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A FRANK LOOK AT LAS VEGAS

PLUS OUR GUIDE TO VISITING SIN CITY



A photograph of two men in a kitchen setting. The man on the left is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a patterned tie, and is leaning in to kiss the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a red V-neck sweater over a collared shirt, glasses, and has his hand on the first man's shoulder. He is holding a blue and white cup in his right hand and a small piece of food in his left. In the background, there are stainless steel pots on a counter and a plate with a dessert.

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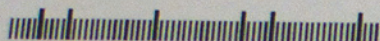
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EDITOR'S NOTE

There is something new in the air

5...4...3...2...1... Happy New Year! It seems like just yesterday everyone was nervous about Y2K, and now we are already welcoming in a new decade. A newness is in the air, and with the entrance of a new decade we can hope for a better future. It is time to start a new way of thinking, one focused on a tighter community, a stronger economy and a more focused way of thought. The "teen" years are those where you find yourself for the first time and I have hope that as a community we will find an even more solid footing in this new decade.

We closed out the last decade and the year 2010 on a high note, with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." As one reader commented, "every movement had its beginning" and the repeal of DADT is a great start to finally seeing results in our movement for full equality. I urge each and every one of you to continue to hold your heads up high and be proud of who you are; it's only going to get better. Now let's get out there and talk with neighbors, politicians and allies about getting full marriage equality.

This issue is packed full of goodies for you, so I hope you enjoy them all. We decided to start the year off with our 2011 Gay Vegas Visitor Guide, both for locals (who may think they have seen it all) and for the tourist here for the first time. We tried to cover all things "Vegas," with the best in shopping, dining, events, summer fun and much more. A big thank you to Frank Marino and Chris Saldana for sharing their favorite places and adventures to go in Vegas.

We also wanted to take time to focus on



the "T" in LGBT, as sometimes parts of our community get pushed aside. As editor I promise in 2011 to provide coverage and inclusion of our entire community. I welcome story ideas and event information, and if you feel we are missing something don't hesitate to contact me. There is a story in this issue about a family fighting for custody rights. I am appalled at the legal system for their treatment of transgendered citizens. I urge you to read the story and if you feel moved to do something, please contact your local politicians and ask for transgender protections added to the laws.

So I have gone on for long enough, I'm sure you want to get into the magazine and read what I've been rambling about above. So in closing I wish you all the very best in 2011 and this new decade. I look forward to seeing what 2011 has in store for us and I look forward to covering the stories in the magazine.


J. Son
Editor

PS: I know there is a debate over when the new decade starts, 2010 or 2011. I'm curious to see what you think, so post your opinion on the QVegas facebook page. Thanks.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed and may be edited for clarity or length.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW BEGINNINGS!

We have a few changes here at *QVegas* we would like to mention. First off we want to welcome Mr. Patrick Logan and Mr. Chris Miller to our team. Patrick and Chris have joined *QVegas* in the advertising department and bring with them a tremendous amount of community involvement, enthusiasm and experience. We are excited to have both Patrick and Chris as part of our team! Feel free to call and welcome them on board.

You may know both Mrs. LuAnne Sanchez and Mr. Cory Burgess, who have been with the magazine for a combined 15 years between them! LuAnne has worked in the advertising department since the days of the *Las Vegas Bugle*, her latest role as Advertising Director. Cory has worked in graphic design, as Editor, Creative Director and the list goes on. Their dedication and hard work have helped get *QVegas* to the company it is today. Both LuAnne and Cory are leaving the magazine and off to new chapters of their lives. We know you will join us in wishing them the very best!

IN MEMORY OF

The following members of the Las Vegas LGBT community have recently been taken from us before their time. Our condolences go to their families and friends.

BRECK WALL

Former star of *Bottoms Up Comedy Revue*

DAVID REYNOLDS

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JOSHUA BROCKWELL

QVegas' Sexiest Leather Guy (Feb. 2010)

CONGRATULATIONS

If you are legally marrying in a state that allows it, or if you are becoming domestic partners and holding a commitment ceremony, we wish to offer our congratulations by printing an announcement of the event along with a photograph in a future issue. Send these materials to Editor@QVegas.com no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you want the announcement to appear.

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WEEK 15 • JANUARY 12

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WEEK 16 • JANUARY 19

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This amazing package to sunny Palm Springs includes two docent-led Palm Springs Art Museum tickets, a gift certificate for two lunch entrees at Elmer's Restaurant, three \$10 gift certificates for Pinocchio's Restaurant, two tickets to the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, two tickets to the Palm Springs Tram, a gift certificate for two complimentary seats on a Desert Adventures Tour and a gift certificate for a two-night stay at the Movie Colony Hotel. This grand prize is valued at more than \$1000!

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NON-PROFIT NEWS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

HRC Las Vegas sets new date and location for annual gala dinner

The Las Vegas Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is excited to announce a new date and location for the annual Gala Dinner. The 2011 dinner will be held at ARIA Resort and Casino on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

"Given the fact that the Gala has been a great success the past five years, we are hopeful that the change in date will allow even more people in the community to take part in this wonderful event. Since August is a busy month, this change will ensure that more people will be able to enjoy the evening and the celebration of the successes made in our community," said Missy Morgan, Dinner Committee Tri-Chair.

Table or individual tickets are now on sale at lasvegas.hrc.org/dinner. And, all 2011 dinner tickets will include a one-year general HRC national membership.

For more information on HRC Las Ve-

gas events, please visit the Las Vegas HRC website at lasvegas.hrc.org. ■



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UPCOMING HRC EVENTS

Her HRC Las Vegas ("One Weekend. One Celebration. For Women") on Sunday, Jan. 16., 7:30 p.m. at Escape Lounge (4213 W. Sahara Ave.)

HRC 101 (Learn more about local and national HRC efforts) on Sunday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. inside The Gay & Lesbian Community Center (953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31)

SNAPI Saturdays held at Charlie's to raise funds for Pride

"SNAPI Saturday" is an event created by the board members of Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc. to showcase Las Vegas Pride and to keep in touch with the Las Vegas community. The bonus is that SNAPI also raises money that goes to its general fund, which is the main account funding the annual Las Vegas Pride Festival.

Partnering with Charlie's Las Vegas for the past five months, the SNAPI board have seen this event grow, and it has become very popular with our community. For the most part, Diva Delafuente and Andy Du Bois, reigning Miss and Mr. Las Vegas Pride, are the hosts of the SNAPI Saturdays. They are also in charge of running the event, scheduling entertainment for the show, booking go-go boys, and getting donations for raffle prizes.

The fun part of each event is the theme. In the past, SNAPI Saturdays have featured a beach theme, a circus theme. Even the color purple was the theme for one show.

In November, SNAPI held a turn-about show, where all the boys who volunteer



with the Pride Parade Committee transform into "girls" and become the entertainment. It was a huge hit and the boys seem to appreciate the other entertainers who do this every month a little more.

The SNAPI board look forward to seeing everyone at future events as they support Las Vegas Pride and Charlie's every month for SNAPI Saturdays. For more information, visit www.lasvegaspride.org. ■



AFAN HOLDS LAMBORGHINI FUNDRAISER

On Dec. 18, Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) held its second such fundraiser, at which car lovers paid \$40 drive a 14-mile course in Lamborghinis from Audi Henderson and Lamborghini Las Vegas. The fundraiser was co-sponsored by Queers4Gears.com, a car enthusiast website.

Annual HER HRC event returns January 16

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) celebrates women on Sunday, Jan. 16 with its annual HER HRC event. This year, Las Vegas HRC will join the national celebration by hosting a burlesque night with an impressive roster of local women entertainers and bachelorette auction.

The night will feature mixing and mingling, drinks, dancing and performances by DUWOPRose The Vinylist of HIGH DEF, Orange Sheila, Artikulate, Lady LUST, Jessica Chavez and Lou Lou Roxy.

The celebration takes place at Escape Lounge, 4213 West Sahara Ave., which is generously hosting the event and offering drink specials for the ladies. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Guests must be 21 and over. Admission is \$10 and includes annual HRC membership. You can buy tickets at the door.



We hope you'll join us for this special night recognizing the important role women play in our community! Learn more at www.hrc.org/herhrc ■

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THAT'S SO VEGAS

TIDBITS FROM THE STRIP AND BEYOND

Adult Entertainment Expo coming Jan. 6-9

The AVN Adult Entertainment Expo (AEE) and AVN Novelty Expo (ANE) is a one-of-a-kind tradeshow experience that combines business-to-business transactions, networking, knowledge-sharing, talent appearances, and special presentations for the public. The 2011 AEE/ANE, to be held Jan. 6-9 at the Sands Expo and Convention Center, will showcase hundreds of the largest adult studios, manufacturers, distributors and retailers in the industry.

The hottest adult entertainment stars in the world will appear, including Teagan Presley, Alexis Ford, and Tori Black (presented by Adam & Eve); Ashley Fires and Missy Gold (appearing in the Clips4Sale.com booth); Digital Playground's exclusive contract stars Jesse Jane, Stoya, Riley Steele, Kayden Kross and Selena Rose; Bobbi Starr, Sophie Dee, Kelly Divine, and Jynx Maze (hosted by Evil Angel); and Angel Vain, Brooklyn Bailey, Diamond Kitty, Jenna Haze, Joanna Angel, Kagney Linn Karter, Kimberly Kane, Kirsten Price, Misty Stone, Raven Alexis, Sara Sloane, Savanna Samson, Sinnamon Love, Sunny Leone and Taylor Vixen.

Several hundred companies will set up exhibitor booths, including Adam & Eve Pictures, Bluebird Films, Clips4Sale.com,

Digital Playground, Elegant Angel Video Productions, Evil Angel Video, FyreTV, Hotmovies.com, Hustler Video, Jules Jordan Productions, Pink Visual, Vivid Entertainment and Wicked Pictures.



The AVN Awards Show is the premier gala of adult video and recognizes titles, individuals and companies for contributions to and excellence in the industry. The AVN Awards Show is presented in conjunction with the AVN Adult Entertainment Expo, but a separate ticket is required for admission to the AVN Awards Show.

For full details, including schedules and tickets, visit www.AdultEntertainmentExpo.com. ■

Neil Diamond tribute artist coming to Cannery

In honor of Neil Diamond's 70 birthday, The Club at the Cannery Casino & Hotel will feature tribute artist Rob Garrett, the "King of Diamonds," in concert on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Garrett has always idolized Diamond and his music. He had his dream come true when he was cast as the Neil Diamond impersonator in the *Legends in Concert* show in Honolulu, Hawaii. Here Gar-

ret only expected to appear as Diamond for two months but ended up performing for three years. Since his gig in Hawaii, he has traveled all over the world appearing as Neil Diamond. In his time touring, he developed the name "King of Diamonds" and has become one of North America's most popular Neil Diamond tribute artists. In 2008, Garrett received the "Male Musical Tribute Artist Award" by the Entertainment Network at the Celebrity Impersonator Convention in Las Vegas, making him the only Neil Diamond tribute artist to win that award.

Singing Neil Diamond hits "Cherry Cherry," "Sweet Caroline," "Song Sung Blue," "Cracklin Rosie" and many more, *King of Diamonds* is a guaranteed good time for all Neil Diamond fans. ■



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Local artist debuts 'A Night of Revelry' at salon

Inspired by the glitz, sex, and sin of the city, local artist Carla Ferreira's work is full of naked women, rhinestones and high gloss paint. Native Las Vegas and art school dropout, she refuses to draw straight lines or color within them. Anything but conventional, the artist often throws out the brushes and paints with her fingers. Her work is irreverent, sexy and playful.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, Ferreira's show, "A Night of Revelry" will debut at Blush Salon, featuring her newest collection and promises to be a night to indulge the senses with dance-party-worthy music, tasty hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and manicures (available for those who make an appointment in advance).

Because canvases are often too ordinary, Ferreira's mixed-media creations are mostly made on plywood scraps that are donated from local carpenters. The newest collection features collage-montage pieces made with ink transfers, acrylic paint, india ink, wax and 2-D elements — from broken jewelry to leaves. Artwork



and prints will be for sale at the show.

"A Night of Revelry" will be held 8–10 p.m. on Feb. 5 at Blush Salon (6360 S. Pecos Rd., Ste. 4). For manicures, call (702) 851-3100. Artwork is sold by appointment only. If you have any questions, call (702) 449-3307. ■

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THE CENTER PAGE

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Speaking of Transformations...

In December 2008, Trans.lation, a group for transgender people and their loved ones, began meeting at The Center on Friday evenings. Similar groups had popped up sporadically at The Center over the years but gradually fizzled out for one reason or another. Although the 18 people who showed up to the first Trans.lation meeting didn't know it at the time, they would be changing — indeed transforming — the face of The Center forever. Over 100 individuals participated in the group that first year, followed by more than 120 individuals in 2010. The Center has unmistakably become a place where transgender folks gather, seek resources and find community. Trans.lation continues to grow and provide safe, supportive space for transgender persons of all ages and their partners, family members and friends.

But our transformation story doesn't end there! In the summer of 2010, two like-minded persons noticed an increasing need for space to discuss gender beyond the concepts of male and female; shortly afterward, Out of the (Gender) Box was born. This bi-weekly group has attracted about 50 individuals in its short six-month existence, many of whom do not regularly attend other groups at The Center. Through the vitality of Trans.lation and Out of the (Gender) Box, transgender and gender non-conforming people are more a part of The Center as an organization than ever before in its 17-year history.

Trans.lation meets Fridays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Out of the (Gender) Box meets every other Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at The Center. ■

What about Legal Protections?

Did you know that the first (and only) federal law to include protections on the basis of gender identity and expression was passed in the fall of 2009? Yes, you read that right! The Matthew Shepard and James Bryd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act is the one and only federal law that specifically includes protections for transgender and gender non-conforming people. Many states have successfully passed other protections on the basis of gender identity and expression in areas such as housing, employment non-discrimination and public accommodations, but Nevada has not.

The Statewide LGBTQ Leadership Coalition, a group of LGBTQ and allied organizations in Nevada, is working to provide a unified voice for LGBTQ Nevadans on legislative issues. The Coalition has identified five primary focus areas for the 2011 Nevada legislative session, which starts on Feb. 7. All five of these areas (employment non-discrimination, housing, public accommodations, bullying and strengthening Nevada's hate crimes statute) include protections on the basis of gender identity and expression because discrimination is unacceptable and because transgender Nevadans deserve better. ■

Need Resources?

Pick up a copy of the latest Southern Nevada Transgender Resource Guide at The Center to find local trans-friendly resources, including counselors, legal assistance, medical professionals, support groups, spiritual organizations, specialty stores and transition-related information. If you know of a local or online trans-friendly resource, please contact Mel Goodwin at (702) 733-9800 or mel@thecenterlv.com. ■

Did You Know?

Transgender Nevadans are now able to change the gender marker on a state ID or driver's license without having gender reassignment surgery. The Nevada DMV now has a standardized form to make this change (www.dmvnv.com/pdf/forms/dld136.pdf). The form must be filled out by a U.S.-licensed physician and the applicant must pay a small fee to make the change. Can't print one? Pick up a copy at The Center. ■

ABOUT THE CENTER The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, serving our LGBT population for more than 15 years, is conveniently located in Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31. To learn more about The Center and its many services, visit www.thecenterlv.com, call 702-733-9800 or visit our profile at www.facebook.com/thecenterlv.

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Graphic by Jeffrey Hume

Dr. Marcia Gallo

The journey from secretary to civil rights activist to esteemed professor is a complicated one for Dr. Marcia Gallo.

In 1968, Gallo chose to attend a secretarial program over beginning her freshman year at the University of Delaware.

Today Gallo teaches history and sexuality courses at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, after working 17 years for the American Civil Liberties Union and publishing a book on the first lesbian rights organization in the country.

Her activism began at her integrated grade school. When most schools in her hometown of Wilmington, Del., were still segregated, her school forced students to learn how to work beside people from many ethnic groups.

Along with her grade school, Gallo's upbringing gave her tools necessary to become an activist. Born on Feb. 23, 1951, Gallo's parents met while working for the DuPont Co., which specializes in chemical products. Her parents moved to Wilmington in the early 1920s because of the Depression.

Gallo believes that her parents' relationship was unique. "Their relationship was not exactly like an interracial relationship, maybe the next category of somewhat shocking because he was Italian Catholic and she was Protestant German English," Gallo said.

Before graduating from high school, Gallo conceived a child and went away to give birth to the baby in secret in 1967. She was with other so-called "bad girls" and it was the first time she experienced female solidarity. Gallo believes this event fostered a need to please her parents because of the pain she had caused them with the pregnancy. She has reconnected with her daughter and has built a relationship with her for the past 10 years.

Her parents wanted her to learn something useful after high school. "There was no question that I would work. My mother always worked. So this notion of the '50s housewife, that was somebody else's family." Her acceptance letter to a DuPont secretarial program came the day before her University of Delaware letter. She later became a secretary for DuPont.

"I was sort of in that funny place. Post women's movement, but before it really impacted people's lives in a major way," Gallo said.

During her time at DuPont, Gallo became

more interested in activism. Her mother had always been active in the civil rights movement and Gallo was able to witness activism from an early age. She knew she was anti-war, but it was complicated because she had a lot of friends who were either drafted or volunteered to fight in Vietnam.

"I didn't like the war, but I also felt protesting the soldiers was something that I didn't want to do," Gallo said.

She met her future husband in 1969 and corresponded with him while he was in Vietnam. They married when Gallo was 21 and separated in 1975.

Reading and the hopes of becoming a writer kept her afloat during this time. She subscribed to *Ms. Magazine* the moment it came out and read more publications about feminism. She began to take night classes at the University of Delaware and then attended a community college when she moved to Levittown, Pa.

She took a job at a drug treatment center because of the heroine epidemic she witnessed in the suburbs. "It seemed like it wasn't just an industry. It was more about people," Gallo said.

A friend she went to discos with came out to her. It was the first time she had to face the reality of lesbianism. "She was so cool, smart and funny. And I thought, 'Hmm, interesting.'" The political connection between lesbianism and feminism was concrete to Gallo, even if she couldn't wrap her head around the idea of being a lesbian at the time.

Gallo moved to Sacramento in 1977 and worked for the state of California. About a year later she fell in love with a woman for the first time. "I could not deny that the feeling was the same kind of feeling. She was just a different kind of person," Gallo said.

It was her girlfriend who pushed her to work for the ACLU. At first she didn't want to work for them because they had recently defended the Nazis' right to march and she disagreed with the group's decision. She began as a secretary and moved up to the position of field organizer. As a field organizer it was her job to figure out how the volunteers could become involved. In 1981 she became a chapter organizer and created campaigns to protest against issues like police brutality.

"Every day was like being in this intense laboratory of social change. It was quite extraordinary," Gallo said. She wrote a lot because it was a part of the job. She was still going to school at night, but she dropped out when the job became overwhelming.

Gallo found it hard to promote the principle of free speech without enabling



prejudices. She had to question whether the government had the authority during a STD epidemic to shut down private businesses like bath houses or to require people to give the names of their sexual partners. She didn't necessarily always agree with the ACLU's conclusions, but every time she felt enriched after having to face different points of views. She only left the ACLU to attend graduate school.

She was able to interview the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian rights group in the country, for her dissertation. She published a book about the group entitled *Different Daughters: A History of the Daughters of Bilitis and the Rise of the Lesbian Rights Movement*. She received her Ph.D. from the City University of New York Graduate School in 2004 and began teaching the same year. She believes people need to understand that school means different things to different people.

Since 2008, Gallo has taught courses such as the history of sexuality and historical methods at UNLV. "I'm very grateful I've had the opportunity to work with Dr. Gallo. As a professor she is both fun and challenging, which I think brings out the best in people. She takes a real interest in her students and wants them to succeed, and she will always go the extra mile to see a student do well. She's also a brilliant scholar and inspires those around her to aim for the level she's always on," said Marie Rowley, a graduate assistant who assists Gallo.

Gallo is currently working on a book about Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, who was murdered in Queens, N.Y., in 1964. ■

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CALL TO QUIT

BY RICHARD DAVIS



"The single most important thing that LGBT people who smoke can do to improve their health is to quit smoking," says Dr. Elizabeth Fildes, founder of the Nevada Tobacco Users Helpline. Malcolm Ahlo, director of the Southern Nevada Health District's CRUSH campaign, which promotes a smoke-free LGBT community, said, "Our LGBT community needs to realize that smoking and tobacco is the leading cause of death in our community." More deaths than from AIDS, breast cancer, and drug and alcohol-abuse combined, according to Amy Beaulieu, director of tobacco control policy with the American Lung Association in Nevada (ALAN). A new report released in December by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina M. Benjamin stated that even 'social smoking,' or smoking as little as one cigarette a day could be enough to cause a heart attack or damage DNA and lead to cancer. The Helpline's Dr. Fildes adds, "Second-hand smoke affects the health of the whole LGBT community." A World Health Organization report released last month stated that there are 600,000 deaths related to second-hand smoke every year.

Now for LGBT people who smoke and want to quit, there is free help. Beginning this month, the Nevada Tobacco Users Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW is launching an innovative Web-based distance counseling project tailored to the LGBT and collegiate communities. Though the pilot is expected to expand to include all population groups, Marta Wilson, clinical director at the Helpline, said, "These communities were selected initially because they are at home on the Internet, and this is a preferred, comfortable venue for them."

Chris Franco, a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counseling (LCADC) intern with the Helpline, said, "Distance counseling adds a level of comfortability for some clients who may feel stigmatized by seeking nicotine dependence counseling." He said, "This makes face-to-face counseling available in the privacy of home." CRUSH's Malcolm Ahlo agrees, "With this new Web-based cessation service you won't feel intimidated and you'll set your own pace."

The Helpline's Franco said, "What's cool about the platform is its flexibility. All that's required is an Internet connection with video capability. If no video is available for the client, we can do live chat. Also the client can personalize their interface." The client can also use the live chat option to schedule counseling sessions. Glenda Suiter, the Helpline's outreach specialist, emphasizes that distance counseling is not like a computer chat room. Suiter said, "We are required by law to ensure the confidentiality of our clients and the security of their health information."

For those who prefer in-person counseling, the Helpline is ready to refer them to ALAN, which is partnering with the Helpline to make smoking cessation programs available in the LGBT community. ALAN's nationally recognized Freedom From Smoking community-based program is available at Metropolitan Community Church, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, The Center and other locations throughout the community. The Helpline refers those under 18 to ALAN's Not-On-Tobacco, a smoking cessation program for youth.

"People say they've tried so many times to quit," Suiter says. She encourages them to call

the Helpline. "It isn't unusual for a person to make nine to ten quit attempts before they are successful," she said. People who receive quit counseling are five times more likely to quit successfully than those who attempt to quit on their own. Approximately 30 percent of those who quit through the Helpline are still quit when evaluated at seven and 13 months after quitting, according to the Helpline's website, www.livingtobaccofree.com.

That rate may seem low, except, Tiana Louis, a Helpline LCADC counselor, says, "Smoking is like freebasing. It delivers the purest form of psychoactive intensity of any drug. When you smoke the nicotine takes seven seconds to reach the brain. It is instant gratification." The Helpline's founder, Dr. Fildes, says that nicotine is more addictive and more quickly addictive even than drugs like crystal and cocaine. Chris Franco added, "It's not just nicotine. One cigarette contains approximately 7,000 chemicals, 70 of which are known carcinogens. People need to realize this is something that's really affecting my health."

Although public smoking is becoming increasingly stigmatized and smoking rates in the LGBT and collegiate communities have lowered, Glenda Suiter said that an increasing number of college students and LGBT people are using unique forms of tobacco, such as hookah. Nicole Roberts, who heads the Not-On-Tobacco youth program at ALAN says, "A hookah smoker inhales eight times more carbon monoxide and 36 times more tar in a typical session than someone who smokes one cigarette. Hookah is seen as a 'safe' alternative to cigarettes and nothing could be more false."

Helpline counselor Chris Franco says that the anxiety and physical discomfort associated with quitting tobacco are normal and that the Helpline is there to help quitters through this change to a non-smoking lifestyle. In addition, medication assistance is currently available for those in treatment who meet the clinical protocol. Louis said, "Aside from the health benefits of quitting, some of the other advantages of quitting are more money in your pocket and regaining control in your life." A pack a day habit can cost a smoker up to \$4,000 a year.

Dr. Fildes encourages LGBT people who smoke and want to quit to call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. "No one else can quit for you, but you can do it for yourself." ■

Richard Davis is a regular QVegas contributor. He heads the Freedom From Smoking Program at the American Lung Association in Nevada. For more information about ALAN's programs in the LGBT community, call Richard at (702) 431-6348 or e-mail him at rdavis@lungnevada.org.

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At Your SERVICE

AN INSIDE LOOK AT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AT AFAN

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

A lot has happened since 1984.

Through it all, a vision created by David Parks and a handful of others has stood as one of the few vital resources available to this community. Aid For Aids of Nevada, better known as AFAN, has not just provided services in difficult times to an embattled segment of our population, but has also enriched the culture of Las Vegas through well-known events such as the Black & White Party and the AIDS Walk. Though many an organization and individual has had their fair share of controversy and drama, the good that is done and the healing in people's hearts is what matters, and non-profits like AFAN should be celebrated for reaching for that good and turning it into something useful that benefits the community as a whole.

Years of hard work have paid off in removing the stigma that so many living with HIV must endure. The story of Mr. Steinberg of Steinberg Medical Diagnostics rejecting their application for a lease on office space because he didn't want "their kind" walking around the property is, however, a reminder of the work that still must be done. Though people's perceptions of HIV/AIDS and those that live with it continue to evolve, there is still plenty of stereotyping and misconception to go around; this is one of the things that organizations like AFAN exist to refute through education.

Over the years, AFAN's services have grown from case management and counseling to targeted outreach and specialized educational sessions, such as the Lunch and Learns, where clients get a lunch and an appropriate topic is chosen for the session. Indeed, the Lunch and Learn sessions have turned in to one of the most popular programs.

JeKeissa Mosley, Lead Case Manager and five-year veteran of AFAN, recalls how much things have changed. "I remember when we were in the older building on Sa-

hara and Rancho and the Lunch and Learns then were really nothing," she says. "We used to sit in the lobby and when people would come in for their appointments we would offer them free lunch and have to beg them to come in to these Lunch and Learns. Now it's standing room only."

The standing room only Lunch and Learns are one of many signs that point to an organization that is emerging from one of the worst recessions in modern history to serve a need that only continues to expand. "In many of our programs," Mosley explains, "such as emergency financial assistance, food vouchers, and transportation — because of the recession, we've seen a significant increase of people coming in to access those services who, in the past, have never had to come in for those things before."

Unfortunately, AFAN has had to have its hair cut as well, and even though they have seen years of record-breaking fundraising even in a down economy, the broader recession has had an impact. Changes in Ryan White funding caused certain programs to be removed or reduced, including some social programs. Sunny Russell is a Lead So-



KEY TO THE CITY

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman presented AFAN Executive Director Jennifer Morss with a key to the city to recognize the tireless work the organization provides to the community and state of Nevada as a whole. The oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the state, AFAN offers unyielding commitment to the community by providing unparalleled health expertise, support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada.

Together, Morss and her team have accomplished great things for the HIV community: increased private fund raising; increased corporate sponsorships; enhanced efficient programmatic infrastructure; increased federal, state, and local government grants; and Morss' life goal, decreasing HIV-related stigma and discrimination. With continued efforts and help from the community, she and AFAN help reduce HIV infection through prevention education, which eliminates fear, prejudice and the stigma associated with the disease.

cial Worker at AFAN and can speak to some of this change.

"Of course, social services in general have been impacted by funding guidelines getting a little more restrictive and eligibility and processes changing," she says. "Of course, some programs are affected as a result of this. I do think, though, that all of us here at AFAN are pretty good at helping clients to navigate changes that affect them. We are making sure their needs are still met, whether it's a little more paperwork involved or whatever else we need to do."

There is an area in the educational room at AFAN for a bulletin board where this information is posted and they are very adamant that any major changes are properly communicated to clients. This is necessary considering the tsunami of change and regulation that is coming down the pipe from the healthcare reform bill. This is something that Steve Mayet, Lead Medical Benefits Specialist for AFAN, knows all too well.

"Nobody knows what health care reform is going to do," he begins. "All of these provisions are going to start coming in right around the time that the Ryan White Care

Act will be up for renewal again. Making sure that we are a stable entity, just in case things take a turn for the worst from the government, that we are still able to help people are remain viable ourselves."

Part of determining that viability includes assessing whether or not AFAN is both efficient and effective in its fundraising efforts and administrative costs. After the recent internal theft and public accusations swirling around the organization, AFAN's board ordered that an outside audit be completed on AFAN's books. This audit, which breaks down AFAN's books to the last dollar, lays out exactly how much money came in the door in 2010 and what that money was spent on.

After being initially shocked at how large some of these numbers are — over \$1 million on salaries and related expenses alone — a further look at other non profit agencies revealed that AFAN is actually somewhere in the middle of the pack where costs are concerned, and nowhere near indefensible levels. Not when you have groups like the American Psychiatric Society spending 45.7 percent of all income on administrative costs, total-

ing over a half a million dollars a year. Some of the worst non profits are in excess of 50 percent spent on admin costs. After crunching the numbers available in the audit, AFAN sits at a middle-of-the-road 32.8 percent.

In the end, after all the talk of the stereotyping, money, and the government, it is the human impact that tells the true tale of the effect AFAN has on the community. Theresa King has been a client of AFAN for many years and both gladly and tearfully explains what AFAN means to her. "Oh, I would be dead without AFAN," she says, wiping away the tears. "These people and these programs have been so wonderful. Being able to come here and help people and be helped myself has truly changed my life. I am alive today because of them." ■



For a full list of the services AFAN provides, as well as eligibility and contact information, please visit www.afanlv.org.



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Are you Resolute?

Keeping your resolutions in 2011.

It's the New Year and everyone seems to have a resolution. QVegas hopes to help inspire you to keep your resolution and see it through in 2011. One of our readers has been thinking about his resolution for some time and knew it would take someone checking in on him from time to time to help stick to it. So here we are to share his inspiring story and help encourage him to succeed with it. It's not too late for you, either. Join the conversation now online at QVegas.com and share your resolution and post updates along the way.

DAVID HAYS

My New Year's Resolution? Gear up for an adventurous and challenging seven-day bicycle ride along the California Coast on June 5, 2011! Why, you wonder? Let me explain:

2009 was the worst year of my life. I went through major adjustments in my career and living situation. I also had my heart shattered into a thousand pieces. Fortunately, I have people in my life who care about me. Thanks to the helping hands of remarkable friends, I transformed my lifestyle. In 2010 I quit smoking, improved my diet, began taking vitamins, and started hitting the gym. I've never felt better in my life.

Now 2011 is around the corner, and I'm turning up the volume in my health and wellness.

In June, I'm taking part in AIDS/Life Cycle 10 to make a world of difference in the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS. I'm gathering donations on behalf of the HIV/AIDS services of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. Then in June, I'm going to pedal a bicycle all the way from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The ride is 545 miles long over seven days.

MY ASPIRATIONS

- Achieve my fundraising goal of \$5,000.
- Develop the necessary physical endurance to ride my bicycle for such a long distance.



Riding a bike for 80–100 miles a day — seven days in a row — is quite a challenge. I need to build substantial amounts of stamina by riding my bike through the Red Rock Scenic Route at least three times a week. This I must do while simultaneously keeping up my regular workout routine, maintaining my career schedule and collecting donations at my website, www.BikeRide2011.com.

I'm extremely excited and a little scared. However, I know that when I look back on this sweeping experience, it will be one of the most fulfilling accomplishments of my life. ■

You can follow David's progress this year as he conquers his resolution on QVegas.com

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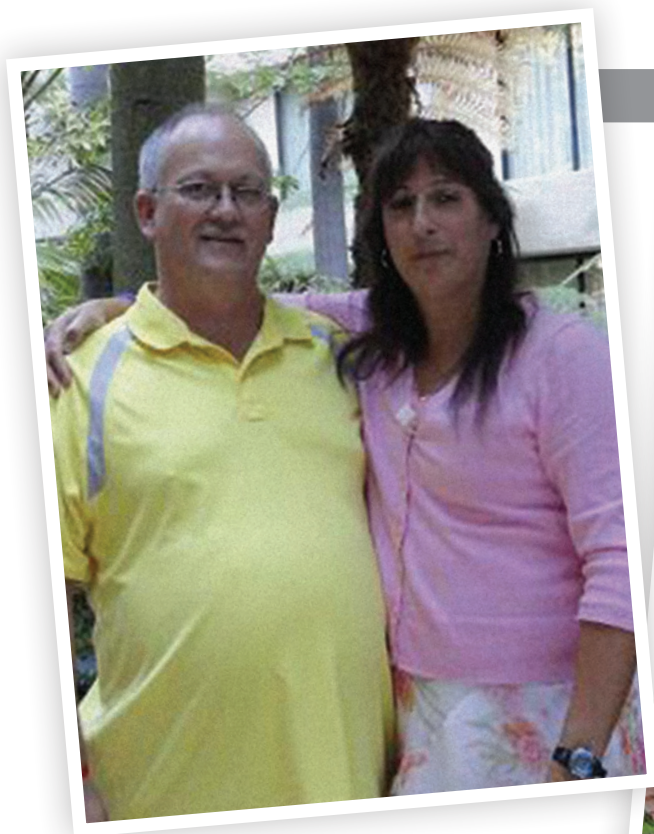
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SEEKING A HAPPY PARENTS DAY

**THE STORY OF
THE SPRAGUE FAMILY**

BY RICHARD DAVIS

"Aren't you going to ask about sex?" laughed 12-year old Howie. Jamie Sprague, Howie's biological father and a transgender woman, says that is exactly what being transgender is *not* about. "It is offensive to be called a transsexual because that implies that it is just about sex," Jamie says, "but being a transgendered woman is about being a person."

When Jamie filed for full custody rights to her two minor children, Howie and his 16-year old sister, Amanda, she found out that the family court's attitude was just the opposite. Jamie says, "Due to the children's home situation with my ex-wife, I filed for full custody rights, but rather than hear the facts, the court threw out my motion for full custody. In court, I was constantly referred to as 'he' and 'him.'" Jamie is appealing the decision.

Attorney John E. Cereso of Nevada Law Group says that there is no presumption in Nevada law that a transgender parent is unfit, although, in the cases of "impressionable age" children, courts will sometimes require the transgender parent to dress as their biological sex in the presence of the children. Attorney Wendy Kazel with the Law Offices of Salas and McQuigg said, "The judge looks to the rule that the best interests and welfare of the child is the paramount consideration," not a parent's gender status. That being said, she adds, "Judges have discretion in the application of the law and a judge brings to the bench his or her own prejudices and lifestyle."

Cereso said that generally courts will refer to a person by their biological gender until their gender is legally reclassified. He believes that while family court judges in Las Vegas may have their own prejudices, none are outwardly hostile to the LGBT community. "They understand gay households," he said. But Jamie believes from her experience that the court does not see her as a fit parent simply because she is transgender. She said, "The courts haven't dealt much with transgendered people. There is no kindness in the courts in how they treat us, how they refer to us. They don't have to treat us fairly." Sexual orientation and transgender identity are not protected classes under Nevada law, says Cereso. "In Nevada," he said, "you could legally be fired for being gay or transgendered."

Jamie met her current spouse, David Ballou, in 2000, after she had already separated from her wife. David and Jamie moved in together as a gay couple in 2002.

A year later, Jamie came out to David as transgender. Currently, Jamie is pre-op, but she has lived full-time as a woman since 2005. United Healthcare, her insurance through the Clark County School District, where she and David work as school bus drivers, will not cover the \$20,000 price tag for gender reassignment surgery, which it considers elective. But Jamie says, "I feel incomplete without the change. I don't want to die in-between genders." When David is asked how he, as a gay man, will handle Jamie's gender reassignment, he said, "I love Jamie, not Jamie's body." Attorney John Cereso says that when a transgender person's legal gender status is changed, he or she can legally marry someone of the same biological gender in Nevada and do second parent adoptions.

It is offensive to be called a transsexual because that implies that it is just about sex, but being a transgendered woman is about being a person.

16-year old Amanda says that when Jamie first came out as transgender, "I didn't like it. That's not my dad anymore. But then when I started hanging out with my dad more, I realized my dad was a regular person, my dad's still my parent, no matter what."

Amanda said, "My mom tried to stop us from going to church with my dad. Mom told us, 'You go to hell going to that church.'" The family attends Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas [MCC-

LV], where Jamie and David had a blessing of the rings this year, with Howie and Amanda at their side. Amanda said, "This church is just the same as any other church and I feel accepted here with my family."

"I'm not out to everyone in my life about my dad," Amanda said. "Some people I don't mind, but some I don't want to know because I don't want them hurting my dad, because then I'd have to hurt them," she laughs.

Amanda said, "Before my boyfriend, Jessie, and I started dating I told him, 'If you ever meet my Dad, you'll be shocked.' He wanted to know why and I said, 'Because he dresses like a girl.' But to him it was like, 'Whatever.' He has a lesbian cousin who cross-dresses." At Open House at school I felt uncomfortable with my dad being there, but Jessie said, 'He's still your dad, your parent.'"

When a friend wishes Jamie, "Happy Mother's Day!" she feels ambivalent. She said, "I'll always be the children's biological father. Perhaps we should have a Happy Parent's Day!" Jamie said that some transgender people choose to identify only as their reassigned gender. She said, "I always want to be part of my community. I always want to recognize my past. If I'm an activist, I must be willing to disclose."

Jamie has hosted the annual transgender Day of Remembrance in Las Vegas since 2005 when she first attended the memorial for victims of hate crimes at UNLV. She said, "It was a cold night. As we read the names of those who were victims, I thought, 'I want to be the voice of these people.'" Jamie partnered with the Rev. Wayne Lindsey to make MCC-LV the host of the Day of Remembrance. She said, "As long as there are hate crimes against the transgendered community, I will be their voice. Jamie is also working to make the LGBT community truly united when fighting for community rights. She said, "If a bill doesn't include all of us, it shouldn't pass until it does." ■

Richard Davis is a QVegas contributing writer. Attorneys Cereso and Kazel were not able to comment on the specifics of Jamie's case without additional information and Jamie is afraid of jeopardizing her pending appeal if she antagonizes the court by discussing specific details. Both attorneys emphasized that their comments should not be taken as legal advice and that if a person has legal questions he or she should consult an attorney and, of course, any misstatements of the law in this article are the author's own.

UNDERSTANDING THE T IN

LGBT



Being woefully uneducated on issues affecting the “T” in the acronym of my very own social grouping, I was incredibly nervous walking into the Wednesday night transgender support group at The Center. I knew that permission would be asked as to whether or not I could stay and observe. There would come a moment when I would be given an opportunity to plead my case and I had to be sure they understood where my heart was on the matter. When I walked in, the stares were intense, filled with a mixture of apprehension and fear, but also passion and hope; an icy stare towards a journalist who, like so many others of his ilk, may come out of the experience as ignorant as he went in.

What I heard that night left me truly touched and me filled with some of the same emotions of apprehension, but hope. From concerns relating to the things people say, the callousness of their words and, more often, the ignorance of them and the casualty of it all, to the heartwarming laughs and moments of connectedness and love. It was all there. There was talk of bathrooms and bedrooms, health care and employment, all difficult issues this community must eventually overcome.

The emotional moments were present, one from a member of the LGB community who was there with her transgender partner. Her impassioned appeal to the group for just tolerance, something that should be given to any of God’s creatures on this Earth, was touching. This hit me most, as a gay man, these comments regarding prejudice from the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community to the transgender community.

Karen Gracen is a member of the transgender community. She has also been a part of the Las Vegas community for quite some time and built the library that we sat in for our interview. “The gay community themselves do not understand us,” Gracen says. “There is definitely a wall up between the

LGB and T communities. Groups like HRC do not actively support the ‘T’ community itself. There is definitely a lot of division and confusion and people really need to educate themselves, on both sides.”

A lot of this is born out in the fight in congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The hold up on the bill is related to the desire to include protections for transgender people in the language of the bill, making it illegal to discriminate based on sexual identity in the workplace. This highlights the fact that this is a group that faces a steep battle towards even the most basic of rights. “We are on the road to where gays and lesbians were years ago,” Gracen explains, “but there is a ways to go. Basic rights are all we ask for.”

“People shouldn’t have to have a fear that they will lose their job just because we are telling people who we are,” she continues. “Or even get hired at all! In this state alone it is right to hire and right to fire; they can fire me tomorrow. We want people to be able to have housing. If my landlord finds out I am transgender, there is nothing against the law that says he can’t kick me out. We want people to be able to have health care. Right now if you tell your health care provider you are transgender, they can cut you, just like that, and they do that all the time.”

The consensus seems to be that only through all members of the community educating themselves can the confusion and resentment be worked out of acronym. In the end, however, this is, and always will be, about the most primal of motivations. “We just want to survive,” Gracen says. “We just want to make some strides forward toward basic rights. Not special rights, just basic rights, equal rights. We as a group, all members of the lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, queer, or whomever, we just need to come together and be united in our desire for equality.”

Many come to Vegas with the misconception that Las Vegas might be an accom-

modating place for transsexual individuals, though this is not the case. Though services are still in their infancy, and the “at will” work environment makes it difficult, things have come along. Mel Goodwin, Vegas native, is a paid staff person at The Center and has been working on transgender issues for two years. She chaired the support group I attended and is well versed on what is available and what it is like living as a transgender person in Las Vegas. “It can be very socially isolating given the size of Las Vegas and the limited resources,” she says.

“I’ve heard of a lot of people moving to Las Vegas or emailing us asking what it’s like to be living in Las Vegas, that they are going to be looking for this resource and this resource, what is it like?” asks Goodwin, rhetorically. “There’s a misconception that this is a Mecca for welcoming the transgender community and there’s a lot of great things going on, but I’ve found that oftentimes when people move here, there’s a sort of shock factor. They realize that we are really very socially conservative and legislatively we’re very behind other neighboring states in the western United States, in terms of inclusive legislation for the transgender community.”

“We’ve made progress over the last couple of years,” she continues, “but it is still very minimal. [At] Community Counseling Center, there some private practice therapists and some doctors and physicians that will see transgender people for hormone replacement therapy and things like that, but the support system is very minimal here.”

Fortunately, Nevada has come a ways and there is legislation currently winding its way through the process that provides some much needed help to providing basic rights to the transgender community. Goodwin explains that there are currently three bill draft requests in the legislative council that will provide protection for gender identity and expression in employment, public accommodations, and housing. Since the state legislature is still in Democratic hands, there is some hope there.

In the end though, it will be up the LGBT community to fight to keep the acronym that defines it as tight, inclusive, and fair as it can. The prejudice that exists within *our very own community* towards another minority that exists within us is intolerable. They didn’t ask to get lumped with us, but did. We must educate ourselves.

“We are a marginalized group who in turns marginalizes another group that exists within our community,” says Goodwin. “A lot of community education needs to happen. Just because someone is lesbian, gay, or bisexual doesn’t mean that they get it, that they understand who Trans people are.”

Well, I can promise you that one more does. ■

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

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Palm Springs vs. Las Vegas

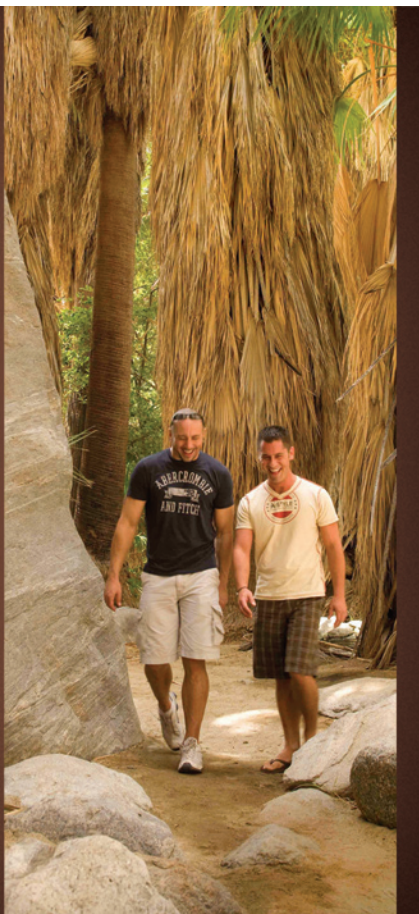
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TRANSGENDER RESOURCES FOR SOUTHERN NEVADANS

■ SUPPORT GROUPS

For more information on transgender issues and for support, contact Wendy Tobler at Community Counseling Center of Southern Nevada (CCC) at (702) 369-8700 ext. 258. A transgender group meets at CCC on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30.

Two transgender groups meet at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. Trans.lation meets Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Out of the Gender Box meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. For more information on either group, call Mel Goodwin at the Center at (702) 733-9800 or contact mel@thecenterlv.com.

■ SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Marty Brown, a transgender man, and his wife Tracey, provide affirming spiritual support for transgender persons at Transformed to Life. Contact Tracey at TEBrownlv@gmail.com.

■ COUNSELING

Jane Heenan, MS, MFT at (702) 810-4159 or VegasCounselor@aol.com, provides individual, couples, and family counseling from a gestalt-feminist perspective for transgender individuals and is able to write letters in support of hormones and surgery.

■ NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Please take a few minutes to respond to the brief Transgender Needs Assessment that the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN) has created: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dG1HbVFQOXNQ2xEMHdIVW1WVnRqLXc6MA>

This survey is anonymous and will be used to support our community's work both in the Spring 2011 Legislature and beyond. ■



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WE ASKED ON FACEBOOK...



YOUR THOUGHTS ON The Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

On December 18, 2010, the US Senate made history with a 65 to 31 vote in favor of ending the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the United States Armed Forces. We asked you, the reader, what you thought of this historic step forward in the equality movement. Here is what you said:

Richard: I think it's great! I'm currently in and am... I do not foresee any giant flood of [soldiers coming] out the closet as some feel. We are simple service-members serving our country like any other outstanding citizen. But it does feel great to be validated...it's what we fight for!

Mal: It's long overdue. I am glad those we vote into office respected the wishes of the American majority voice. I hope that the inclusiveness will spill over to other policy changes that are needed for the LGBT community in this country, i.e. marriage equality and adoption privileges.

Matt: Finally some progress in the right direction. Next order of business: same-sex marriage.

Ace: The repeal is a giant leap forward! Every movement had its beginnings. African Americans had Rosa Parks. The Women's Rights Movement had Susan B. Anthony, and now we have the Repeal of DADT! This repeal is our first fight and I trust that we, as a community, will continue fighting until we are able to adopt, in every state and until we are able to get married everywhere.

Raphael: As an ex-military USAF Staff Sergeant I am elated that the policy is on the way out. I violated the policy because I couldn't live a lie anymore. It's like the civil rights movement. No one would ask a African-American not to be black and not to tell anyone. Why should gays be any different? I am proud of the Senators that voted for repeal (Senators Joe Lieberman and Harry

Reid, many thanks). We still have a long road to travel with many more issues, but this is one of those we don't have to worry about.

Laura: Obviously it's something that should have been done years ago but I do fear that the ugliness that can be human nature will rear its ugly head. The first time another soldier is not comfortable with it, there will be exchanges.

Leo: The repeal has restored our Armed Forces their integrity and honor, THANK YOU President Obama and Senator Harry Reid, thank you.

Let us know what you think.
Visit QVegas.com and join the conversation on this and other stories.

QVEGAS ATTENDS THE SIGNING CEREMONY FOR The Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

By Special Political Correspondent Derek Washington
Chairman, Stonewall Democrats of Southern Nevada



Upon learning that Nevada Senator Harry Reid had done the impossible — made the repeal of the heinous “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy a reality — every activist around the country who had worked so hard over the last few years for this moment began anxiously waiting by their laptops for an invite to one of the most historic events in LGBT and American History: the signing of the repeal of DADT by President Obama.

Within a couple of hours, my buddy (and Stonewall’s adviser and mentor) at The White House sent me an invitation and I jumped up and down so much my neighbors surely thought it was some sort of rare Nevada seismic event! *QVegas* quickly made arrangements for me to attend, and this is the story of Dec. 22, 2010, a day that will live in LGBT history forever.

I, and several members of the Stonewall Democrats of Southern Nevada, were proud to be amongst the organizers of the 2009 National Equality March that drew over 250,000 LGBT activists and allies to Washington, DC. to demand that our civil rights as Americans be taken seriously by the new Administration and both houses of Congress. I marched with LGBT activist legend David Mixner and transgender activist Marsha Botzner that day, never imagining that a little over a year later the the horrible policy of DADT would be so soundly abolished.

Through organizing for the march, we became buddies with Lt. Dan Choi who was fighting for his right as a decorated war veteran to serve his country openly as a proud gay American. We also became very close to Robin McGehee who is the “mother of the modern civil rights movement.” Robin began this journey to the repeal of DADT when her son’s PTA decided she could no longer serve as president because she was openly gay. Never one to take an affront to herself or her children, Robin rallied thousands to an event in Fresno, Calif. called “Meet In The Middle” to call attention to the failures of large LGBT rights organizations (this was after the Prop 8 vote in California enshrined

discrimination in California) and the need for the people, the “Grassroots” to take back the agenda of LGBT equality.

A few months before the march, Gwen Migita of Harrah’s invited me and other Stonewall members to the annual HRC Gala and I invited Dan Choi to attend. Senator Harry Reid was the guest of honor and as he left the stage I grabbed Dan and introduced him to the Senator and said, “Senator, Dan and I are working on the National Equality March and would like to know if you would endorse the march.” Senator Reid said, “of course.” He then proceeded to admire Dan’s medals and ask him about his service in Iraq. Then, out of the blue, Reid said, “the President and I are going to get rid of this silly policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” as soon as possible, I promise you that.” You could have knocked us both over with a feather.

Harry Reid went on to be the highest ranking person to endorse the National Equality March, and he and the President began the long process of repealing DADT. Throughout the process, the White House sent out experts on the repeal process to train Stonewall members in the arcane rules of the Senate and let us know that there was a “plan A, B and C” to get rid of DADT by February 2011 at the very latest. Whenever the chips seemed to be down, the Senator brought us in to explain where we were in the process and how we could help make repeal happen.

In the final weeks of getting DADT repealed, all seemed lost. But Senator Reid assured us that the plan was working as his representatives had laid out. Stonewall had, months before, formed coalitions with Latino Immigration Reform groups and student groups, so we began a concerted effort to

get Nevada’s other senator, John Ensign (R-NV), to vote for repeal. We made national news when we got a commitment from his staff that he was in support of repeal. When Ensign went back on his word, Stonewall ignored other LGBT groups that told us we were wasting our time and, with the Latino DREAM Act

activists, began a round the clock assault on Ensign’s office with thousands of emails, signed cards, letters and voice mails. In addition, every ten minutes for three days, activists went to Senator Ensign’s office and demanded he vote the way Nevadans wanted him to. He eventually did vote to repeal DADT because of those efforts, however, he did not vote for our Latino friends wishes for a chance at helping America through the DREAM Act.

Which brings us back full circle to the beginning of this account of Nevada’s ring-side seat at history being made. We began lining up at 7 a.m. in 30 degree weather and not one person let the chill dampen their spirits. Robin McGehee showed up with her 7-year-old son, Sebastian, who refused an offer to go inside and be warm because he “wanted to be outside with all the people.” Everyone entered the auditorium at the Department of Interior to find that no one was being treated with any special deference. We were all brothers and sisters at a happy family reunion with no one being anymore equal than the rest. There was no assigned seating and no one felt the need to “pull rank.” Michael Mitchell (National Stonewall President) and Babs Siperstein (the first transgender woman to ever be named to the Democratic National Committee and Stonewall Board member) traded hugs and handshakes with Joe Solomese of the Human Rights Campaign (he very kindly took time for me to get a video message thanking the Las Vegas HRC crew for all the good work they do) and everywhere you looked there were famous faces from Maddow and MSNBC hugging and crying.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

Las Vegas is the showgirl capital of the world, but it takes a few boys to show you what being a showgirl is all about. Welcome to 2011, or as I'd like it to be called, the Year of the Drag Queens. From the local clubs to the world-famous Strip, drag performers are everywhere in this town performing their hearts out for you. Lets take some time to introduce you to some of the hottest drag performers this city has to offer.



“TRUE LAS VEGAS Showgirls”

BY KIMBERLI FOXX

Diva Delafuente

A true diva, our very own Miss Las Vegas Pride 2010 is Diva Delafuente aka Brandon Johnson. When asked how she got started doing drag, was it a fluke or a fabulous transformation? Diva replied, “I got started doing drag in January 1993 in Honolulu, which has many shows and drag pageants... and it was no fluke. I knew I looked pretty with makeup on, but I never quite thought it would continue 18 years later and a whole room full of crap.” When she isn’t hosting Drag Queen Bingo on Tuesday nights at Charlie’s or representing SNAPI at any number of out-of-town Pride Events, Diva’s favorites thing is to spend time with friends and, of course, working out. “I am shooting for the wrestler Chyna’s look.”



Shawn M.

One could say Shawn’s drag career got started with a fluke and a bang. In the late 1980s, Shawn was working as a bus boy and cook at a *La Cage*-style show in San Francisco. After being spotted by the show’s choreographer while copying the entertainers’ dance moves — and with a little help from the 1989 earthquake that caused a few of the show’s current performers to leave the city — Shawn was thrust into the spotlight after being painted as Madonna; he hasn’t looked back since. One of Shawn’s funniest memories of his drag career was a time when, while performing her Dolly Parton illusion, a fellow cast member popped one of her fake boobs, which were actually water balloons, right as she walked onto stage. “Water flew everywhere during my entire number,” she said. Of course you can see Shawn M in Las Vegas’ longest running drag show off-Strip at the Freezone on Friday and Saturday nights.

JewDi Vine

Justin Liming has been doing drag for five years, known as the super-talented JewDi Vine. JewDi hosts Confessions every Friday night at Flex and is a former Miss Las Vegas Pride. However, not all of her drag career has been uber-glamorous. "One of the funniest things that I can remember is hosting Sindaze at Krave and while performing on one of their go-go boxes, I took a complete summer-sault off the box and into the crowd." Although she might have had a flop or two, JewDi at age 32 is definitely a much-seasoned performer as well as is Syren Vaughn.



Syren Vaughn

Scott Wilson, better known as Syren Vaughn, has been doing drag for the past 15 years, starting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Syren's drag career began as more of a fluke that turned into a fabulous idea. "I had been a live vocalist/entertainer for several years as a male when I was dared by a friend to enter a drag pageant that was coming up. Of course no one expected me to win but guess what, I did." When not hosting any number of events at Piranha and 8½ Ultra Lounge, Syren says that her favorite thing to do away from the Strip is "having the chance to be involved in so much 24/7. There is always something going on here. Charity events, club events, pool parties, hiking at Red Rock, going to the lake... there's so much to choose from that it's really hard to just pick one." Syren is extremely proud to be Empress 29 of the Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire out of Salt Lake City.

Xenovia Savage

Xenovia Savage is the current Queen of Hearts for the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. Although she has only been doing drag for about 1½ years, Xenovia has become a well-known name in the Las Vegas drag community. "My favorite thing to do in Vegas other than perform can be described in two words: sushi and beer! I know it might not sound 'ladylike' but that's my thing. Give me some good sushi, good company, and of course a great beer then I'm all good!" Xenovia can be seen hosting one of Vegas' newest drag shows every Tuesday evening called "FilthyFabulous" at Flex. Xenovia says she would have never been able to host this show had it not been for someone she looks up to in drag: Ms. Tracy Savage. "After talking one night over dollar pitchers, Tracy claimed me as her first drag daughter. She really saw something in me that I had not even tapped into. She brought forth my inner diva! I was booked for my first show shortly thereafter and the rest is drag herstory!"

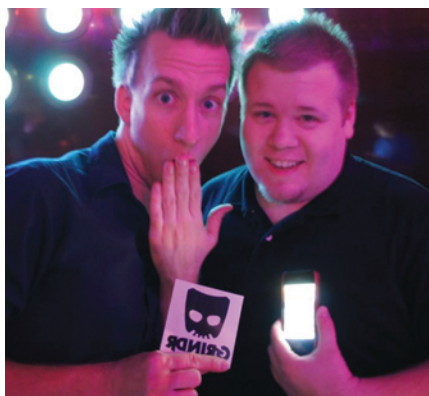
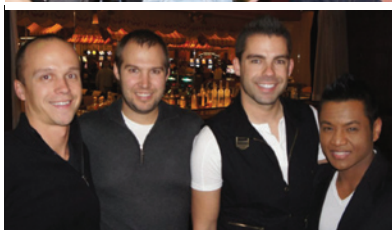


There you have it. These are just a few of the fabulous drag performers that Las Vegas has to offer. I challenge you to take the time and step off the Strip and into any one of the fabulous bars that cater to the LGBT community here in Las Vegas. Check out a show and be able to rub elbows with any number of true Las Vegas showgirls.

Kimberli Foxx has been doing drag for over 17 years and is the current 2011 Miss IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association). She hosts many events around Las Vegas and always ties in a charity aspect, making her a wonderful community leader. Watch out for more of her in QVegas magazine, as she will be writing more pieces in the near future.



QUENCH SOCIALS DEBUT
Caramel at Bellagio • Dec. 2



QUENCH SOCIAL & AFAN HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
Revolution Lounge • Dec. 9





**QUENCH SOCIAL, HRC THIRD THURSDAY
& SNAP! ORNAMENT AUCTION**
Ghostbar at Palms • Dec. 15



**PRESIDENTIAL SIGNING OF THE
DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL**
Washington, DC • Dec. 22
Photos courtesy of Derek Washington



REV. BILL MORIN'S PREDICTIONS FOR 2011

AS ONE YEAR ENDS AND ANOTHER BEGINS, I HAVE ONCE AGAIN POLISHED OFF AND CHARGED UP MY CRYSTAL BALL. SO, HERE WE GO AGAIN. THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS (BOTH LOCAL AND WORLDWIDE) THAT I HAVE PROGNOSTICATED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton shall produce a decades-long happy marriage, producing three male heirs to the throne. William ascends to the throne after Elizabeth.

The Great Lakes states and upper midwest will experience record low temps and record high snowfalls right thru the end of March.

The New England Patriots take the AFC title.

Atlanta Falcons just squeak past the New Orleans Saints for the NFC prize.

Super Bowl Matchup: Patriots 35–Falcons 24 (the Saints reclaim this trophy in 2012).

The area known as Tornado Alley experiences a record number of storms from mid-April to late June.

The stock market continues its Bull Run through 2011.

North Korea is a loose cannon and will continue to cause major problems.

Both political parties manage to actually put aside differences and get some legislation pushed through Congress.

Unemployment drops to eight percent by mid Spring.

Eminem, Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga clean up at this years Grammy's.

Celine Dion's three-year, 210-show run at Caesars will be a 100 percent sellout.

Rod Stewart will sign with Caesars as a regular, rotating act.

Charlie Sheen shall continue to make headlines, sadly, most of them not good.

The Vegas Valley enjoys a mostly mild winter.

Sarah Palin won't be on the GOP's presidential ticket.

Oscar watch for Best Picture: look for *The King's Speech*, *The Social Network*, *The Town*, *Inception* and *Toy Story 3* to be among the nominees.

Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks team up for what will be a critical and financial triumph.

The Texas Rangers take baseball's World Series in October.

The next mayor of Las Vegas serves only a single term.

California ultimately legalizes gay marriage, along with two more states.

The U.S. and Mexico shall enjoy a more harmonious relationship.

I sense that Justin Bieber must beware of fanatics, especially in March and August.

Volcanic activity will be strong in the south Pacific and near Alaska.

The 2011 hurricane season is about average (West Texas and Cape Hatteras, NC look vulnerable).

A new cholesterol drug leads to a cure, then vaccine for pancreatic cancer.

Economic woes continue to plague the UK and most of Europe and finally I see almost 40 million visitors coming to Vegas this year.

Well, that's it. Check back next year to see how I did. A happy 2011 to everyone.

Rev. Bill

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OUR 2011 GAY VEGAS VISITOR GUIDE

QVegas brings you a comprehensive guide to the hottest attractions, summer hot-spots, events, restaurants, shopping and hotels that Las Vegas has to offer. Within this article you will find all LGBT-friendly locations and venues to get away from your routine, cool off or heat up in the year 2011. So put down that briefcase, unwind and throw on your best venture-apparel because it's time to take on the town!

Top hotels that
cater to people
from all walks of life

PARIS LAS VEGAS HOTEL & CASINO

Paris Las Vegas is located on the Strip beside Ballys and across from the Bellagio. Owned and operated by Caesars Entertainment Corporation, Paris is a marvelous sight to behold from any point on the Strip. The hotel includes a magnificent 541-foot-tall replica of the Eiffel Tower, a sign that is in the form of the Montgolfier Balloon, luxurious rooms at a decent rate and fantastic shows all year round. With a sensual design and a romantic ambience, Paris is an ideal location for couples, families and friends to start their getaway. The high ceilings and friendly



staff set the mood for a surreal experience at any time during the week. The Paris Spa by Mandara is open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and is a perfect outlet for guests to relax. If it's a show you're looking for, then you must check out Barry Manilow's headlining show at the Paris Theatre. Get tickets online at ticketmaster.com, by calling 1-800-745-3000 or by visiting the Paris Box Office. To make room reservations at the fabulous Paris, call 877-796-2096.



LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO

Built in the style of a dark, mysterious pyramid, the Luxor Hotel & Casino contains over 4,407 rooms, numerous attractions, stunning night clubs, shops and restaurants to get your inner Egyptian walking tall. The hotel is named after the city of Luxor in Ancient Egypt and holds true to its origin. The rooms and guest accommodations are visually stunning. The main inner area of the hotel is consistent with its pyramid-like, contemporary design. The Pyramid Deluxe rooms, which house guests on an incline upward towards the point of the tower, are affordable, spacious and tastefully modern. To indulge in the hotel's top entertainment, it's best to check out the comedic show by Carrot Top, the sexy showgirls of *Fantasy*, BODIES The Exhibit (which showcases actual, donated preserved human bodies), Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit or the whimsical and hilarious *Menopause the Musical*. The book your stay at Luxor, call 1-877-386-4658.

Great eats in
Las Vegas that will
stimulate your cravings

FIREFLY*

With three locations in Las Vegas — one downtown on Main Street (702-380-1352), another on West Sahara Ave (702-834-3814)

and the one on Paradise Road (702-396-3971) — Firefly* Tapas Kitchen & Bar is an LGBT-friendly restaurant that has great food, stunning décor and a unique, laid back environment. Firefly is open daily on Paradise Road from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. It is also open Sunday through Thursday 5–10 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 5–11:30 p.m. at the Main Street location. The food is delicious and affordable. You can choose from numerous cold and hot plates to create a multi-course meal that is simply divine. If that's not your style, order in waves and share as much as you like. The wine, beer and cocktail selection is as original as the establishment itself while remaining completely affordable.

RA SUSHI

At RA Sushi Bar & Restaurant, you'll satisfy your sushi wants for less out of your pocket than you'd expect. RA is located on the outside of the Fashion Show Mall on the Las Vegas Strip and open daily 11 a.m. to midnight. The feel of RA is nothing short of upbeat. The staff is lively, as is the environment. From the moment you sit down, you're surrounded by an invigorating air of gripping music, smiling faces and exciting choices for your dining pleasure. The food is fantastic and the sushi is always fresh and prepared professionally. Monday through Saturday you can catch great deals during RA's happy hour from 3–7 p.m. On Sunday it runs from 8–11 p.m. The pricing is quite fair and the service is impressive. You can reserve over the phone at (702) 696-0008.



Attractions that
are sure to lure

THE ROLLER COASTER AT NY-NY

The New York-New York Hotel & Casino is an ideal place to go for a genuine, indoor replica of the Coney Island carnival pier. Regardless of your age, within the walls of this nostalgic attraction is an opportunity for innocent fun and thrills. Right off the escalator to the Mezzanine Level, you'll find a vintage eatery known as Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs. There is an arcade that wraps around the entire "pier" that is family-

friendly and alluring to adults as well as children. The Roller Coaster is the capstone of excitement. After being lifted 203 feet, dropped down 144 feet and taken through loops, turns and even more drops at 67 mph, you'll be just itching to do it again.



THE FREMONT STREET EXPERIENCE & FIRST FRIDAYS

The Fremont Street Experience is an awesome spectacle that you have to see at least once during your visit to Vegas. The street is closed off from traffic, turned into a pedestrian mall with live bands, booths and shops right outside your favorite downtown casinos. The highlight of the night is the giant canopy that covers the street doubling as a giant screen where nightly shows are played. The best part about this entire experience is that it is completely free. Another free exhibition to check out would be the celebration of art and culture known as First Friday downtown in the Arts District. Artists get together on the first Friday of every month to set up booths and music that appeal to absolutely everyone. If you'd like, there are numerous pieces of art and other creations always being sold during the event.

Best places to
shop 'til you drop

FASHION SHOW MALL

Located right off the Spring Mountain East exit on I-15 and directly on the Strip, Fashion Show Mall is one of the largest shopping centers in the nation. Fashion Show offers seven flagship department stores, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Dillard's, Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Nevada's



only Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's Home and Forever 21. There are also over 250 shops and restaurants that are prodigious and somewhat extravagant. The center of the mall holds live runway shows periodically that are sure to impress and excite the fashionistas as well as the low-key shoppers.

TOWN SQUARE

Farther out past the Strip, Town Square can be found on Las Vegas Boulevard at the junction of I-15 and the 215 Beltway. Complete with tons of diverse shops and restaurants that defy the status quo and a central park where families, friends and children can spend the day basking in the sun or getting away from the hustle of the city, Town Square proves to be a premiere shopping destination. The entire shopping area is reminiscent of an old, small-town market that makes you forget that you're in the middle of the Las Vegas Valley. H&M, Ann Taylor, Apple, Borders and Banana Republic are just a fraction of the array of shops you'll find at Town Square.

Summer hotspots

TEMPTATION SUNDAYS POOL PARTY

Our own editor, J.Son, will be hosting an LGBT-oriented, stimulating and fun event known as Temptation Sundays. The pool party is held every Sunday at the Luxor's south pool from May 22 through September. You can catch gorgeous bodies, entrancing themes and irresistible drink specials at this awesome, captivating event. The party welcomes all types of people who are either looking for an ideal day to laze by the pool or get up and dance to some awesome music by the fabulous DJ Axis.



SUPER SUMMER THEATRE AT SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH

Located just 15 miles outside Las Vegas within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the Super Summer Theatre has been putting on fantastic shows since 1976. The theatre's goal is to provide excitement and entertainment to the community while keeping things diverse. Many openly gay and lesbian actors and volunteers are involved with the shows. The

theater puts on productions yearly and has an ever-growing audience, with the shows selling out almost every time. Tickets for the 2011 season will go on sale in May. The lineup is as follows:

- *Annie*: June 8–25
- *The Drowsy Chaperone*: July 13–30
- *Fiddler on the Roof*: August 10–27
- *Five Guys Named Mo*: September 8–24

Your source for the
best LGBT events



LAS VEGAS PRIDE 2011

This year's Gay Pride festival will be held on Sept. 17 rather than its usual date in May. The festival will be preceded by the Parade, which takes place on Friday, Sept. 16. The parade will begin at 8 p.m. and feature numerous sponsors, creative floats and live performances. The extravaganza is different every year and is sure to be an event not to be missed. The actual festival will also feature sponsors and performances as well as booths set up for numerous activities and interests. The festival will be held on Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. The parade grandstand will be located at 4th Street and Bridger Avenue. The festival will be at the Clark County Government Center (500 S. Grand Central Parkway).

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA'S ANNUAL BLACK & WHITE PARTY

AFAN holds an annual party at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino known as the Black & White Party. The event is usually held in August inside the Joint, Hard Rock's spectacular concert hall. The style of the party is always hip and up-to-date with the most current trends and the best music. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Proceeds will go, as always, to AFAN to help fight against HIV/AIDS.

Nightlife

BEST LGBT CLUBS TO CHECK OUT WHILE IN VEGAS

This is Vegas and with so many options we can't just name two. Check out the club and bar guide in the back of this issue. ■

Compiled by John Dolpries

Frankly VEGAS



My Sin City Favorites

BY FRANK MARINO

After 25 years of working my magic on the Las Vegas stage, I decided it was time I swapped the high heels for some training shoes and step out to see what this town is all about. My schedule at *Divas Las Vegas* at Imperial Palace doesn't give me much free time but for *QVegas'* editor (you know him... that guy who sounds like a website), I'll do anything!

One of my favorite things about Vegas is all the fabulous food. So you know I have to name my two favorite restaurants. I have to share with you a vintage classic and a new hip spot. For vintage Vegas, it has to be Carluccio's Tivoli Gardens in the old Liberace Museum Plaza. I have been going there for years and for me it's just like an Italian mama's cooking. It's subtle Mediterranean cuisine, in quantities that the old city fathers would approve of. I have to be careful, since my gowns are so close-fitting, as to not devour too much of the Cannoli with extra stuffing. Oh how good it tastes though. When I think of new hip spots, it has to be Switch inside Encore at Wynn Las Vegas. I know what it takes to have to change my look in less time than some people take to sneeze. I like to think of Switch as an homage to quick-change artists like myself (with over 70 changes a night in my show). Switch just belongs in this city; it's more Vegas than Vegas and the food is good too. What more could you ask?

I love being on stage and performing for an audience, yet sometimes I love a good show. The shows people put on that they don't even know, just by people watching. So where do I go to people watch? Looking through the binoculars on the viewing deck of the Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas is the place. With the right binoculars, you can practically zoom in on everyone for the entire length of the Strip. I have seen it all, from the happy gamblers smooching away on the Strip in the early evening down to the sin-filled party nights. This is when you see the human wreckage of a good night out on the town. Some poor girl, walking on autopilot, her heels in hand to her hotel to sleep — in the morning she probably says, "What did I do last night and why are my feet dirty black?" It's just so funny.

So it's time to walk the Strip?!?! Hello, in these heels! I don't do walking — an open-top limo as the lights come on, perhaps. What we call the Strip is now over two miles long, at least those parts with something to see is, so walking.... er, *nooo*. I would get the limo driver to drop me off and pick me up again. But, to answer the question the best time to cruise the Strip is early evening when the city comes alive.

With the limo, you can limit the footwork to where it matters most.

If you are here to gamble, well boy do I have the best game for you: roulette. It's simple; I have mastered the system for **roulette** and I'm going to share it with y'all. It's like this: You bet on red or black. If you lose, you just keep doubling your bet until your color shows up. Sooner or later it has to hit and then you get your losses back. But if it hits, you keep winning. Simple really! (*Editors Note: Frank forgot about the green zeros and long runs of the wrong color.*)

Moving on to my real area of expertise: what shows would I recommend? It's not as easy as you think. Las Vegas has so much to offer and luckily most of it is good, but not all. If I'm forced to choose just two, I'll go for three (that's how I roll my dears; don't fence me in). I would always go and see *Donny and Marie*. It's a feel good extravaganza and a very uplifting experience, definitely worth seeing. I have to say I absolutely love *The Beatles' Love*. The music, the visuals, the talent, and the showmanship — it's all there in eye popping quantity and quality. Then we have *O*. What can I say? It's the most beautiful experience on the Strip and leaves you simply saying an emphatic... *ohhh*.

You're in Sin City and you are ready for a night out on the town; here is my tip on how to dress to impress. It's difficult these days but I always try to be different and cater to what the public expects but leave a little room for fashion shock and awe. I always try to have something on that's out from left field. I can remember when you dressed up to go out; nowadays it seems like everyone dresses down. I have seen the tracksuit and sneakers push aside the gown and suit. I know it will come back, though. So this is the tip: you can't beat that special feeling as you step out in all your finery. So throw the tracksuit aside and dress to the nines at least one night out in Vegas.

Las Vegas must be all things to all people for it to continue to grow and maintain its crown as the Entertainment Capital of the World. I am lucky; I work with great people who always help keep my act fresh and alive even now after 25 years. We have great things planned for *Divas* incorporating yet more new and exciting numbers including a Lady Gaga piece and a Mariah Carey act and an homage to Michael Jackson. In this town you can't stand still or they will build a monorail over your ass or implode you. My advice to any tourist is this: Vegas is here so just hit it, baby — and don't forget to come and see me in *Divas Las Vegas*. ■

...yes, it's "that kind of place"



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QVRIFIC AWARDS 2010

AS CHOSEN BY LOYAL QVEGAS READERS

BEST RESTAURANT

Firefly

With three locations in the Valley, Firefly offers the tastiest tapas and sangria you'll find. This place is perfect for birthday parties and get-togethers with friends.

BEST SHOPPING

Town Square

Looking for that city-style shopping experience with the top retailers alongside the best restaurants and bars? Town Square is the place for you to enjoy a day and night with friends or family.



BEST CRUISING SPOT (TIE)

Temptation Sundays Pool Party & The Las Vegas Strip

With all those boys and girls in itty bitty swimsuits, we can see how our readers selected Temptation Sundays pool party as the cruising spot. Take a dip and cool off. And with so many pretty people walking around 24/7, of course the world-famous Las Vegas Strip is also great place to pick up a hot date.

BEST MUSEUM

Bellagio Gallery of Fine Arts

This is one of the best art collections in the world with rotating exhibits of the most well-known and renowned artists. The gallery admission price is well within budget for locals and tourists alike, from \$10 to \$15.

BEST GYM

Las Vegas Athletic Clubs

With convenient 24-hour locations all over the valley, LVAC is the fitness club for the Las Vegas who wants a state-of-the-art facility and amazing classes on top of it all.

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Starbucks

No matter if you are grande mocha with an extra shot or a venti caramel Frappuccino, Starbucks has something for everyone to sip and enjoy.



BEST SHOW

Divas Las Vegas

After 25 years Frank Marino still has it, and his cast of fabulous entertainers treat you to one amazing show nightly. From Tina to Celine to Madonna, you never know who might just show up for a performance.

BEST DRAG SHOW

Glamorous Life

The Glamorous Life hosted by Syren Vaughn showcases the hottest cast of drag in Las Vegas every Wednesday at 8½ Ultra Lounge. The fun thing about this show is the diversity amongst the cast's performances, from pop to hip-hop to country and everything in-between.

BEST DJ

DJ Axis

DJ is the resident DJ at Temptation Sundays pool party. He is also a community hero for donating his services to many charity events including the annual AFAN Black & White party.



BEST CASINO/GAMBLING

Aria Hotel & Casino

Set right in the heart of the über-contemporary CityCenter cluster of resorts at the busy end of the Strip, Aria Hotel & Casino has tons of gaming machines and table games, restaurants and nightspots to finish your fun night on the town after experiencing their resident Cirque du Soleil production, *Viva Elvis*.

BEST VEGAS ENTERTAINER

Josh Strickland

Between starring in *Peepshow* at Planet Hollywood and the *Holly's World* reality show on E!, this year has been the Year of the Josh. Look out for more of him during 2011 in Vegas and on TV.



BEST COMMUNITY LEADER

Candice Nichols

Candice has been executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada for six years. Under her watch, The Center has seen an expansion of services to youth and has helped expand acceptance of LGBT citizens in the Las Vegas area.



BEST NON-PROFIT

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)

AFAN is the largest AIDS organization in the state and provides services to more than 2,600 clients. They were recently awarded the key to the city for their work with the community; our readers also saw them as worthy of praise.

BEST SOCIAL GROUP

QVegas Business Alliance

QVegas Business Alliance, which hosts many events every month including a luncheon and an evening social, is a great opportunity to meet new friends and network with business people.

BEST GAY TV SERIES

Glee

There hasn't been a show this gay-friendly since *Will & Grace*. And who doesn't love a good show tune?

BEST GAY NIGHTCLUB/BAR (TIE)

FreeZone & Charlie's

FreeZone features themed nights every week from Boys Night to Girls Night and has great music and good drinks to make you happy even after Happy Hour. Charlie's ain't your average country bar. Enjoy drag queen bingo every Tuesday and the Boys of Charlie's dance troupe any night of the week.

BEST GAY EVENT

Temptation Sundays

The summer pool party at Luxor returns in May 2011 hosted by our own J.Son with resident DJ Axis. From exciting weekly themes to celebrity guests, this pool party was the hit of 2010.



BEST GAY DANCE SINGLE

"Telephone" by Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga was everywhere this year, so it was no surprise she won this award for her hit single with Beyonce. Gaga is even in wax now at Madame Tussauds locations around the globe. Check her out at the Las Vegas location at The Venetian.



Photo courtesy of Madame Tussauds.



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QSPORTS

BY THOMAS BOGLE

Gay basketball league starts January 22

Basketball is finally here for the Las Vegas LGBT community. The first ever Sin City Gay Basketball League is about to start on Jan. 22 at the Tarkanian Basketball Academy, off Rancho Drive, behind Palace Station. Game times will be at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Come out and watch as six teams battle it out for 10 weeks to see who will be crowned the champs. There is still time to join a team. If you are interested in playing basketball, please contact Thomas Bogle at (702) 498-5531 or visit sincitygaybasketball.com. ■

Softball standings

The Fall softball season has come to an end and the Las Vegas Mafia go undefeated with a record of 12-0 winning the D Division, followed by Blue Moon in 2nd Place and Fun Hog Ranch in 3rd Place. The Rat Pack went 11-1 taking 1st Place in C Division, followed by Big Slick in 2nd Place and Card Sharks in 3rd Place. It was an amazing season and all teams showed great sportsmanship. The LVGA³ Softball board would like to thank all the sponsors for their continued support and allowing us to have a growing softball league in the Las Vegas LGBT community.

The end of the season awards ceremony was hosted by Wil Tabaras and Tom Leng on Dec. 12. The LVGA³ Softball League would like to thank FreeZone for hosting the ceremony and their donations for the raffles. It was a great time shared by all.

Next season will begin on Feb. 27 at Doc Romeo Park off Cheyenne and I-95. Clinics will begin on Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information on joining a team, visit LVGA3softball.com. You may also contact the league commissioner, Larry O'Halloran with any questions.

Come out and support our LVGA³ Softball teams Jan. 15-16 as they compete in the Sin City Shootout. In D Division, you can watch LV Mafia and Blue Moon playing at



Shadow Rock Park on Sunrise Mountain off Hollywood. In C Division, you can cheer on the Rat Pack, Big Slick and Card Sharks. All their games will be at Desert Breeze Park off Desert Inn and Buffalo or at Lorenzi Park off Rancho and Washington Ave. ■

In other sports...

Volleyball will start up again Jan. 3 at Mirabelli Center off I-95 and Jones. For more info about registering or playing on a team, visit LVGA3volleyball.com.

Flag Football is coming to LVGA³ Sports. If you are interested in playing, visit www.lvga3.com and contact Larry O'Halloran. ■



LVGA³ stands for Las Vegas Gay Arts, Athletics & Activities. LVGA³ is an initiative to build community through social programming. It's one of the newest community resources in Las Vegas, specifically aimed at improving the quality of gay life in Nevada. Visit www.lvga3.com for activity schedules and more information.

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TOPS & BOTTOMS



TOP DJ DJ LOCZI

From his turntables to his smoking hot tattoos, everything about DJ Loczi is stunning. He comes to Vegas as the new Friday night resident DJ at Studio 54.



TOP APP PEE MONKEY PLANT BLOOM

You don't have to be into water sports to love this game! Fun and exciting, just watch the monkey pee and get the flowers to bloom. It's even more addicting than Angry Birds, if you can believe that.



TOP SHOP WHITEY TIGHTIES

Looking for a new pair of undies? Don't let the name fool you; they have more than just your Dad's white briefs. With every style and tons of brands, you can find everything your little heart desires at www.whiteytighties.com

TOPS & BOTTOMS



BOTTOM SPOT THE GYM

With all these resolute people, they will fill it up fast during January but they will lose that dedication by the end of the month. So all you regulars, avoid the crowds and just take a month off and go back in February.



BOTTOM APP THE PROPOSAL

Would you really ask the man or woman of your dreams to marry you via an app? It may only cost 99 cents but you are going to have to buy a real ring eventually.



BOTTOM SEAT 31 SENATE SEATS

Any one of the 31 seats in the Senate, who voted in favor of discrimination and against moving our country forward in repealing DADT, will look back on history and eventually regret that sat in one of those seats.

DADT REPEAL SIGNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Our own Nevada hero, Dr. Jerry Cade, sat with David Mixner up in front while transgender activist Autumn Sandeen lit up the room with her smiles and curly blonde hair. When the event finally began, President Obama gave a stirring speech about one of the heroes of "The Battle of The Bulge" during World War II who was gay. He said, in no uncertain terms, that his very first meeting as President included the subject of getting rid of the stain on our nation, DADT.

All eyes in the room were on the President when he said, "Let's get this signed!" The room erupted in cheers and everyone stood on tippy toes to see the most important LGBT moment in American history happen right in front of us.

When the President removed his pen from the order, the entire room began cheering and crying! Everywhere you looked, men and women in uniform were hugging activists and wiping tears of joy from one another's eyes. I was actually too stunned to do much of anything. For the last two years of my life, my fellow Stonewall members and I have been working to get Senator Reid re-elected in order to ensure this moment was going to happen. All of our activist friends never let up the pressure on Senator Reid or the President either. At the moment of the President signing the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", it was almost like a giant balloon filled with apprehension was pricked and a collective sigh of relief filled all of our very souls with the reality that it had finally happened. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was dead. As we stood there in a room full of cheers, tears and hugs, there was no sound around us. It was all like a dream. I could see everything, but, in slow motion. I could hear everything, but, muffled. I could feel every handshake and hug, but, like I was a rag doll with no sense of touch. The the President said, "Now go out and re-enlist!" and I felt my body come back into its own as I rushed towards the President and said, "Nevada thanks you Mr. President" and he grabbed my hand and said, "thank you."

There are many more battles to fight as we aim for full equality. But, on Dec. 22, 2010, we won our first victory in over 30 years of getting nowhere nationally. With this victory, the Grassroots took control of the national LGBT Civil Rights struggle and from this point forward, we will no longer be happy being treated as second class citizens. The back of America's bus will no longer be where we will be relegated by the forces of bigotry. We shall be released.

We shall overcome. ■



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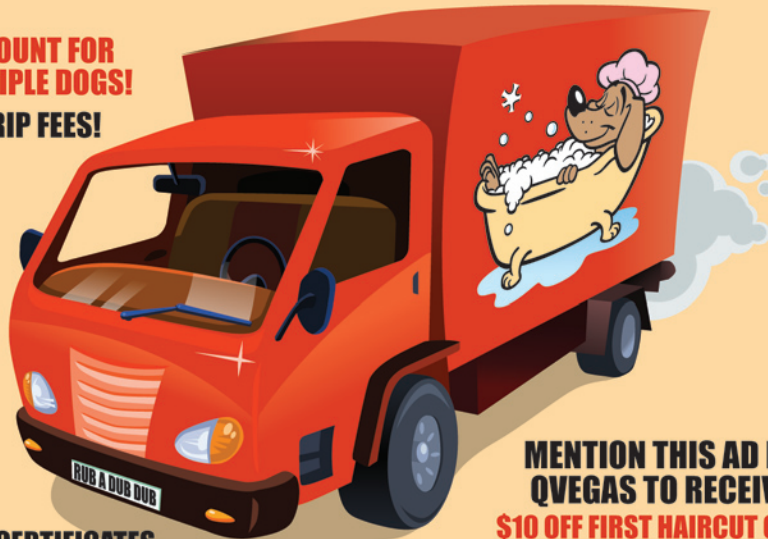
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Open up any bar guide or gay magazine and follow the rainbow trail, and what do you find? Guys...lots of 'em, everywhere. Lets face it girls, we're just not as "active" as the boys. I often hear the shrill of lesbian complaints that "there's nothing to do." So, the question remains: where are the girls?

Even though many of you might know me as a person who creates many of the things to do in Vegas for lesbians, I was actually surprised to find there is so much more to do here! In my search, I found some very interesting things and was pleasantly surprised. I found a local lesbian social networking site (made some friends along the way), a lesbian tour guide, a national lesbian travel company aimed at bringing lesbians to Vegas, a few cool lesbian movers and shakers, a monthly dance party for the 40 and up crowd, and a lesbian invasion on the Las Vegas Strip.

The most impressive thing that I found on my hunt was Betty's Outrageous Adventures (www.Bettysout.com). This is an interactive social networking site primarily aimed at Vegas women, and beyond. According to the president of the board, Cindi Hall, this group originally started as a small hiking group, created by Nancy Millet. But nine years later, who could have foreseen that there would be 1,700 Bettys and a social networking site! They support all the local events in town (I dig that!) and produce the L Group Newsletter that is geared at younger lesbians and consider themselves a "social group." They host picnics and all that outdoorsy stuff the lezzos love.

Speaking of the outdoors (and any event a lesbian can proudly wear flannel to) check out Thanks Babs Tours (www.thanksbabs.com) created by Babs Diatch. Babs will take you on a guided tour of Las Vegas, so if you're here for the weekend, just moved here, or just want to add some adventure to your day with a group of friends, then Babs is your gal. Babs has been organizing tourist groups for 25 years, beginning in San Francisco for Olivia, a well known travel company for lesbians. She has been doing tour-guided events in Las Vegas for the past seven years. Some of her guided tours include Valley of Fire, Red Rock, Grand Canyon and the Las Vegas Strip.

On to the nightlife: Over 40? Missing the



glory days of when you were 20, rockin' a mullet, a vest, a cut-off rocker tee and '80s music? Oh, wait, that sounds eerily similar.... Moving on. There is a party branded as a retro themed party for the "older" crowd called Hot Flash Dances (www.hotflashdances.com). They hold the cougar seeking cougar party once a month in Las Vegas at Piranha Nightclub but are open to cubs attending. The party was originally created by Pauline Miriam, whose brand reaches eight states.

Without falling victim to shameless self-promotion, there is an oasis in this lesbian desert called BootyBar (www.lesbianslasvegas.com). BootyBar is located in the very south end of the Strip, a few miles past Mandalay Bay, behind the Bootlegger Bistro. It is the one and only nightclub event currently produced in Las Vegas for lesbians. BootyBar draws in over 500 girls in this bi-monthly party. BootyBar is, by far, one of the best venues lesbians have ever seen. The venue is breathtakingly beautiful with new modern decor, high vaulted ceilings and ample parking. The venue offers easy access to locals and tourists alike just off the 215

and Las Vegas Boulevard. Drinks are cheap, and the staff is all local favorites. BootyBar is an A-list event that brings in the best in DJs and entertainment, like Leisha Hailey, the cast of *The Real L Word*, and comedy guru Julie Goldman. In the summertime, www.lesbianslasvegas.com also produces a pool party called Kitty Dip, which will return in 2011!

The smoke-free campaign, Crush (www.socrush.com), is now on team lezzo. Perhaps it's due to the new lesbian in charge, Brand Manager Nicole Villa, grabbing the reins in good ol' fashioned lesbian style. Nicole recently relocated from San Diego to Las Vegas three months ago and is already bringing presence to the "lesbian sector" of Crush. Crush is making their debut on the lesbian scene with a mild splash with mega-celeb Leisha Hailey and BootyBar on New Years Day, 1-1-11. The Crush mantra of fusing their mission with locally produced events has proved quite effective.

Las Vegas is multi-dimensional city. We have so much to do here. We have the glitz of the Las Vegas Strip and some of the best restaurants in the world. We have the mountains, Lake Mead, parks, dog parks and incredibly mild weather. We have shows, and comics, socials and open bars. Beer pong, karaoke, house parties, BBQs, concerts and nightlife events.... In short, there is no shortage of things to do in Vegas. Get out there, lesbians, meet other lesbians and support the community we have. Even though it's small, what we have is good! Las Vegas lesbians, if you think that you can't find what you're looking for in this amazing city, then create it. ■

DJ LISA PITTMAN is a Las Vegas native and resident DJ for the TAO Group, including TAO, Lavo and Marquee at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. She is currently the only on-air female DJ, and every weekend she is live in the mix on HOT 97.5 (kvegas.com). DJ Lisa Pittman also travels to spin national lesbians events like Club Skirts The Dinah, Pandora Events based in Florida, and Olivia Cruises. DJ Lisa Pittman also produces nightclub events and parties for women in Las Vegas. www.lesbianslasvegas.com



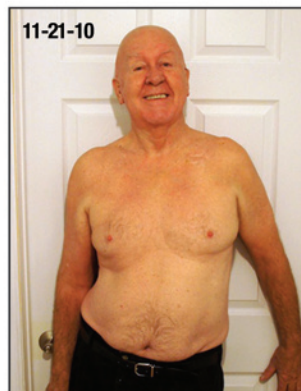
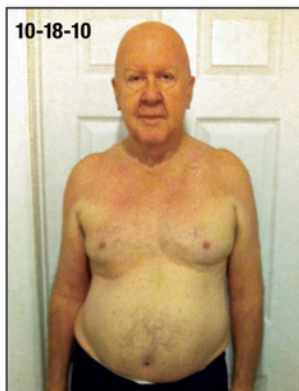


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BEATBOX

BY JIMMY NEWSUM

Winter's Hottest Divas

Winter is no time to go into hibernation. After the feasting holidays, it's more important than ever to keep the heart racing and the body shaking. Cardio everyday keeps the pounds away! Here are the best new diva albums that will push you through that extra mile on the Stairmaster.



BRING IT ON

KACI BATTAGLIA

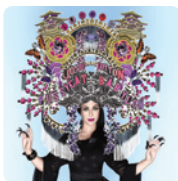
Kaci delivers ten high energy songs perfect for the gym. "Body Shots" featuring Ludacris has playful lyrics and a catchy beat that will give you the extra adrenaline you need to lift those heavy barbells. Other standout tracks include the electro-pop "Crazy Possessive" and the intergalactic dance smash "Bionic Atomic." At 21, Kaci may be young but her new album proves she's a veteran pop artist.



DEEP N LUV

SARIAH

The Queen of Hearts returns with another feisty take on modern day love. "Deep N Love" isn't a girl-meets-boy and lives happily ever after fairy-tale romance. Sariah may be the same generation of Taylor Swift, but they certainly don't share the same outlook on love. With sassy lyrics and thumping beats, Deep N Luv is quickly becoming the anthem for a whole generation of girls who aren't ashamed to be untamed.



PUSSYCAT BABYLON

JOSIE COTTON

Pussycat Babylon is the bubbly punk dance record Cotton fans have been waiting for. The album stirs and shakes top-40, techno, Euro-trash disco and Japanese new-wave all together into an exploding melodic cocktail. It's quirky, witty, edgy and according to Cotton, autobiographical. One of the most brilliantly colorful songs, "See the New Hong Kong", is a tragedy about the end of her two-year relationship. Other favorites include "Calling All Girls", "Pussycat Babylon", and of course, the re-release of Cotton's 80's classic, "Johnny, R U Queer."

TWIST OF LOVE

KIMBERLY DAVIS

Move over Chubby Checker, there's a new twist movement being led by celebratory dance diva Kimberly Davis. This new track follows Davis' kinetic smash from last summer, "Get Up." Once again, Davis grabs listeners up off their rears and makes them shake — or rather, *twist* — their groove thangs. Davis' voice soars in this deliciously colorful anthem. Its chorus is so catchy you'll be singing it all week.

STRAIGHT UP WITH A TWIST

KRISTINE W

After a hard workout, the ultimate cool down CD is Kristine W's *Straight Up with a Twist*. In the 30-track, double-CD set, the dance music icon transforms several of her #1 club hits into smooth jazz ballads. Reworked hits include "Wonder of it All", "Save My Soul" and "Stronger." Also featured are Kristine's "twists" on a variety of pop and rock classics including "Stairway To Heaven", "On The Radio", "That's What I Like About You", and an easy grooving, hip-hop infused version of "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face." The album took four years to complete, but proves well worth the wait.



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Lydia Toscano-Corbett's career with Liberty Mutual began in November 2008, and she has been in the insurance industry for 10 years. Although she was not born in Las Vegas, she has lived here the majority of her life and considers herself a native graduating from Rancho High School. She and her husband, Stavan Corbett, who was recently elected to the State board of Education, enjoy spending time with their three children and being involved with the local community. She is involved with HRC, Lambda, QBA, Stonewall Democrats, the Latin Chamber of Commerce and the Urban Chamber.

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GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Fuego Latino 8p with Liquor Bust	"In the Trenches" comedy show with Schree & Baby 8p	Meet friends, drink, game and play pool!	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a Carpe Noctem 9p-4a	Sinabar Disco with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Vaquero Night with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave., at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	Not Serious Sundays with DJ PA in the Krave Lounge	Meat Market Mondays with guest porn stars nearly-naked go-go's	Tyler Caiden's Monster \$3 wells/\$5 premiums DJ PA spins	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwaxxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	Back to the '80s with VJ Crime and Des. St. James	F%@k You I'm Fabulous \$5 drinks with text DJ Silence	World-class DJs in main room and Girl Bar in lounge
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
SECRET 3750 S. Valley View Blvd. 702-253-1555	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Cabaret Thursdays Industry Night 1/2 off bottles	Coxxx Fridays 12 Inches of Cxxxx LA Go-Go's	Hard Saturdays Hard music. Hard dance. Hard go-go's.
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St., off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

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2



Sundaze – featuring Kelly Rowland
JET Nightclub, 10pm
www.lightgroup.com

3

Free HIV & STD Testing
The Center, 1:30-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Stonewall Democrats General Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
sdcsn.blogspot.com

Improv – Vegas, S.E.T.
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

4

Prime Timers Buffet Lunch
Orleans Casino Buffet, 11:30am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

IRSCDEI Court Meeting
The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesday
Location TBD, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

5



Karnival: A Collection of Oddities
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

9

Senior Connection
The Center, 2pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Pauly Shore
Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

10



Free HIV & STD Testing
The Center, 1:30-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

11

Prime Timers Dine-Out Night
Barley's Brewery, 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesday
Location TBD, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

12



Log Cabin Republican Outreach
Las Palmas, 11:30am
www.logcabin.org

16



Her HRC
Escape Lounge, 7:30pm
lasvegas.hrc.org

An Evening with Styx
House of Blues, 8pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

17

Free HIV & STD Testing
The Center, 1:30-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

NGRA BOD Meeting
The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

NGRA General Meeting
The Center, 7:30pm
www.ngra.com

18

Brad Garrett's Comedy Club
feat. Dennis Blair and Vagnus Mason
Tropicana, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Additional shows January 19-23

SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesday
Location TBD, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

19

Prime Timers Buffet Luncheon
Sunset Station Casino Buffet, 11:30am
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

23

Nevada Outdoors Beerbust
Fun Hog Ranch, 2pm
www.nevadaoutdoors.org

24

IRSCDEI BOD Meeting
The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

25



SinCityQSocials Trendy Tuesday
Location TBD, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocials.com

26



Prime Timers Cocktail Night Out
Charlie's Las Vegas, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

30

Las Vegas GLBT Film Series "But I'm a Cheerleader"
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas, 6pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

EMAIL UPCOMING EVENTS TO CALENDAR@QVEGAS.COM

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Naked Boys Singing Onyx Theatre, 10pm www.onyxtheatre.com Tiesto in Concert The Joint at the Hard Rock, 10pm www.ticketmaster.com Rocky Horror Picture Show Onyx Theatre, 11:30pm www.onyxtheatre.com
6 Free HIV & STD Testing The Center, 1:30-6pm www.thecenterlv.com Quench Social Hash House at Imperial Palace, 6pm Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas, 8pm www.qvegas.com	7 David Spade Venetian Showroom, 9pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com <i>Additional shows January 8 and 21-22</i>	8  NGRA presents The Amazingly Fabulous Race Charlie's Las Vegas, 9pm www.ngra.com
13 Quench Social The Chandelier at Cosmopolitan, 7-9pm www.qvegas.com Drew Carey MGM Grand Hotel, 9pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com <i>Additional shows January 14-16 and 20-22</i>	14 Air Supply Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com Lisa Lampenelli Pearl Concert Theater, 8pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com	15  Prime Timers Stated Meeting and Potluck The Center, 4pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com
20 Free HIV & STD Testing The Center, 1:30-6pm www.thecenterlv.com Quench Social & HRC Third Thursday Location and Time TBD www.qvegas.com	21  Weezer The Joint at Hard Rock, 8:30pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com	22 Prime Timers Brunch Eureka Casino, 11am www.lasvegasprimetimers.com Prime Timers Committee Meeting The Center, 1pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com Gladys Knight Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm www.lasvegasprimetimers.com
27  Free HIV & STD Testing The Center, 1:30-6pm www.thecenterlv.com	28 Aaron Lewis of Staind Alliant Casino, 8pm www.ticketmaster.com Ozzy Osbourne Mandalay Bay, 8pm www.ticketmaster.com	29 Moe. Hard Rock Café, 8pm www.ticketmaster.com Motorhead House of Blues, 8pm www.ticketmaster.com

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- 3 Charlie's Las Vegas, 5012 Anville St, 876-1844
- CC Entourage Vegas Bath House, 953 E Sahara Ave, 650-9191
- 6 Escape Lounge, 4213 W Sahara Ave, 364-1167
- 7 Flex, 4371 W Charleston Blvd, 385-3539
- FL FreeZone, 601 E. Naples, 794-2300
- 8 Fun Hog Ranch, 495 E Twain Ave, 791-7001
- FL Gipsy, 4605 Paradise Rd, 731-1919
- CC Hawks Gym, 953 E Sahara Ave, 731-4295
- 11 Las Vegas Eagle, 3430 E Tropicana Ave, 458-8662
- CC Las Vegas Lounge, 900 E Karen Ave, 737-9350
- 13 Krave, 3663 Las Vegas Blvd S, 836-0830
- 4 Revolution Lounge inside the Mirage, lightgroup.com
- 14 Snick's Place, 1402 S 3rd St, 577-3648
- CC Spotlight Lounge, 957 E. Sahara Ave, 696-0202

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- 17 Freakin' Frog, 4700 S Maryland Pkwy, 597-9702
- 18 It's A Grind Coffee House, 8470 W Desert Inn Rd, 360-4232
- 19 Odoba Mexican Grill, 5045 W Tropicana Ave, 871-7022
- 20 The Cupcakery, 7175 W Lake Mead Blvd, 835-0060
- 21 The Cupcakery, 9680 S Eastern Ave, 207-2253
- 22 Keva Juice, 605 Mall Ring Cir, 898-2844
- 23 Java Detour, 6087 S Pecos Rd, 450-0025
- 2 Mundo, 495 S. Grand Central Pkwy, 270-4400
- 26 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 8380 W. Sahara, 731-6030
- 27 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 4147 S. Maryland, 731-6030
- 28 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 107 E. Charleston, 272-0020
- FL Tuscany Pizza (inside FreeZone), 610 E. Naples, 222-4444
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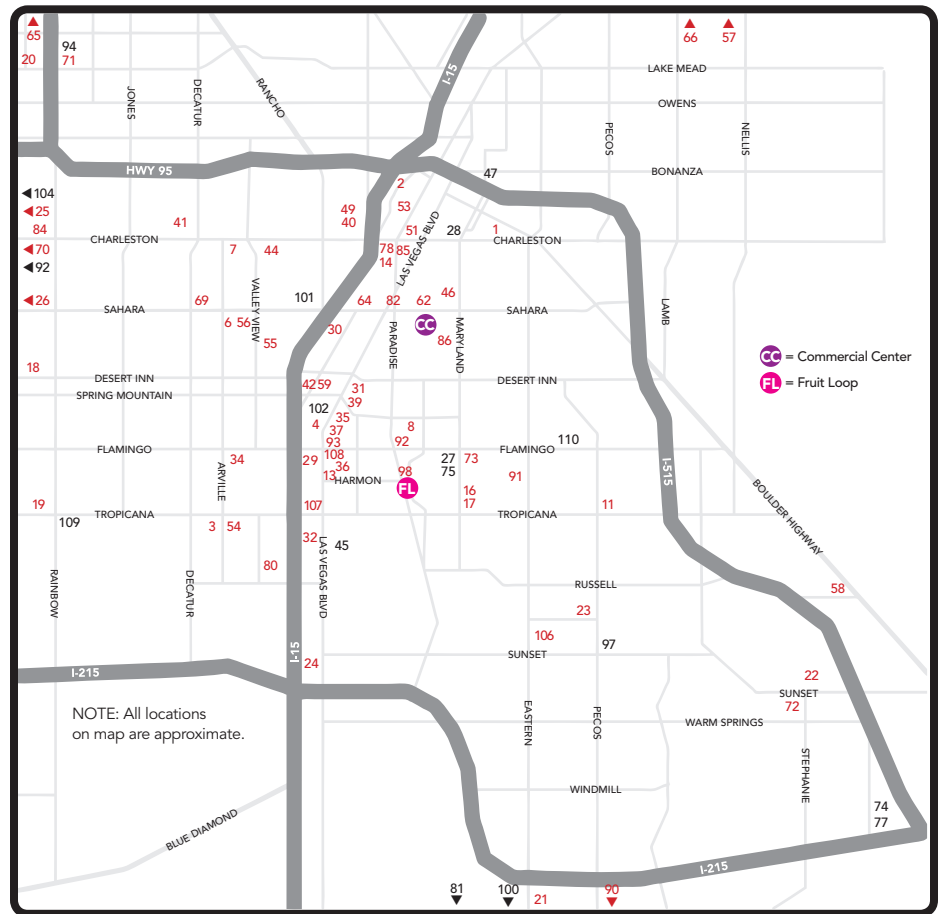
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- 31 Encore Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd S.
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- 34 Palms Hotel & Casino Concierge, 4321 W Flamingo Rd
- 35 Palazzo Resort Concierge, 3325 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 36 Paris Hotel & Casino Concierge, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 37 Venetian Resort Concierge, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 39 Wynn Las Vegas Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd, 770-1571

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- 41 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S Brush St, 229-6383
- 42 Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 S Industrial Rd, 369-6442
- CC GLBT Center, 953 E Sahara Ave Ste B31, 733-9800
- 44 Golden Rainbow, 3233 W Charleston Blvd, 384-2899
- 45 Imago Dei Sunday Mass, 55 E Reno, 354-2294
- 46 Metro. Comm. Church, 1140 Almond Tree Lane, 369-4380
- 47 NALA, 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, 382-6252
- CC Onyx Theatre, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 732-7225
- 49 Southern NV Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, 759-0702
- 51 The Arts Factory, 107 E Charleston Blvd, 676-1111
- 40 Wellness Center, 701 Shadow Lane, 383-2691

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- 53 A-Action Adult & Video, 1016 S 1st St, 382-1076
- 54 Adult Déjà Vu Emporium, 4335 W Tropicana Ave, 367-8002
- 55 Adult World, 3781 Meade Avenue, 579-9735
- 56 Bare Essentials, 4029 W Sahara Ave, 247-4711
- 57 Desert Adult Books, 4350 Las Vegas Blvd N, 643-7982
- 58 Fantasy World, 6760 Boulder Hwy, 433-6311



- 59 Industrial Rd. Book, 3427 Industrial Rd., 734-7667
- 62 Glamour Boutique, 714 E Sahara Ave, 697-1800
- 64 Peep Land, 2424 Western Ave, 383-4993
- 65 Rancho Adult Bookstore, 4820 N. Rancho Rd, 645-6104
- 66 Sin City Adult Superstore, 4440 E Cheyenne Ave, 643-696
- 80 Sinderella's, 5570 S. Valley View, 736-9700
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- 78 Funk House, 1228 S Casino Center Blvd, 678-6278
- FL Get Booked, 4640 Paradise Rd, 737-7780
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- 94 American Male, 2021 N. Rainbow, 405-0500
- 4 Arcs Salon, 3930 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 28 Azimi, DDS, 820 S. 7th St., 759-0005
- 100 Belle Ange Salon, 8630 S. Eastern Ave., 307-0173
- 97 Blush Salon, 6360 S Pecos Rd, 851-3100
- 98 Bronzed, 4480 Paradise Rd, 737-8266
- 102 Kim Vo Salon, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 101 LV Defense Group, 2300 W. Sahara, Ste. 800, 333-3673
- 36 Mandara Salon, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 104 NV Fertility C.A.R.E.S., 653 Town Center, Ste. 206, 341-6616
- 106 QVegas Magazine, 6000 S. Eastern Ave., Ste. 7B, 650-0636
- 107 Regis Signature Salon, 3790 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 108 Regis Signature Salon, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 110 Wuxin Healing Arts, 2840 E. Flamingo, 369-3406

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**CAPRICORN**

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Annual New Moon in your sign on the 3rd signals that the party is over, at least for the next five days. Spirits and incoming cash begin to lift after the 9th. Try not to be a know-it-all on the 17th. That's why you have advisers. Stay close to home on the 19th. Lunar aspects on the 25th dictate that you let someone else do most of the talking, to obtain optimum results.

**AQUARIUS**

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Post holiday bill hangover is likely to take you by surprise. For most of the month it's advisable to spend like a miser. The 14th looks best for any minor cosmetic procedure. Consider throwing a yard sale on the 22nd. Aspects say that you'll make a nice wad of cash. Let a friend who wronged you off the hook. You'll both benefit.

**PISCES**

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

That major legal or financial victory is on the horizon. Still, it's best to move slowly and accurately. The month's motto is look before you leap. No problem since that's the nature of your sign. The social spotlight brightly shines on you on the 14th and 15th. Planetary aspects on the 23rd say don't question those in authority or it could backfire.

**ARIES**

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Getting over a relationship takes time, Aries. Grieve at your own pace and don't allow well-meaning friends to hurry you along. Use that creative side of your nature to help heal. Accept that dinner invite on the 8th. Stay out of a family member's drama around the 23rd. Getting pulled into it is liable to send you close to the edge. That bedroom needs repainting.

**TAURUS**

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

This is a terrific time to clear away any and all clutter (physical or emotional). It's always good to start the year with a clear/clean slate. This may mean the ending of a friendship. Full Moon on the 18th heightens both your romantic yearnings and stress levels. Try to keep all of this energy in balance. Happily, the month ends on a peaceful, almost serene note.

**GEMINI**

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Being young at heart doesn't mean you should take risks on adrenaline rush events. Avoid the Stratosphere parachute ride at all costs. Look for fun in the small pleasures that life has to offer. A new good friend is about to enter your life. Yeah, he's cute but we said friend! Don't attempt to take this to the next level or it'll become a disaster. You've been forewarned.

**CANCER**

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Isn't falling in love wonderful? That sublime, dizzying and dazzling feeling proves intoxicating. Champagne brings the same buzz, but you can't live on it. Start looking at each others warts and flaws. Try to accept and embrace them. The 21st-23rd looks especially hot for a weekend getaway. Except for the cell phones, leave all other technology behind.

**LEO**

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Leo's natural instinct is to move ahead at warp drive in order to win the race. It's kind of like the tale of the tortoise and the hare. In that fable the tortoise won for moving slow and steady. We advise that you take some of that energy and the wisdom it provides. We guarantee it'll prevent any collisions or mishaps from taking place. Remember, some things you've got to *let* happen. Okay?

**VIRGO**

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Your message is almost the exact opposite of Leo's. Your nature is to be accurate and methodical. Most of the time that serves you quite well. But, during January, opportunities that present themselves shall need to be reacted to with a split second or gut reaction. It's scary at first, but easy once you get the hang of it. An unexpected gift arrives on the 29th. You'll treasure it.

**LIBRA**

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Many people will have a hard time figuring you out this month. It's as if you'll be a chameleon. Our advice? Keep them all guessing. It's exotic to be known as a mystery. Or even a hidden treasure chest. Let others do the hunting/searching. You just be your attractive and beguiling self. Full Moon on the 23rd will heighten your romantic nature. Lord help us all.

**SCORPIO**

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Financial transactions and business affairs shall consume much of your time this month. It'll help with much-desired long-term security. That doesn't mean that some fun can't be had (hell, that's what Sundays are for). Don't neglect such essentials as eating or sleeping. You tend to get so focused on things that time is lost track of. Ease up and relax a bit.

**SAGITTARIUS**

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Sag, the eternal wanderer/traveler. That restless quality is good to a large extent. But, remember the grass isn't always greener someplace else. You're in a good, safe and fun place. Give it three months before deciding if a move is in your best interests. Love could be waiting right around the corner. Of course it will have to be someone extremely special, as you enjoy being independent so very much.



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My 2011 Resolution: To Do All Things Vegas!

I am challenging myself and others to do more All Things Vegas. We are so blessed with an abundance of activities here, which many like myself, do not take advantage of. So for 2011 it's on! My first journey will be a hike out at Red Rock. I have been through the scenic route with friends, but have never actually hiked. In reality I have never been hiking anywhere, so this will be something to enjoy. Plus it gives me an excuse to go out and buy some flattering hiking attire.

Mount Charleston is something I have always enjoyed. Heading up to the mountain to cover stories is always fun and I leave there telling myself, "you have to get back up here for fun." I don't ski or snowboard, but the atmosphere at the resort up there can be enjoyed by all. Staying at the lodge up there will be something I must do in 2011, preferably in the winter to enjoy the snow and all that's seasonal. Who knows I may even challenge myself to learn how to ski and snowboard, or at least attempt to.

These are just two items on my must-do list, Vegas-style. While many have enjoyed the simple pleasures of both areas, I feel others haven't. Las Vegas has so much to offer aside from the Strip. People don't get out and enjoy the beauty of these places, because often times they don't realize how easy it is to get to these places and how affordable they are for locals. What you pay for a round of drinks on the Strip for your buddies and yourself, equates to possibly a night at the lodge up at the mountain, or a day at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort.

The Springs Preserve is another one of Las Vegas' best kept secrets. I have yet to go there but have seen so many commercials on the spot, I need to see what



it's all about. It hosts a number of festivals throughout the year and serves as an educational center as well showcasing plenty of Nevada history, well worth the entrance fee, I am sure. I also hear the restaurants there are pretty incredible.

From nature to sports. I am a huge sports fan, but have yet to make it to a Las Vegas 51s baseball game. This will be a must for me this upcoming season. Minor League play is always a treat, since the players are working extra hard, hoping to get that call from the Majors. I hear giveaway nights are always a plus to attend.

I could go on with my list, but I have to start somewhere. I recently became a fan of Fremont Street East. I was unaware of the community feel this street has become. The venues all up and down that street are incredibly welcoming and so affordable. Downtown as a whole is evolving. The recent zip line attraction at Fremont Street Experience is also a must-do for folks out there. I guess you could say I slowly started my voyage of All Things Vegas towards the end of 2010, and here's to a 2011 with plenty to offer for myself and hopefully others. Keep it in Vegas in 2011. ■



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