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About the Cover:

Photography: Shadari Moon Photography
Cover models: Jesse McLean, Quei Tann, & Michael Labrado
Art Direction/Design: Benjamin Lemke

OCTOBER 2011 **COMING OUT** ISSUE

COVER



SINFUL FOOTBALL

THESE GIRLS ARE ROUGH, TOUGH, FIGHTING MACHINES ON THE FIELD. DID WE MENTION THEY PLAY IN LINGERIE?

HONORARIUM

THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA'S 17TH ANNUAL HONORARIUM

VEGAS PEEPS

OUR PEEPS THIS MONTH REPRESENT THE YOUTH FROM THE CENTER WHO ARE AN AMAZING GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS.

THE CENTER'S LGBT YOUTH

THE CENTER'S YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE GIVING THE YOUTH OF LAS VEGAS A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER AND BE THEMSELVES.

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a note from our EDITOR

October is National LGBT History month and QVegas is participating along with twenty-six other LGBT media outlets in National Gay History Project "We Are America". The first article featured in QVegas is the controversial Benjamin Franklin and we hope that you continue to read all month long as we post each Monday a new article where our readers will reach the conclusion that without LGBT and LGBT allies America would not have been established.

QVegas and the nightclubs in the Fruitloop will be celebrating this year's NCOD Street Festival on Saturday, October 15. National Coming Out Day is an annual event hosted by Freezone, Piranha, Gipsy, and Getbooked and sponsored by QVegas and Miller Lite is an opportunity for the community to come "Out" and meet their local non-profits and LGBT supported businesses. Kitty Litter will head the live entertainment stage and proceeds will benefit The Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

This year is the 17th Annual Honorary an event hosted by The Gay and Lesbian Community Center and QVegas is excited to profile their Man, Woman and Volunteer of the year as well as the recipients of the Equality Award and Lifetime Achievement. The Center's youth is this month's cover and our Peeps so we hope this issue invites you to get to know a little bit about The Center and participate in the Honorary and how it's activities and programs influence our community.

Congratulations to all our military service members GLBT and S for their love of our country, their service and embracing equality. As I have said before, love of country has nothing to do with whom you love.

 Kelly McFarlane Smith



EDITOR

Kelly McFarlane Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Steve Erics

EXECUTIVE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Benjamin Lemke

IT/ WEB MANAGER

Noah Henderson

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Chris Miller

TV/ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY

Steve Erics

COPY EDITOR

Daniel Hanna

CONTRIBUTORS

William Bessette

Richard Davis

Jill Roth

Carissa Ramirez

Shevelle Chambers

Richard Davis

Mel Goodwin

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6000 S. Eastern Ave., Ste. 7B
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Phone 702-650-0636
Fax 702-650-0641
E-mail Editor@QVegas.com

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"Best Concert Venue"

2011 FIGHT FOR AIR WALK

On Saturday October 22nd, the American Lung Association in Nevada (ALA) will be sponsoring the 2011 Fight For Air Walk at Floyd Lamb State Park at Tule Springs. This annual fundraiser benefits the work and mission of the ALA in Nevada to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Amy Beaulieu, director of tobacco control at the ALA says that one of the major goals of the ALA in Southern Nevada is to bring tobacco cessation services to the LGBT community. She stated that the ALA seeks to bring awareness about how disproportionately tobacco use impacts the LGBT community and how our community is specifically targeted by Big Tobacco. Earlier this year the ALA recognized Kelly Smith of Stonewall Publishing, publisher of QVegas magazine, as a smoke-free community champion because QVegas refuses to run tobacco advertising focused on the LGBT community. Sexy ads from CRUSH, a tobacco use prevention social marketing campaign of the Southern Nevada Health District and the Rescue Social Change Group, have been prominently featured in QVegas, reaching young LGBT people most at risk for tobacco use, yet least likely to pay attention to public health messages.

The Fight for Air Walk is a fun LGBT-friendly event for friends and family. Floyd Lamb State Park is a former dude ranch with natural springs, tree-lined paths and wild peacocks. LGBT business sponsorships are encouraged as a great team building experience for employees. Walk registration is \$10; if walkers meet the optional Walk goal and raise an additional \$100, they'll receive a Walk tee-shirt. Participants are encouraged to join a team, or form one of their own by

becoming a team captain. The 3-mile Walk is great, enjoyable physical activity. In addition, the event will feature live entertainment, free refreshments, and raffle prizes. Register online at www.FightForAirWalk.org or call 702-431-6333. n

Ready On The Set Coronation XIV

The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. (IRSCDEI) and its 13th Elected Empress, Katrina Davenport-Jewel, The Regent College of Emperors, Board of Director's, and General Membership of Las Vegas, NV announce Coronation XIV - "READY ON THE SET" December 1 - 4, 2011 to be held at The Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in fabulous Downtown Las Vegas and The World Market Center. We have many exciting events surrounding Coronation.

The "In-Town Show & Awards" will be held Thursday, December 1st at Badland's Saloon in the Commercial Center starting at 8:14 PM. The "Out-of-Town Show & Bar Crawl" will be held Friday, December 2nd at Charlie's Las Vegas with the show starting at 6:00 PM and Bar Crawl at 10:00 PM. We have planned a "Poolside Reception with Katrina" on Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Poolside at the Golden Nugget.

Now, get ready on the set and join us for Coronation XIV - "Ready On The Set" on Saturday, December 3rd in the Worldview Room at the World Market Center. Wear your fashionista best as you walk for the Red Carpet Paparazzi (doors) 5:14 PM. Tickets are available for \$45.00 per ticket VIP Seating or \$25.00 per ticket General Admission/limited seating. All VIP Seating Tables are honoring a film title from the motion picture industry.

Program Advertising is still available. Program ads will be a standard 8 1/2" X 11" black and white portrait format allowing for a 3/8" border. Half-page ads will be a standard landscape format. Please submit your ad in a PDF or .jpg format electronically at programads@desertempire.org. Deadline for submission and payment is November 5, 2011.

So please, save the date for Coronation XIV - November 30 - December 2, 2012 and join us for a truly memorable evening. Tickets for all events NOW available on our website at www.desertempire.org. ■



Desert Divas

On Sunday, October 9th, the first Desert Diva Women's Music & Arts Festival and Benefit will be held at Mango's Beach Bar from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.. The festival, presented by Betty's Outrageous Adventures, will feature live music and original artwork exclusively created by female artists.

Designed to give emerging and established female artists a platform to showcase their talent and art, while at the same time helping to raise funds for a different needy organization or woman in the Las Vegas area at each event, this year's festival will feature local sensations Andrea Bensmiller, Lady "J" Huston, Valerie James, Cathy Lewis, Lady L.U.S.T., Nurse Ratchet, and Cindy Steele as well as artwork from Fran Weaver, Miriam Besa, Karin Kilgus, Teresa Testa, and Erica Reynolds...with more artists being added daily.

Tickets for this seven-hour festival are just \$20, available at the door or online at www.desertdivawomensfest.com. Mango's Beach and Bar is located at 6650 W. Vegas Drive. ■

Family Picnic

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) of Las Vegas for the fourth annual Family Picnic on Sunday, October 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rainbow Family Park.

The Family Picnic will include a BBQ, kids play area, local community booths and more. Show support for two incredible Southern Nevada organizations while enjoying an

Liza Minnelli



OCTOBER 7 - 8

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afternoon of fun with family and friends. "HRC is proud to once again partner with AFAN for this great community event. HRC's ongoing partnership with AFAN has been very successful over the years and we are confident that together we will make this year's picnic the best one to date" - Ron Quinn, HRC Las Vegas Membership and Community Events Co-Chair (MCEV). While HRC is widely known for political and legislative work, the Family Picnic features many aspects of HRC's proactive involvement on a local level. The event shows diverse community support among the Las Vegas Valley while also giving a venue to educate attendees on the programs HRC supports.

"It's really thrilling for all of us to participate in this year's picnic and to continue to watch it grow, thanks to our partnering with AFAN and QVegas as well as our new picnic sponsor, Southwest Airlines. The goal is to create a fun community event that is looked forward to, year after year" - Charles Beraud, HRC Las Vegas Membership and Community Events Co-Chair (MCEV).

Grab your friends and family and then head down to the Rainbow Family Park on Sunday, October 16. Enjoy a day of food, fun and community involvement. Admission to the HRC Family Picnic is free. If you are interested in purchasing lunch, the cost is \$5 and children under 5 are free. For more information on HRC Las Vegas, please visit lasvegas.hrc.org. ■

Teazled.com

Teazled, a unique new Las Vegas-based online Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender greeting card company, opened for retail business earlier this month. Started by two female nurses (coincidentally both named Dina), who have been in a loving marriage for seven years and raise four children together, Teazled is a company whose motivation is to pioneer traditional greeting cards for the non-

traditional family.

Americans purchase 7 billion greeting cards every year. Nine out of 10 U.S. households buy greeting cards, with the average household purchasing 30 individual cards in a year. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 8.8 million Americans share a same-sex household, so Teazled is filling an overwhelming vacancy for the GLBT community by providing the opportunity to create a lasting impression and emotional bond between the sender and receiver.

"Dina and I started Teazled because we felt a void looking for a greeting card to express our feelings during life's special occasions, only to have to edit the available selection," said Dina Proto, cofounder of Teazled. "We understand non-traditional families share the same traditional bonds of love and respect. We want the non-traditional family to be able to celebrate those meaningful moments, express their innermost thoughts and communicate with those they cherish."

Teazled showcases tasteful greeting cards for individuals and their families for 25 different occasions. The GLBT community and their family and friends can enjoy a newfound way to express their feelings or humor through



Teazled's large variety of dignified cards for every traditional holiday and occasion, as well as some non-traditional holidays including coming out and commitment ceremonies. All cards are \$3.99 each plus \$1 for shipping. In an effort to distinguish the women's roles in their lives, Dina Proto and Dina Poist-Proto's children coined a new word: Dom, defined as Dad-Mom. "Dom quickly caught on with our extended families and friends," said Poist-Proto (Dom) Many cards in the Teazled collection feature the use of Mom, Dad and Dom as terms of endearment for those highly regarded people known as parents. And, it

works for married men with children as well." No longer will people be faced with having to "edit" standard greeting cards to accommodate them for non-traditional yet respected

loved ones. For more information or to browse or shop for cards visit www.teazled.com. To contact Teazled, call (702) 823-1399 ■

Las Vegas Pride 2011 Night Parade Winners

Best Walking/Marching Entry - Commercial
QVEGAS

Best Walking/Marching Entry - Non-commercial
DYKE MARCH

Best Decorated Vehicle - Commercial
THE TROPICANA

Best Decorated Vehicle - Non-commercial
THE ROYAL COURT

Best Float - Commercial
CAESARS

Best Float - Non-commercial
LONG BEACH PRIDE

Rainbow Award - Best Use of PRIDE (Rainbow) Colors
WELLS FARGO

Painted for the Gods Award - Best Drag Entry
THE SIN CITY SISTER

Diversity Award - Celebrating the LGBT Community-
ALBERTSONS

You Light Up My Life Award - Best Use of Lighting
ROTC

Community Ally Award - Best LGBT Community Supporter
COX CABLE

Hot Wheels Award - Best Motorcycle/Car Club
LCCI HEAT

Grand Marshall Award - Best Overall Decorated Vehicle
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS

Parade Director Award - Best Overall Float
LIGHT GROUP

Grand Diva Award - Best Overall Parade Entry
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First Friday

As First Friday Las Vegas approaches its nine year anniversary, new ownership promises to take the outdoor festival to a new level. The monthly event, which has anchored the 18b Arts District in downtown Las Vegas, will continue on Friday, Oct. 7, 2011, following its brief summer hiatus.

"This event has been very positive for the city of Las Vegas and First Friday's return in October is beyond exciting," said First Friday Las Vegas, LLC managing partner Joey Vanas. "We're committed to a continuing investment in Downtown and to supporting the community that backs the growth of such a culturally-active, and historical, area of Las Vegas."

The new ownership group, First Friday Las Vegas, LLC, includes Zappos.com executives Tony Hsieh, Fred Mossler and Steve Hill, as well as downtown developer Andrew Donner and Vanas. First Friday founder Cindy Funkhouser and Whirlygig Inc. will consult on the event for the next two months to ensure a smooth transition.

The city of Las Vegas has been a longtime partner with the private sector for First Friday. The outdoor event is anchored around Casino Center and Charleston Boulevard and over the years has expanded to different areas of downtown. The new owners will bring the necessary resources and infrastructure to help the event grow into a larger, more diverse destination festival.

"I want to thank Cindy Funkhouser and Whirlygig for helping kick start the Arts District by creating our monthly First Friday," said Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman. "What a sensational event that has now become a tradition and now taken on a life of its own. It is enjoyed and attended by

thousands. I am absolutely thrilled with this new partnership, which will infuse additional resources and new energy into this grand downtown festival."

Councilman Bob Coffin, who represents this area of Ward 3, echoed the mayor's sentiments, "I think this is a great idea to build on the success of First Friday and grow it into something even more extraordinary. My thanks to Cindy Funkhouser and the new team for making sure this wonderful event will continue." ■

OktoberFrightFest at Fremont Street Experience

Fremont Street Experience is hosting its third annual OktoberFrightFest Oct. 3rd – 31st, the ultimate festival that combines Oktoberfest and Halloween for a month-long street party.

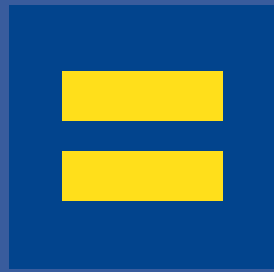


The spook-tacular nightly fun and fantasy kicks off Monday, October 3rd and continues throughout "Oktober," ending on Halloween, Monday, October 31st. Fremont Street Experience will once again transform itself into the ultimate adult playground with Oktoberfest and Halloween festivities, including Viva Vision light and sound shows themed to "Time Warp" and "Monster Mash," outdoor bars featuring beer and drink specials, the Second Annual Fall Beer Festival at Golden Nugget and three free Halloween-themed stage shows.

"Frank & The Steins", a live musical revue of classic Halloween songs, will perform on the 3rd Street Stage Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8, 10 and 11 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays and Halloween (Monday, October 31st) at 8, 9, 10 and 11 p.m.

"Alice and Ozzy's Nightmare" will perform on the 1st Street Stage Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8, 9 and 10 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays and Halloween, (Monday, October 31st) at 8, 9, 10 and 11 p.m.

"Vampire Rising" will perform three themed sets that highlight a vast repertoire on the Main Street Stage. The show will be presented Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at 10, 11 p.m. and Midnight as well as Fridays and Saturdays at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. with a final set of performances on Halloween, (Monday, October 31st) at 9, 10, 11 p.m. and Midnight. In addition, the 80's "Stadium Rock" tribute band Arena will perform on the Main Street Stage on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. For more information visit QVegas.com ■



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THATS SO VEGAS

Tidbits from The Strip and beyond

Gladys Knight

Seven-time Grammy Award winner Gladys Knight will be extending her special engagement at the newly transformed Tropicana Las Vegas. "Gladys Knight - A Mic and a Light", which showcases 90 minutes of fan favorites such as "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me", as well as newer hits, was originally scheduled to hold its final performance on September 3. Due to the show's immense success, the "Empress of Soul" will continue to entertain audiences Tuesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. through the end of the year.

"I am thrilled to be extended at Tropicana Las Vegas through the end of the year. The joy we've had performing at the Gladys Knight Theater over the past several months and the overwhelming support from our fans led us to add these additional shows," says Knight. "Working in this showroom at Tropicana has been a dream come true for me and I look forward to sharing this experience with many more audiences."

"Gladys is one of the greatest performers of all time, and we are excited that she and her team have decided to extend their special engagement at our property. They have truly become an important part of the Tropicana family," said Melissa Steinberg, Vice President of Casino Operations and Entertainment at Tropicana Las Vegas.

Tickets can be purchased for \$75 and \$85 plus tax and applicable fees through the Tropicana Box Office by calling (702) 739-2411 or by visiting www.tropicl.com ■



Silence Of The Clams

Jamie Morris' creepy comedy *"The Silence Of The Clams"* will return to the Onyx Theater for a limited run. The parody play inspired by the Oscar-winning Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster thriller will play four performances only, October 6th through the 9th at the intimate Onyx Theater inside Commercial Center. Last year *"Clams"* thrilled local audiences with a sold-out run at the same theater.

In *"Clams"*, butch FBI agent Clarice Startling is assigned to help find Nancy Pelosi's missing daughter and save her from "Beaver Bob," a serial killer who skins his victims "down there." Clarice attempts to gain better insight into the mind of the killer by interviewing Dr. Hannibal Lichter, a convicted psychopath who "eats" his female victims before killing them. The twisted relationship forces Clarice not only to confront her own psychological demons (when will those CLAMS STOP SCREAMING?!) but leads her face-to-face with a demented killer so evil that even she may not have the courage - or strength - to stop him!

Morris goes way beyond impersonation. He gets inside this guy's skin so thoroughly that you wonder what might have been if Morris' agent had gotten the original script before Anthony Hopkins. He's a major talent. And Morris may be the sort of actor worth seeing in just about anything.

Christopher Kenney - also known to Vegas audiences as EDIE, The Mistress of Sensuality in Cirque du Soleil's ZUMANITY - is once again at the helm. Kenney is an LA Weekly Theater Award-winning comedy director who was named "Best Local Theater Director" by the readers of Las Vegas CityLife for his direction of Morris' trilogy of plays including *"Mommie Queerest"* and *"The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode."*

"Silence of the Clams" runs October 6-9 at the Onyx Theater, 953 East Sahara (inside Commercial Center) and will play Thursday thru Saturday at 8 PM, Sunday at 5 PM. Tickets call 702-732-7225 or visit onyxtheatre.com. All seats are \$20 ■.

Mikel Patrik

Las Vegas resident and well-known contemporary artist, Michael Thieme, who designs under the MIKEL PATRIK name, recently contributed to an upcoming episode of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (EMHE) for an episode that will air this coming fall.

"I was told by the producers that the art for the EMHE series is often a challenging aspect of the overall design vision and execution for the show. Fortunately, I have numerous creative options from which to choose from within my broad body of original work and after receiving the design direction concept boards and images of the proposed home, I was quickly able to create a unique art solution specifically for this project," said Mikel Patrik.

When the show airs, the "deserving family" will be at home in their new house in at the Rio Tinto's Daybreak development in South Jordan, Utah. Rio Tinto's Kennecot Utah Copper donated the land for this home and, as is typical of the EMHE shows, all of the building materials also were donated. Ty Pennington and the "Extreme Makeover" team, along with

Holmes Homes, took care of construction. While most previous EMHE projects demolish an existing home, this home was built from the ground up.

"It was 12 hours of intense back and forth communication and brain-storming as my team worked closely with the executive producer, design team, and local print shop to provide modifications to my original work for installation in the home. In the end, MIKEL PATRIK has an installation of eight printed giclee reproductions in this house. My hope is that the recipient enjoys the art as much as I have enjoyed bringing this result into her new home!" added Mikel Patrik.

"Volunteering and giving back to the community has always been a foundation of my core being. I was humbled to provide my Art when asked to participate with the EMHE series. I was able to provide custom and appropriate art based on my concepts that worked well with the home's design direction. I continue to be amazed at what this show accomplishes in such a compressed schedule!" added Mikel Patrik. ■



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To start helping those who are unable to help themselves, visit animalfoundation.com/qvegas/today.



the animal foundation

The Animal Foundation is a non-profit organization operating Nevada's largest animal shelter (Lied Animal Shelter) and animal adoption center.



A portrait of John Eisele, a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit, a dark shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

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COMMUNITY TIES

Aid for AIDS of Nevada

(AFAN) is partnering with local artist, Robert Marlon, for the grand reveal of his flagship art studio in Las Vegas. Guests are invited to peruse the private gallery and immerse themselves in the extraordinary mixed media paintings and fine art giclees while enjoying live music, complimentary cocktails and appetizers. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated back to AFAN to supplement its ongoing battle of fighting HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.



Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, 6 – 8 p.m. The Robert Marlon Studio, 2421 Tech Center Court, Suite 108, Las Vegas, NV 89128 ■

Animal Foundation

When Meghan began her job at The Animal Foundation, she had no intention of adopting an animal. She already had two cats, Goose and Maverick, that she had rescued, and adopting a dog (or any other pet, for that matter) was not something she was interested in...until she met Champ.

The Animal Foundation has a foster program that places animals that are too young or sick for adoption into a temporary family until they're ready to find their forever home. Because of a broken back leg, Champ, a



1-year-old puppy, had been placed in a foster home with one of Meghan's co-workers. While in foster care, he developed a condition called vasculitis - the blood cells weren't flexible enough to reach the tips of his ears and the tips of his tail. Champ would need to be on daily medication, perhaps for the rest of his life, which meant finding a permanent home wouldn't be easy.

Meghan met Champ one day while he was waiting for a check-up, and they hit it off immediately. It was love at first sight. When the foster needed someone to watch Champ over a weekend, Meghan enthusiastically volunteered. Champ stayed the weekend, hit it off with the two kitties, and the rest is history. He was adopted immediately. "He's perfect, even with vasculitis! I can't imagine my life without him, and neither can Goose and Maverick," she says. If you are interested in adoption or becoming a foster parent, visit www.animalfoundation.com ■

Nevada Ballet

Nevada Ballet Theatre announced Eva Longoria as its Woman of the Year. An actress, producer, philanthropist and activist, Longoria will accept this honor during the company's annual fundraiser on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at ARIA Resort & Casino, CityCenter Las Vegas. "Eva is a talented performer who maintains a giving spirit in her career," said NBT Co-Founder and Co-Chairwoman Nancy Houssels. "Her charitable work is impressive, specifically her work with "Eva's Heroes" which she founded. We are excited to

celebrate her many accomplishments, shed light on her philanthropic endeavors – a side not often seen by the public – and welcome her as a part of the NBT family."



Touted as the "crème de la crème" of society events by *Luxury Las Vegas Magazine*, the Black & White Ball is one of the most highly attended events of the social season, hosting an array of local celebrities, dignitaries, VIP's and arts supporters. Since 1985, this star-studded gala has enabled NBT to present professional company dance productions, quality dance instruction within its affiliated Academy and expose students in at-risk communities to the art form of dance through its outreach program, *Future Dance*. ■

HRC 101



HRC invites you to attend and interact with members of the Human Rights Campaign's Steering Committee and Sub-Committees, learn more about the organization,

and obtain information about their many programs and projects. You'll also be advised of upcoming community support programs in Las Vegas, as well as volunteer opportunities. This is not a membership or fund raising event of any type, simply a free and open opportunity for attendees to gain more knowledge of HRC and how HRC is at work for the LGBT community both nationally and locally. Visit them online at lasvegas.hrc.org. HRC101 will take place Sunday, October 23rd, 2011 at 2:00pm inside the Las Vegas Library's Program Room. The Library is located at 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, 89101, adjacent to the Lied Discovery Children's Museum. ■



Evening Of CABARET 3rd Annual

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Opera Las Vegas is opening its 2011-12 season with "Tosca," Puccini's tale of passion and revenge, on Friday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m., with a pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m., at the Nicholas Horn Theatre at the College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus. The New York Metropolitan Opera's renowned Maestro Gregory Buchalter will be conducting with full orchestra. The cast features Met soprano, Elizabeth Blanche-Biggs in the role of Tosca, tenor Raúl Melo as her ill-fated lover Cavaradossi, and baritone Daniel Sutin as the arch-villain, Scarpia. The opera will be repeated on Sunday, September 11, at 1:00 p.m., with a pre-performance talk at 12:30 p.m.

Gloria Allen, Opera Las Vegas' artistic director, said that she chose "Tosca" as the season opener because "it is one of my favorites and is enormously popular with audiences." The plot is set in the complicated political situation of Rome in the early 19th century. The popular Roman

OPERA LAS VEGAS WAS
FOUNDED IN 1999 AND HAS
SEEN SUCH TRIUMPHS AS
THE 2007 PRODUCTION OF
LEONCAVALLO'S OPERA
VERISMO "PAGLIACCI."

children's chorus for the haunting Te Deum laudamus.

Last season's production of "Tosca" at the Met, seen here as part of the Met: Live in HD series, which is broadcast live in local cinemas, was controversial and received boos from audiences. Gloria Allen says, "'Tosca' works best in the original period setting" and the Opera Las Vegas production will feature sets by local stage designer Michelle Tucker with costumes by Los Angeles designer Danielle Cohen.

Opera Las Vegas was founded in 1999 and has seen such triumphs as the 2007 production of Leoncavallo's opera verismo "Pagliacci," also at the Nicholas Horn Theatre. Unlike this season's production of "Tosca" which will be staged in its original period, Opera Las Vegas updated "Pagliacci," setting this tale of a jealous husband's revenge among a hippie theater troupe in the 60's. The updated setting made the fierceness of the story truly verismo, or realistic.

Opera

LAS VEGAS

by Richard Davis

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opera singer, Floria Tosca, is in love with the artist Mario Cavaradossi. Cavaradossi is arrested for aiding his friend, Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner. The tyrant Baron Scarpia is head of the police state and lusts for Tosca. Using Cavaradossi as bait, Scarpia lures Tosca to his palace-prison and promises her that if she will give herself to him, he will release Cavaradossi. Tosca reluctantly consents. After Scarpia has written the order for Cavaradossi's release, Tosca murders him and flees with the order of release, only to discover that Scarpia has tricked her and the order is actually for the execution of Cavaradossi. As her lover lies dying, and police rush to capture her, Tosca leaps from the parapet of the palace, proclaiming, "Scarpia, I will meet you in hell!"

"Tosca" features some of the most beloved arias in the opera repertoire including the beautiful tenor aria, "Recondita armonia" Recondita armonia, and the famous Vissi d'arte, "I lived for art. I lived for love." The strongly dramatic role of Tosca was one of Maria Callas' signature roles and "Tosca" demands performers who can both act and sing. Opera Las Vegas' Gloria Allen says that the three Met stars cast will be wonderful in the opera's lead roles. Allen has also assembled a talented opera chorus from Las Vegas' rich pool of local singers, including what she says is an "incredible"

In May, Opera Las Vegas hopes to open their production of "Carmen" at the new Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Allen is continually reaching out to future opera audiences through Opera Las Vegas' Opera in Schools program, "Watch Out, Or the Music Will Get You!" She also envisions the possibility of future joint productions with the Reno-based Nevada Opera. She says that Las Vegas has the potential of being an opera destination for opera tourists, similar to Santa Fe and Seattle. ■

Tickets for "Tosca" are available by calling 702-651-LIVE (5483) or by visiting the Nicholas Horn Theatre Box Office. Tickets are \$50 for preferred seating and \$35 general.

"TOSCA" FEATURES SOME OF THE
MOST BELOVED ARIAS IN THE OPERA
REPERTOIRE INCLUDING THE BEAUTIFUL
TENOR ARIA, "RECONDITA ARMONIA"
RECONDITA ARMONIA, AND THE
FAMOUS VISSI D'ARTE, "I LIVED FOR
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using your

BUYING POWER to do GOOD

— by Charles Béraud

Shopping Therapy. Heard of it? Whether it's to assert your spending capacity in troubled times or wish away the remnants of a seriously bad day, sometimes it feels like nothing hits the spot quite like putting a serious dent in your plastic. Labels serve as band aids, and before you know it, you're surveying the damages with much less relief than you would have expected. But what if you could give in to your impulses, guilt-free? Better yet: what if you could make a difference in other's lives just by buying the things you need anyway? It's easier than you think to turn every day purchases into acts of philanthropy.

Start with your daily venti half-caf, half-decaf, no-foam soy latté. Buy yourself a (Starbucks) RED gift card (which you can register and reload online at www.starbucks.com)

and with each purchase charged to it, Starbucks makes a contribution to the Global Fund to help people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. That alone has contributed sums equaling more than 18 million daily doses of medicine. The RED program includes many other brands and products. Want to double your contribution? Use your charity-supporting credit card. Bank of America issues a Human Rights Campaign Visa Signature® card, and makes a contribution to HRC for every new account opened and every purchase made with the card. In this case, you get as good as you give; all your purchases still earn you WorldPoints®. In fact Bank of America – along with many other banks – have a wide variety of banking products that help you support the charity of your choice simply by making everyday transactions.

There are also companies that will match

your commitment to them with an equal commitment to the community. Warby Parker (warbyparker.com), for their part, bring the gift of sight to worldwide populations with their "Buy A Pair, Give A Pair" program, through which they have thus far distributed over 50,000 pairs of eyeglasses to people in need to, in their words, "enable them to become productive members of their families and communities". And while I've been known to on occasion take my glasses off to make the world look like a better place, I get how "a pair of glasses can often define

one's path either as a contributing member of the community or one subject to poverty," as stated on the WP website. "Imagine what glasses mean to a farmer who needs to separate seeds to plant or a tailor who needs to thread a needle." How rewarding is that? And you don't even have to skimp on looks for the sake of charity either. With

many frame styles and colors available at a very affordable price (\$95 gets you frames with Anti-Reflective Rx Lenses and shipping included), you won't want to limit yourself to just one pair.

So you see, you don't have to be Warren Buffett or Bill Gates to be amongst the great philanthropists of this world. All you have to do is tweak a few of your daily consumer choices to make a difference. Perhaps Newman's Own® salad dressing instead of your usual? By donating all their profits, they have given \$300 million to thousands of charities since 1982. These are just a few of the ways – along with buying locally and from community-based and equality-minded businesses – in which you can affect change simply by exercising your buying power. It might not be the same as shopping therapy but - trust me - it'll make you feel better. ■

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"Life is a CABARET Ol' Chum"

- By Jill Roth

In the words of Sally Bowles in the 1972 film classic *Cabaret*, *The Lounge at the Palms Casino Resort* (4321 West Flamingo Rd.) is serving up a night of "divine decadence, darling," as they host AFAN's Third Annual "Evening of Cabaret" on October 26th, starring legendary actress and Broadway star Lainie Kazan.



Spawned from a partnership between AFAN and Penn & Teller Executive Directors' Glenn Alai and Emily Jillette, Mrs. Kazan's exceptional talents were secured as part of the organization's ongoing drive to fund their primary mission. AFAN provides opportunities and vital services to the more than 4,000 individuals living or affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.

"We are thrilled to welcome our first songstress to 'Evening of Cabaret'," says AFAN development director Earl Shelton, "Lainie has captivated crowds from all across the world, from movie theaters to Broadway, and we know her talents will lend to a phenomenal performance at The Lounge at Palms."

Lainie Kazan is a familiar face to stage and screen audiences alike with an exemplary career ranging from understudying Barbra Streisand in the Broadway production of 'Funny Girl', to various television appearances in groundbreaking shows such as 'The Dean Martin Show', 'Will and Grace', 'The Paper' and 'Beverly Hills 90210'.

Kazan's impressive list of movie credits include blockbuster films that have made you laugh, cry and want a pushy Greek mother with a heart of gold to tell you "you're not fat!" Her performances have included 'Beaches' starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey, as well as her unforgettable role in 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding', which Kazan received critical acclaim for for her role in the film, which grossed over \$600,000 at the box office.

Now Kazan is taking on the Vegas stage where audiences can look forward to a night of crooning and cocktails. Lainie explained how singing is a universal language that connects people; "Well, being that singing is my first love, I look forward to the experience of communicating my feelings to a live audience. I think I put them in touch with the joy in their lives, and the pain."

Las Vegas is a veritable melting pot for the masses, and Kazan relishes performing for such a diverse audience who come to support such an important cause.

"I am looking forward to singing to a very appreciative audience," says Kazan. "There will be a lot of gays there and they have a sophisticated taste and for the most part they do love me and I love them! They can expect me to make them laugh and make them cry; hopefully they will a wonderful time."

In lending her efforts to the AFAN organization in support of those affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada, Kazan has a personal connection which led her to join the cause.

"I have many friends who have died from AIDS and I've supported organizations that raise money for AIDS awareness and scientific research. Ten years ago it wiped out a generation of creative people and I do whatever I can to help make a difference."

So while AFAN supporters await with bated breath a performance that will no doubt be most memorable, the music selections the performer has chosen each lend themselves well to what the event is all about...life.

"'Here's To Life' is one song that hopefully will make an impact, written by Artie Butler," says Kazan. "And an old song named 'I Remember You' is the closing song of my show."

When asked about the one defining moment in her career --looking fondly back and eagerly towards the future (including her upcoming performance at the Palms), Kazan says she's ready to keep pushing forward; singing, acting... and "all that jazz".

"I believe my most defining moment was going on for Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl*. I actually did two performances in one day and my career took off. I talk about the experience in my show. I'm very lucky because I graduated from playing a leading lady to playing character roles and I continue to work to this day and I'm very happy about that. I'm singing at The Catalina Jazz club in L.A. in November and I just finished shooting two movies that will be out next year. So I look forward to the future!" ■

For more information and ticket pricing for the AFAN 3RD Annual Evening of Cabaret at The Lounge at the Palms, please visit www.afanlv.org.

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Historians take note. This year's National Gay History Project is a shout out to say that the LGBT community will no longer allow insensitivity, intentional or not, to downplay the contributions LGBT people have made to this country. To put it simply, this year's project is definitive. Without people who were LGBT or LGBT allies, there would be no United States of America. We helped create this nation and we helped keep it together through the Civil War. And indeed, the Founding Fathers not only had us in mind when creating this country, they welcomed and recruited us in their efforts.

Welcome to
"We Are America."

Mark Segal
Coordinator

Benjamin Franklin:

WRITER, INVENTOR, STATESMAN AND FRIEND TO GAYS

By Victoria A. Brownworth, Exclusively for QVegas National Gay History Project

There is no more fascinating character among the Founding Fathers than Benjamin Franklin. An intellectual powerhouse credited with an extraordinary number of inventions and writings, he also was one of the three most pivotal players in the solidifying of the new colonial government, along with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Historian Walter Isaacson, author of the definitive biography of Franklin, described him as "the most accomplished American of his age and the most influential in inventing the type of society America would become." It was Franklin who edited the Declaration of Independence as Jefferson wrote it, making significant changes, which altered the course of history. (For example, Jefferson had originally written "we hold these truths to be Sacred," but Franklin altered that to read "self-evident" because, he argued with Jefferson, the new democracy could not be predicated on the old divine right of kings, like the monarchy they had just won freedom from. Thus "self-evident" — coming from the people, not "Sacred," coming via a kingly conduit to God.)

Franklin was also a statesman, having been Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly and President of Pennsylvania — a position equivalent to governor, today.

Franklin was also known as the great communicator among the major players in the colonial era. His joie de vivre and sense of humor ingratiated him with everyone, which is why he became the primary diplomat from the colonies, an ambassador to the French and Prussian courts and U.S. minister to both France and Sweden. In each capacity he negotiated treaties and opened

communication between supporters in Europe and the colonies.

It was in his role as ambassador to France that Franklin also became the nation's first gay-friendly ambassador, helping a known homosexual escape prosecution and become a pivotal figure in the American Revolution.

Identifying Franklin's most pivotal role in colonial America is impossible as there was no arena in which he was not essential, as Isaacson's biography makes clear. But certainly Franklin's most significant role in relationship to the American Revolution

and the propitious outcome of the Revolutionary War was his delivery of Baron Friedrich von Steuben from the French court at Paris to George Washington at Valley Forge.

Washington himself felt that von Steuben's military strategies were vital to his success in the war; von Steuben's expertise was so stellar his military manual, "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the

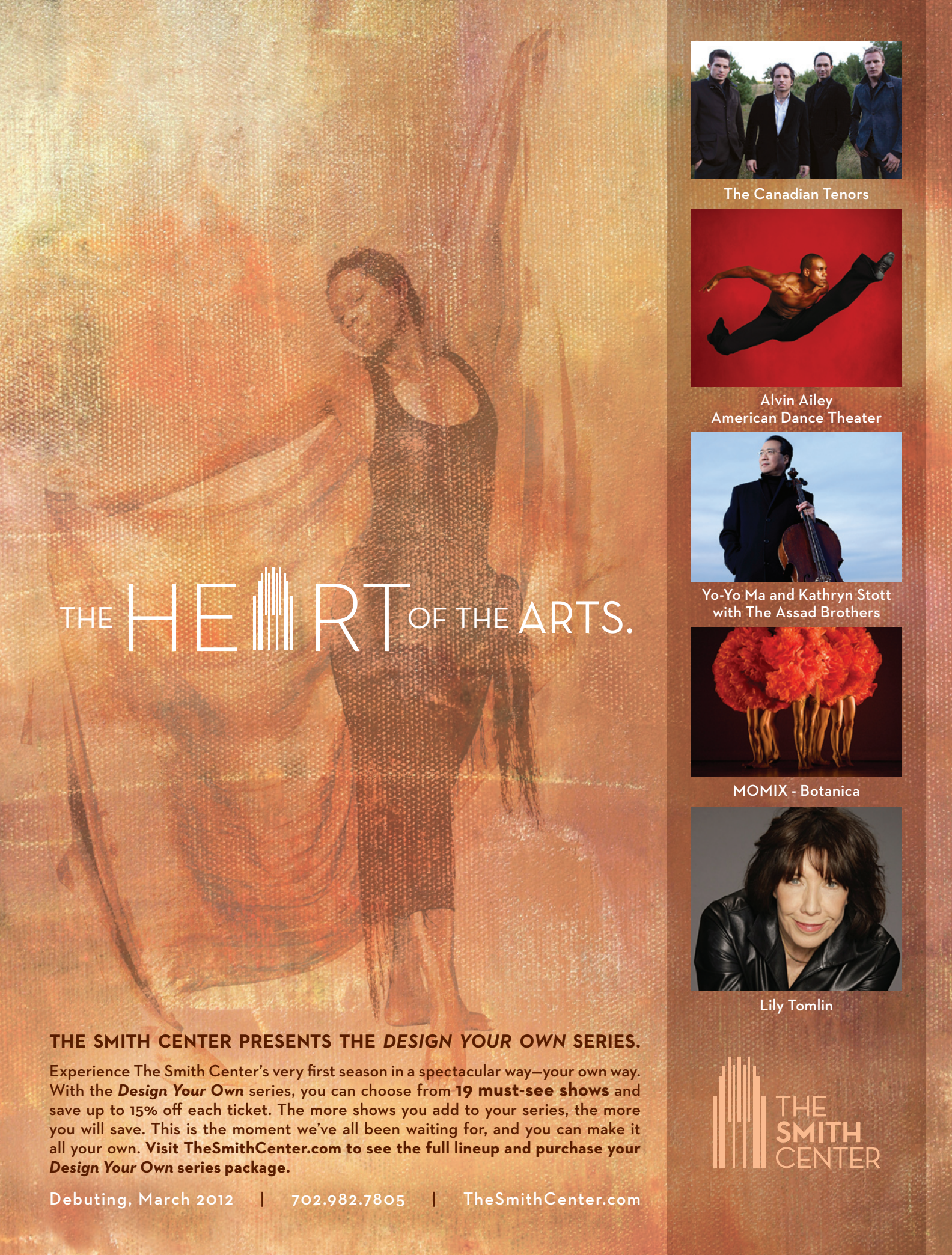
United States," became the fundamental guide for the Continental Army and remained in active use through the War of 1812, being published in over 70 editions.

Had it not been for Franklin, however, Washington would never have gotten his military strategist and von Steuben may have spent the remainder of his life in prison somewhere in Europe.

At the lead-in of the Revolution, Franklin was a mediator between the French and the colonists in negotiating the support of France against the British. It was during this period of intense political complexity and foment that von Steuben was first approached.



>> continued on page 64



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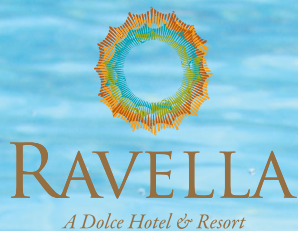
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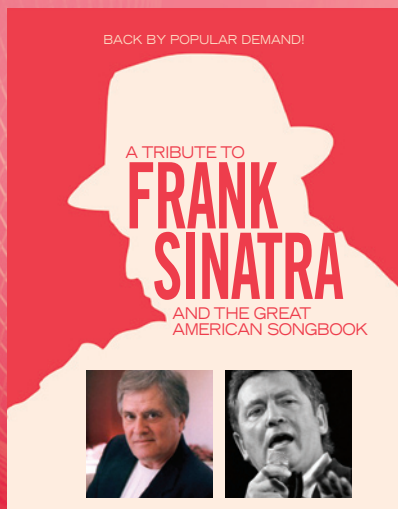
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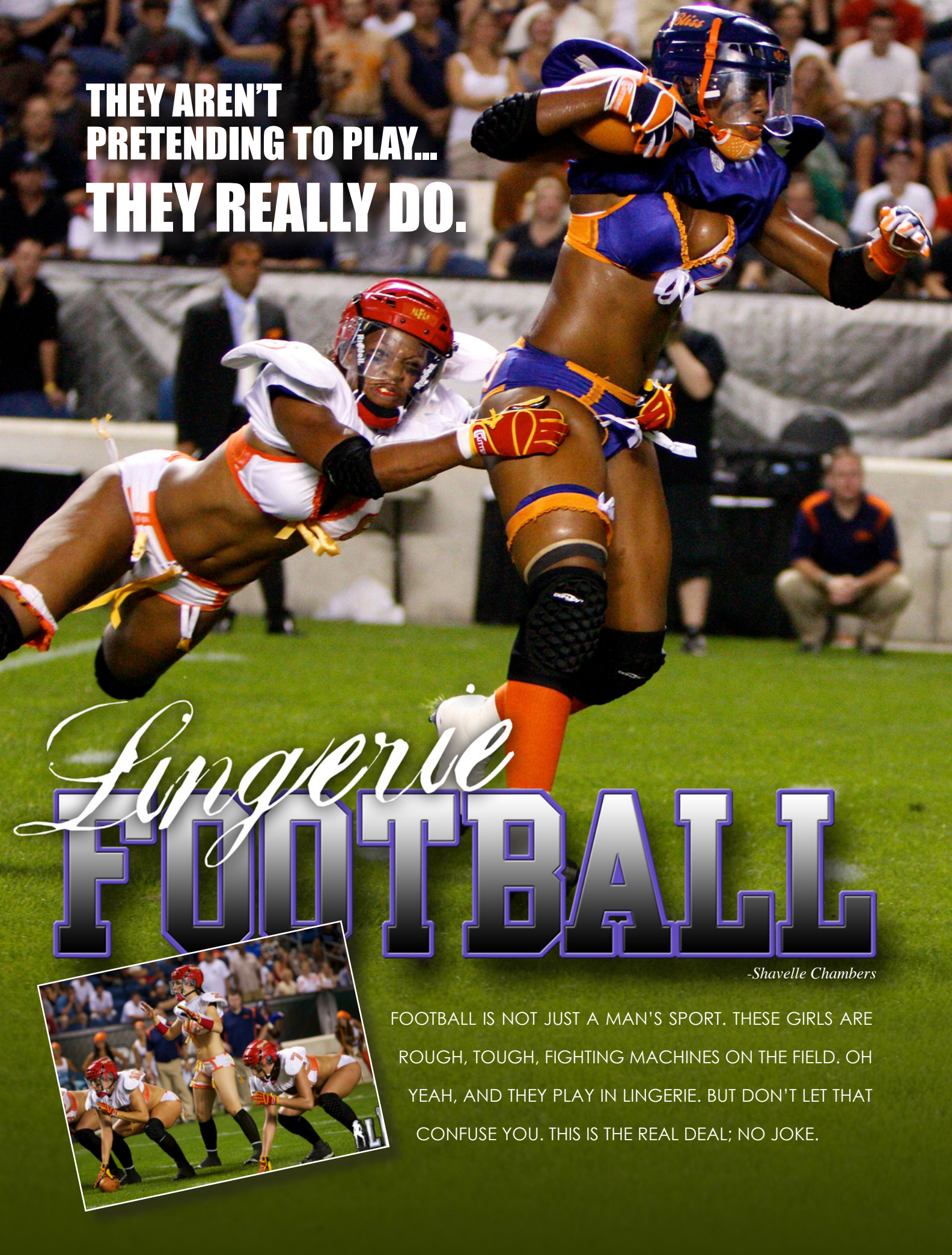
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Lingerie **FOOTBALL**

-Shavelle Chambers



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The Vegas Sin team of the Lingerie Football League won their first game against Chicago with a score of 32 – 20. Quarterback Nikki Johnson said she believes they earned the win.

"It wasn't a one man show like a lot of women's sports tend to be," 20-year-old Johnson said. "We collectively execute and try to stay fundamentally strong."

The Lingerie Football League originated successfully from a Super Bowl pay-per-view halftime television special named the Lingerie Bowl. It premiered in 2004 during the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show with two of the original teams being Team Dream and Team Euphoria. As a women's American football league, the Lingerie Bowl has grown to 12-franchises with Vegas Sin being an expansion team, this being its first season.

Johnson has been playing football since the age of 10, when she joined a flag football league as the only girl. She has been hooked on the game ever since and was driven to join the LFL for recognition, as well as to change the perception of others who do not view lingerie football as serious as it is. "I wanted to be recognized for something I'm good at, have worked hard at and passionately love." She said she has received recognition before in a previous league, the Women's Football Alliance (WFA), but nothing like what she is currently receiving in the LFL.

Though hoping for recognition, Johnson also talked about how many, including herself at one point, viewed lingerie football

as a joke – "I mean, what guy wouldn't want to see girls running around in lingerie playing football?" She goes on to say that before joining Vegas Sin, she believed the team to be a bunch of pretty women pretending to play, but that was far from the truth.

"They aren't pretending to play, they really do," Johnson said. "These girls are hard-core athletes; most ex-collegiate, like big time track stars", as well as "soccer and basketball players."

The girls are scheduled for practices twice a week during the later hours of the night. However, according to Johnson, the majority of the team arrives for practice a few hours earlier to focus on "individual improvement." Most women on the team have day jobs and are even mothers and wives, Johnson stated, and though it might be a lot to handle sometimes, "we are dedicated."

Though it may seem like the girls are wearing close to nothing with no sort of real protection, their helmets, garters, shoulder, elbow and knee pads are what keep them safe. This does not guarantee 100% protection though; as with any sport, there is room for injury.

"I have suffered hairline fractures of bones in and around both ankles," said wide receiver and middle line-backer Carrie

Walters. "It's all been worth it, though."

Walters said while their uniforms gets people into the stands, the excitement of the games keeps them coming back. Just watch a game of Vegas Sin – you'll hear the hardnosed hits, see the speed and agility of the players and observe the pure talent and solid hands each teammate has to offer on the field.

Vegas Sin will play their next game against the Seattle Mist in Seattle on November 4th. Their first home game will be at The Orleans Arena November 11th against the defending championship team, the L.A. Temptation. If you are interested in joining a team within the LFL, or Vegas Sin, visit www.lflus.com for more information as well as for tickets and game schedules.

"This is not just some reality entertainment show, this is football, women's football." ■

“ THIS IS NOT JUST SOME
REALITY ENTERTAINMENT
SHOW, THIS IS FOOTBALL,
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL. ”



Setting the RECORD

...er, Straight.

-By Michael Ginsburg and Tod Story

"WE CAN BE PROUD
OF NEVADA AND WHAT
WE ACCOMPLISHED
TWO YEARS AGO IN
PASSING ONE OF
THE MOST INCLUSIVE
DOMESTIC PARTNER/
CIVIL UNION LAWS IN
THE COUNTRY."

Domestic partners have the same rights, protections and benefits, and are subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, government policies, common law or any other provisions or sources of law, as are granted to and imposed upon spouses. NRS 122A.200

Two years on and nearly 3,000 Domestic Partner Registry Certifications later, Nevadans are taking advantage of the option to register as domestic partners at a rate of nearly two couples per day. On October 1st, we will celebrate two years as domestic partners; having celebrated nineteen years together this past August. The fight to pass this monumental piece of legislation was not easy, but with the efforts and energy of countless community members, supporters, allies and our elected representatives, we successfully got the law passed despite a veto by the former governor.

Over the course of the last two years, we have heard and read many opinions, but not enough basic public education about what this law does and does not do. Simply, Nevada law applies the same rights to "Partner" as it does to "Spouse" in the nearly 1,000 instances in current statutes, future administrative regulations, court rules or policies, and decisions issued by State agencies. That is to say, in Nevada the term "Domestic Partner" is the legal spousal equivalent. With that basic idea in mind, clarification is sometimes necessary for couples looking to take advantage of the protections this law provides and specific questions for your particular situation should be addressed to an attorney.

Nevada's Domestic Partner Law does provide for joint ownership of property acquired during the partnership and you will both be responsible for debts you enter into during the partnership. So you will have to split jointly acquired property and debts 50/50 if you dissolve your partnership. Additionally, you can legally make medical decisions for your partner when they are incapacitated and you are free to visit each other in the hospital and sue for wrongful death of your partner. You are also entitled to keep a portion of your partner's property even if no Last Will and Testament

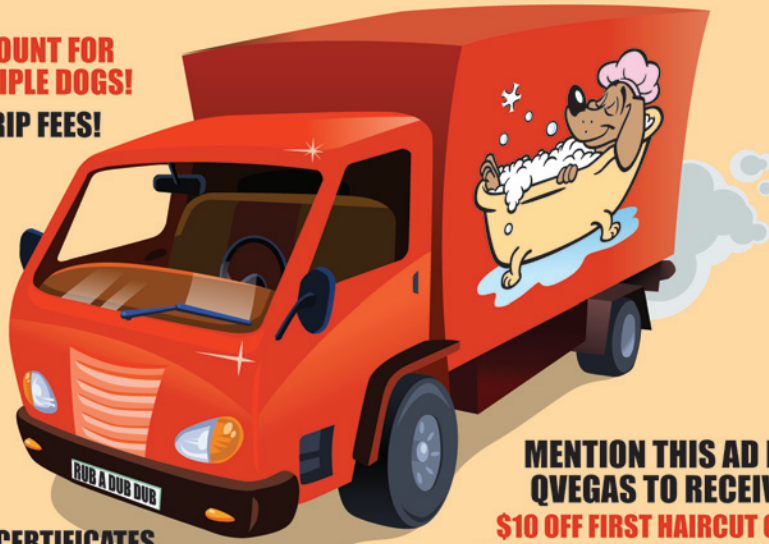
was legally filed. As the legal next of kin, you now have the right to stay in the home you built together upon the death of your partner and not fear that an unfriendly family member will force you from your home or take property contained within. You are also protected from being forced to testify against your partner in a court of law and may use the same process as a step-parent to adopt your partner's child.

One common criticism of Nevada's Domestic Partner Registry Act is that it does not require employers to offer health insurance for your partner-- indeed, no law in Nevada requires employers to offer health benefits for any spouse or family member of any kind. Bill sponsor Senator David Parks added the clarifying language to assure key undecided votes that the Act would not inadvertently mandate employers to offer health benefits only to Domestic Partners and not to spouses. So, this criticism is unwarranted. However, Nevada's law does not and could not affect those benefits that are under federal law. So immigration, income and estate taxes and social security laws, along with the nearly 1000 federal protections and benefits granted by the federal government do not apply to partnerships as long as the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is in effect.

On October 1st several new state laws will go into effect that finally bring parity to our transgender brothers and sisters after being left behind for far too long. Change is possible and it often doesn't come fast enough, but as long as we continue to stand up and speak out we will create that more perfect union of which we all dream-- but only when we are willing to educate, vote and be counted. Until the day our full equality is achieved we can be proud of Nevada and what we accomplished two years ago in passing one of the most inclusive domestic partner/civil union laws in the country, and that we can celebrate! ■

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H O N O R A R I U M

by Richard Davis



Celebrate

COMMUNITY



L

as Vegas City Manager Betsy Fretwell and five others will be honored at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada's 17th Annual Honorarium at Caesar's Palace on Friday, November 4th, 2011. The Honorarium is sort of an LGBT community "People's Choice Awards" and is

the Center's biggest annual fundraising event. Center director Candice Nichols stated, "People can nominate online whoever they feel should be honored. All the names go into a pool of candidates and the Center's Board chooses who will be honored based on how the person has nurtured social justice, how they have lived their lives and what they have given back to the community."

In recognizing **Betsy Fretwell** as the Center's 2011 Woman of the Year, Nichols said, "The path that has led Betsy Fretwell to the City Manager position, and what she has managed to accomplish since, is simply extraordinary. She has affected change on a large scale."

Change is the key challenge that Fretwell has had to face as she struggles to maintain quality city services with a much reduced revenue stream. Las Vegas LGBT community founding father Robert Forbuss says, "The City of Las Vegas is fortunate to have Betsy Fretwell as City Manager during these tough times". Fretwell responds, "What I do makes a difference in the community every day." Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist John Smith states, "Betsy Fretwell is simply one of the finest public servants I've encountered in the more than 25 years I've been watching City Hall." Republican political activist Sig Rogich concurs, "I view her as among the very best."

Fretwell can't do it alone, and she praises "our dynamic City Council that really loves the community." Likewise, she enjoys working with our "new" Mayor Goodman. Fretwell says "Though her direction is similar, and that makes my job easier, Carolyn's style is very different from Oscar's." Goodman made several missteps during her campaign and alienated many in the LGBT community when she said that she was personally opposed to gay marriage at a Lambda Business and Professional Association candidate forum. However, Fretwell says, "Carolyn has been completely accepting and supportive of me. She is excited at the opportunity to engage the community."

The 44-year old Fretwell is partnered and has lived in Las Vegas for 20 years. She feels that efforts to legalize same-sex marriage have been curtailed by Nevada's constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. But she thinks the domestic partnership law that was ushered through the legislature by State Senator David Parks has gained for same-sex couples similar rights under state contract law. Fretwell believes that if you are talented and work hard "this town will give you a chance." Fretwell is passionate about the rebirth of downtown

"BETSY FRETWELL IS SIMPLY ONE OF THE FINEST PUBLIC SERVANTS I'VE ENCOUNTERED IN THE MORE THAN 25 YEARS I'VE BEEN WATCHING CITY HALL."

Las Vegas and she is excited about the possibility of a greater LGBT presence downtown.

Charles Atwood was openly gay during his many years as vice-chair of the Board of Directors for Harrah's Entertainment. Though he says he never kept his gayness a secret, he believes that it is his larger accomplishments, as both a businessman and community leader, that define him as a man. As chairman of the Harrah's Foundation (now Caesar's Foundation), he oversaw large donations to LGBT community organizations like Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). He now serves on the Board of Directors for the new Smith Center for the Performing Arts, which opens in March 2012. Fellow Smith board member and LGBT community father Bob Forbuss says, "Chuck's support for the Smith Center in Las Vegas shows his passion for the arts and his commitment to giving back. He is a fine example of what a pillar of the community truly embodies." Now retired, the 63-year-old Atwood has been in a relationship with his partner David for more than 30 years. He says, "Being in that stable relationship helped me in life, and in my career." Atwood says that his parents "encouraged me to believe I could do anything if I worked hard enough at it."

Atwood says his chief involvement in the community is as a mentor. "I frequently spent time with people at Harrah's who are LGBT, and

I helped them sort out how they could manage their differences with their straight colleagues, balance their careers and their relationships, and guided them in their career choices." Mentees have included Anuj "A.J." Jenveja, V.P. of consulting at Duetto Consulting, as well as Gwen Migita, an out executive at Caesar's. Jenveja states, "Chuck has been very supportive of my LGBT community work in organizations such as HRC." Candice Nichols affirms the Center's recognition of Atwood as Man of the Year at the 2011 Honorarium in November "because he has, and continues to serve, as mentor to several LGBT colleagues, helping to nurture the next generation of the Valley's corporate and community leaders."

Atwood's passion is for nurturing a seed. States Atwood, "The



Woman Of The Year
BETSY FRETWELL



Man Of The Year
CHARLES ATWOOD

"CHARLES ATWOOD HAS, AND CONTINUES TO SERVE, AS MENTOR TO SEVERAL LGBT COLLEAGUES, HELPING TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE VALLEY'S CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS."

wonderful thing about people in Las Vegas is that we have this attitude that we can do anything.” He says the Smith Center evolved from a vision and, he says, “The people of Las Vegas made it happen.” The seed of hope that Atwood nourishes in the next generation of LGBT leaders through his mentorship still lives in his heart, he says. “I believe I will see federal recognition of gay marriage in the next few years.”

Charles Béraud, public affairs coordinator with Cirque de Soleil, grew up in a small French Canadian town, the son of immigrant parents from Haïti who nurtured in him the value of community. When Béraud moved to Las Vegas three and half years ago, he found a home. He said, “Contrary to our image as a transient community, so many people are involved in our community.”

Béraud is being recognized by the Center as it’s 2011 Volunteer of the Year for his own community involvement. Béraud says, “I wonder how much I deserve this award when so many contribute so much more.” Béraud was recently featured in [QVegas](#) as one of the 33 People With Pride and when asked for an interview, he joked, “One gets tired of talking about oneself. I was just one of 33.” He says, “My Mom inspired me; she was a life-long volunteer.” Continues Béraud, “My place of privilege is not deserved but is just the luck of life.” The Center’s director Candice Nichols commented, “Charles is a person you can always count on and he always comes through. We are so fortunate to have him in the numerous positions he volunteers for at the Center.” Béraud serves on the Center’s Board as communications chair. Béraud was also emcee for this year’s ARTrageous and recounts, “I walked down the runway in a multi-colored cellophane skirt with motorcycle boots to the music of Grace Jones.”

Béraud’s charming modesty aside, he does his part. He currently serves on the HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee. James Healey, past HRC Steering Committee chair and a vice-president at MGM, says, “Charles inspires me to want to do more every day. Las Vegas HRC and the Center are so blessed to have him a part of our community. He is a true hero!”

Béraud expresses his greatest passion for his volunteer work in the local performing arts

“**CHARLES BÉRAUD IS A PERSON YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON AND HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE HIM IN THE NUMEROUS POSITIONS HE VOLUNTEERS FOR AT THE CENTER.**”



Volunteer Of The Year
CHARLES BÉRAUD



Equality Award
JOSHUA MILLER & STEVE AMEND

“**THE FACT THAT JOSHUA & STEVE ARE A COMMITTED, OPENLY GAY COUPLE WORKING TOGETHER FOR ISSUES LIKE MARRIAGE EQUALITY MAKES THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HRC LAS VEGAS STEERING COMMITTEE ALL THE MORE INSPIRING.**”

community, such as the non-profit theater troupe, RagTag Entertainment. Béraud says he felt like he had come full circle when he played the role of Benny in RagTag’s recent production of “Rent” in the Ovation Showroom at Green Valley Ranch Resort and Casino. RagTag artistic director Andrew Wright praised Béraud’s performance for its humanity. Béraud says RagTag gives local talent the opportunity to perform in high-caliber productions, and all proceeds go to local community organizations like the Center and Golden Rainbow. Béraud is also involved in Win-Win Entertainment, a non-profit that recruits Strip performers to donate their talent for various fundraises and benefits. Béraud says, “In Vegas there is sometimes a disconnect between the four miles of the Strip and the other 131 square miles of Las Vegas. Win-Win gives the performers on the Strip an opportunity to give back to their community.”

Béraud is 42 and single. He was involved in a long distance relationship for two and a half years, but he says, “I haven’t had much time to date between work and volunteering with various organizations.” He says his idea of a good time is a dinner party at home with “three or four friends, good food, good wine.” He laughs, “A little too much for my waistline!” Béraud says what he loves most about Vegas is that someone “can actually build a regular life here.” He is excited about the March opening of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. He says his future includes a greater level of involvement with HRC on the national level, exciting new developments at the Center, and continuing involvement with RagTag and Win-Win. He says, “In an ideal world, I would want to play Che in ‘Evita’, then I could hang up my dancing shoes and say I had a good run.”

Joshua Miller and **Steve Amend** are partners in life as well as in community activism. Miller is president of KeyState Corporate Management and Amend is a criminal defense attorney, though he says, “I am a stay-at-home dad for now” for the couples’ 19-month old son, Caden. The couple will be celebrating their 10th anniversary this fall. Miller says, “We were very excited to register as domestic partners.” Dr. Jerry Cade said, “The fact that they are a committed, openly gay couple working together for issues like marriage equality makes their leadership role in the HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee all the more inspiring.”

Miller says that Tom Skancke invited them to



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“THE MORE THAT THE GAY COMMUNITY LIVES HONESTLY AND OPENLY, AT HOME AND AT WORK, THE FASTER COMMUNITY SUPPORT WILL GROW FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY.”

the first planning meeting for those interested in building a local HRC organization in Las Vegas. He says Skancke served as their mentor from the very beginning, and Miller now serves on HRC's Board of Directors while Amend serves on it's national Board of Governors. Miller acknowledges the foundation laid by LGBT community pioneers like Robert Forbuss, Jerry Cade and David Parks—"activists that have been working at this for years and years." Bob Forbuss himself says he is excited about the national presence of the new LGBT leadership that is emerging in Las Vegas. He lauds Miller for helping to re-establish Las Vegas' "very active HRC chapter" and for serving on HRC's national board.

Some in the community were concerned that the emergence of a strong national HRC organization in Las Vegas would pull leadership and money away from local LGBT organizations. But Miller says, "My vision is for HRC to be a strong community partner. HRC's mission is very broad—ensuring that all LGBT people in America receive their basic equal rights and can live open, honest, and safe lives at home, at work and in the community. We can't do it without the help of the broader community." Amend adds, "My vision is for HRC to be an advocate for the communities they represent."

The Center's Nichols says that Miller and Amend are being recognized with an Equality Award at the Honorary. Miller says, "Steve and I are humbled and honored to receive this Equality Award." He says, "We share it with the entire HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee and our larger family of volunteers."

Miller was born in Las Vegas and says, "I love the entrepreneurial spirit of Nevada. This is a town where you can achieve anything and this same spirit carries through to the LGBT community." Amend says, "I moved here with my family in 1986 when my dad was stationed at Nellis AFB to fly F-16s." He continues, "The small community allows you to really get involved and know your elected officials." Amend was inspired by Bob Forbuss' commitment to education and the community. Amend says, "Full equality and acceptance are my vision."

Nevada has come a long way, especially with the transgender protection bills recently passed. However, we are far from full equality in the Silver State. With domestic partnerships, gays and lesbians still hold second class status." He says, "The more that the gay community lives honestly and openly, at home and at work, the faster community support will grow for marriage equality."

The thread tying together all the 2011 Center honorees is the name of **Robert Forbuss**. A Las Vegas LGBT community pioneer, Forbuss was born in Las Vegas in 1948 and grew up in the Huntridge district, now one of Las Vegas' emerging "gayborhoods." In college, he worked stints at the then newly opened Caesar's when it was still run in the "old Vegas" style. He remembers meeting a young Carolyn Goodman, then working as a secretary for Caesar's hotel boss Nathan Jacobson. Forbuss says that even in those days she was "a lady in charge of her office."



Lifetime Achievement
BOB FORBUSS

Forbuss' life-long passion as a public educator began as a young debate teacher at Bishop Gorman High School. But a summer job as an emergency medical technician (EMT) led Forbuss to purchase the small Mercy Ambulance company. He says, "I was able to take a small company and expand it beyond Nevada to a multimillion dollar enterprise with operations in three states." Steve Amend says, "Bob Forbuss was my boss 18 years ago when I was working as an EMT for Mercy Ambulance while attending college."

Still Forbuss had not forgotten his passion for education and made a successful run for Clark County School Board, and later served on the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Bureau. All the while, Forbuss was still in the closet. His life-long friend, Dr. Jerry Cade, finally outed him. Close friend and former mayor Jan Jones says, "For years Bob was the most eligible bachelor in Las Vegas. Nobody knew he was gay! Right after I was elected mayor in 1991, at a fund-raiser at Jerry Cade's, Jerry grabbed Bob and gave him a huge kiss and said, 'See, that wasn't so hard.'"

The reticently out Forbuss was very active "mostly behind the scenes," he says, in the repeal of Nevada's sodomy law in 1993. Jerry Cade says,

“IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR BOB FORBUSS, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE CREATED THE HIV PROGRAM WE HAVE TODAY.”

"Every time we needed money for anything that had to do with repealing the sodomy law, Bob wrote a check. He probably personally financed over half the money we spent repealing the law." Forbuss also assisted Dr. Cade in creating the research non-profit Nevada AIDS Research and Education Society and still serves as the non-profit's director of development, a non-paid position. Jerry Cade says, "If it hadn't been for Bob, we might not have created the HIV program we have today."

Tod Story, of Congresswomen Shelley Berkley's office, says that Forbuss has mentored many of the LGBT community's emerging leaders. HRC's Josh Miller says, "Bob took me under his wing over ten years ago. I was a young executive and he pushed me to find time away from my busy work schedule and to get involved." Miller goes on to say, "Bob's early participation as an HRC Federal Club member was key to HRC's success in Las Vegas. I'm lucky to have him as a close friend and mentor."

Candice Nichols, in honoring Forbuss with the Center's Lifetime Achievement Award, shares a story about Forbuss' mentorship. She

recalls, "Right after Proposition 8 passed in California to overturn gay marriage, the Center had a community rally." She says "When Bob looked down the street and saw 2,000 people, tears came to his eyes and he said, 'We need to make sure the Center has a building.'"

Forbuss says, "Education has always been my passion. Education is our hope for a better tomorrow." Forbuss said that the greatest honor of his life was having Robert L. Forbuss Elementary School named for him. Republican political consultant and Forbuss' close friend, Sig Rogich says, "I think Bob takes more pride in his school than he does in any other achievement."

Forbuss was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS in July 2010. The non-contagious disease was formerly referred to as "Lou Gehrig's disease" after the baseball great that died of the disease in the 1930s. Forbuss is currently living with the disease. Forbuss believes one of his most important legacies will be the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. He says, "That alone will shift Las Vegas into the category of world-class city. Forbuss says, "Las Vegas itself has provided me with my inspiration." ■

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HEALTH FAIR

- By Richard Davis

Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas (MCC-LV) will be hosting the third annual Latino/a Health Fair on National AIDS Latino/a Awareness Day (NALA), which coincides with National Coming Out Day on Saturday, October 15. The event, which will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. inside the church sanctuary at 1140 Almond Tree Lane at South Maryland Parkway at East Sahara, will feature health screenings and panel discussions on LGBT Latino/a health issues.

Major event sponsors include Action Red, Community Counseling Center, Community Outreach Medical Center, Luz, the *Promotores de Salud* program at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and Univision. Participating organizations include the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada Health District performing HIV testing, the American Lung Association of Nevada performing brief interventions for tobacco dependence, the Rape Crisis Center, the Mexican Consulate and the Census Bureau. The Sin City Sisters will be hosting a mixer with food and refreshments at 3:00 p.m. All services are offered bilingually in Spanish and English.

Rosita Castillo, program manager for *Promotores de Salud* at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, said, "The purpose of this health fair is to reduce the stigma that those who are LGBT or HIV positive experience in the Hispanic community. Especially those who are transgendered." She explained, "Because of this stigma there is a fear of HIV testing and of being identified as LGBT." Edgar Ramos, a producer with Univision, the largest Spanish-language television network in the United States, agreed, "Hispanics don't get tested and are afraid to be tested." In the week preceding the health fair, Univision will be running a series of stories on HIV in the Latino/a community to help lessen this stigma.

The Rev. George Balgan, who pastors the bilingual Rainbow Service at MCC-LV, said that in his conversations with Latino/a members of his congregation he has learned that the Hispanic community often prefers preventative care and self-help remedies and

so often does not seek testing and treatment for HIV and other diseases. Lane Olson of Action Red said, "We aren't here to tell people they have to get tested, but we are educating the community about the benefits of testing and knowing one's HIV status." Planned Parenthood's Castillo said, "Being HIV positive is no longer a death sentence. That's the importance of being tested, to live with HIV." She emphasizes that HIV is also not just an issue for the LGBT Latino/a community; she said, "One hundred per cent of the positive women in Las Vegas contracted HIV through heterosexual contact."

The health fair is featuring three panel discussions, addressing LGBT/Queer Sensitivity, HIV Awareness and An Inclusive Faith Community. Castillo said the panels are important to understand "what the stigma around being LGBT or HIV positive entails for the whole family, not just the LGBT or HIV positive person."

Lorenzo Fernandez is a case manager with the Community Outreach Medical Center and he is HIV positive. He said, "There is a lot of fear and stigma about HIV in the Latino/a LGBT community, not just in the straight Latino/a community. Our message is 'We're not afraid of living with HIV anymore because there is treatment.'"

Marco Flores, an outreach worker with the Community Counseling Center, stated, "The incidence of HIV is high in the Latino/a community, not because of our ethnicity, but because of our sexual practices and because of behavior within the community. These are things we don't talk about in the community, like intravenous drug use."

The event organizers say that the annual health fair also helps to educate community-based organizations that want to serve the LGBT Latino/a community on how to effectively reach out to LGBT Latinos/as in culturally appropriate ways.

For more information on the 3rd Annual Latino/a Health Fair contact Rosita Castillo at *Promotores de Salud* at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, 702-239-6217. ■



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THE CENTER'S

LGBT YOUTH

BY RICHARD DAVIS



"The wonderful thing that the Center can offer is that LGBTQ youth can show up as themselves," says Mel Goodwin, the 26-year old Youth and Volunteer Services Director at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. Goodwin said the ten youth featured in this issue of QVegas typify the outgoing young people in the Center's two youth groups: "R.U.1.2.", for high school and early college youth aged 13-24, and "17/24", for young adults. Goodwin said these 10 youths are examples of maturity for their peer group.

The Center's youth programs are headed by Goodwin, a staff of one, plus many committed community volunteers. Goodwin, a Las Vegas native, says, "I came to the Center's youth groups when I was a young person. It is a privilege to be able to give back now." In addition to the two youth groups that meet on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. respectively, the Center hosts a weekly youth activity night on Tuesdays from

6-7 p.m. that is open to youth 13-24. Activities range from board games to open mic performances. The Center's youth groups and activities are well-attended, with over 2,000 distinct service contacts in 2010. Funding for the Center's youth activities comes from such major donors as the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Cox Charities, the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Nevada Energy Foundation. For more information on the Center's youth groups and programs go to www.thecenterlv.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/QyouthLV. Goodwin states that the importance of the youth groups at the Center cannot be overemphasized. "There's not much for folks under 21 to do in Las Vegas in general, and especially not much for LGBTQ youth under 21," she said. The Center's youth groups provide the opportunity for LGBTQ youth to socialize and to form supportive bonds among their peers in a safe, drug- and alcohol-free space.

Micheal Labrado is a 19-year old gay man. He said for LGBTQQ youth the main places to hang out are "the Center, parks and the mall." He says, "I love to go to the Center on Thursdays for R.U.1.2. to hear the thoughts and topics that are shared. I also like to stay after for 17-24." Quei Tann, 16, has been going to the Center twice a week for one year. Quei says, "I participate in activities at the Center to support my community and to stay in touch." Quei says, "I never really had a coming out story; I've always been open about who I am and honest with myself and everyone else." That's why Quei enjoys the Center, "I love that everyone is so open and honest about themselves." The Center is the only safe place Jesse McLean, a 17-year old transgendered man, knows. Jesse has been going to the Center for four years. Jesse likes the Center because "I enjoy being able to connect with others like me" and to make new friends. Jesse says, "I regularly attend the Out of the (Gender) Box group at the Center, and I have recently started attending the youth group again."

To get the word out to local high schools, Goodwin says that the Center provides a youth speaker's bureau for the schools on topics such as bullying, coming out, and being LGBTQQ in school. She said, "I will work with any schools that will have me to assist students and to help school staff to become culturally competent around LGBTQQ issues." Each spring, the Center hosts a prom open to all youths 13-24. Goodwin says the prom is open to older youth because "Some never had the opportunity to feel safe and out at their school proms." 200 youth attended the 2011 prom. The Center also hosts a yearly youth Thanksgiving dinner. Goodwin attended the Las Vegas Academy and graduated from the Community College High School. She received her BA in Social Work from UNLV in 2010.

Micheal Labrado graduated from Las Vegas High School, where he was a member of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). He was a music major and played the trombone in the school marching band and also played with the school orchestra, wind ensemble, and musical and jazz bands. In high school, Micheal says he was never physically bashed, but he says, "I would be verbally abused." He helped other LGBTQQ students when needed. He said, "We need to educate the teachers and get them to enforce the no bullying rules in school." He plans on attending college to study aerospace engineering. He says, "My goal is to build a community space station."

Jesse McLean recently graduated from Chaparral High School where he was

active in track and field and was involved in GSA. He said in high school, "I was always prepared to be called derogatory names or to be pushed into lockers" for being transgendered, but "the only time anything remotely like that happened to me was the first day of my last year of high school, when another gay student called me a 'dyke' and walked away." Jesse says, "Because I wasn't out to the teachers and staff at school as trans, I wasn't able to use the men's locker rooms or bathrooms."

Goodwin said that there is no "typical" young LGBTQQ person who uses the Center's services. She said, "They run the gamut,

ignored by my middle brother. We didn't tell my sister until later and she accepted me and told me it didn't matter to her. Today, I have the full support of my family and they stand behind me 100% in whatever situation I find myself in. I know I can always rely on them for anything." Micheal said he has an openly gay cousin, Paul, "He's awesome!" Micheal says he attends Central Christian Church, "where they love all of God's children." He says, "I do have a strong faith in God and love everything about him." Micheal says, "My main mentor is Ellen DeGeneres. She showed me that it's okay to be who you are and to dance the stress away."

Jesse McLean said, "I never really came out to my dad about being transgender. One day I just asked him when I could start using hormones and when I could legally change my name and gender. He wasn't really surprised when I told him. I guess he always just knew." Jesse has a gay uncle and says, "before he passed away, one of my grandfathers was gay."

Goodwin, who is partnered, says, "I'm out to the youth at the Center and I am open and caring, but I have to have strong boundaries in my role as the staff person in charge of youth groups." Quei Tann says the adult mentors at the Center "create a safe place for LGBTQQ youth in Las Vegas." Jesse McLean says, "We were briefly taught about safe sex in health class in school, but I feel they could've gone more in-depth, and it would've been nice if they hadn't assumed everyone was straight and cisgendered."

Micheal McLean is single and he says he learned about safe sex "thanks to the youth group" at the Center and the Vegas MPowerment Project for young gay and bi- men, 20-29, headed by the Center's Joshua Montgomery ("like them on Facebook.")

Goodwin said she is inspired because "When they all come together, the youth are there to support each other and to be something bigger than themselves." She said, "Everyday I am touched in a special way" by the youth at the Center. Jesse McLean said, "Mel helped me when I was trying to figure out my gender identity and the Center got me to start participating more within the LGBTQQ community." Micheal Labrado says he likes "To help Mel out in any way I can." Quei Tann says, "Our mentor at the Center is Mel. She is just so comfortable with who she is. She is an inspiration to all of us. She has helped each and every one of the youth at the Center with their struggles. Mel Goodwin is an honest and genuine person and she has made a difference in my life." ■



from very shy to out-going, from kids with loving, supportive families to kids who are couch surfing from home to home." Goodwin said, "I am there to support them." She said that the Center provides referrals to a variety of community services for youth. On-site youth services include the Center's Youth Drop-in Center, which houses a computer lab available to youth ages 14-20 and the Center's free Youth Clinic, a collaboration with the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, which provides several physicians and medical students who visit the Center on a monthly basis.

Micheal Labrado shared his coming out story: "On January 12, 2006, at 8:34 in the morning, my mother called me into the dining room and confronted me in front of my dad, asking if I was gay. I replied with a yes and both said that they loved me and that they will always be there for me. After my brothers found out, I was disowned by my oldest brother for a couple of years and

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ANDY MIRANDA

is 18, has been going to The Center for three years, and has met so many fun and outgoing people there since his first involvement in his early teens. Miranda can look to a loving mother as a support system for him as he came out, and The Center represents another aspect of that support system. He strongly believes that getting involved and being informed helps to bring the community together, and reminds local gay youth that they are not alone in this struggle.

ALLEN ERIVES

is 16 and has been attending the youth meetings two days a week for the past two years. He really feels as though he can be himself there, without judgment or recrimination. After revealing his sexuality to his mom, Erives was surprised to find her reply was that she already knew! Like many involved with activities at the center, Erives names Mel Goodwin as someone who has had a huge influence in his life, teaching him to stand up for what he believes in and just be himself. Without meeting her he is not sure he would be the same person today.

GAYLYNN DANIELS

is 19 and relatively new to The Center, having spent a little more than a month there for a few days a week. Even so, she relishes the activities and would love to see more meetings related to the Trevor (or "It Gets Better") Project that local youth can attend to share their stories and receive help. She would love to see more youth get involved at The Center because she finds it very liberating, very much like having a second family away from home.

TYLER HURT

is 18, has been going to The Center for a good long five years, and finds being involved there so rewarding because it is very familiar to him. Like so many others who find being at The Center almost like being with another family, the familiarity of those around him provides Hurt with a profound sense of comfort and belonging. Making sure the youth of the community are being seen, heard, and genuinely listened to is very important to him as the community looks for ways to continue to grow, and yet get tighter.

EMILY NICOLE BROWN

is 17 years old and has been with The Center for three and a half years and spends a good portion of her time there. She really enjoys being somewhere where she can be who she is and be accepted by those around her. She highly recommends more Las Vegas youth get involved because it's really fun and a great way to meet new people. Clearly family is extremely important to her as she puts her mom at the top spot in who has made the biggest impact on her life. Brown's mom is active in her daughter's life and embraces who her daughter is.

ALEX ROS

is 18 and has been going to The Center for over 4 years. Alex says the what he enjoys the most about The Center is Thanksgiving, when people come from all over to make a new family to celebrate with, which sums up the entire spirit of The Center. He says there are no cliques and that he has never seen such a solid group of teenagers before. Alex came out in the summer of 2007 to his brother and father, who took it relatively well. He and his mother came out to each other June of last year.

QUINN J. WOFF

is 16, has been going to The Center for about a year and a half, and typically is there four or five days a week. He really enjoys the activities and free testing that The Center provides. Though he was pretty much out to his friends and peers, Woff wasn't always out to his parents. His "coming out" story includes him getting out of the shower in nothing but a towel and professing his sexuality to his family, only to find out his sister already knew, and his dad once worked as a stripper in a gay bar!

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BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Retro Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Karaoke 12pm \$3 Well and Domestic	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Latin Night
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$5 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	2-4-1 4pm-7pm \$5 Liquor Bust 9pm - 12pm	\$6 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$1.75 Well&Dom. 2a-10a \$5 Beer Bust 4pm-7pm \$2 Long Islands 7p-12a	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Drag Queen bingo 9ish \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Underwear Night \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm Free Pool 9pm	1/2 Price 9p-12a Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$5 Beer Bust 9pm - 12am
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-731-0951	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2p-7p \$15 Brunch Buffet 4p	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4p-7p Happy Hour 2p-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Roll The Dice Price 7p- 9p	Happy Hour 2pm-7pm Kitty Litter Show 11pm & 1am	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Richard Villa 10pm
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Movie Star night	Open 24 Hours Boys Night 18-25 Free Entry	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights out	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays 40+ Free entry	Mitch Vaughn Presents THRUST Thursdays Adult film stars 8p-10p	Open 24 hours	Open 24 Hours Packed House Busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 10p-12a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Dom. Draft 8am - 8pm
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-885-FLEX	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8pm
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke 10pm Free Beer Bust 8p-1a *w/ a shot purchase	Karaoke 10pm Free Beer Bust 8p-1a *w/ a shot purchase	Ladies Night LickHerBust \$7 Beer Bust \$5 8p-1a	Risque Bingo 8pm iNTOXXICATED w/ Divia Toxxx Drag Revue 11pm	BUSTED \$7 Liquor Bust & \$5 Beer Bust 8pm-1am	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 10pm DJ BC 11pm	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 10pm DJ BC 11pm Beer Bust 4p-8p
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6pm - 9pm	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Long Islands 9pm - 2am \$3 Smirnoff 8pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Margaritas 9pm - 2am \$1 Off Call Liquor	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm
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GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details	Visit GypsyVegas.com for Details
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Open 24 Hours	Drag Show starts 11pm	Comedy Show 8p-midnight	Karaoke With Will 9pm-1am	Carpe Noctem 10:30pm-4am No Cover	Vaquero Night With \$10 Liquor Bust 10pm	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10pm
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	It's not that serious Sundays! DJ Kowax, Locals free & \$10 for tourists.	Kream Hip Hop Night! DJ Kowax, \$10 entry, All you can drink	Tyler Caiden's Playground \$3 wells & \$5 premiums drinks with text. DJ Mikey 18 and over	WTF? Wednesdays win up to \$1,000 DJ J. Diesel Free for locals, \$10 for tourists.	Drag & Drink with Chi Chi! Live drag performances, DJ Silence, drag queens drink FREE all night!	Fabulous Fridays! DJ Silence 18 and over	Krave Saturdays World-class DJs, over-the-top entertainment and Vegas' hottest go-go dancers.
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - pm and 10pm - 2am	Slot Tournament 8pm - 10pm	Karaoke with Johnathon 8pm - 2am	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7pm - 3am	\$5 Well & Draft Bust 12pm - 5pm & 10pm - 2am / Karaoke with Johnathon 8pm - 2am	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7pm - 3am	\$5 Well & Draft Bust 12pm - 5pm & 10pm - 2am / Towel Night 10pm - 2am
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-835-9298	Open 24 Hours	Beer/Liquor Bust \$6, \$7, \$8, 7pm - 10pm \$6 Darts Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm / Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8am - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 4pm - 7 pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 6pm - 9pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 8pm - 11pm	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws & Margaritas 8pm - 11pm \$1 Well, Domestic, Wine with Spotlight T-Shirt	\$5 Liquor Bust 10pm - 1am	\$5 Liquor Bust 1pm - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 8pm - 11pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3pm Couples Night 6 - 9pm Jock Night Mid - 3am

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Jimi Urquiaga's FALL FASHION

dark . urban . gothic .

"If you really want to do something in life, you'll find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse."

This is the hopeful mantra that I repeat to myself day after day as I work ceaselessly towards making my dreams a reality and achieving my ultimate goal: to become a successful fashion designer, as well as a household name in the fashion world. My name is Jimi Urquiaga (also known as JIMICTO), and I am a 20-year-old Cuban-American artist, born and raised in Las Vegas. Being a native of the City of Sin for all my life has introduced me to new, hip, and exciting realms of fashion, art, music, nightlife, and just about every other channel of creative media imaginable. It is this part of my life, the aspect that revolves around all that is pop culture, that has been such a key element in my designs and my fashion-forward campaigns. That, and the incredible support of my family, friends, and fans, who have all been more than willing to participate in my cause.

From the beginning, when I merely tinkered with designing and selling stylish handbags for my friends, I knew that my personal sense of style was one of unique, over-the-top eccentricity. After being greeted by immense popularity and success for my first collection, I chose to expand my horizons and begin lending my artistic touch to a colorful, edgy line of T-shirts, dresses, skirts, and more. I even put together and hosted a fashion show at Las Vegas High School, where I managed to gain a wider range of support and enthusiasm for my wearable creations. This success inspired me to arrange more events in which I featured the distinctive works and projects of other local, underground artists, including everything from painters and sculptors to dancers and musicians. I am happy to report that I achieved the same level of artistic triumph during my latest high-profile event, the JIMICTO Fashion, Art, and Music (F.A.M.) Festival.

During this special fashion show, I successfully exhibited my highly anticipated JIMICTO Fall 2011 Collection, a dark and urban-gothic twist that is sure to spice up my JIMICTO brand. My Spring 2011 Collection was very fun, loud, and funky, illustrating the happy and welcoming times that the season of spring always has to offer after a long, gloomy winter.

This season, however, I wanted to move in the complete opposite direction. I worked hard to create a line that depicts the dark and more serious times in life, an inventive approach to trials and tragedy.



The combination of murky, zombie-like sunken eyes, pale and sallow faces, and dark, pouting lips, mixed with outrageously chic hairstyles inspired by sexy macabre movie icon Elvira, have successfully brought the shadowy and unilluminating feel that I was going for. My favorite piece from this collection is my fabulous Fur Vintage dress. Faux animal fur on the hips with a vintage panel from bottom to top, this dress and style discerns a gothic taxidermist, as if she wears her work. Of course, this article of clothing was just one of many phenomenal pieces that were revealed to the public on the night of my noteworthy event.

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in and winning Las Vegas' Best New Designer at the Forum Shops of Caesar's Palace. I showcased a silver dress from my Fall line that dazzled the judges, all while competing against two other amazing young designers. Not long before that, I also had my first high profile Fashion Festival at Towbin Dodge, where many undiscovered artists and musicians displayed their talents as well, thus being able to expand their networks and put their name forward in the public world. It was a sensational night full of one-of-a-kind entertainment, expressive art, and plenty of socializing. The F.A.M. Festival, so far my proudest accomplishment, was more of the same, and

“
If you really want
to do something
in life, you'll find
a way. If not,
you'll find an ex-
cuse.”
”



has skyrocketed me to new platforms of underground fame and personal fulfillment. I hope to take it to the next level and truly break the surface with my upcoming shows and events, which my staff and I have been working on 'round the clock.

If any of you Q Magazine readers would like to follow up and possibly participate in any of my upcoming events, which are always being updated and improved upon, please feel free to follow/contact me:

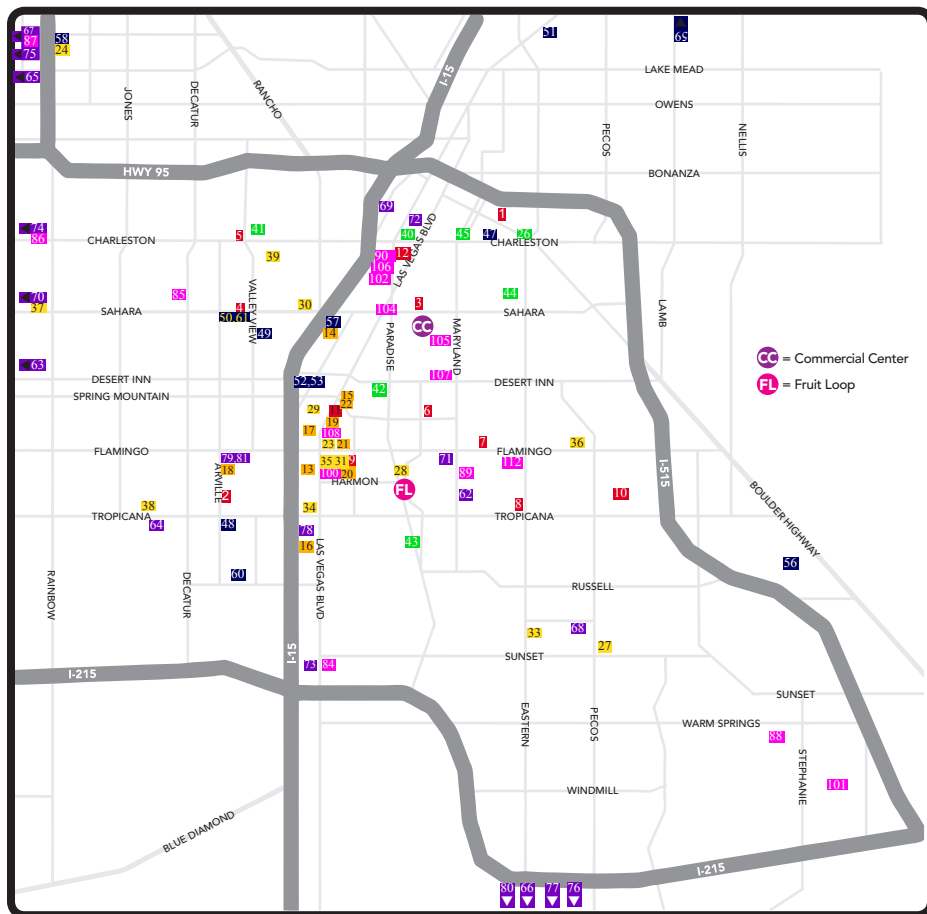
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Franklin knew of von Steuben's homosexual encounters, but didn't consider them relevant to a position in Washington's Continental Army. In June 1777, rumors of homosexual activity had forced von Steuben to resign his role as chamberlain to Prince Joseph Friedrich Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Hechingen, in southern Germany. Von Steuben travelled to Paris — some say fled — seeking a position in the French army or the Continental Army, through American military representatives like Franklin.

Washington had sought a military strategist, but had insisted on someone who spoke fluent English. Von Steuben spoke German and French and very little English, so Franklin was initially leary of recommending him to Washington.

But — and this is where Franklin's gay-friendly attitude is most obvious — Franklin had empathy for von Steuben's increasingly problematic circumstances and decided to write letters of recommendation to Washington and bring von Steuben to America. These letters of recommendation came immediately following a crisis for von Steuben.

Having first rejected a non-paid position offered by Franklin, von Steuben found himself in danger of being prosecuted. A letter dated August 13, 1777 to the Prince for whom von Steuben had been chamberlain threatened von Steuben:

"It has come to me from different sources that M. de Steuben is accused of having taken familiarities with young boys which the laws forbid and punish severely. I have even been informed that that is the reason why M. de Steuben was obliged to leave Hechingen and that the clergy of your country intend to prosecute him by law as soon as he may

establish himself anywhere."

Franklin and von Steuben met again and Franklin expanded and revised von Steuben's résumé to make it more attractive to Washington, wrote letters of recommendation for von Steuben and arranged for his passage to Pennsylvania.

Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge in February 1778, with his 17-year-old French lover, Pierre Etienne Duponceau. The rest — thanks to Franklin — is history.

It wasn't solely as ambassador that Franklin made gay-friendly history in early America. In his role as America's printer extraordinaire, Franklin had been responsible for facilitating the printing of the first male same-sex love story in North America through his friendship with and mentoring of French printer Fleury Mesplet.

Franklin had befriended Mesplet after meeting him in London during one of his many sorties there. There are different versions of how Mesplet arrived in Philadelphia, but he was both a revolutionary and a printer and his friendship with Franklin deepened during his time in Philadelphia. He then moved to Montreal with the American Army in 1775 as a printer for the colonial Confederation. But when he failed to convince Quebec to engage in the American Revolution, he was imprisoned as the British Crown retaliated, charging him with sedition.

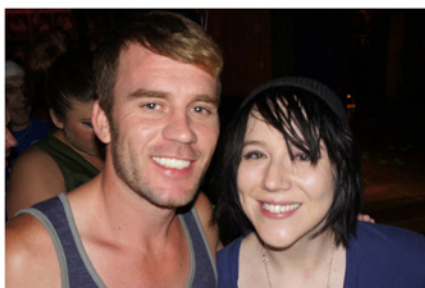
Mesplet would become one of the most historically significant printers in Canada. In 1785, he founded the Montreal Gazette, now the oldest continuing newspaper in Canada. For LGBT historians, however, Mesplet is famous for printing the first book in Montreal, which was also the first homoerotic publication in North America.

In 1776 Mesplet, whose friendship with Franklin bolstered his revolutionary fervor as a printer, bookseller and writer, published the play "Jonathas et David," or "Le Triomphe de l'Amitié." The play details the homoerotic relationship between Jonathan and David in the Old Testament — a depiction still considered controversial today, 235 years after Mesplet's publication.

Franklin was known as a sexual profligate — he spent little time with his common-law wife, Deborah Read, once he began to travel abroad, and was known for his many dalliances with women and writings on the topic of womanizing. He had one illegitimate son whom he recognized and may have had others. One presumes Franklin's own expansive sexual appetite allowed him not just tolerance but empathy with regard to von Steuben and also kept him from suggesting to Mesplet that homoerotic plays might not be the very first thing to publish in his new Canadian home, when he was already under suspicion for his political views.

Franklin's life was mesmerizingly rich and the breadth of his contributions to America incalculable. Added to that, now, can be his own significant contributions to LGBT history in North America.

Victoria A. Brownworth is an award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist. She is the author and editor of nearly 30 books, including the award-winning "Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life" and "Coming Out of Cancer: Writings from the Lesbian Cancer Epidemic." In 2010, she founded Tiny Satchel Press, an independent publisher of young adult books for 'twens and teens, which specializes in books for LGBT youth and youth of color. ■



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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Many positive and upbeat changes shall manifest during the next three months (at times, perhaps more than you're comfortable with). But each one is necessary for personal growth and major life lessons. Watch that tendency to "buy on impulse" until the 17th. Financial restraints ease up after that. Book a "day spa" treatment for the 22nd. It'll make you feel re-born, nothing wrong with that, Cappy.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

This month looks to be filled with emotions blowing very hot and cold and decidedly mixed results. Don't begin any major projects until after the 19th. Be sure to have documents/diagrams close by to back up any claims you make. It's better to let others do the talking on the 23rd. Remember to give thanks where it's due on the 29th. Don't take constructively critical comments to heart on the 31st.



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Make time for a friend in need (who was there for you at a crucial time) on the 4th. Tend to important tasks yourself on the 12th. Delegating to others likely ends with disastrous results. The 19th looks like an amazing day to "forgive and forget". Planetary aspects from the 24th-27th give you a free pass at successfully trying something new and exciting. Don't be afraid to "draw outside the lines".



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

A legal situation that had slowed to a crawl, looks to pick up incredible momentum as of the 10th. Try not to dwell on things from the past when you run into an ex lover. Make the 14th-16th a romantic, champagne filled weekend getaway. The boss isn't always right and certainly won't be on the 25th. Be there to pick up the pieces. It's time to shop for a new vehicle. That old set of wheels is DOA.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

That extremely hot financial tip that was received some time ago, is now ready to pounce upon. We suggest that you do this quietly, as the "walls tend to have ears". Long distance travel around mid month will end up killing many "sweet birds" with one stone (so to speak). The 21st & 22nd are powerful days to ask for favors and actually get them granted. So, don't be shy requesting what you want/deserve.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Issues involving trust (or the lack of it) seem to be eating away at you. We say go with your intuition. Funny thing where trust is concerned, you must give it in order to get it. Thoughts of relocation become stronger as this month (and year) comes to a close. Take your time and don't skip any steps. That way, everything will be fine. Resist the urge to settle an "old score". It's time to just let it go and move on.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Much of October looks (and feels) like a steep uphill climb. Results will be gotten and you'll reach the mountain's top. But, very little of it will be easy. Happily, ease rains upon you in December. For now, watch what you spend and take pleasure in small tasks and rewards. Curb the urge to tell someone off on the 15th. It'll only produce a negative "ripple effect". Good news arrives on the 29th.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Financial aspects strengthen somewhat early on, but spending habits still need to be watched. Oh lord, Leo's gonna faint. Grab those smelling salts! Sorry Lion/ess, your 2nd fav thing to do is a no-no. But there's still sex (which is numero uno). You'll just have to clip coupons and buy day old bread. A Virgo buddy will help. Don't be too sad. You've got 500 DVD's, Netflix, DISH TV & a laptop PC. Oh, the pain!



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Study Leo's message! But at least you've had practice stretching the almighty buck. Without your sign, the world wouldn't have accountants or librarians. It looks a relatively drama free month for you, Virgo. And that's nothing to sneer at. It'll give you time to rest up for December's vibrant insanity. The urge to be alone could prove quite strong at times. Act on this, if the need arises.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Having so many projects to manage is likely to weigh you down at times. Focus on the outcome, instead of the "marathon" involved. The 6th & 7th are best to ask for loans. Full Moon on the 12th charges up your already heightened "libido". Try not to dress too sexy that night or you might create a "stampede". Stay close to home on the 28th just to be on the safe side.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Financial aspects look good (though not great) throughout this month. Suppress the urge to "buy on impulse" and you'll avoid any "choppy waters". A simple (but not very easy) relationship choice needs to be met head on. It's not fair for either of you to be in "limbo". The 23rd looks like a terrific day to make amends and pay up on old debts. We don't necessarily mean those involving cash either, okay?



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

That fairly new relationship could be heading toward a critical point. It's not the time for making snap decisions or choices based purely on emotion. Energy levels are likely to be sluggish until the 9th. After that, you'll feel like doing a triathlon. Skip the race and put all of that power toward what will be a wildly successful money making idea. Remember: late bloomers reap the sweetest rewards.



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THE LAST WORD

BY CANDICE NICHOLS



"More than ever, I believe in the organic place of The Center within the community, and the role we play."

Las Vegas is a great community. That's the conclusion I always come to at this time every year, as we survey the various organizations and individuals who commit their time and resources to making this city a better place to live for all of us. It's always hard to narrow it down to a handful of honorees when you consider how vast the pool of people deserving recognition for what they do is. That's what the Honorarium is to me: a celebration of Community articulated by the acknowledgement of the work and dedication of a few key individuals. It's an opportunity for us at The Center to say "thank you".

The Honorarium is also our largest annual fundraiser, which makes it possible for us to do what we do. We are incredibly proud of what we've been able to accomplish in 2010: more than 30,000 people utilized our services. More than 30 groups held a combined total of 1,370 meetings at The Center. More than 300 volunteers contributed over 3,813 service hours. 2,180 young people participated in Youth programming, including our 10th annual prom attended by 190 LGBTQ youth. These are but a few of the figures that illustrate the impact the center had in 2010. They don't even begin to speak to that of HIV prevention programs (11,554 safer sex kits; and over 17,340 condoms distributed), or of our HIV and STD testing (thousands tested, 55 and 201 positives identified, respectively) who are now treated or in services.

We have a lot to be thankful for at The Center. We too have felt the pinch of the economic slowdown in many ways and we're very aware that our supporters' discretionary spending has been impacted by it as well. That we've been able to navigate the past twelve months and maintain that level of service while remaining debt-free is a testament to the veracity of our support base. We see this as a message from them that they

consider what we do to be primordial. We take it to heart. We renew our pledge to provide services that are vital to the well-being of our community. We accept the challenge of pushing forward and going further, in solidarity with the other organizations servicing our community.

We are very optimistic about our future – and the myriad growth opportunities that will be offered to us in the coming months and years. More than ever, I believe in the organic place of The Center within the community, and the role we play. I am energized by the vitality of all who are involved in many varying ways. I am inspired by their generosity of spirit. I am gratified by the fact that what we do matters, that we make a difference, that thanks to us – this collective of donors, supporters, staff, board members and volunteers that makes this "us" – for so many who utilize our services, it does get better. ■



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