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M A G A Z I N E

THE
Vegas
ISSUE

AFAN 2016

AIDS WALK

THE CENTER'S

PICNIC BY DESIGN

REVEREND WANDA

NOT MY MAMA'S CHURCH

RYAN STUART

CHIPPENDALE DOWN

THE DOWNTOWN

GRAND





ON THE COVER

This month we celebrate some of the things that make Vegas great!

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THE CENTER AND
DESIGN INDUSTRIES FOUNDATION FIGHTING AIDS
PRESENT THE SECOND ANNUAL LAS VEGAS

PICNIC *by* DESIGN

Parasols in the Park

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|| Symphony Park *||*



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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

We hope you enjoyed having an extra day this year! Now that we are already through the first two months of the year, welcome to our March Vegas Issue!

Did this cover catch your attention? It's our way of getting your attention on the subject of HIV/AIDS. Registration for AFAN's 26th AIDS Walk Las Vegas is open and we want everyone to remember that this disease is still here. Come together on April 17th and join the fight against HIV/AIDS.

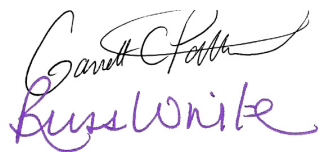
This issue we focus on things that we love about our city in the local scene and the events and people standing out as leaders. We've brought back our QInc column, highlighting businesses, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

Michael Barbieri takes us to eat at the delicious Lotus of Siam and tells us what it's like to stay at the Downtown Grand (on a lot less than a grand).

Work-related injuries happen, but in Vegas, performers can be down for the count. Chippendale Ryan Stuart reveals what he endured during his 10 month recovery.

Our Vegas community is filled with great events and you can get a preview of the Center's Picnic by Design (Think of it as a "VIP sneak peak for their main picnic happening at the Smith Center).

And don't miss Monday's Dark featuring songs and artists from our gay motherland—San Francisco—benefiting The Burn Foundation.



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What you drive can make a difference.

Henderson Hyundai will donate \$250 to AFAN (AIDS for Aids of Nevada) when you purchase any new Hyundai and mention this ad in the month of March.

Donations will be made to a registered AFAN AIDS Walk participant or team. Penn & Teller will match every \$250 donation through their own Penn & Teller Challenge! Help fight HIV/AIDS and double the donation, visit Henderson Hyundai to learn more!*



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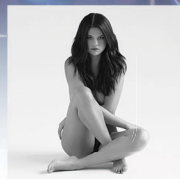
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SOUTHERN NEVADA BURN FOUNDATION HELPS LOCAL BURN SURVIVORS

The Burn Survivor Initiative Sets Fundraising Goals to Help Local Burn Victims Receive Treatment



The Firefighters of Southern Nevada Burn Foundation (FFSNBF) consists of fire department active personnel from Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, Clark County, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Nellis Air Force Base Fire Departments and NV National Security Site Fire & Rescue fulfilling its mission by assisting victims of fire and other catastrophic events and furthering the education and awareness of fire and life safety.

While fighting fires, firefighters witnessed many burn victims and their families suffer physically and emotionally after ultimately losing their homes and necessities. These firefighters from across the valley decided to do something to help. They began holding fundraisers so that

they could give financial support to these victims of fire.

Through its Burn Survivor Initiative, the FFSNBF raises funds to provide care and treatment for burn victims and their families. Partnering with Burn Unit and UMC Hospital, the two joined forces to help those families in need after such a catastrophic event such as hospital stays, medical procedures, rehabilitation treatment, after-care therapy and more.

For more information on the Burn Foundation or how to donate time or money, please email

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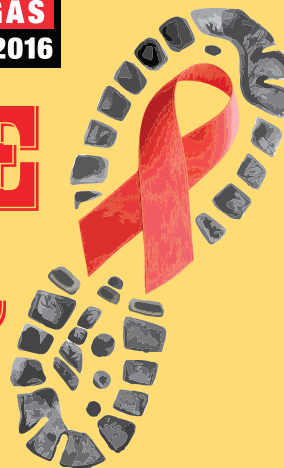


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AIDS WALK
 LAS VEGAS
 APRIL 17, 2016

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 Las Vegas

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- 2** Collect donations
- 3** Make Your Mark
 on April 17th at 8am



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[by Garrett Pattiani]

The Las Vegas valley is a buzz as Aid for AIDS of Nevada gears up for their 26th Annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas on April 17, 2016 at Town Square. Local radio personalities Mercedes and JC from Mercedes In The Morning on MIX 94.1 will host the day's activities, with performances from top vegas shows and headliners.

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) was founded in 1984 and is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the state of Nevada. 2016 marks our 32nd year of providing unparalleled services,

support and advocacy for adults and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada.

Last year more than 6,000 walkers joined AFAN filling Town Square for the 25th annual AIDS Walk. The combined efforts of the community helped AFAN raise nearly \$430,000 to benefit client services, including prevention/education, housing, medical transportation, nutritional therapy and overall mental health intervention.

Penn & Teller continue to be amazing supporters of the organization by not only ushering in the walkers as grand marshals for the 15th year, but also matching walker donations of \$250 or more. The duo treat all challenge participants to an amazing VIP area the day of the walk as well as exclusive incentives for fundraising, including a VIP incentives to the highest fundraisers.

Walgreens continues to participate in an unprecedented manner. Always striving to



exceed their fundraising goals, Walgreens is once again looking to win the title of largest walking team with 500 walkers in 2016.

The walk has become a staple in the community bringing out our community partners, local companies, individuals, families and an amazing array of highly motivated walking teams – including our beloved pets.

Your participation allows us remember our

loved ones we have lost and honor the ones that live with HIV/AIDS. It also allows us to educate our community about HIV/AIDS, support our clients that need our services, advocate for additional services and keep the hope that we can one day eradicate HIV/AIDS from our lives.

Join us and register for the walk by going to AFANLV.org and clicking on the the AIDS Walk 2016 event.



GETTING IT OFF HIS CHEST



Last month, Craig Ramsey and Brandon Liberati from Bravo's TV show Newlyweds: The First Year offered readers some Valentine's Day tips. The couple also surprised us with an appearance at #EqualitySundays at Fizz.

We were fortunate to get to spend some time with Craig and Brandon, and just as we were closing out the March issue, one of Brandon's Facebook posts caught our attention. We reached out for an interview on his condition and what he learned through his own treatment.

too feminine and having “manboobs” didn’t help, even as a young man it was something that was pointed out to me in a negative way. Secondly, being a gay man I am sexually attracted to a chiseled muscular chest and not being able to achieve this for myself allows insecurities to sneak in and even with my husband Craig. I was apprehensive to believe that he found “everything” about me sexually attractive. It is easier to compare yourself physically when you both are the same gender!

QVegas: How did you know you had Gynecomastia? How did you and Craig discuss this issue?

If you are suspect that you have gynecomastia chances are you have it. I didn’t know what the condition was called for 35 years of my life but as soon as I heard and read about it I knew I had it. But I tried for years everything possible to get rid of it, diet, exercise, losing weight, gaining muscle mass, none of it worked! It was actually hardened lumps within that soft excess breast tissue that made me realize this condition that I thought was only an esthetic issue could be a health hazard and I didn’t want to mess with my health. I have men in my family that are currently in treatment for breast cancer.

QVegas: Do you feel Gynecomastia (excess male breast tissue) is found more within the gay community than the straight community?

I feel Gynecomastia is not prejudice. It affects men of different sexual orientations equally. In fact it’s not just a condition that effects men with excess body weight, it can be found in numerous gyms across the world on men who even obsess about their physiques. It actually effects 65% of all men, it would just appear to be more dominant in the gay community because hormone manipulation is more common as a whole,

QVegas: Do you think Gynecomastia effects gay men in a different way than it does for straight men?

Two things, I was bullied and beaten throughout most of my childhood for appearing

Project Captured



QVegas: Did Gynecomastia effect your relationship?

Absolutely! It effected me and my self confidence, and that effected my relationship. Actually it effected my relationship even when I was dressed. I would get so upset that I could not wear certain materials (spandex) or drapey, certain colors (white), and tank tops were a no-no. I would have to micromanage my friends taking my photos which you can imagine is obnoxious and can effect my relationship even with friends.

QVegas: What was the surgery process like to have the excess tissue removed?

The only hard part of having this surgery was making that initial call.

I had such shame and embarrassment, but once I met with Dr Cruise and his nursing staff they immediately turned all this shame I had about this condition and myself into hope. I was extremely motivated to move forward with surgery which was booked 2 weeks later!

My surgery was more extensive. I should have taken care of my gynecomastia years ago, due to my skin (elasticity) and age, it was a more advanced stage of development. I also had liposuction of the midsection and fat transfer to the face done at the same time. Most Gynecomastia surgery is performed at Cruise Plastic Surgery office under Local Anesthesia. You watch 30 mins to an hour of one of your favorite movies and you are done!

QVegas: What were some of the ways you tried

to hide this condition?

The methods of my madness were endless. I would try to disguise it with my posture and keeping my arms folded in front of me. Black clothing was the staple of my wardrobe. Double shirts or a tank top underneath a shirt. I even went as far to tape down my nipples. And I would never participate in any shirtless activity.

QVegas: What is your advice for any men who think they might have this condition?

Call Dr. Cruise! He is one of the best in the country. <http://orangecountycosmeticsurgery.com>

QVegas: Craig being a fitness professional how did he feel about you having this condition and this surgery performed?

He is in full support of me achieving self confidence and empowerment from obtaining my best physique possible. This was not a condition that diet or exercise was going to fix.

QVegas: How do you feel now having all the Bravo viewers know your story and struggle with this condition?

I was so nervous to have this condition that I had spent my whole life hiding all of the sudden be out in the open... this was my second coming out. I felt all of those same feelings. I knew that sharing my experience and being open and honest about this condition would help others that were feeling like they were alone, ashamed and had no alternatives other than hiding. It has also helped me heal from sharing my struggle.

Special thanks to Dr. Cruise and his office for their assistance in this article.

LOTUS OF SIAM

[by Michael Barbieri
myvegasobsession.com]



You must go to Lotus of Siam. That's all there is to it! For the best Thai food in Las Vegas, and possibly the country, you must go to Lotus of Siam!

Lotus of Siam is a simple establishment. It's not on the Vegas Strip. It's not connected to a big casino. It's in a nondescript strip mall a couple miles East of the Strip. The decor isn't fancy, and the food is very reasonably priced. But it's a foodie's dream - excellent, authentic Thai recipes that haven't been gussied up for tourists.

Owned and run by a lovely woman named Saipin Chutima, Lotus of Siam has been called "the single best Thai restaurant in North America" by Gourmet Magazine. Chutima, who learned to cook starting at age five, is known for her Northern Thai recipes, yet her Bangkok style cuisine, a more familiar style for most folks, is equally good. With nearly 150 dishes on the menu, serious Thai food fans will find it difficult to choose just one or two.

There hasn't been one dish I haven't loved here. Of the appetizers, I've enjoyed the Koong Sarong (Prawns in a Blanket) - marinated prawns wrapped in bacon and a rice paper crepe, deep fried and served with a mildly spicy sweet and sour sauce. The prawns were light and perfectly fried, with the golden rice crepe wrapper giving them a nice crunch. I've also tried the Nua Dad Deaw (Issan Style Beef Jerky) - marinated beef, deep fried and served with a homemade spicy



sauce. The dried beef was already tough, but after deep frying, it took on the texture of shoe leather...but the most delicious shoe leather, ever! Just bring a strong set of teeth and you'll be fine. The beef itself was so tasty it could've been served on it's own, but the sauce just enhanced the flavor!

Some of Saipin's most subtle artistry was evident in her beautifully well-balanced soups. I'm a fan of Tom Yum soups, and the two variations I've tried were stunningly good. The Tom Yum Kung was a clear broth hot and sour soup with shrimp, lime juice, lemon grass, straw mushrooms, and just enough spice to wake up your mouth. Better yet was the Tom Kah Kai - a creamy, spicy mixture of sliced chicken, coconut milk, mushrooms, galangal, lemon grass and lime juice, with a slick of chili oil to provide delicious heat.

When it comes to Green Papaya Salad, I'm an addict. Their classic mix of green papaya, green Thai chili, dried shrimp, tomatoes, crushed peanuts, lime juice, sugar and fish sauce, have

spoiled me for any other! The interplay of tart, sweet, and spicy make this a dish you must try!

I've tried entrees from different categories on this vast menu: From the Lotus of Siam Specials, I ordered what has become my new favorite Thai dish, Koi Soy; the Issan Thai version of Steak Tartare - minced raw beef with herbs, fresh and dried chilies, rice powder, a highly seasoned sauce and of course, lime juice. Like a beef ceviche of sorts, the acid from the lime juice "cooks" the raw beef. The flavors were bright and strong, yet layered. You choose a level of spiciness, but be careful! I love extremely spicy food, so I chose a level of 7 out of 10. The heat was tongue-searing, yet still one of the most exciting, intensely flavored dishes I've ever tried!

From the Noodles section, I tried one of the most popular stir fried dishes on any Thai menu; the Pad Thai. Made with chicken, egg, green onion, bean sprouts and chopped peanuts, this was subtle and delicious, with a smoky, tangy undertaste.

Having heard of Saipin's expertise with Northern recipes, I sampled the Kang-ka-Noon (Spicy Young Jackfruit Curry). The chunks of jackfruit have a taste and texture similar to artichoke hearts, and swim in a delicious red curry broth made with fresh and dried spices, as well as your choice of pork, chicken or fish. You'll be

tempted to order more rice to soak up the extra broth.

Of the desserts, my suggestion is the Sticky Rice With Mango. Fresh, ripe mango slices and subtly sweet sticky rice with a touch of coconut milk, will help cool you down after the palate tingling spiciness of the meal.

When you consider that few tourists know of it, Lotus of Siam seems always to be crowded. My tip: Call early in the day when making reservations! As a walk-in party of one, I thought I'd be able to snag a table fairly quickly. But each time I've dined there, I've had to wait about a half hour before being seated. If you have to wait, however, it's worth it! Once you're seated, the staff will take great care of you, and I've never had to wait long for the food. And if you're staying on the Strip and take a cab to the restaurant, the friendly hostess will call you a taxi for your return trip.

After my first visit to Lotus of Siam, I told friends that my mouth was burning, but in the best way possible. I look forward to many return trips to this gem of a restaurant to try more of their amazing dishes. Let's see...there's the Green Chili Dip...the Issan Sour Pork Sausage...the Seafood With Chili and Mint Leaves...the....

Yeah...You've GOT to go!



THE MINUS 5 EXPERIENCE

When the Vegas heat turns up this summer, there's a refuge from the scorching sun at Minus5 Ice Bar at The Shoppes at Mandalay Place. America's first ice bar which opened in 2008, debuted its all-new ice display and ice lounge this month, featuring a 1,300 square-foot ice bar made of 120 tons of 100% pure Canadian ice and a newly expanded 3,000 square-foot ice lounge.

Minus5 Ice Bar showcased its museum-quality carvings, designed by a team of award-winning ice carvers. Guests mixed and mingled while enjoying the eclectic mix of replica-inspired sculptures such as the Las Vegas Skyline, Las Vegas Welcome Sign, the Iron Throne from HBO's Game of Thrones, and much more.

Created in New Zealand, Minus5 is a unique ice-themed experience where guests enjoy quality vodka cocktails served in a glass made of pure ice, all within in the beauty of a -5° Celsius (23° Fahrenheit) ice environment. This chilly experience begins with donning Minus5 parkas, gloves and boots and entering a frozen room complete with ice walls, an ice bar, ice seating covered with faux fur pelts, ice tables, and a variety of ice sculptures. The experience is rounded out with a state-of-the-art sound and LED light show.





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CHIPPENDALE DOWN

Ryan Stuart had performed the same dance move in every finale for over a year. Cheered on by a room full of screaming girls (and the occasional guys), the phermone-induced energy in the Chippendale's Theater at the Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino peaks at the end with shirtless guys, pulsating music, cheers—and then “POP!” Down goes Ryan.

The intensity of the pain was just the beginning of the nightmare. Ryan was diagnosed with a knee sprain, but after a few days the pain had not gone away. He spent the next four days in a waiting room waiting on a follow-up Worker's Comp appointment.

Vegas is unique in so many ways—you certainly don't think of erotic male review dancers receiving Workers Comp benefits—but on-the-job injuries happen in all industries, and when your job demands physical perfection and things go wrong, the impact on your life, your finances, your physical and your emotional states can be devastating.

A native of Australia, Ryan is accustomed to a different level of health care. Rather than wait for

“the system” to play out, he went to his doctor for a consultation. The diagnosis wasn't a knee sprain, but a torn hamstring.

“The diagnosis was completely wrong and my knee kept getting worse and worse,” said Ryan. “After 3 months, I demanded an MRI, which showed that I had a torn meniscus.”

Ryan went in for surgery and after nine minutes, the surgeon said his meniscus was fine—he had no ACL, despite the MRI reading that stated “ACL Intact.”

“The doctor took photos of my knee and the ACL looked like shredded chicken.”

After the unnecessary meniscus surgery, Ryan had to learn to walk again and a month later returned to surgery for the ACL.

What should have been a few months off work turned into 10 months due to multiple misdiagnoses.

“They brought this machine to my house. I spent six hours a day in a machine, covered in this faux sheepskin pelt, it’s 110° outside, I’m sweating underneath, and my knee is swelled up. Then I spend another two hours a day in therapy. I couldn’t enjoy my home. Friends would come over and enjoy my pool. I couldn’t even go upstairs to my own bedroom. Whoever was around would just bring me vodka and pain killers.”

Once Ryan was properly treated, his recovery progressed quickly. The motivation to return to work combined with a muscle memory of being a dancer for so many years aided his physical recovery.

But the mental recovery can take a toll.

“After the first surgery I was angry with the world. But after the second surgery I was like ‘Screw this, we’re going to get back to work.’”

“I’ve been an active, athletic person all my life. Sitting on the couch for 7 months watching Netflix was horrendous.”

In a town full of performers that rely on their bodies, their looks, their voices, not being able to work can lead to depression and helplessness.

“I couldn’t afford my house anymore, I nearly lost my car. I was single again. There’s only so much Netflix and vodka can do.”

Joking aside, Ryan turned down most of the pain killers during his recovery.

“I needed to feel my knee. It was excruciating, but I needed to adjust and make it stronger.”

Ryan has made a full recovery and returned to Chippendale’s in January.

“Everyone was happy to have me back. But I was so nervous. It was like I had never danced before. I feel insecure. Friends have come to see the show and say I look great, but I’m rebuilding my confidence.”

Chippendales introduced a new show while Ryan was out on medical leave with new songs and new choreography.

“I learned the new choreography in six hours.”

As traumatic as Ryan’s injury, diagnosis, and treatment was, his resolve and spirit to return to work and the stage was stronger.





PICNIC BY DESIGN PARASOLS IN THE PARK

The Center LV and DIFFA host second annual designer picnic in Symphony Park



[by Stacey Gualandi]

Picnic. The traditional art of sharing food and drink from a basket al fresco dates back to the 1700s and has been celebrated on film, on canvas and in song. But on April 30th, 2016, “the picnic” as we know it, will rise to a whole new art form.

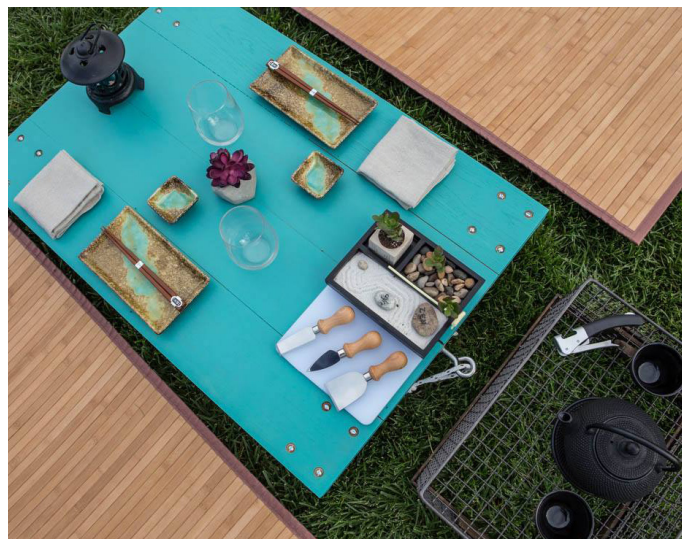
The Center, together with Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA), will host the second annual Picnic By Design, an outdoor extravaganza of creativity, food and fun under the stars at Symphony Park, in the shadow of The Smith Center.

This year’s theme is “Parasols in the Park” and will redefine the concept of a traditional picnic. Designers from all disciplines create original,

beautiful, over-the-top picnic baskets and tables for those desiring a one-of-a-kind dining experience.

Of course, no picnic is complete without food and games. Restaurateur Brien McEahern and Chef David of Rock’N’oodles will join Chef Natalie of downtown’s Eat and Chow to provide buffet-style servings of short ribs and fried chicken; UNLV Jazz Ensemble songstress Toscha Comeaux, accompanied by Gary Fowler and male quartet These Guys will perform live throughout the evening; and croquet and bocce balls will be available for lawn game enthusiasts.

“In past events, only interior designers and architects have participated, but for this year’s picnic, we are inviting floral designers, graphic designers, culinary masters, event designers and producers, set designers, stylists and photographers to participate, bringing a whole new audience to the event,” said Cray Bauxmont-Flynn, Picnic By Design Chair.



On board this year will be celebrated chefs Elizabeth Blau and Kim Canteenwalla, Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group, Homepolish and Hommemakeover founder Orlando Soria, and Roger Thomas of Wynn Resorts and The Roger Thomas Collection. There will be a special Preview Party showcasing several of the basket creations on Saturday, March 5th, from 7 – 10 p.m. at the Museum of Natural Art. To attend, please RSVP to pbdlasvegas@gmail.com.

Bauxmont-Flynn says the 2015 vision celebrated casual elegance and design. This year's event will not only continue that vision, but also bring in new awareness. "With this group of talented individuals DIFFA and The Center will be able to raise significant funds to provide preventive HIV/AIDS education and direct care services – the fight is not over," said Bauxmont-Flynn.

Last year's event helped raise \$58,000 for the Las Vegas-based organization focused on Southern Nevada's LGBTQ community, and DIFFA, one

of the largest funders of HIV/AIDS programs in the U.S., thanks to the creative talents of over 25 designers.

This year, the event is well on its way to doubling the number of participants in 2015.

To show your support as a designer or sponsor or to purchase tickets, please visit www.thecenterlv.org/picnic. Picnic baskets for two, available for auction, start at \$300 each, and picnic tables for a party of eight are \$1500 each. And for a truly divine experience, exclusive Celebrity Chef Culinary Tables, complete with a five-course meal, will also be available. Individual tickets are available for \$125 per person.

Picnic By Design is a chance to revitalize the lost of art of picnicking, so if your creative juices are flowing, come along and get ready to celebrate a night of design and entertainment on April 30th, all for a good cause. Parasols provided. Ants not allowed.



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Not Your Mama's Church

[Rev. Wanda Floyd, Interim Pastor – MCC Las Vegas]

It's Sunday and I'm walking to Sunday School and eventually stay for church. The church is a big brick building with maroon/burgundy carpet and a massive choir loft with a baptismal font beyond it.

The windows are frosted and in the back is a stained glass window with a depiction of Jesus surrounded by sheep. He is a white man with long hair and a beard. No shoes and what looks like a dress is on him. The ushers are dressed in black bottoms, either skirts or pants and white shirts. They are stationed at the entrance of the church and in the middle of the aisles. There is also one located by the pulpit area to watch the pastor and be there if he needs something. It is now 11am and the pastor and associates step up into the pulpit and sit in the three king-like chairs in the pulpit area. Then the choir marches in down the aisle and up to the choir loft. Service

begins and we all sit and stand on command. At the end of the sermon is the "altar call" in which everyone goes and stands upfront by the altar. Once service is over, the pastor walks down from the pulpit up the center aisle and shakes hands as people leave the church. If it is the first Sunday, communion is served by the deacons wearing white gloves and as the bread and wine (juice) is passed, only members are allowed to partake.

Fast forward thirty-five years and, again, I find myself going to church. Only this time, I am excited about going. Upon my arrival, people greet me at the door and welcome me and either shake my hand or even hug me. As I go to my seat, there is clamor of voices all around and people come over and greet me. The atmosphere is warm and inviting. This is NOT my mama's church. The music begins and people are standing on their feet and clapping to the beat, or least they are clapping. People are singing, loudly, on and off key. As I look around there are smiles and a feeling of happiness everywhere I look. This is NOT my mama's church. There is not a choir upfront but rather people singing wearing regular clothes and the music is being accompanied by a piano, drums, bass, and occasional horn. As the service goes on, the pastor stands to give the sermon. The pastor was located on the front row the whole time as opposed to sitting upfront in "king-like" chairs. The sermon is easy to follow. There are no stained glass windows. No ushers with a uniform on. Finally, communion is offered and it is not the first Sunday. I am told everyone is welcomed to come to the table – members and non-members, friends and newcomers. EVERYONE is welcomed at the table. This is NOT my mama's church.

Amazing to think how the church of our past can have such an impact on our present. I have not been in my church in over twenty years and yet, I can remember it as if it was yesterday. Once I understand I was a lesbian and God was important in my life, I had to find somewhere to go and fortunately I was able to find a church that accepted me for who I am.



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5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RECONNECTIVE HEALING

Reconnective Healing is poised to change how we see healthcare



[by Ana Clavell]

You could be forgiven if you haven't heard about Reconnective Healing – even with over a 100,000 practitioners taught worldwide, solid scientific research to back it, and VIPs like Deepak Chopra singing its praises – it's still healthcare's best-kept secret. But that's about to change.

The surge in recent years to find less intrusive, more holistic ways to deal with illness has opened the way for a change in attitude towards what had until recently been regarded as fringe science – a catchall phrase for almost anything in the study of the quantum energy field. Despite detractors who doubt that there could be any health benefits derived from using energy to heal, it's very interesting to note how Reconnective Healing does not elicit such nay saying. Perhaps because it has been rigorously studied by world-class scientists and researchers, and when put to the scientific test the same results are repeated time and time again. It cannot be discounted either how popular it has become with both the healthcare industry and lay people alike: it's so simple to learn and to use one could easily forget that it's also an incredibly effective healing tool, as world-class Olympic teams, doctors, nurses

and hundreds of thousands of everyday people around the globe would readily attest to.

It was not so long ago when Dr. Eric Pearl, a famed LA-based chiropractor, first noticed the strange (some might say “miraculous”) effects his hands were having on his patients as he casually waved them around their bodies. As he explains in his bestselling book, *The Reconnection: Heal Others, Heal Yourself*, Dr. Pearl had somehow achieved in a matter of days what takes healers a lifetime of trying to learn. “I was taken aback when I realized that something very real was taking place. As I would move my hands over my patients, suddenly they were walking again, hearing again. I remember thinking: “I may be good, but I'm not that good!” Dr. Pearl soon noticed that people he had come in contact with were starting to show the same ability. “They would come back and report to me that they were able to lift their hands by their family members who would also experience healings.”

Realizing the importance of this, he set out to understand what was happening, eventually leading Dr. Pearl to devise a way to teach others how to do it. The demand to learn from Dr. Pearl was immediate, and since then he has traveled to over 70 countries training professional practitioners how to facilitate healing for themselves and for others using what science has termed the Reconnective Healing frequencies.

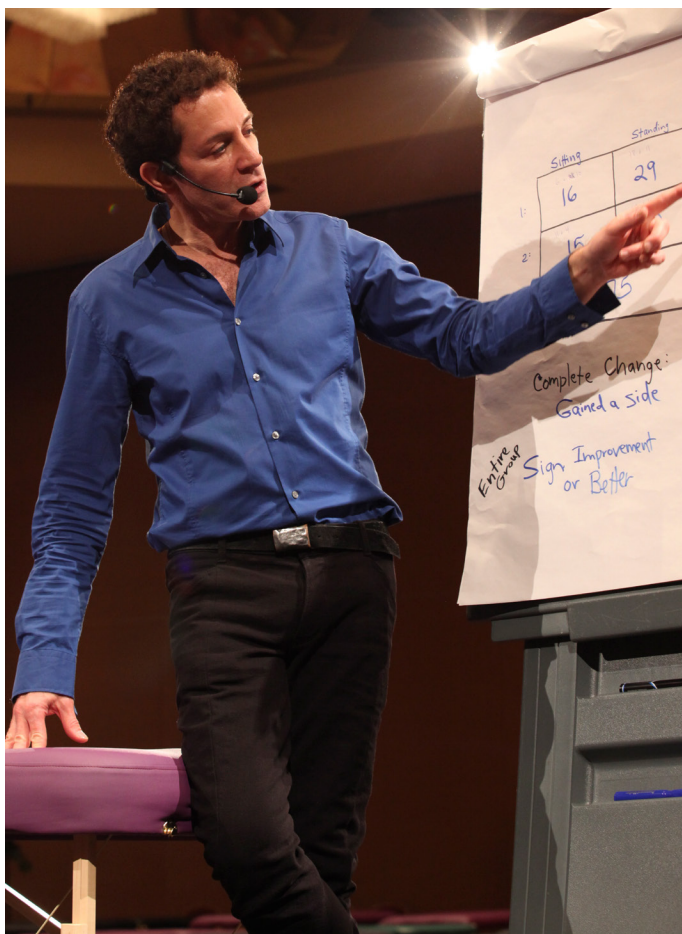


When trying to explain what Reconnective Healing is, somehow it's easier to explain what it's not: it's not a modality nor a method, it's not a treatment nor a therapy, it does not diagnose, and the practitioner's hands have no need to physically touch the person. "There's no incense burning, no candle lighting, no music, no amulets of any kind. This is accessing a comprehensive spectrum of frequencies that live in a scientific field that we are all a part of. Keeping ourselves [practitioners] free from our own preconceived notions and beliefs while facilitating a healing is key to how well Reconnective Healing works," adds Dr. Pearl. Clearly this is not such a difficult thing to learn to do as many might think, given how many people are lining up to be taught by Dr. Pearl and his team. This is because the benefits of Reconnective Healing are measurable and significant. Reports include healings from cancers, cerebral palsy, AIDS-related diseases, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, heart disease, anxiety, depression, autoimmune diseases and chronic fatigue syndrome.

As the emerging field of Energy Healthcare continues to take shape, most will agree that Reconnective Healing is clearly in the forefront and a cut above the rest. So what exactly is Reconnective Healing and how does it work? Here are five things you need to know:

1. Reconnective Healing utilizes a spectrum of energy, light & information frequencies – Science knows we are all made out of energy, and we are finally understanding how frequency and vibration are the way everything communicates at a quantum level. Reconnective Healing and the practitioner work as a bridge between the frequencies around us and the ones that bind our bodies together, in a sort of conversation at an invisible level – although most people do report feeling and seeing interesting energy effects and sensations when they are receiving a Reconnective Healing.

2. Reconnective Healing effects positive changes to your DNA – In both lab experiments and in the field, human DNA exposed to Reconnective



that enable the healing to take place probably do not recognize time or space as constraints,” Dr. Pearl further informs us.

4. A single Reconnective Healing session may be all you need – Reconnective Healing can help bring about lasting, permanent change after just one session, and unlike prescription treatments and therapies, this type of energy healing allows the person receiving it to decide if and when they want to have another session. “There’s no hook, no session package pre-buying, no mandated follow-up visits unless you want to,” says Dr. Pearl. “We suggest a maximum of three sessions, and then allowing the healing to continue to unfold on its own.”

5. Anyone can learn how to do Reconnective Healing – As impossible as this may sound, anyone can learn how to become a Reconnective Healing practitioner. “That’s one of the best things Reconnective Healing has to offer, a chance for every person to help others heal,” explains Dr. Pearl. “We are so conditioned to believe that only a few select people can heal others, and that is simply not true anymore. You don’t need special skills to learn Reconnective Healing. When you attend a training program, I’ll be there with my teaching team. It’s four days that will not only likely change your outlook on health, it will very likely change your life itself.”

It’s doubtful Reconnective Healing will stay under the radar for long, specially here in Las Vegas: Dr. Pearl will be offering his acclaimed Reconnective Healing professional certification training course at the Rio Hotel from April 8 thru 12, and will be one of the very few simultaneously translated into Spanish in the U.S. “Our local practitioners in Las Vegas feel it’s important we bring the training seminar to this city, and I couldn’t agree more,” added Dr. Pearl. If recent months are anything to go by, there’s a real public outcry to find ways to help each of us take charge of our own healthcare, and learning Reconnective Healing may be just the ticket.

Healing (and the frequencies it uses) repairs and restructures (reconnects) itself into a more harmonic state. How is this possible? “To be honest, no one is really quite sure how. What we do know is that Reconnective Healing actually speeds up the restructuring of damaged DNA faster than any energy healing technique,” explains Dr. Pearl.

3. Reconnective Healing works just as well over long distances – Perhaps another example of how similar it behaves to what has been observed in the quantum energy field, a Reconnective Healing can take place miles, even continents away from where the practitioner is facilitating it! Typically people receiving Reconnective Healing from a distance report that the energy they perceive is very strong, or even feel that the practitioner is standing in the room with them. “This may be an effect of entrainment – that’s when two particles start vibrating at the same rate. Being a multi-dimensional-based discipline, the frequencies

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LAS VEGAS HAS A NEW EVENT PRODUCER IN TOWN



[by Garrett Pattiani]

The city of Las Vegas should be proud to have Maurice Lisbona moving into town.

One of the most renowned event producers in Brazil, Maurice has chosen Las Vegas to be the city he will live and work in.

“To me it’s a great pleasure to move here and be able to contribute with the growth of the event business in town” – states Lisbona.

Maurice Lisbona is a 36 years old Event Producer with more than 20 years of experience in live marketing events, event planning, production and management, from small private events to major music festivals and sports events.

“Event production has always been my dream and no where better to do it than in the World

Capital of Entertainment” – says Maurice.

Graduated in Business Administration and with an MBA in Marketing And Communications, he has produced from small business meetings for HSBC, to mid-size and gigantic events for Google, Philip Morris, Absolut, Red Bull, Red Bull Air Race, XGames (ESPN), Fashion Rocks, Audi, Hyundai, Ford Motor Brazil, Terra Internet Portal, Skol (a beer brand from Ab-Inbev).

Maurice was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, has recently moved to the United States and is the CEO of Mlisbona Entertainment, an event production company with offices in São Paulo, Miami and Las Vegas.

QVegas – You say you have more than 20 years of experience; you started at a young age. How did that happen?

Maurice – Well, it all started by volunteering to work at the Jewish Community Center Israeli Folk Dance Festival. I guess that's when the Event Business mosquito bit me. They put me on the Operations Team, gave me a two-way radio and started shouting out tasks over the device... after the first day I already knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I ended up working for the festival for 10 years in a row, reaching the position of Director Of Operations.

QVegas – Why Business Administration, and why and MBA in Marketing and Communications?

Maurice - That's a very good question and a lot of people ask me this. An event is the only "thing" that gathers all the areas of Business Administration – Marketing, Sales, Logistics, Statistics, Law (Commercial, International, Business, Contract), Accounting, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology etc. – so by studying and learning all them gives you all the tools you need to start. As any other profession practical learning is fundamental, but having the academic basis pushes you miles and miles ahead of non-educated producers, besides that, adding the MBA gave me the confidence and strength to be a more complete producer, I can easily sit down with the planning team and the client and discuss the brand strategy already point out what work or don't work on the ground when setting up and delivering the event.

QVegas – Which were the most exciting projects you have produced in your life?

Maurice – That's a tough question. I have to say that Red Bull Air Race, the X Games Brazil 2008 and Fashion Rocks were the three larger and most exciting international projects I have produced; but I can't leave out my 2 favorite music festivals: Skol Beats – an enormous electronic music festival, and Planeta Terra Festival – the first Indie Rock Music Festival in Brazil.

QVegas – Now we have a more personal question. Did your sexuality posed any obstacles in your career?

Maurice – In the beginning I was very afraid

of revealing I was gay. Imagine being raised in an extremely homophobic society where only men were reaching high positions in the companies. Almost all stories I heard of gays in the workplace were terrible... but after a few years I got more confident about my sexuality and decided it was time to just be me, who I am. I did have to work harder to prove I was good. The company I worked for the most years in my life, at first, did not want to hire me because I was gay. After being hired it took the president and some directors a good entire year to accept me and to realize that my sexuality did not pose any threats to them, and that the quality of my delivery had nothing to do with whom I sleep with. It was hard, but when you are confident about yourself and your professionalism, you just use the obstacles to climb higher.



We're delighted to announce the return of QInc. to our editorial lineup. Each month, we'll feature a local business, professional, or entrepreneur making a difference in Las Vegas.

Submit your story or nominate someone else for consideration at gay.vegas/contributors.



[by Michael Barbieri
myvegasobsession.com]



DOWNTOWN
GRAND
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THE DOWNTOWN GRAND HOTEL & CASINO

There is more to Vegas than the Strip! Just a few miles North, there's an entirely different Vegas. One with a different vibe - looser, somewhat wilder and much more casual. Downtown Las Vegas, or DTLV, is home to world-famous Fremont Street, some of the oldest and most well known casinos in the city, incredible restaurants, night spots, and other attractions. It's also home to the fabulous Downtown Grand Hotel and Casino!

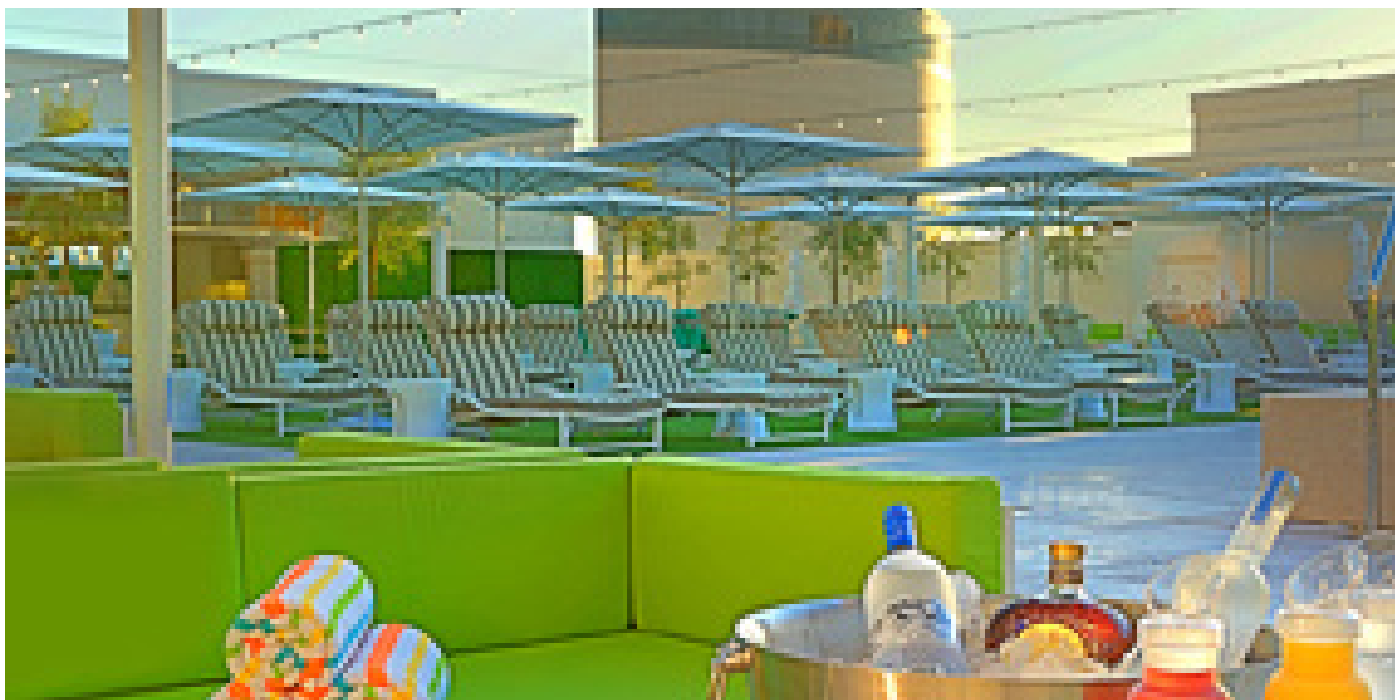
On 3rd Street between Stewart and Ogden Avenues, stands the Downtown Grand, a stylish boutique hotel, with two towers, 629 rooms, a 25,000 square foot casino, two cool cocktail bars, a hip rooftop pool deck, and excellent dining and nightlife options, all within steps of DTLV's hottest attractions.

I had often visited the downtown area over the

years, but had never stayed there, so when the opportunity presented itself to spend a few nights at the Downtown Grand, I was excited. I would finally be changing up my Vegas routine. The experience, while different, was quite wonderful!

I arrived at the Grand around 2:00 in the afternoon, and after a short walk through their casino, found myself in their chic reception area.





The lobby was quiet and dimly lit, with slate floors and a rich chocolate brown and gold color scheme. This dark, soothing decor brought on a feeling of relaxation and allowed me to take a deep breath after my travels. In the center, a deconstructed “chandelier” with hanging, exposed bulbs, and strands of hand-blown glass orbs, was a nice, artistic touch, while the video display behind the reception desk gave the place a high-tech feel. There was no line, so I was able to check in immediately, but was told I’d have to wait about one hour for my room, which I suppose made sense, as check-in time at most hotels starts at 3 pm. I gave them my phone number, checked my bags, and wandered the casino for a while. After a little slot play, I decided to head out to Fremont Street. I wasn’t even a block away before my phone rang and I was told

my room was ready.

The Downtown Grand actually straddles 3rd Street, with the Casino Tower, reception, valet and the casino itself on one side, and the Grand Tower on the other - a Skybridge connects both sides. My room was on the 24th floor of the Grand Tower, which assured me of a nice, quiet stay. I had a standard Deluxe Room - about 350 square feet. Not plush, but streamlined, contemporary and comfortable, with sleek furniture designed to provide maximum usefulness, while leaving more space for the guest - two queen sized pillowtop beds, an armoire, a spacious work desk/bureau, and a lighted vanity. On the wall across from the beds, the high definition flat screen TV offered a personalized welcome message upon entry. The bathroom was large, with a trendy, raised sink,





plenty of counter space, and a combined shower/tub. The tub, however, had no shower curtain; just a European-style glass shield at one end. This looked nice, but left me open to the chill of the bathroom during showers. My solution was to run the hot water and shut the bathroom door, trapping the heat. After several minutes, I'd return and get into the tub - wasteful, maybe, but it worked. Still, this was a small criticism, and not really worth a complaint. My window was a unique horizontal slash that ran almost the length of the room, with a view that included the neon of several nearby hotels, a stretch of Fremont Street, and the gorgeous mountains in the distance. The room was an oasis of peace after my busy Vegas days...and nights!

Downstairs, the casino was always busy, but never crowded. The decor was a blend of hard and soft, modern and classic - metal struts in the ceiling complemented the warm hues of the carpeting, crystal chandeliers were encased in skeletal metal spheres, and soft, indirect lighting offset the intensely blue LED accents of the Furnace bar. The Sports Book was always crowded with spectators watching sporting events on multiple flat-screen displays, the Art Bar served inventive cocktails, and Stewart & Ogden, their 24 hour bistro, had the retro vibe of an old

diner. One of my favorite details was the classic '60's and '70's rock on the casino's sound system. I could amuse myself on the slots while singing along with David Bowie, Elton John, and The Who!

Just outside and across the street, were restaurants and night spots that have partnered with the Downtown Grand - Pizza Rock, which combines gourmet pizza with Vegas nightlife, Hogs & Heifers Saloon, the wild, honky tonk biker bar, The Commissary Latin Kitchen, and my favorite, The Triple George Grill, a fabulous steak and seafood house. At the far end of 3rd Street, on Stewart Avenue, was the Mob Museum, and one block away, the crazy, energetic whirlwind of Fremont Street - a pedestrian mall featuring street performers, free rock concerts, vintage neon signage, and the fabulous Viva Vision LED Canopy high above the crowd!

If you've never stayed in Downtown Las Vegas, I recommend it highly. There's so much to do, and the Downtown Grand can put you right in the middle of the action! With a prime location, slick new accommodations, and rates starting as low as \$29.00 a night, your experience can be fun-filled, stylish, and affordable! I had a grand time. I think you will too!

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NOVEL DROPS GUYS ON THE DANCEFLOOR

[by Mark Dawson]

Novel was performing at the DJ Expo in Atlantic City when she caught the eye of the young Grammy-winning record producer, Jared Gosslin. They discovered they shared a love of big, fun, catchy beats and began working together in the music studio.

Their first track together, “Give Me Twenty”, combines Gosslin’s epic electro beats with Novel’s spirited lyrics. It is currently tearing up dance floors across the nation thanks to clubland’s brightest remixers, Bimbo Jones (who brings a top 40 vibe to the track) and Tavo and Jose Nunez (with their suped-up house version). Novel will perform “Give Me Twenty” at Share Nightclub in Las Vegas on March 19th.

I love how you say in the press release for “Give Me Twenty” that desperation is a weakness you have no time for. What do you mean by that?

Novel: I like a guy who can challenge me. I’m a very strong alpha female and I don’t want a male puppy dog following me around. I want a real man and so we can be a true power couple.

Is “Give Me Twenty” a girl power anthem?

Novel: It’s an anthem for girls and gay guys. I want people to listen and come away feeling sexy and confident; knowing they deserve the best! Girls and gay guys got it going on and some males need to understand that and drop down, bitch.

Ultimately, we all want a guy who’s going to treat us like gold.

Novel: I also like a guy who takes notes of things I like. I love donuts so bring me a dozen and you got my heart.

Photo: Karl Giant



*Novel performs Share Nightclub on March 19th.
Visit Novelofficial.com*

With your career about to pop, do you have the time and energy to give a guy?

Novel: I'll always make time for romance. Plus I need something to write about in my songs.

Do you have gay best friend?

Novel: Of course! You know, being from a small farm town, I didn't experience the gay bf growing up. I had no idea what I was missing! Luckily, since moving to LA, I finally have one of my very own! His name is Phelx and he is such a heart. Phelx really knows how to read me, how I'm feeling, and what I'm trying to say and I love him so much.

Who's your favorite designer?

Novel: The Blonds. My dream is for them to design my tour one day!

That's pretty gay. Obviously, Phelx has taught you well. Are you a fan of Ab Fab?

Novel: I love Patsy.

RuPaul's Drag Race?

Novel: I love Bianca.

Who would you most like to accompany you on a walk down the red carpet?

Novel: G-Eazy or The Weekend.

Last question. Why should fans support dance artists?

Novel: Because who better to get you up in the morning to start your groove? And who better to end your week with?

MEET DR. SEVERINO



SIRM Fertility is proud to announce Mark Severino, MD as the new Medical Director at SIRM Fertility Las Vegas.

Dr. Severino holds board certification in both Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility. For more than 25 years, Dr. Severino has been helping couples achieve their dream of family.

Well-respected for his work and numerous published articles on topics related to infertility and In Vitro Fertilization, Dr. Severino brings a wide breadth of experience to SIRM Fertility.

Prior to joining SIRM Fertility, Dr. Severino co-founded Nevada Fertility Center for Advanced Reproductive Endocrinology and Surgery and served as Associate Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He also has been voted into the Guide to America's Top Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

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Gay.Vegas /advertising



In August 2014, Gay.Vegas launched as one of the first .VEGAS domains, and quickly became one of the most popular destination LGBTQ websites in the Southwest. Through our partnership with QVegas Magazine, Gay.Vegas started hosting QVegas Magazine under the Gay.Vegas site.



At the beginning of 2015, QVegas made a bold move and discontinued a 37-year history as a print publication, taking the social and digital media head-on. Powered by new online publishing capabilities of Gay.Vegas, the combined media forces have since propelled digital media impressions and engagements across web, mobile, email, and

12 Issues Per Year – Every Month

social media.

As an all-digital publication, we deliver QVegas to our readers in multiple formats. Without the cost and constraints of print, we provide advertisers with a lower cost and higher value opportunity that provides measurable impressions and engagement.

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[by Locq Fortune]

TAROSCOPE

MARCH

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Your Monthly Taroscope

Locq Fortune is a local Las Vegas Psychic and the author of the brand new book: Vibeology: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/Locq> download it at Amazon or IBook! He is available for private readings, parties or public events and is the only psychic in Las Vegas who is licensed to come to you. His private readings have No Time Limits, he also records the reading for you to listen to again later! Check out his Fan Page to read reviews and for contact information: www.facebook.com/afortuneonwheels

Taroscope is a monthly reading for each Astrological sign based on the card pulled for it from my Tarot Deck: This Taroscope is for March 2016

Aries: The 8 of Swords. If you feel the need to have things Your Way this month, make sure you have a way out or a backup plan should things go south! You may find yourself feeling caught up in a situation of your own making if you don't! This is a good month to practice listening to your intuition as it can help you out of those sticky situations your ego tends to get you caught up in. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Taurus: The 9 of swords. It's really hard for you to admit when you're wrong (because let's face it, this doesn't happen often!) but if you find yourself feeling regret or remorse over actions you've taken this maybe the time to do just that. No one is perfect my stubborn friend and those involved can be very forgiving IF you're willing to take the first step and mend those fences. Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Gemini: The 2 of Wands. You have the power of choice and NOW is the time to use it. Yes you're famous for being of two minds, but now is the time to focus on what you BOTH want. Indecisiveness has always been your great nemesis, well now is the time to prove to everyone that you can beat it! If you do remember not to look back and stay your course, the rewards are great. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Cancer: The Strength. Use your beautiful thoughts, words and deeds this month to calm the savage beast in the world around you! Yes this year started off a little crazy for you but this month will lend you the power you need to move forward with your goals and even allow you to do that which you love most, caring for those you care for! Let the mother in you out, turn a KIND eye. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Leo: The 8 of Cups. Sometimes we have to know when to let go and move on past a situation. This my dear feline friend is not your strong suit and yet if don't willingly few can do so with more class than you! You've been spending a lot of time and energy trying to achieve something maybe it's time to relax and stop trying so hard? Be careful not to overdo it, let's see what happens. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Virgo: The 6 of Wands. It's time my dear virgin

to reap the rewards of all your hard work and efforts. Finally it's your time to shine! People maybe seeking you out for advice or wisdom because this is what you're known for, remember to be kind and accept thanks with charm, wit and grace. You may also find that you have inspired others to work with you or take action, be thankful! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Libra: The King of Wands. Out with the old you and in with the NEW YOU. That work out program has worked wonders or perhaps your peers have finally taken notice of the wonderful qualities you possess? One way or another prepare to be noticed and in a big way! Just make sure you don't get too carried away with all this new action in your life, keep the flames warm and bright. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Scorpio: The Empress. Look at the world around you, tell me what do you see? It's yours for the taking my friend, can you feel the sparks of creation burning brightly in your soul? It's time to make positive use of sudden bursts of energy you'll be feeling. It's time to create the world in your image, it's your garden let the growth flow! Turn that restless energy into things of beauty. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sagittarius: The Star. Now is the time for healing and recovery, both spiritually and physically. Those around you seek out your optimistic ways for signs that all is well. Just

remember to be practical and not over extend yourself as you have a way of over doing things just to prove a point and this energy is not needed at this time. Enjoy good company and quiet times, dream well. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Capricorn: The 9 of Cups. Oh Lucky you! This wish card of water does well in your house of Earth! Hope and Fortunes spring eternal for you this month. We know how much you love YOU, maybe it's time to share the good fortune? Or keep it to yourself? Either way if you get your wish this month be sure to be thankful and have some fun. You're on top of the world, so enjoy it! Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Aquarius: The Tower. Expect the unexpected, unforeseen changes could be shaping your life this month. This could be the beginning of a whole new world, not the end of one; it all depends on how you wish to look at it. If you find yourself feeling a bit more emotional this month then usual don't worry as this is a passing phase. Be accepting of change and be willing to adapt. Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Pisces: The 5 of Wands. This is the month to stand up for yourself! Mean what you say and say what you mean. Yes we all know how much you love being the wall flower but sometimes you have to voice your opinions in order to get things done. This is not the time to lay down on the job or play a passive role in your relationships, cut the mind games and just say what's on your mind. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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