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THE WOMEN'S ISSUE

VOTE
BEST OF
QVEGAS

PG 38

Where do VEGAS
ladies hangout?

Plus

Nevada Spouse
Speaks about
Nevada Marriage
Equality Ruling



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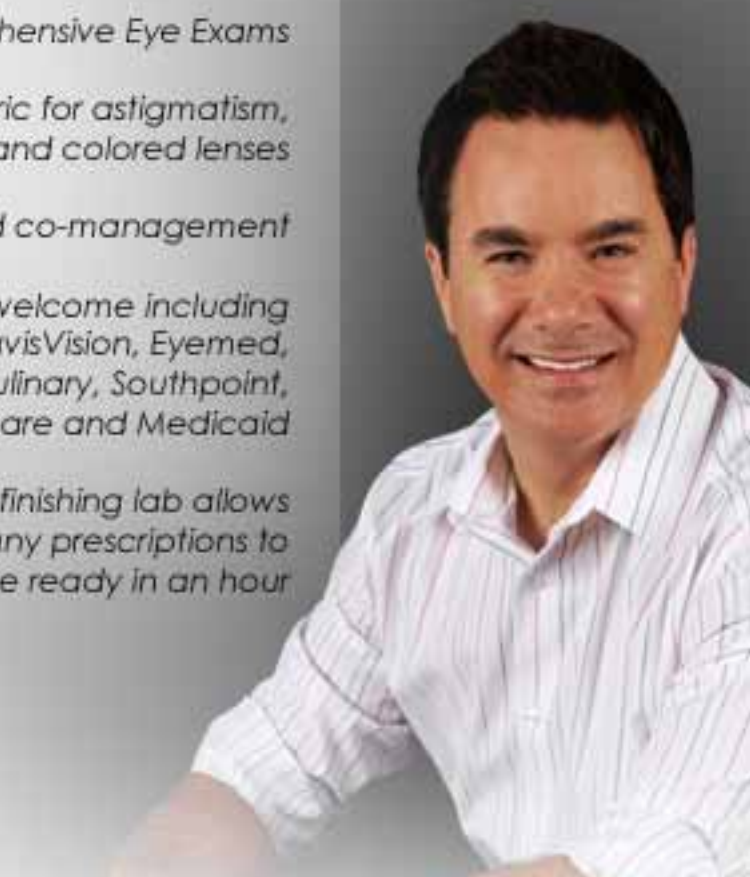
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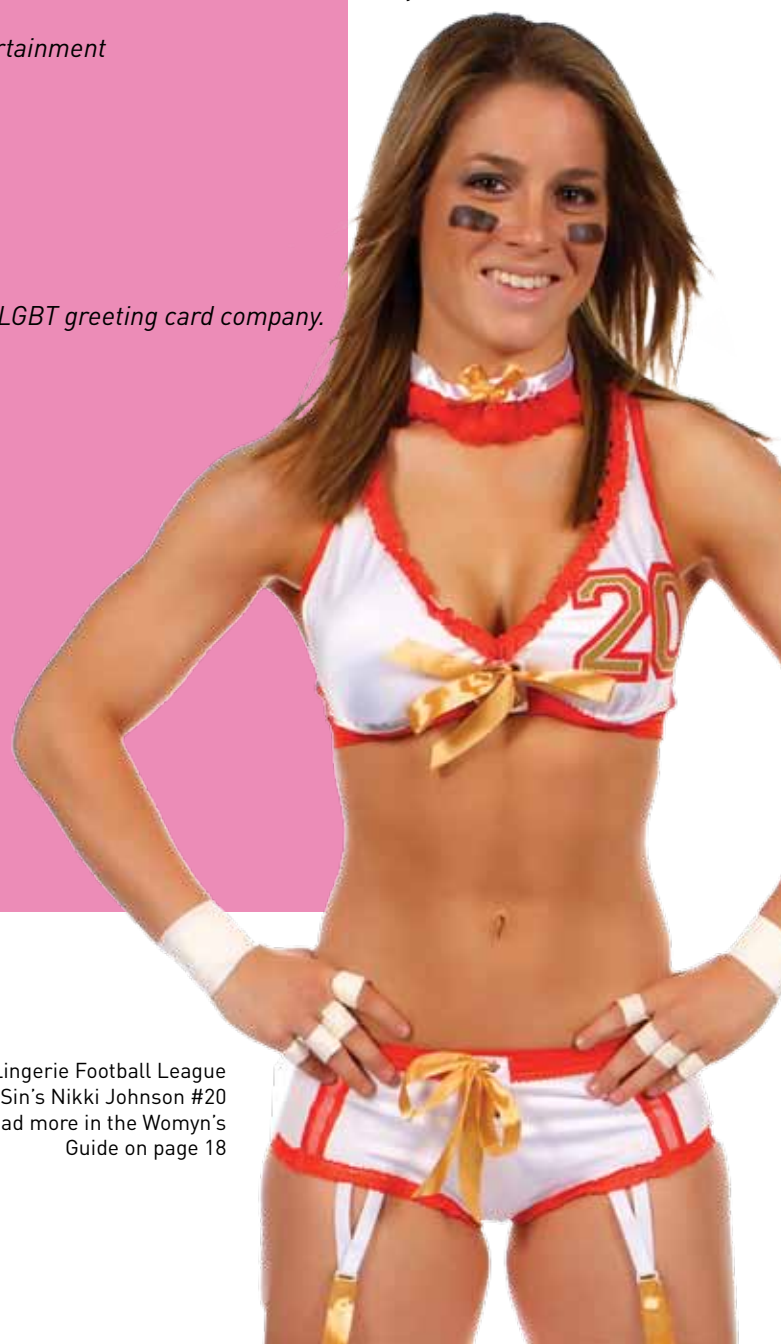
ABOUT THE COVER

DINA AND DINA, CO-OWNERS OF TEAZLED GREETING CARDS

Read about Teazed's growing market on page 28

Photography by: Linda Quackenboss

Art by: Noah Henderson



Lingerie Football League
LV Sin's Nikki Johnson #20
Read more in the Womyn's
Guide on page 18

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a note from our **EDITOR**

LADIES FIRST

QVegas is now in its 5th year producing its annual Women's Issue. Though this issue is geared toward the ladies, we want to share with everyone in the community, exactly how proud we are of the women in our community. We are especially proud of Dina & Dina, a lesbian couple that owns of Teazed, greeting card company and their accomplishments as a family and as a business. We kick off the New Year with our Women's issue to showcase our talented, intelligent and sexy women.

So, while we were all busy with the elections and preparing for the Mayan apocalypse, did you know that Nevada courts ruled to uphold Nevada's marriage equality ban? Lambda Legal will appeal but in the meantime read Tara Newberry's Last Word; she was one of eight plaintiffs in the case.

Who doesn't like FREE? Whether you receive *QVegas* right in your mailbox or grab it at your local bar, library or Smiths, it doesn't cost a dime. You may not be aware, but each issue of the magazine you pick up costs nearly \$2, and this is all covered by the advertisers you may overlook issue to issue. Take the time to notice the businesses in our community that eagerly sponsor our local LGBT community with advertising dollars and donations to worthy causes.



When you go shopping or dining at the businesses you find within the pages, don't be shy; tell them you saw them in *QVegas* and that you appreciate their support. Not only will they love hearing that their advertising dollars work, they'll be proud to see their support reciprocated. And, we'll get a sense of pride when you profess to being a proud *QVegas* Magazine reader.

Noah Henderson

Janise "Noah" Henderson

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OOPS!

We forgot to credit Michael Barbieri of myvegasobession.com for writing "The Chandelier Bar Review" in the December 2012 issue.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

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? I 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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COMMUNITY TIES

QNEWS

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC) ANNOUNCES SPONSORSHIP OF CLUB SKIRTS DINAH SHORE WEEKEND APRIL 3-7, 2013 IN PALM SPRINGS, CA



The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is joining forces with Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend, the nation's largest lesbian event. HRC is coming onboard as a full sponsor at the upcoming 23rd Anniversary of the largest lesbian event in the world April 3-7, 2013 in Palm Springs, CA.

Embracing the "party with a purpose" philosophy for more than two decades, Mariah Hanson, founder and promoter of "Club Skirts presents The Dinah," has relentlessly traveled to support LGBT rights.

As a national sponsor of the Human Rights Campaign's Her HRC program, HRC will be hosting a special soiree during the weekend, giving Dinah-goers the opportunity to meet, mingle, network and celebrate with their favorite celebrities and "celesbians", and get involved with the HRC team in attendance.

HRC will also be present throughout the entire weekend with an information kiosk at all pool parties offering pamphlets and other literature to all attendees who wish to learn more about HRC's efforts and/or join the movement.

Club Skirts involvement with HRC extends

beyond the actual Dinah Shore Weekend. Effective immediately, Club Skirts has generously donated an exclusive VIP package valued at \$2500 to be raffled off at all Her HRC events around the country leading up to the Dinah.

"HRC is proud to come on board as a sponsor for the 2013 Club Skirts Dinah Shore weekend. While thousands of women gather to celebrate, it's crucial that we remember the importance of being engaged politically as LGBT Americans fight for full equality across the United States. To this effect, HRC will have a presence aimed at engaging the Dinah audience with our organization and our goals," says Margot Rosen, Director of Membership Outreach at HRC.

The road to Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend is always paved with good intentions!

As the biggest All-Girl Party in the world, The Dinah also prides itself in giving back to the LGBT community remaining faithful to its "party with a purpose" theme to remind everyone that while we have made a lot of strides, we're still fighting for our rights! ■

MY LIFE: VIVAGLAMLANA

Youtube beauty guru Lana Reiss, aka VivaGlamLana, launched her new web series, "My Life", December 2012. Reiss, with assistance from AFAN, Aid For AIDS of Nevada, chose several Las Vegas women living with HIV/AIDS to receive a makeover in exchange for sharing their story on camera. Having been in the entertainment industry as both a performer and makeup artist for over ten years, Reiss's career has been driven largely by the success of her Youtube beauty tutorials. The "My Life" series was created with the idea of utilizing Youtube as a tool to raise awareness in a way that has not been done to this point, Reiss said. "Being that HIV/AIDS awareness is a cause I am passionate about, I wanted give these women a platform to tell their story. The goal is not only make them feel special and pampered but also to disbar the negative connotation surrounding HIV and its carriers. If I can make one woman feel pretty or help heighten awareness at all then I'd consider this project a success."

Participants in the "My Life" series received a VivaGlam gift bag compliments of MAC makeup and assorted hair care products from the Shag Me Salon. The webside is now available on www.youtube.com/vivaglamlana and www.lanareiss.com. ■

PASTOR GREG DAVIS

Greg Davis has been recently named the Pastor at Northwest Community Church. After close to 13 years in Las Vegas (a large part of it spent as a cast member in the long-running show Forever Plaid), Davis believes "God is still speaking". Davis went to seminary in Berkeley California for three years and graduated in May of 2012. Of Northwest Community Church he adds that "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are all welcome." The church is a place of radical hospitality, all are welcome and fully embraced — young, old, male, female, rich and poor, employed, unemployed and under-employed, transgendered, gay, straight and bi-sexual. His first official day at Northwest Community Church was November 30. Worship is every Sunday morning at 9:30, on the campus of First Christian Church, 101 S. Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada. The church is super casual, as most worshippers show up in jeans and khakis. There's no need to stop by Starbucks on your way to service because the youth brew the best coffee and whip up the best smoothies that you can bring to your seat as worship begins. ■

RED DRESS 2013

The Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are a leading HIV/AIDS organization in the Las Vegas Valley. Every year they hold their Red Dress event to raise much needed funds for the programs they offer to those in the community living with HIV/AIDS. Why a red dress? The answer is simple; by wearing a red dress you show your support for those in the community affected by this disease. This year's "Rockin' Red Dress Circus" event is going to be held at the World Market Center on Saturday February 23, starting at 8p.m. Tickets are \$50 (VIP pre-party at 8p.m. and main event) and \$30 (main event only — starting at 9p.m.). Come enjoy the gorgeous event venue, amazing entertainment and meet a few Sisters from the San Francisco chapter, for a great cause. See next month's Love & Sex issue for more details for Red Dress or visit sinsitysisters.org. ■



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Mary Magdalene Friends

[by Richard Davis]

Jesus is coming back; look busy!" preached the Rev. Sarah L. Darter, co-pastor of Mary Magdalene Friends, United Church of Christ. A small congregation has a big vision for helping victims of domestic violence in the LGBTQ community. Darter and her co-pastor, the Rev. Kathryn A. Obenour, are two straight-women who believe God has given them a "clear vision" to build Rainbow House, a safe place for LGBTQ and male victims of domestic violence. Obenour says, "We are a mission with a church attached."

Jane Heenan, MS, MFT, says, "Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior where one person tries to control another using power." She said, "It's not about empowering oneself, but disempowering someone else." Heenan is co-director of Gender Justice Nevada, an organization that offers educational, health, legal, and other direct service programs for the transgender and gender non-conforming communities in Nevada. She stated that a large study done by the UCLA Center for Health and Policy Research in 2010 concluded that gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults were almost twice as likely to experience domestic violence as heterosexuals. A study from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs indicated that rates of domestic violence among transgender people are much higher, although there is no accurate estimate of rates of transgender domestic violence because transgender persons self-identify in a variety of ways. Heenan said that with an estimated 76,000 LGBTQ-identifying persons living in Clark County, this equates to 26,000 LGBTQ persons who have experienced domestic violence in Clark County.

Ron Lawrence, executive director of Community Counseling Center of

Southern Nevada (CCCOFSN), says that domestic violence in the LGBTQ community is underreported for many reasons. Lawrence said, "One of the extra burdens placed on us is that we have to come 'out' to report our abuse. We have a whole other layer of things we have to disclose about ourselves in addition to reporting our abuse." Lawrence added that many LGBTQ people have very real concerns about how service providers will view their relationships. Gender non-conforming victims of abuse face losing custody of children to the abusive parent or having their home challenged by child protective services.

"I dreamed a dream," belts out Sheaaay, Minister of Music for Mary Magdalene Friends. The church has a plan to build their vision of a safe house for LGBTQ and male survivors of domestic violence brick by brick, starting with the launch of Rainbow Hotline services this January to provide telephone support and referrals for domestic violence victims. Ten qualified and trained volunteers will staff the hotline. Many members of the congregation have contributed to the project by "buying a brick"—pledging the \$100 per month needed to run the hotline. Obenour and Darter are also seeking

continued on page 32 ►

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To keep the momentum going, we'll need help with the move—and we hope we can count on you! Please call us at 702-733-9800 to learn about volunteer opportunities this coming January and February.

Don't forget: it's not too late to become a stakeholder in our new Center today and support Opening New Doors!

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QVOLUTION YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY

The Center's QVolution youth programming hosted its annual Youth Holiday Party on December 13. Youth enjoyed free macaroni and cheese and other snack foods, hot cocoa and cider, candy, desserts, loaded gift bags, and every attendee received a \$20 gift card for personal and holiday shopping. Gift cards were generously donated by The John C. Kish Foundation, Touro University—Nevada, PFLAG Las Vegas, and several community donors. Divine Events donated the evening's catering. The Center proudly celebrated the holiday season with 75 LGBTQ and allied youth between the ages of 13 and 24.

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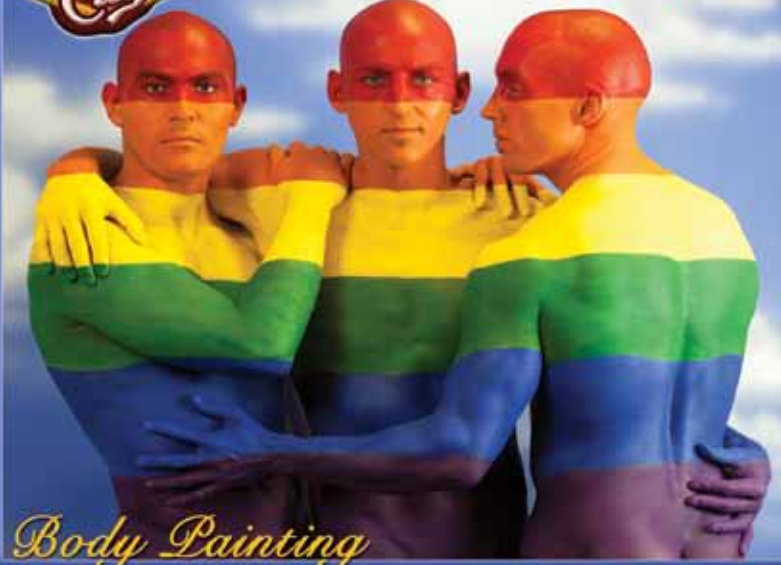
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2 STEPS FORWARD...

Sexual Orientation added to College application

The University of Iowa has announced the addition of questions on sexual orientation and gender identity to its undergraduate application. The first University to do so – the University of Iowa’s online application now includes transgender as an option alongside male and female, while a second, nonobligatory question now asks, “Do you identify with the LGBTQ community?”

Abuse in Ivory Coast

A group of prostitutes sold out a fellow sex worker in hopes of saving themselves from two cars full of soldiers. The soldiers cornered the abandoned girl, and then stripped her only to discover that she was really a man dressed as a woman. It was then that they savagely beat her with their belts. According to victims of similar cases, this is something that is becoming “routine” in Ivory Coast.

1 STEP BACK

Gabrielle Ludwig Makes the Team

Gabrielle Ludwig, a 50-year-old transgender female who stands 6-foot-8 and weighs 220 pounds, finally joined her California community college basketball team after a long fight for equality. NCAA rules stipulate a player’s gender is determined solely by their birth certificate. Under California law, transgender individuals such as Ludwig—who underwent gender reassignment surgery in July—can be granted a new birth certificate after providing proof of having the operation.

Parents support their transgender pre-teen

“Jeanette and I are in 100 percent agreement as to how we should raise Jazz. We don’t encourage, we support. And we just keep listening to what she tells us,” says Jazz’s father. Her mother added, “We’ll say things like, ‘You’re special. God made you special, because there aren’t very many little girls out there that have a penis.’” The Jennings say that if Jazz chooses to take that step, they will fully support her but they are also mindful of keeping all of her options open.

Transgender Refuge in Queens

A growing number of transgender Latinas have gathered in Queens every Friday night, discussing challenges unfamiliar to many New Yorkers. Conducted in Spanish, the sessions are aimed at those who have emigrated, most illegally, from Latin American countries where violence toward gay and transgender people is common.

Missing Trans Teen in Virginia

A 19-year-old transgender teenager, has been missing since 2012 Thanksgiving weekend. She was to arrive on Thanksgiving Day as a surprise to visit family but never showed up. Amy Sarah Marshall, the president of Charlottesville’s LGBT organization, C-ville Pride, said authorities have seemed somewhat dismissive over Smith’s case as the community struggles to come together to find the missing teen.

Charges dropped against UM Student who hit a transgender woman

Sexual assault charges against University of Montana exchange student, Obioha Onwubiko have been dropped. Onwubiko plead guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in connection with the April 28 incident outside a dance at the Elks club. Controversy as to whether Onwubiko should have been charged with sexual assault stemmed from Anita Green’s accusation that Onwubiko grabbed her crotch just before he hit her. Onwubiko received a six-month deferred sentence and must pay \$203 in court fees and fines. Green was awarded a one-year restraining order but feels, “Obi was given a slap on the wrist and I feel like he got off so easy on this. ...This isn’t justice.”

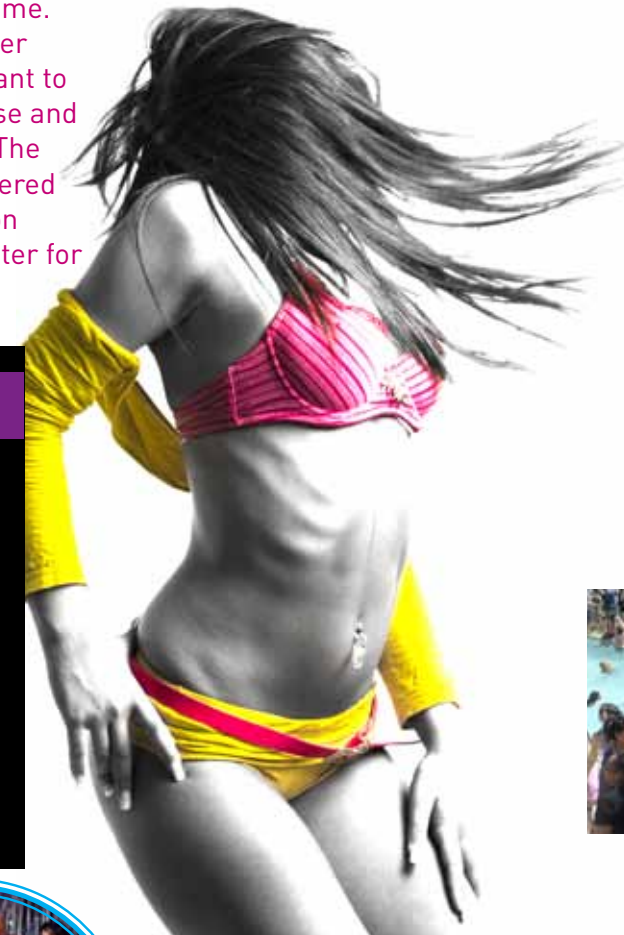
Claudia Charriez

New York fireman Taylor Murphy in August 2011 allegedly beat his girlfriend and former America’s Top Model semi-finalist Claudia Charriez. Charriez, who is transgender, testified the 245-pound Murphy brutally assaulted her in Manhattan but jurors threw out strangulation and witness-tampering charges that carried a penalty of seven years. Murphy could still be jailed for assault, contempt and violating a protective order.

HER HOT SPOTS

WHERE VEGAS LADIES HANG OUT

The boys aren't the only ones out to have a good time. The ladies in Las Vegas know how to party. Whether you are nested in a committed relationship and want to add some sizzle or you've put the U-Haul in reverse and need a girls night out, Sin City has much to offer. The scene is far from low-key and QVegas has you covered with a wide range of things to do tonight. Add us on Facebook, join our email list and follow us on Twitter for even more great suggestions.



Strip Club

Queer women have a definite advantage in the topless clubs and that is that they're not tourists in the land of naked women. You hopefully won't be as disrespectful, annoying and downright idiotic as most men seem to be when they see multiple half-nude women giving them attention. In spite of this, most of the staff will still see all customers as the same thing - a walking wallet - and having a vagina doesn't exempt you from tipping them. But that shouldn't be a problem, because Deja Vu has over 75 of the most stunning showgirls in Vegas. The chic decor draws in a wide range of locals and tourists, not only for the Vegas T&A, but for the inexpensive drinks and friendly service. Deja Vu Showgirls is open Mon-Sat: 11am-6am, and Sunday: 6pm-4am, and is located at 3247 Industrial Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89109. 702-894-4167

Toy Store

Toys Toys Toys!! Who doesn't like a good toy to play with every once in a while? Déjà Vu's Adult Emporium is the perfect frisky adult toy store with a wide variety of those videos we store under the bed, and clothes we hide in the back of our drawers. This couple-friendly atmosphere is associated with Deja Vu's Showgirls strip club, so right after you lust for the smoking hot women dancing on the pole, head down to Deja Vu's Adult Emporium shop to stock up. Shelves are stocked with goodies such as erotic novels, dvd's, lingerie, personal lubricant, candles and of course, those toys we love so much. Deja Vu's Adult Emporium is located 4335 W Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89103. It's open 24-hours, so that leaves no room for excuses not to stop by and pick up a few things. This month, 25% off of all lesbian and gay dvds.

Fantasy

If your FANTASY consists of beautiful half-naked women rubbing and dancing on one another, than the LUXOR Hotel has the show for you. FANTASY will get you in the perfect mood to show Sin City just how dirty you can get. Lorena Peril, one of the sexiest lead singers on the strip, adds an exciting element with her orgasmic vocals, while the gorgeous dancers lure guests into their wildest fantasies. Great for singles and couples, the sexy production runs nightly at 10:30 p.m. in the Atrium Showroom at Luxor. Tickets start at \$39, plus taxes and handling fees. Guests must be 18 years of age or older. Tickets can be purchased at the Luxor box office, online at www.luxor.com or by calling 800.557.7428 or 702.262.4400. Visti fantasyluxor.com for more details.

Dinah Shore

Ladies It's time to get those bikini areas groomed, and put those tanning salon memberships to use. Dinah Shore Palm Springs is back for it's 23rd year and they're ready to take over the stunning Hilton Hotel & Spa once again, booking the entire hotel so that its 100% full of super WET n' wild lesbians. It'll be a weekend full of pool action, partying with celebrities, and of course plenty of girl on girl PAMPERING...but i'm sure you were thinking I was going to say something different. But feel free to bring your toy of choice to party with the big girls in Palm Springs. Dinah Shore weekend starts April 3rd and the party doesn't stop until April 7th. For ticket prices and more information visit www.TheDinah.com

LV Football

Ladies who love football, you can come experience true fantasy football at a Lingerie Football League game. Las Vegas is home to one of twelve franchise teams. No longer the 'Cinderella' team of the LFL, Sin Football has one of the best rosters in the league —Nikki Johnson, Tracee Thomas, Sunshine Misa-Uli, Carrie Walters, and Cassandra Strickland. With the announcement of an expansion into the Atlanta market for LFL's upcoming 2013 season, this is the fastest growing sport in the US according to BusinessWeek. LFL originated from a Super Bowl pay-per-view halftime television special named the Lingerie Bowl. Last year was the Sin's first season as a brand new franchise and the ladies are far from just a bunch of pretty women pretending to play —these are pretty woman that are rough, tough, fighting machines on the field. And while you won't forget they are only in lingerie, get ready for some real women's football chalk full of real tackling, finesse, and pure and pure talent. The ladies open their 2013 season at home against the Green Bay Chill Saturday June 22 at the Orleans Arena, tickets start at \$15.

WOMYN'S GUIDE

Websites

QUEERKAT – <http://www.queerkat.com> - Meet new people in Las Vegas! Make friends in the Gay Community before the nightlife begins.

BETTYS OUTRAGEOUS – <http://www.bettysout.com> Betty's primary mission is to provide a variety of activities in which lesbians can develop friendships and a sense of community within the greater Las Vegas area. As an all volunteer organization, BOA encourages and relies upon its members to organize social, athletic, cultural and outdoor events for the enjoyment of a diverse lesbian community.

Medical and Wellness

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - With three health centers in Las Vegas the health centers support and welcome all clients regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or biological sex. Providing high-quality, affordable sexual and reproductive health care all services are confidential, professional and respectful. A wide range of services include: General Health Care; HIV/Testing; Men's Health Care; Women's Health Care; and STD Testing, Treatment and Vaccines. To make a health center appointment please call 1-800-230-PLAN.

NEVADA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE As an agency that focuses on training and technical assistance, NCASV has worked to develop trainings and workshops to educate direct services providers on how to best serve the LGBTQ community and the importance of creating services and outreach that meets the needs of the LGBTQ community.

NEVADA FERTILITY C.A.R.E.S WELLNESS CENTER - One of the most successful fertility clinics in Nevada. Offering fertility services with Dr. Rachel McConnell and her staff, who specializes in reproductive endocrinology and infertility treatment. For appointments call 702-341-6616

Resources

THE GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA - A community-based organization which supports and promotes activities directed at furthering the well being, positive image, and human rights of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community and its allies in Southern Nevada.

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA - Community Counseling Center promotes the healthy functioning of individuals, families, and communities affordable, sensitive, and professional behavioral health services in a safe environment.

THATS SO VEGAS

Tidbits from the Strip & Beyond

JANUARY 2013						
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27	28	29	30	31		

PRIDE FAMILY BINGO - Every 1st Wed. @ 7p.m.

Circus Circus Grand Ballroom
2880 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89101
1-866-930-3336 - www.lasvegaspride.org

PRISM - Thursday January 11 @10p.m.

The Artifice, 1025 S. 1st St., Las Vegas, NV 89101
702-489-6339 - www.artificebar.com

MISS AMERICA COMPETITION

Saturday, January 12th @8p.m.

Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino
3667 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109
702-555-1234 - www.eventaddress.com

POETS CORNER - Friday, January 18 @7p.m.

West Las Vegas Arts Center Community Gallery
947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Las Vegas NV
702-229-4800

SIN CITY SHOOTOUT OFFICIAL PARTY

Friday, January 18

Share Nightclub, 4636 Wynn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89103
702-258-2681 - www.sincityshootout.com

AN EVENING WITH FRANCOIS FRESSINIER

Saturday, January 19 @5-7p.m.

Martin Lawrence Galleries (Forum Shops at Caesars),
3500 Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV
702-991-5990

ROCK AND ROLL FANTASY CAMP

Wednesday, January 23 - Sunday, January 27

MGM Grand Hotel & Casino
3799 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV
1-888-762-2263 - www.rockcamp.com

LADY GAGA - Friday, January 25th

MGM Garden Arena, 3799 Audrie St. Las Vegas, NV
877-880-0880 - www.mgmgrand.com



SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET A MUSICAL THRILLER

"Off-Strip Productions' own intimate, fully staged, innovative rendition of Sondheim's Musical Thriller returns to the stage due to popular demand. Once again combining professional live musicians with a powerhouse local cast, they tell this tragic tale the way it deserves to be told. Don't miss this second and final chance to be among the ghosts of Fleet Street as you witness murder, incest, and cannibalism set to music —an "in your face" experience you can only get at Las Vegas' premiere indie art house, the Onyx Theatre." Showtime: Thursday - Saturday, 8p.m., Sundays, 2p.m.

SUNDAYS

- REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel & Casino
- Showtunes High Tea at FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- 100% Pure House Music at Insert Coin[s]

MONDAYS

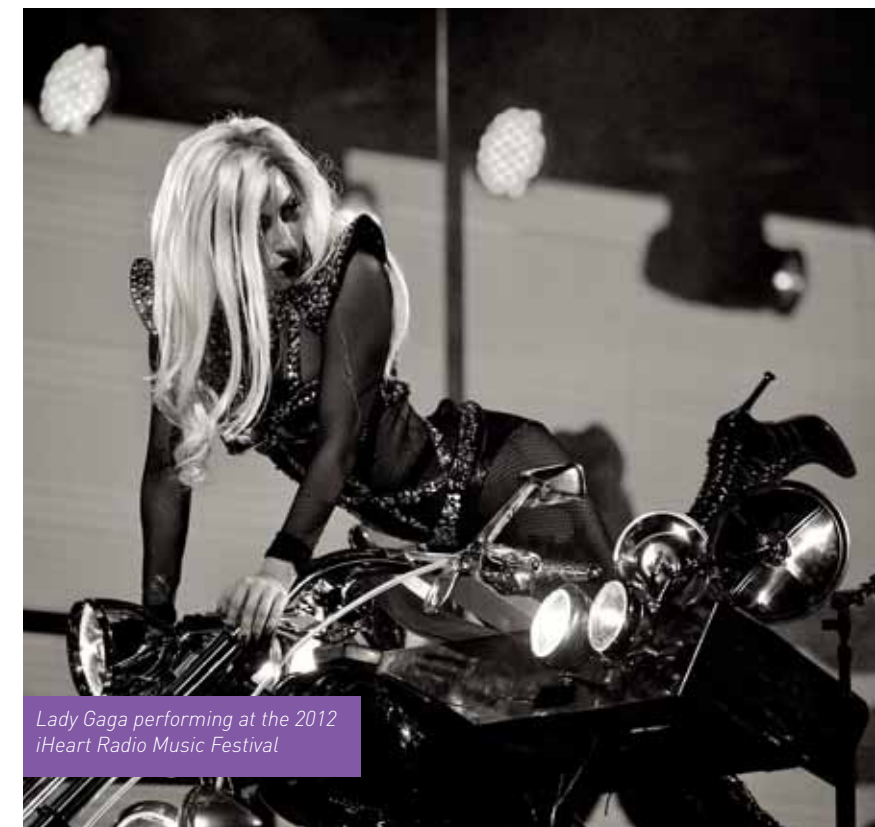
- Manic Mondaze at Blue Martini
- QSocial Ladies Event (Every 2nd Monday)
- Boys Night at Entourage Men's Spa
- Stache Mondays at Piranha Nightclub
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge

TUESDAYS

- Ladies Night at FreeZone
- QSocial with Michael Franklin
- Latin Night at Entourage Men's Spa
- Neo Soul at Blue Martini

WEDNESDAYS

- Underware Night at Charlie's LV
- "Fly" with Duwwopros and DJ Lord Q at Insert coin[s]
- Gay Men's Mpowerment Group at The Gay & Lesbian Center
- Wise Womyn Group at The Gay & Lesbian Center
- Drag Queen Bingo at Piranha Nightclub
- Ntoxxxicated- Diva Toxxx Drag Show at FreeZone



Lady Gaga performing at the 2012 iHeart Radio Music Festival

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JANUARY 2013						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Drumline LIVE @The Smith Center
for Performing Arts January 18th.
Tickets \$24-\$59

THURSDAYS

- Industry Night at HAZE Nightclub inside ARIA
- POP Thursdays at Share Nightclub
- QVolution Youth Group meeting at The Center
- Dark & Double at Entourage Men's Spa
- Prism at the Artifice

FRIDAYS

- Scottish Country Dancing
- Fridays at HAZE Nightclub inside ARIA
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- The L Group at The Gay & Lesbian Center
- Trans.lation Group at The Gay & Lesbian Center
- Addicted to Drag at FLEX Cocktail Lounge



SATURDAYS

- SNAP! Saturdays at Charlie's Las Vegas
- E-Rock Saturdays at HAZE nightclub inside ARIA
- Ladies Hip-Hop Night at Gipsy's Nightclub
- Share Saturdays/ Porn Stars in Vegas



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12th LAS VEGAS PHILHARMONIC MASTERWORKS III

Each year the Las Vegas Philharmonic designates one of its Masterworks concerts to showcase an up-and-coming music talent. This year the Philharmonic features violinist Elena Urioste, a two-time winner of the Sphinx Competition. Picture postcards spring to mind as the Las Vegas Philharmonic takes patrons on an aural European tour. A blend of Basque melodies and French style inspired the sensual, hypnotic dance rhythm of Ravel's "Bolero." Sibelius evokes the austere winter landscape of Finland in his Violin Concerto, expertly delivered by the radiant Elena Urioste. The journey ends in Austria with Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, the thrilling and triumphant capstone of his symphonic output.

17th SIN CITY SHOOTOUT LGBT SPORTS FESTIVAL

Tropicana Las Vegas sets the stage for classic Vegas excitement on the most glamorous corner of the Strip! Tropicana just completed a \$200 million remodel with luxurious accommodations, sizzling gaming action and fabulous entertainment and dining. The 6th annual Sin City Shootout Sports Festival, the largest annual LGBT Sporting event in North American!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 drink, socialize and register for your sport with 6,000 of your fellow athletes getting ready for a weekend of fierce competition. Participating sports include —basketball, bodybuilding, bridge, dodge ball, Frisbee, golf, ice hockey, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 the Official Registration Party kicks off inside the Tropicana Hotel Sin City ballroom. Enjoy \$5 cocktails, Coors Light bottle beer and \$2 softdrinks. Players will receive their tournament wristband Friday during player registration and additional wristbands for friends and family are available at registration for \$10. Grab a tournament cup at Friday's registration for \$10 and you can get the SUPERSIZED drink specials at participating venues. Don't miss your games the next day as you party into the night at SHARE Nightclub for the official Friday night party.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 with your tournament wristband you can skip the line — and the cover charge at Piranha Boutique Nightclub and Charlie's Las Vegas. Sunday, January 20th Bagatelle's Euro-chic meets high-octane glam for a whole new Vegas experience. You won't find a venue with more energy and exciting fun on the Las Vegas Strip, so let loose and party. A night to remember...if you can! Come early and don't miss a surprise performance at 10p.m.

18th THE SMITH CENTER DRUMLINE LIVE

DRUMLINE LIVE brings its fourth U.S. tour and energetic cast to The Smith Center in January 2013. The cast has honed its precision and percussion with years of training in marching bands across the southern U.S. The versatile group of musicians and dancers brings explosive beats and athleticism to the stage, expanding the marching band experience to audiences across the country. The group awes with contemporary hip hop, R&B, classic Motown and brass tradition.



27th ROCK N ROLL FANTASY CAMP

Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp announced today that the next installment of its highly successful music-magic experience is scheduled for Jan. 23 – 27, 2013 at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino as well as their facility located west of the Las Vegas Strip. Headlining the camp are rock icons Roger Daltrey (The Who) and Dave Navarro (Jane's Addiction), joined by Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield), Simon Townshend (The Who, Jeff Beck) and Stephen Perkins (Jane's Addiction), among others.

The rock camp provides music fans the opportunity to jam nightly with legendary rock stars, write and record original songs, participate in master classes and perform live on stage in front of family and friends.

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BORDER GRILL LAS VEGAS

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com



Keeping it all in the family, Mary Sue's husband and Susan's childhood friend, architect Josh Schweitzer, created the original designs of both the Border Grill restaurants, as well as Ciudad. The colorful murals are the work of artists Su Huntley and Donna Muir, inspired by the festivals, road signs, and advertisements of Mexico. In 2008, Border Grill Las Vegas was re-imagined by architect Eric Strain of Assemblage Studio. —bordergrill.com

If you walk through Mandalay Bay's casino, all the way to the back, past several other celebrity chef-owned restaurants, you'll find one of my favorite restaurants in all of Las Vegas: Border Grill. This modern yet wonderfully authentic Mexican eatery owned by celebrity chefs Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken, embodies what I'm trying to get across as the creator of MyVegasObsession.com. When I go to Border Grill I don't just have a meal, I have an experience!

My first visit to Border Grill was very good, but fairly uneventful. I had a cheerful, knowledgeable server, a delicious cocktail and an excellent meal. My second visit, however, is when things took off! I had seen both Ms. Feniger and Ms. Milliken on Top Chef Masters and was looking forward to trying their place again. I'm awfully glad I did!

My server Matthew was friendly and efficient, answering some of my questions and suggesting the Blood Orange Margarita before my meal. He took my order and went off to the waiter's station to punch it into the computer. At that moment, I noticed a gentleman in a suit —probably the manager, approach Matthew and whisper to him. They turned to look at me and went back to their conversation. I wasn't sure what that was all about, but I let it go.

At any rate, that evening, I ordered the Quinoa Fritters —a dish that had just won a challenge for Mary Sue Milliken on Top Chef Masters only two weeks before. They were crispy and delicious, made with Cotija cheese and a yellow chile aioli. I also decided to try one of their special ceviches, which made excellent use of fresh halibut, cilantro, onion, lime and pink grapefruit supreme —light, refreshing and just amazing! Finally, for my entree, I opted for the Pescado

Veracruzano —a succulent piece of pan-seared halibut, swimming in a garlicky broth, along with tomato, Kalamata olives, white wine, and slices of fresh jalapeno. This dish was so good, I kept dredging the bowl, hoping to find more fish somewhere in the depths of that fantastic broth. I was tempted to pick up the bowl and drink what was left, but thought it might look a little tacky.

For dessert that night, I chose one of their specials; the Havana Banana Cream Pie —a Latin take on a traditional banana cream pie, adding cinnamon and a touch of coffee. Creamy, decadent and delicious!

At the end of my meal, I got the biggest surprise of all. Matthew told me that Mike Minor, the executive chef, was coming out to see me. Now again; I'm nobody. I'm just a regular guy who loves Vegas, loves good food and loves to make new friends, but I felt like I was being given the VIP treatment. Had the manager mistaken me for a well-known food critic or something? I didn't care. I was hooked. Mike Minor is a fascinating, friendly guy and we had a great chat about food in general and about my meal and the flavors and ingredients he had used. Finally, when I got my check, I was also given a Border Grill VIP card, which among other things gives me a 15% discount on any meal I have there in the

future. With the card, you're also alerted via e-mail about special events at the restaurant —parties, dinners, cooking classes—and so on.

Anyway, on other visits to Border Grill, I've tried the Green Corn Tamales, filled with a creamy mixture of sweet corn. These are so good; I've actually scraped the cornhusk with my fork to get every last bite. I've also had the Plantain Empanadas —little pillows of dough stuffed with roasted plantain, Cotija cheese, poblano chile, and black beans. The play between sweet and savory works perfectly in this dish. Their ceviches —the Baja Ceviche with shrimp, seasonal fish, jalapeno, tomato and cilantro aioli, and the Peruvian Ceviche with the seasonal fish, lime, ginger and aji amarillo chile— are both excellent as are the special ceviches. On my previous trip to Border Grill, I had the Tiradito Verde Ceviche—strips of fresh fish with



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REFINED, AUTHENTIC, DELICIOUS MEXICAN FOOD



Border Grill uses organic black beans, as well as chicken, beef, and uncured pork raised without hormones and antibiotics. They do not use any products containing artificial trans fat.

They serve only sustainable seafood and are a member of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program.

onion, jalapeno, cucumber and fresh mango, served with a shot glass full of the cilantro–jalapeno–chile–verde marinade on the side. The slices of jalapeno gave it a potent kick, but the cucumber and mango cool it down and balance the spice with a touch of sweetness. As far as entrees went, I was excited to try the Fish Tacos Ensenada —the fish is served fried or grilled— and comes nestled in handmade corn tortillas with a tomato avocado crema. I've also sampled the Sauteed Shrimp, which comes served with strips of ancho chile and braised greens and the Tecate Carnitas – a hearty dish with roast pork – red onion and cilantro, on a bed of grits and black beans. Delicious dishes and large portions!

Border Grill also has a nice selection of desserts from which to choose. On separate occasions, I've tried the Brownie Sundae —a decadent treat that includes vanilla ice cream, homemade caramel and chocolate sauce, the Mexican Chocolate Cream Pie —made with whipped cinnamon chocolate in a chocolate crust, and their Banana Cream Pie. Matthew also recommended the Flourless Chocolate Truffle Cake and the flan —the traditional Mexican custard topped with caramel. On my last visit, I ordered one of the special desserts, a homemade watermelon sorbet —a wonderfully light and refreshing summertime choice, accompanied by fresh whipped cream, fresh seasonal berries and a blood–orange sugar cookie.

Now, earlier I mentioned the various different types of events that are hosted by Border Grill. I was lucky enough to attend one of them –a special dinner sponsored by Patron Tequila. It featured a five–course

meal, prepared for us by Mike Minor and Susan Feniger herself! The dinner was spectacular and featured dishes like Tiger Prawns with Black Bean Cornbread, Grilled Rabbit with a seasonal vegetable slaw, and the main course; a Whole Roast Pig –each course paired with a fantastic Patron cocktail! The dinner was served in a downstairs dining room with glass walls, which looked out on the Mandalay Bay pool, and the food was prepared for us in a makeshift kitchen that was set up just outside the dining room. Mike Minor wore a headset microphone and explained each dish as he was preparing it! It was fascinating to watch –especially when a small hurricane–like rain and windstorm hit just as the rabbit dish was about to be started! The food had to be rushed back inside, the dish reimagined somewhat, and then served. It was still fantastic. Once the storm blew over, Feniger commented that the incident seemed a lot like one of the challenges on Top Chef! Luckily for us, the weather cleared enough for the cooking to resume outside, where Mike and Susan presented the entire roast pig and broke it down in front of us.

Both Mike Minor and Matthew, my server, remembered me from my previous visit and welcomed me warmly. I began to feel like family. I was also able to meet and chat with Ms. Feniger, who was funny and friendly. It was a dinner I'll never forget!

Clearly, I adore Border Grill. If you're in Las Vegas and have a taste for refined, authentic, delicious Mexican food, this is the place for you! GO!!!

Flamboyance

THURSDAY NIGHTS
SHOW STARTS AT 11PM
DJK ON THE DECKS

with Stephanie Williams

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L.A. Jewel
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Photo By Joey Mills

QVEGAS.com

EVERYTHING GAY LAS VEGAS

Teazled...Tell Them

"These are cards that a gay teen can give to his parents, that say, 'This is who I am,' or a parent can give to a gay teen, that say, 'It's okay, let's talk.'"

[by Richard Davis]

When Dina Proto and Dina "Dom" Poist-Proto celebrated their first Mother's Day together, their teenage daughter bought them a card and added an "s" to "Mom" in the card's pre-printed message. She wrote in the card that she was happy for them, but apologized that she couldn't find an appropriate card. Trying to find an appropriate word was also how their four children gave Dina Poist-Proto her nickname, "Dom"—an amalgam of Dad and Mom. Incidents like these gave the two women the idea in 2011 to launch the LGBT greeting card company, Teazled, with the trademarked tagline, "Tell Them," to tell our stories to our families, friends and to each other.

continued on page 30 ►





Dina Proto said, "These are cards that a gay teen can give to his parents, that say, 'This is who I am,' or a parent can give to a gay teen, that say, 'It's okay, let's talk.' These are traditional cards with messages for our families." Dom's mom kept a journal of her own journey from rejection to full embrace of her daughter and her daughter-in-law. When she re-read the journal, she was going to burn it, but Dina and Dom persuaded her to keep it and they used the journal to create many of their cards' most heartfelt sentiments. Dina said, "No greeting cards addressed these issues, these emotions." Don't read these cards without a Kleenex at hand.

Dina and Dom are both nurses and Dom says, "We always enjoyed having tea together. It was our time to sit and refocus on us." So their teatime

inspired their company's name, Teazled. They started with just 60 cards and now they've expanded to a full line of card products featuring 210 cards, including boxed Christmas card sets and Christmas ornaments. Other featured holidays include Hanukkah, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and, of course, St. Valentine's Day.

Initially, Dina and Dom launched their company online at www.teazled.com but when they marketed their cards out in the community at Las Vegas Pride, customers told them that they wanted to see the cards in stores. Dina said, "Cards are tactile. A card is emotional. Also cards tend to be a last-minute purchase." Teazled cards were soon stocked at such local LGBT-friendly businesses as Get Booked, The Rack and English Garden Florist; they will soon

be seen at Tiger Lily, and they have a growing national presence.

Teazled became a certified diverse supplier with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Dina, who also serves on the Board of the QVegas Business Alliance said, "One of the benefits of joining the NGLCC was going to the national conference in Washington, D.C. in August and participating in bootcamps on how to grow our business." Dina and Dom had the opportunity to present Teazled's products and begin to build relationships with NGLCC's corporate partners. One of those was with Super Value, the parent company of Albertsons' Supermarkets and other banner names. Dina said, "We were told it might take up to three years to build a relationship with a company like Albertsons." Three

weeks after the conference they got a call from Richard Sage, a store director, who wanted to meet with them and see their cards. Dina said that at the meeting, "He turned his back to us. He didn't want us to see him crying. He said, 'These cards don't exist.' I told him, 'They do exist, you just haven't seen them yet.'" Sage forwarded the cards to the corporate office in Fullerton where they were literally approved overnight.

Teazled cards are available at six Albertsons in Las Vegas, 20 in Southern California and online: teazled.com

cards are now featured in six Albertsons stores in Las Vegas and 20 in Southern California with plans to move the cards into Super Value's Midwest market in 2013.

Teazled keeps its prices low—\$3.99 for a high-finish greeting card—because they want them to be affordable for LGBT youth to purchase. Dina and Dom envision their cards in all major retailers—"We should be able to buy cards for our community anywhere." The numbers back them up. Dom says,

Dina said, "Richard said he hadn't seen that happen in 26 years in the business." Teazled

"Seventy-eight percent of all Americans know someone who is LGBT, so the market is larger than just the LGBT community itself. We have 168 million potential buyers."

Dina and Dom hope customers will continue to tell stores that they want to see Teazled cards stocked there and they also invite customers to share the stories that they would like to see reflected in card sentiments on Teazled's Facebook page. Dina said, "Our cards are part of a social movement. Greeting cards give our community a sense of normalcy. The dominant culture wants to make our relationships just about sex. But we're normal people and we shop in the same stores. Cards should be available for everyone to give to anyone." Dina said, "We can help change others' life experiences." ■



Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas



Spreading the light

Worship Schedule

Saturday
5:30pm Rainbow Service

Sunday
9:00am Joyful Morning
11:00am *NewSong*

W. Wayne Lindsey
Senior Pastor

1140 Almond Tree LN
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MCCLV.com
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\$50,000 in corporate and community sponsorships to help make their vision of Rainbow House a reality.

Jane Heenan says Gender Justice Nevada is also launching a helpline for survivors of gender-based violence. She says the helpline will have 20 trained survivor advocates taking calls, providing direct advocacy in settings such as hospitals and courts, and holding service providers accountable "to their legal requirement to offer culturally competent queer-inclusive services." Gender Justice Nevada provides the only clinically facilitated queer-inclusive sexual assault survivor group in Southern Nevada.

Gender Justice Nevada has conducted trainings on domestic violence in the LGBTQ and gender non-conforming community for service providers such as Safe Nest and The Shade Tree. However, Jane Heenan says that both agencies still lack specific policies and procedures for handling LGBTQ or gender non-conforming victims of domestic violence.

Lisa Lynn Chapman, public information specialist for Safe Nest said that anyone who is a victim of domestic violence is eligible for the shelter's services and will not be turned away. Safe Nest is the As the sole provider of emergency protection orders,. She said that all Safe Nest volunteers and staff receive 40 hours of training on working with victims of domestic violence from the LGBTQ and other communities and that procedures are in place during intake to provide appropriate assistance for LGBT domestic violence victims. Female identified survivors are housed in Safe Nest's main women's shelter, whereas male identified survivors are housed in secure locations off-site that provide all of the assistance services available at the main shelter. Chapman said, "The underlying issues are the same for LGBTQ victims, but may present differently." One issue she said is the fear of being 'outed.' Chapman said hotlines that target specific communities are important because they provide callers an assurance of understanding. However, she said, in smaller communities there can be "acquaintance density," which increases the possibility that "you may know someone on the opposite end of the line" and that can create a reluctance to call a hotline for help.

If you are facing a domestic violence emergency, call 911. For confidential help and referrals, call the Rainbow Hotline at 702-HELP4U2 (435-7482). For more information on Mary Magdalene Friends, call 702-685-3859. The Gender Justice Nevada hotline for domestic violence survivors is 702-425-QAVP (7287). To contact Gender Justice Nevada, call 702-425-7288 or go to www.GJNV.org. The Safe Nest hotline is 702-646-4981 or toll-free at 1-800-486-7282. To contact Community Counseling Center of Southern Nevada, call 702-369-8700 or go to cccfsn.wix.com/cccfsn. For domestic violence survivors' services, call Nevada 211.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Obenour, co-pastor at Mary Magdalene Friends, says she initially had just thought her calling was to help women, the traditional victims of domestic violence. But when she was asked to do the memorial service for Phil Wells, the popular bartender at The Garage, who was stalked and murdered by his ex-lover, she understood that she had a call to help everyone "including men, including LGBTQ, find a safe space when it is needed."

Ron Lawrence said that in same-gender domestic violence it is often assumed that the abuse must be mutual because both individuals are the same sex. Lawrence said that one myth about male-male domestic violence is that "men are just being men." Jane Heenan said when police are called they may misidentify LGBTQ domestic. She points out that in over 23% of LGBTQ domestic violence incidents involving the police, survivors alone or both survivors and perpetrators were arrested.

Ron Lawrence says our community's domestic violence has political implications in our fight for legal recognition of our relationships. He said, "Domestic violence in heterosexual relationships doesn't bring into question the validity of the relationships themselves." Lawrence said that for a community that is already oppressed, domestic violence adds another level of oppression.

Jane Heenan says, "We should be acknowledging that some portions of our communities are excluded in ways that make domestic violence more likely." Heenan said that since our community feels powerless, we identify with those with privilege and stigmatize those in our community, such as racial and gender minorities and those with low social economic status, who do not conform to the privileged status. Heenan said, "These processes include further violations of the most vulnerable persons in our communities." Persons of color constitute almost half of the total LGBTQ domestic violence survivors. LGBTQ youth are the second most vulnerable group.

The Rev. Sharon L. Darter, co-pastor of Mary Magdalene Friends, encourages them, "If you've run out of hope, you can borrow some of mine." ■

Alexander McQueen Coat, Gypsy Den Necklace, Prada Glasses, Alexis Bittar Cuffs from Neiman Marcus, Laruicci Rings, Pour La Victoire Shoes from DNA 2050.



OSTYLE:
Lady Milan

PHOTOGRAPHER - Carlos Quiroz
STYLIST - Jimi Urquiaga
MAKE UP - Haley Buckner
HAIR - Dennis Marshall Cooper
MODEL - Milan Dixon

Alexander McQueen Dress, Laruicci Necklace,
Charlotte Olympia Shoes.



Valentino Bag, Laruicci Rings, Laruicci Earrings.



Alexander McQueen Jacket, Alexander McQueen Skirt, Alexander McQueen Belt, Alexander McQueen Shoes.

Alexander McQueen Top from Meiman Marcus, Givenchy Shorts from Neiman Marcus, Camilla Skoovgard heels from Beckley, Laruicci Necklaces, Laruicci Earrings, Eddie Borgo Cuffs.





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And the Nominees Are

In December, QVegas called for nominations for the Best of QVegas awards. We received over 2,500 nominations. This list represents the final nominees. Vote for your favorites online at qvegas.com/bestof from now until January 31st. Winners will be announced at a special event in February.

MALE BARTENDER

Benji Avery
Brandon Johnson
Brandon Michael
Cody Milligan
Ger Haro
Landon Heins
Mike Judkins
Pj Brazier
Rafael Reyes
Sean Baughman
T.J. Degenhardt

FEMALE BARTENDER

Alex Hernandez
Lori Hughes
Mindy Vasquez
Rosalie Sclafani
Zianna Lopez

TRANSGENDER/DRAG BARTENDER

ChiChi Dela Cruz
Desarae Pendavis
Desiree St. James
Diva Defuentes
Ginger Grant
Keyska Diva
Michelle Holiday
Nikita Lefemme

GAY BAR

Charlie's
Drink & Drag
Escape Lounge
Flex
Freezone
Fun Hog
Piranha
Share
Spotlight Lounge
The Garage
DRAG SHOW
Charlie's
Diva's Las Vegas
DIViAnce with JewDi Vine
Drink & Drag
Flex

FreeZone

Goddess

Queens of Las Vegas

DRAG QUEEN

Kimora

Diana Prince

Indiah Ferrah

Lafierce Dancer-Dragqueen

Paloma Makary

GAY NIGHTCLUB

8 1/2 & Piranha

Charlies

Drink & Drag

Krave

Revo Sunday

Share

STRAIGHT NIGHTCLUB

Marquee @The Cosmopolitan

Revolution @The Mirage

Tao @The Venetian

XS @Encore

GAY-FRIENDLY BAR

Artifice

Blue Martini

Chandelier Bar @ Cosmopolitan

Don't Tell Mama's

Drai's

Insert Coins

Marquee

PT's

Revolution

The Act

The Martini

Todd English Pub

Yard House

LESBIAN BAR/NIGHT

Booty Bar

Dolhaus

Freezone

Kitty Bar

POOL PARTY

Bagatelle @ Tropicana Las Vegas

Blue Moon

Matinee

Rumor

Temptation Sunday

RESTAURANT

Bacio

Binion's Steak House

Biscayne

Brio

DW Bistro

eat

Firefly

Fogo De Chao

Genghis Grill

Jasmine at Bellagio

Mundo

STK

Sugar Factory

The Martini

Vintner Grill

BURGER

Burger Bar

Five Guys

In and Out

Smashburger

Stripburger

MALE DJ

Brett Rubin

DJ Axis

DJ Danny G

DJ JBray

DJ Mashup King

DJ Ricoché

DJ Scotty

DJ Wheat

Jason Davies

Jason McCollum

Mikey Swift

Nick Ayler

FEMALE DJ

Crykit

Jessica Iazaro

Lady Fingers

Lisa Pittman

MALE ADULT FILM STAR

Brent Corrigan

Brent Everett

Christopher Daniels

Devon Pryce

Donnie Russo

James Deen

Jon Christopher Alexander

Mitch Vaughn

MJ Taylor

Seth Knight

Str8cam Jeff

Travis James

Zeb Atlas

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Bare Essentials

Deja Vu

Get Booked

The Rack

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Blueberry Hill

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Crepe Expectations

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Egg & I

Egg Works

Hash House a Go Go

Omelet House

The Cracked Egg

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Chris Giunchigliani

David Parks

Dina Titus

Harry Reid

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AND THE WINNERS ARE...

[by Randy Slovacek]

8th Annual Out Music Awards Recap

The 8th Annual Out Music Awards took place on Sunday, December 16th, at the PH Live Theater located in the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. Las Vegas played host to top notch recording artists taking the stage to perform and celebrate LGBT music, culture and heritage. Artists from every musical genre gave stellar performances, sending a united message that music is music and love is for everyone.

Each year, the OutMusic Awards brings together top LGBT music talent, celebrities and creative industry professionals to celebrate the best recordings, performers and music industry contributions with a message of inclusion, equality and creative achievements. This was the first year of a three-year agreement to host the OutMusic Awards at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. The evening featured an eclectic array of performances by the Las Vegas Mass Choir, Frenchie Davis, Vicci Martinez, Diana King, B Slade, Jeffrey Straker, Love Darling and many more.

Diedra Meredith, chairwoman for the OutMusic Awards and the LGBT Academy of Recording Arts (LARA) was thrilled with the weekend's celebrations: "It's our first year in Las Vegas and it was a great success. The team and I feel great. We feel

very proud. We have a goal and a mission to bring these awards to the same level as other mainstream music awards shows. We feel strongly that Las Vegas is the place for that to happen." Meredith is committed to the forward growth and development of the awards as a way to bring the LGBT community together. Says Meredith, "One thing I really want to put out there is that we need - as a community - to support our own artists. These artists that sing same-gender loving songs and put our art out there." "There was a time in history when African-American recording artists were writing and singing their songs, but they didn't have as much power as white recording artists at the time. Often, other artists listened to their songs, appropriated their songs, and even appropriated the

cultural dance movement of those songs," adds Meredith. "Nowadays, I look at mainstream artists who, in many ways, have exploited our culture. Look at Madonna. And we, as gay Americans, give away so much of who we are as a queer music culture. We give it away and at some point we have to claim it as our own, celebrating our own, honoring our own and recognizing our contributions." Matt Zarley, nominated for four 2012 OutMusic Awards, won Album of the Year and Song of the Year for his album and song of the same name "Change Begins With Me". "Winning was kind of overwhelming and moving. It really caught me off-guard," says Zarley. "This was my first year to be nominated and they (LARA) really welcomed me with open arms. It was an amazing way to end the year."

Randy Slovacek is the author of The Randy Report, covering entertainment & political news of interest to the LGBT community. Follow him at www.therandyreport.com.

COMPLETE LIST OF THE 2012 OUTMUSIC AWARD WINNERS:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ALBUM OF THE YEAR
WINNER
Matt Zarley
"Change Begins With Me" | BEST DANCE/ELECTRONICA
WINNER
Frenchie Davis
"Loves Got A Hold On Me" | BEST SPIRITUAL/
INSPIRATIONAL SONG
WINNER - Jason Walker -
"I Am Changing" |
| SINGLE OF THE YEAR
WINNER
Matt Zarley
"Change Begins With Me" | BEST FOLK/COUNTRY
WINNER
Antigone Rising
"Everywhere Is Home" | BEST SPOKEN WORD
WINNER
Red Summer
"Loose Woman" |
| BEST ROCK SONG
WINNER
Vicci Martinez
"Come Along" featuring
Cee Lo Green | BEST HIP-HOP/RAP SONG
WINNER
KIN4Life "It's Over Now" | BEST INTERNATIONAL SONG
WINNER
Virago
"Love Over Fear" |
| BEST POP SONG
WINNER
Todd Alsup
"The Only Thing" | VIDEO OF THE YEAR
WINNER
Jeffery Straker "Slings and Arrows" | BIELLO-MARTIN LOVE SONG
WINNER
Brett Every
"What A Beautiful Day" |
| BEST ALTERNATIVE SONG
WINNER
Love Darling
"Let Go" | BEST SONG ON A
SOUNDTRACK/
INSTRUMENTAL
WINNER
Mark Barnes
"Gabby's Song"
(A Tribute To Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords) | BEST PRODUCER OF THE YEAR
WINNER
Michael V. Doane "Little Kid" |
| BEST R&B/SOUL SONG - (TIE)
WINNER
Nhojj
"Live Your Life"
Winner | BEST JAZZ/CABARET SONG
WINNER
Avi Wisnia
"Maoz Tsur (Rock of Ages)" | BEST CD COVER ARTWORK
WINNER
Rachael Sage "Haunted By You" |
| B Slade
"I'm Done"
(feat. Yummy Bingham) | | SONICBIDS HUMANITARIAN
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
WINNER
Frankie Love
"Now Is The Time" |

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Q & A

[by Randy Slovacek]

Frenchie Davis first appeared in the public spotlight during the second season of *American Idol*. That exposure began a journey that's since taken her across the country and to Broadway, starring in a national tour of *Dreamgirls* as "Effie White" and four years in the Broadway production of *RENT*. She became a Grammy-nominated artist for her involvement in the revival of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. In 2011, she joined Team Christina on *THE VOICE* and was one of the top four finalists. She then performed on a U.S. summer tour with the top eight finalists.

For her recent dance single "Love's Got A Hold On Me," she won 'Best Dance/Electronica Song' Award at the 2012 OutMusic Awards in Las Vegas.

While preparing to perform at the awards, we had a chance to sit down and talk with Frenchie about her music, life, inspiration and goals.

QVegas: Congratulations on your OutMusic Awards nomination for Best Dance/Electronica Song "Love's Got A Hold On Me."

Frenchie: Thank you! Thank you very much!

Q: Everyone knows you as "Frenchie Davis, the fabulous voice." Do you ever feel pressure to live up to "the legend" of your voice?

FD: (Laughing) You know, I just get up there and do what I do. I genuinely love to sing. I love music. I've been singing my whole life, and I love being on stage. So I get up, do what I do and hope people will love it.

Q: One of the things that's striking about your voice is a lot of people with big voices don't necessarily have the control, fluidity, or suppleness that you do. You never sound heavy or heavy-handed.

FD: I've always been of the philosophy that just because you have a big voice, you don't have to beat people over the head with it. I think that most times, the listener just wants to hear a good melody and a good voice. So I pick

and choose my battles vocally.

When I recorded "Loves Got A Hold On Me," I knew that I was going to keep the belting to the choruses and leave it simple on the verses to let them (the listener) breathe so they can dance and enjoy it.

FD: Also, I've spent my life listening to the best - Donna Summer, Freddie Mercury, and Whitney Houston. Singers who sang their asses off but weren't beating you over the head. They allowed you to enjoy the beauty of their instrument.

Q: Do you have a special regimen when you're on a performing schedule?

FD: I try to be mindful of what I do with my voice during the day. I never drink alcohol before singing. I try to avoid dairy altogether. I also avoid salt as that can have a negative effect on the voice.

Mostly I try to take care of my voice because I see it as a gift from God. So I try to respect that.

Q: You mentioned Whitney Houston, who was one of the great singers of

our time. But I felt that when she released her last album a bit of the gift had been diminished; that she hadn't taken care of the gift that was her voice. That made me sad.

FD: I was a huge Whitney fan, too. It was heartbreaking to hear the changes in her voice.

It is a gift to be respected. Broadway taught me that. You have to do eight shows a week. There's no auto-tune. There are no retakes. That's one of the things I love about Broadway: the discipline that it teaches you.

I personally think every singer should do at least one Broadway show in their career. It teaches you how to control your instrument, how to be disciplined, how to hold back or give more depending on the moment.

I'm hoping to hold on to my voice as long as I can, and leave the planet the way Ella Fitzgerald did. You know, she sang beautifully right up to the very end.

Q: I recently saw a video of her presenting at the Grammy Awards one year and she scatted the list of

nominees flawlessly!

She is the First Lady of Song for a reason!

Q: Now, "Love's Got A Hold On Me" is the first single of what will be your first full CD. Can you give us any details about when the CD will be released?

FD: As you said, this was the first single, and single number two will be released in early 2013. I'm thinking the full CD will be released by summer.

Summer is a good time to release a CD and then get out and tour.

Exactly. I always do my Pride tour each summer, so I figure it's a good time to get the boys ready for it.

Q: You know the gays love you!

FD: And I love them too!

Q: Speaking of love, this past summer you publicly came out as bisexual. What was that experience/process like for you? Were you worried about how it might affect your career?

FD: It's so interesting because among my family and friends, it's never been a secret. I had my first conversation about sexuality with my mother when I was sixteen. I said to her "I like boys, but I think I'm attracted to girls, too." So it was never a secret with my

family and friends. My dad loves my partner like his own daughter.

But there is a difference between being honest and open with your family and being open with the public allowing media scrutiny. I never really planned on having a big "coming out" because I figured everyone already knew, but I was in an interview earlier this year with a gay reporter and I could tell he was trying to back me into a corner about this. In that moment, I knew I wasn't going to play "the game" of giving ambiguous answers about who I am. I believe people should be able to be who they are and not have to apologize for it. So I said "Yes, I am in a lesbian relationship with a woman who is very loving and supportive, and I'm not going to lie about it. So print whatever you want in your newspaper."

And that became the headline - Frenchie Davis Came Out. (laughing)

Q: I think it means a lot, especially to younger people to see someone they admire embrace the issue.

FD: Thank you. Inspiring young people is a life goal of mine. I'd like to know that when I leave this earth I'll have done something positive.

I know, for example, there are a lot of young girls out there who are told they can't

'make it' because they aren't enough. Not thin enough, not pretty "enough", not black enough, not white enough. We live in a world that tries to convince young people that they have to fit in this little box to be successful. If they don't fit in that box, there's a message that there's something wrong with them. And there's nothing wrong with them. God doesn't make mistakes. We're all supposed to be unique and special. And that's my message - love who you are, own who you are and don't apologize for it.

Q: Watching you onstage - the way you move, the way you carry yourself - I get a clear sense that you are very comfortable in your own skin; that you like who you are.

FD: You have to love yourself. In the face of people telling you why you shouldn't, you have to love yourself. And, you know, they'll catch on.

It's an everyday journey. I'm not saying my feelings don't get hurt if someone says or prints something mean about me. They can call me fat if they want, but I'm still going to be fabulous. And I'll still love myself. Maybe I love myself in defiance. (laughs)

Frenchie Davis' award-winning single, "Love's Got A Hold On Me," is available on iTunes and all digital download outlets.

www.FrenchieDavis.org

Do you ever feel pressure to live up to "the legend" of your voice?

I just get up there and do what I do. I genuinely love to sing. I love music.



Randy Slovacek is the author of *The Randy Report*, covering entertainment & political news of interest to the LGBT community. Follow him at www.therandyreport.com.

OUT FOR BUSINESS Q INC.



Life Insurance for LGBT/Same-Sex Couples

By Lydia Toscano-Corbett, LUTCF
Liberty Mutual Personal Lines Insurance Advisor.

Love is love. Often with my clients I like to use the phrase "Life Insurance is Love Insurance." But what does that mean? The actual definition of life insurance is a financial contract that protects an individual's dependents in the case of his or her death.

For LGBT and same-sex couples, life insurance planning should always be part of your financial planning. Yes... another "contract" to enter. It may seem stressful, but working with the right life insurance agent will help make the process easier. A professional life insurance agent will help you to determine the total amount of coverage and the type of life insurance needed to provide a solution within your budget.



Here are three reasons LGBT same-sex couples should talk with their life insurance agent today:

- 1. FINAL EXPENSES:** The average cost of a basic burial ceremony can be upwards of between \$7,000 to \$10,000.* Remember that final expenses can also include final medical expenses as well.
- 2. INCOME REPLACEMENT:** Protect those that count on you financially. If you and your partner have any shared assets or debts, life insurance can ease the financial burden. Income replacement is especially important if you depend on your partner's higher income to cover expenses.
- 3. PEACE OF MIND:** In a lot of cases, we think of planning for death as morbid, but life insurance is designed to bring peace of mind. Life insurance can protect your partner, your family, and any dependents you have. Nothing can replace you in their hearts, but planning ahead with life insurance can make things a little easier for those you leave behind.

So if you love someone, take care of them. Sit down with your partner and life insurance agent to develop a life insurance plan that will bring solutions during a time of need.

*Source: funeralconsumer.org

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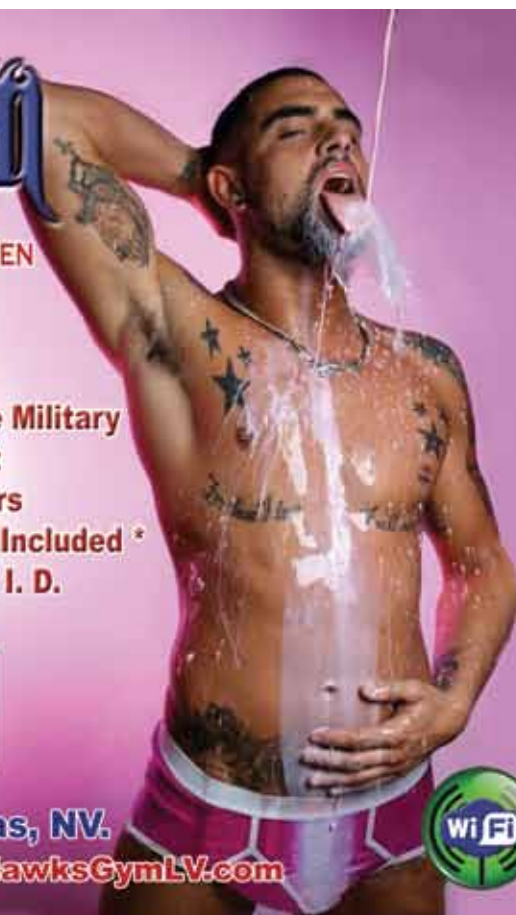


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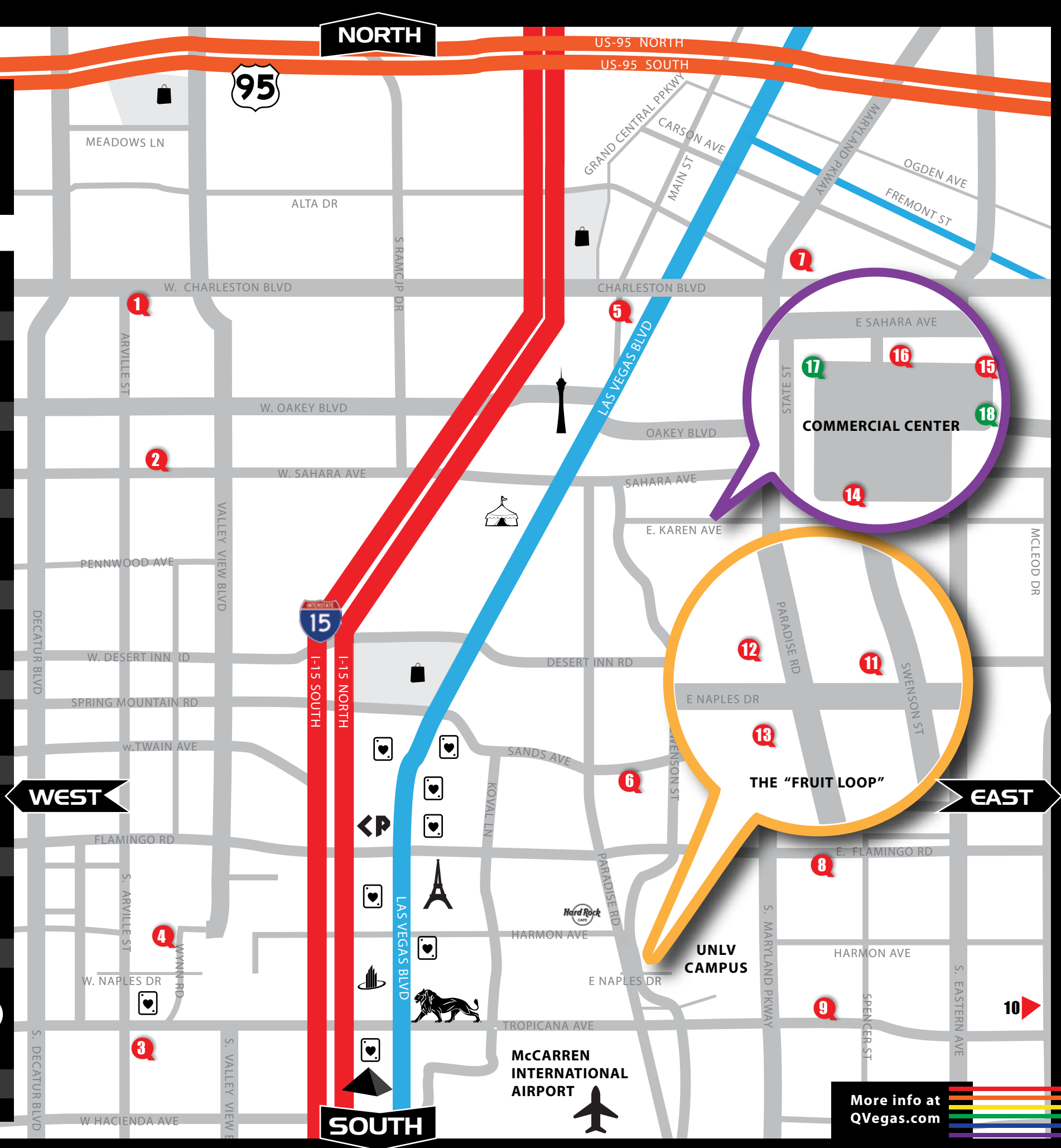
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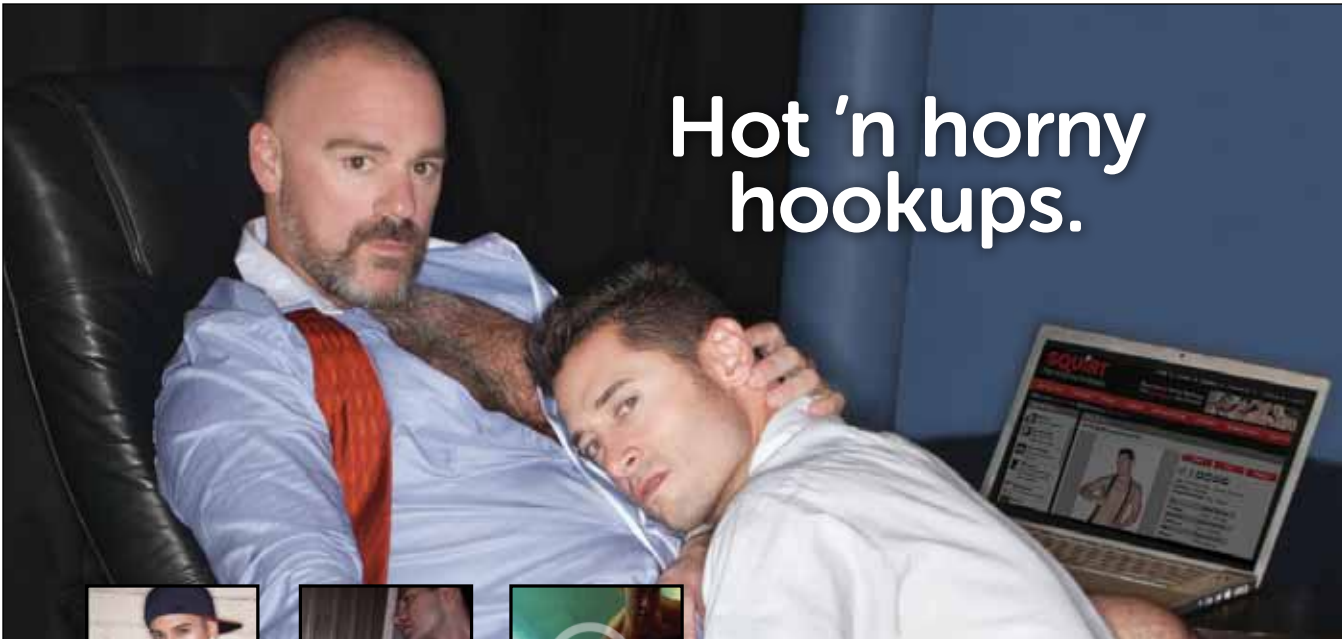
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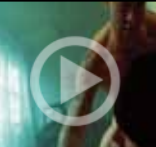
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The Last Word: A Marriage Like Any Other

[by Tara D. Newberry]

One day soon they will be old enough to appreciate the fact that their parents have been deemed unworthy of marriage in the eyes of Nevada.

As an attorney, I am usually in the business of telling my clients' stories, but I have recently had the opportunity to tell my own, as one of the plaintiffs in Lambda Legal's federal lawsuit seeking the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in Nevada.

I can sum up the three reasons why I am participating in this lawsuit: their names are Adele, Evan, and Emily. Adele is the love of my life, and Evan and Emily are our two beautiful

children. We are a family like any other, and yet the law treats us as outsiders, encouraging others to do the same.

For example, shortly after Emily was born, Adele and I had to rush her to the emergency room—a nightmare for any parent—where we were initially told that only one of us could actually go with Emily into the emergency room, making an already stressful situation even worse. It was only after Adele and I explained to hospital staff that both of us were Emily's legal parents because we were registered as domestic partners, a status that confers the rights and responsibilities of spouses, that we were both allowed access. The word "marriage" says "we are family" in a way that nothing else does, and it's especially important in those moments of crisis.

Likewise, when our son Evan was born, a hospital social worker refused to list me on the relevant forms, which caused Evan's birth certificate to be returned with a blank for the second parent. It then took over a year to fix his birth certificate to list me as one of his parents. The entire process was demoralizing and could have been avoided if Nevada simply treated Adele and me as a married couple, rather than consigning us to the novel, secondary and little-understood status of domestic partnership.

Because they were only babies at the time, Emily and Evan won't remember any of these experiences, but one day soon they will be old enough to appreciate the fact that their parents have been deemed unworthy of marriage in the eyes of Nevada. That is a conversation no parent should have to have with his or her child. The love that bonds our family is as strong as any other, and the law should treat our families equally.

In November 2012, we received a disappointing ruling from the trial court, which is now on appeal. The court said that if same-sex couples were permitted to marry, "it is conceivable that a meaningful percentage of heterosexual persons would cease to value the civil institution as highly." I am quite confident that my love for Adele and our children, and my desire to express that love through marriage, does not dilute anyone else's relationship in any way. Equally important, our civil rights are not and should never be at the mercy of private disapproval or the misguided belief that lesbian and gay couples would somehow taint the institution of marriage. Adele and I believe that equality will prevail in the end, and we are grateful to play our small role in helping to turn the wheels of justice in the right direction. ■



MARRIAGE EQUALITY NEVADA Sevcik v. Sandoval Summary

Lambda legal has eight Nevada same-sex couples signed on as plaintiffs in the suit, Sevcik v. Sandoval. Tara Newberry and Adele Terranova are two women among that group who married in California in 2008, when same-sex unions were being performed in that state. Their marriage license in 2009 were not recognized in Nevada because of a constitutional amendment passed by Nevada voters to define marriage as only between a man and woman. With that law, it allowed Nevada gay couples to enter domestic partnerships—not a marriage. As of late, courts have since ruled against these plaintiffs, upholding Nevada's marriage equality ban. Lambda legal will appeal.

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