reverence Award: Recognizing Outstanding Organizational Support

The Reverence Award, recognizing a current angel who goes above and beyond in their support for the Sin City Sisters, had nominees including Fun Hog Ranch, Bears Las Vegas, and Las Vegas Pride. Each nominee was recognized for their exceptional support and contributions to the Sin City Sisters and the broader LGBTQ+ community.

Bears Las Vegas, an organization known for their extensive community involvement and support, received the Reverence Award. Their president, who was not prepared to give a speech, humbly accepted the award, highlighting the organization's dedication to raising funds and supporting various community initiatives.

Bears Las Vegas has been a vital part of the LGBTQ+ community, hosting numerous events and fundraisers to support various causes. Their commitment to inclusivity and their efforts to create a welcoming environment for all individuals have made them a beloved organization within the community. The Reverence Award was a fitting recognition of their ongoing support and contributions.

The Glorify Award: Celebrating Exceptional Partnership and Contribution

The final award, the Glorify Award, celebrated a current partner or nonprofit that continues to support the Sin City Sisters both monetarily and through other contributions. Nominees included the Consortium, the Center, and the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire



Sin City Sisters
S.A.C.R.E.D.
Saints Appreciation & Community Recognition
HEART AWARDS

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...
listed in alphabetical order:

BEATITUDE AWARD
A continued champion of LGBTQ issues
Human Rights Campaign (HRC) | Henderson Pride Festival | TransPride Center

HERETIC AWARD
Unwavering support and kindness for our community
Keyska Diva | LA Jewel | Norma Llyaman

JEZEBEL AWARD
Always inclusive, brings pleasure to all and is always available for a good time
Dani Dawson | Eric Abram | Samantha Palaggi

GABRIEL AWARD
The Sisters life time achievement award
Derek Daniels | Shane O'Neil | Victor Rodriguez

BLESSED AWARD
A Saint that continues to go above and beyond
DJ Axxis | Doug Graff | Kristopher Minnich

REVERENCE AWARD
An Angel that continues to go above and beyond
Bears Las Vegas | Fun Hog Ranch | Las Vegas Pride

GLORIFY AWARD
A fellow Non-Profit that continues to go above and beyond
The Center | The Consortium | The IRSCDE (LV Imperial Court)



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(IRSCDE). Each nominee was recognized for their exceptional partnership and support for the Sin City Sisters.

The Consortium, known for its collaborative efforts among service providers in the HIV/AIDS space, was awarded the Glorify Award. Their representative shared the history and impact of the Consortium, emphasizing their volunteer-driven mission and ongoing support for the Sin City Sisters.

In his acceptance speech, the Consortium's representative highlighted the importance of collaboration and community support. He spoke about the Consortium's work in bringing together various service providers to create a network of support for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. The Glorify Award was a testament to the Consortium's commitment to making a positive impact on the community.



Photos: Joshua Dagon/JD Images



Latoya Holman's Inspiring Call to Action: Embracing Allyship and Advocacy

The Sin City Sisters' event was as much a celebration of community as it was a call to action. The keynote speech was delivered by Latoya Holman, Chief Development Officer of the Public Education Foundation and a passionate advocate for civil rights. Her speech was a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion, acceptance, and action in creating inclusive and supportive communities.

Latoya began her speech with a striking statistic: "46% of LGBTQ individuals are closeted at work. That's more than one third of their waking hours hiding who they are because they don't feel safe." This revelation underscored the significance of living authentically and the profound impact it has on one's sense of visibility and belonging.

Drawing from her personal journey, Latoya recounted a pivotal moment that shaped her understanding of allyship. She spoke about meeting Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man whose brutal murder in 1998 became a watershed moment in the fight against hate crimes. Judy's tragic story and her plea for Latoya to be an ally to her son profoundly moved her. "Will you speak for Matthew because he can't speak for himself anymore?" Judy had asked. Latoya's answer was a resounding yes.

This moment marked the beginning of Latoya's unwavering commitment to allyship. She emphasized that being a good ally requires aligning oneself with compassion for the human experience. "Through that alignment, we embrace acceptance," she stated. This principle has guided her in her advocacy work, which has included promoting significant legislative changes, such as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act. These changes, driven by collaborative efforts, protect many within the LGBTQ+ community and pave the way for a more inclusive society.

Latoya's speech highlighted the transformative power of allyship. She shared personal anecdotes about the challenges and bravery required to be a true ally. "I've been placed in dangerous situations regularly to simply learn about your journey and how I can align myself with this movement," she revealed. Despite the risks, Latoya remains steadfast in her commitment to advocating for marginalized communities.

Her call to action was clear and poignant: "I need your allyship today. The impact of hate against Black women in this country is painful. I'm hurting every single day right now. I need you to be my ally." Latoya's message was a stark reminder that allyship is a reciprocal relationship. Just as she has stood by the LGBTQ+ community, she called for support in her own struggles against racism and discrimination.

The power of Latoya's speech lay not only in her words but in her authenticity and vulnerability. She shared her experiences and the realities of the discrimination she faces, making her plea for allyship deeply personal and urgent. "I want to be seen just like you and I would appreciate that you align with me. I need you to listen to me. I want you to learn with openness from me and yield to my voice in spaces where I need to be heard," she implored.

Latoya's message resonated deeply with the audience, highlighting the interconnectedness of different struggles for justice and equality. Her speech was a powerful reminder that true allyship involves more than just support; it requires action, bravery, and a commitment to amplifying marginalized voices.

As the event concluded, there was a palpable sense of unity and determination in the room. Latoya's call to action had inspired many to reflect on their roles as allies and advocates. The celebration of the saints was not just about recognizing individual contributions but also about acknowledging the collective strength and resilience of the community.

In the words of Latoya Holman, "Commit to allyship. Embrace acceptance. Take action." Her keynote speech was a powerful reminder that together, we can create a community where everyone is seen, heard, and loved.



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On a warm summer evening in Las Vegas, The LGBTQ+ Community Center was abuzz with anticipation. Eager to extend a warm welcome to everyone gathered for an important discussion between the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and the LGBTQ community, the Center event promised to be a robust conversation about progress, challenges, and the way forward.

Setting the Stage for Dialogue

Leanna Ramirez, the Chief Clinical Officer began the evening with heartfelt thanks, expressing her appreciation for everyone's presence and the importance of the discussions they were about to have. Introducing Officer Anthony Edwards from the Office of Community Engagement, she set the tone for a night of candid conversations.

Officer Edwards' Opening Remarks

Officer Anthony Edwards took the stage, visibly moved by the turnout. He began by acknowledging the importance of the Office of Community Engagement within Metro, describing it as a dedicated group of officers passionate about community involvement. His pride in the department's progressive stance was evident.

"Metro is committed to building a partnership with the community," he emphasized. "We know there's a divide, and we're here to bridge that gap."

AJ Holly Huth's Perspective

Next, AJ Holly Huth, the Center's Director of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, shared her personal journey. Huth's story was deeply moving, providing a historical context that was both educational and emotional. She recounted her early years as a youth manager at the Center and her dedication to ensuring that young people knew their history, especially the pivotal moments like the Stonewall riots.

"History is important," Huth stated. "LGBTQ history is relatively unknown, even within our community. I wanted our youth to understand where we came from."

Her narrative shifted to the Pulse nightclub shooting, a tragic event that shook the community. Huth described the paradox of seeing Metro officers surrounding the



Building Bridges: A Community Event with LVMPD and the Las Vegas LGBTQ+ Community

Center during the rally held in response to the shooting, juxtaposing the history of police violence against LGBTQ people with the protective presence of the officers that night. It was a moment of cognitive dissonance that led her to seek deeper understanding and foster change.

Sheriff Kevin McMahon's Commitment

Sheriff Kevin McMahon's entrance was met with mixed emotions. Protesters outside the Center reminded everyone of the tensions that still exist, particularly in light of recent incidents involving trans individuals and law enforcement. The sheriff acknowledged the protesters, affirming their right to be heard and the importance of addressing their concerns.

"I represent the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, not any other department," McMahon began. "Our goal is to develop relationships with the community, to build trust, and to ensure safety for everyone."

He emphasized the role of community-oriented policing squads in each area command. These squads are tasked with engaging the unique aspects of their communities, fostering relationships with people who might not typically trust law enforcement.

"Our end goal is to reduce victimization in our community," he said. "We strive for perfection, and we try not to make the same mistake twice."

Personal Stories from the Panel

The highlight of the evening was the panel discussion, featuring five LVMPD officers who shared their experiences as members of the LGBTQ community within the department. Their stories were raw, honest, and sometimes heartbreaking, but they also highlighted progress and hope.

Officer Jason Covert, Patrol Officer

Jason, a transgender man, spoke about his journey of transitioning while on the force. His story began with the tragic loss of his brother, which propelled him to live authentically. He described the support he received from his family and colleagues, though not without some challenges.

Officer Gavin Farrell, Community-Oriented Policing:

Gavin, a gay man, shared his struggles with acceptance during his teenage years and his journey to coming out. His story was

one of resilience and determination to prove himself as a capable officer.

Detective Gabriel Soto, Counterterrorism

Gabriel, a straight ally, provided a different perspective. He spoke about his journey of learning and embracing diversity within the department, forming lifelong friendships with LGBTQ colleagues.

Officer Mike Thiele, Traffic Intervention

Mike's story was perhaps the most harrowing. He recounted the challenges he faced as an openly gay man in the early 2000s, including being outed, harassed, and nearly losing his career due to false accusations.

Captain Michelle Tavaréz, Major Violators Narcotics Unit

Michelle, an out lesbian, spoke about her journey of self-acceptance and the support she received from her family and colleagues. She highlighted the importance of education and training in fostering a more inclusive environment within the department.

Moving Forward: Building Trust and Collaboration

The event concluded with a Q&A session, allowing community members to ask questions and share their concerns. One of the most poignant moments came when a retired Metro employee shared her story of hiding her sexuality throughout her career and the pain it caused her.

This powerful testimony underscored the need for continued efforts to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all employees and community members.

Final Thoughts

The event at the Center was a step towards bridging the gap between the LVMPD and the Las Vegas LGBTQ community. It highlighted both the progress made and the work still needed to ensure everyone feels safe and respected.

The Center remains committed to fostering these conversations and working with the LVMPD and other community partners to build a safer, more inclusive Las Vegas for everyone. Together, we can make a difference.



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LGBTQ+ Resources

THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bearslv.org

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfn.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hhendersonpride.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
hrc.org

IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE
desertempire.org

LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
lambdalv.com

LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS
lvmenschorus.org

LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS
lasvegasprimetimers.com

LAS VEGAS TRANSPRIDE
lasvegastranspride.org

LEATHER UNIFORM CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (LUC OF LV)
lucoflv.com

LEGACY COUNSELING
legacycounselingandworkforceconnections.com

MAMA DRAGONS
mamadragons.org

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
ngra.com

THE PRIDE TREE
thepridetreevlv.com

SILVER STATE EQUALITY
silverstateequality.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER QUEER SOCIETY
snapiqs.org

YOUNG: EQUAL
youngequal.org



HIV Resources

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrc.org

SIN CITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org



STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

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