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OCTOBER 2013

THE COMING OUT ISSUE

NEW YORK
FASHION WEEK
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ROSS MATHEWS
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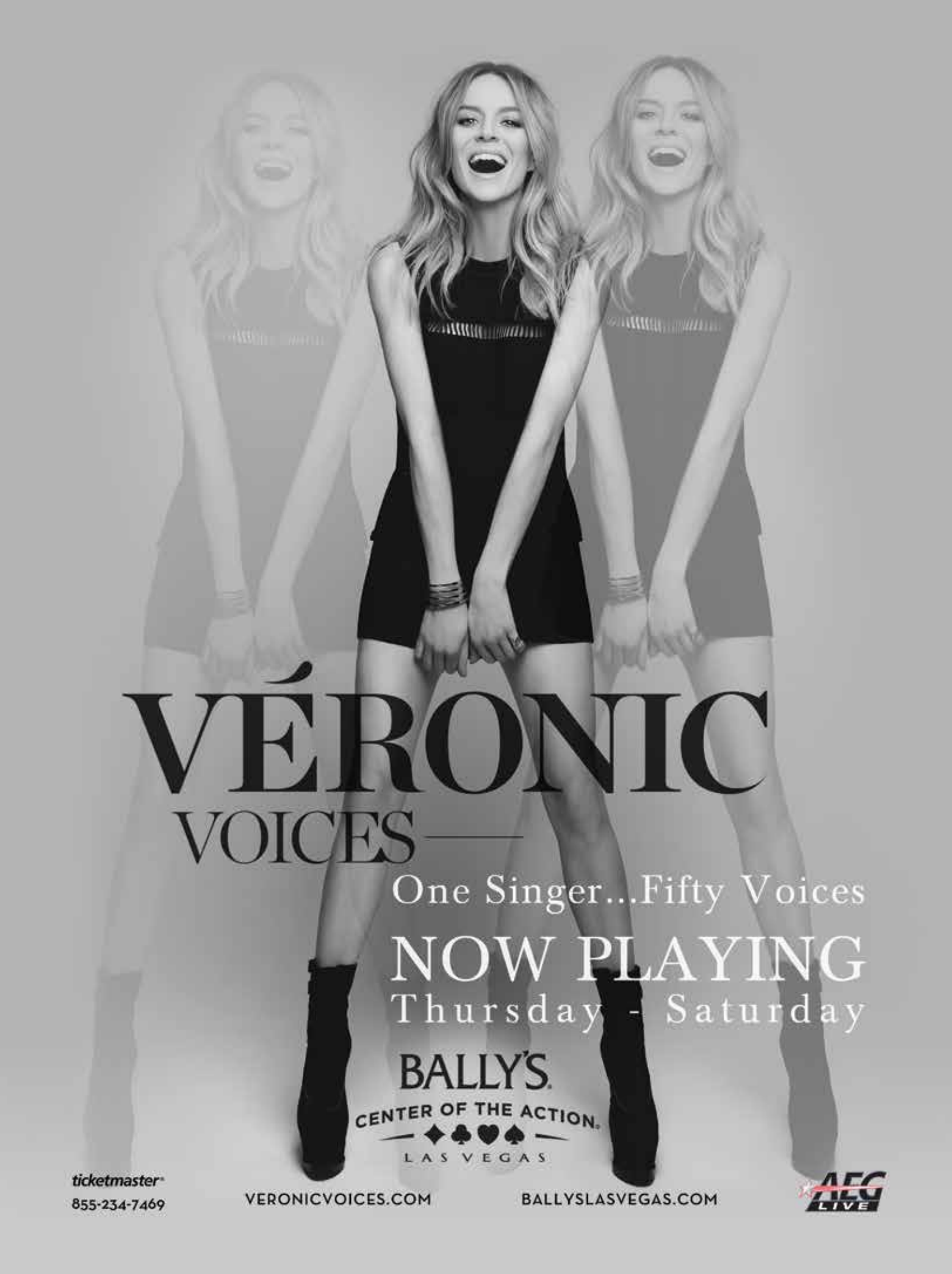
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A black and white photograph of the twin sisters Veronicas. They are standing side-by-side, wearing matching black sleeveless dresses and black boots. They have long, wavy blonde hair and are singing with their mouths open. Their hands are clasped in front of them. The background is a plain, light color.

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ON THE COVER

Former intern at "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and panelist on "Chelsea Lately," Ross Mathews is now the star of his own pop-culture talk show. Mathews is also this year's recipient of The LGBT Center's Community Advocate Award

Photography by
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a note from our Editor MORE THAN A GAY

When I took on this position to become the editor of *QVegas* my goal was to strengthen this publication as the 'Voice of the LGBT' by highlighting everything there is to celebrate about our community as well as shed light on the darker struggles we all share. Most important to me is to acknowledge that there comes a point in our process of 'coming out' where we realize we are more than just gay and that our sexual identity is simply part of us and not nearly the whole.

This month is our 'Coming Out' issue and we chose Ross Mathews as our cover story because The LGBT Center has selected him as this year's recipient of the Qmmunity Advocate Award at the annual Honorarium being held October 19. "Ross the intern" will now star in his own pop-culture talk show on E! this fall so tune in!

The Fruitloop, one of Las Vegas' premiere gay destinations presents its annual NCOD street festival in honor of National Coming Out Day October 12 and is open to all ages. Join the celebration and visit the *QVegas* booth and say hello to the staff.

Coming 'out' and receiving acceptance is slowly becoming the norm but there are still many battles



to be fought for equality across the country and abroad.

We are grateful for allies in our legislative body. Congressman Steven Horsford is an example of the unwavering support we depend on to move the country closer to full equality. Check out The Last Word written by representative Horsford on page 54.

Lastly, don't forget to wear purple on Thursday October 17 in support of National Spirit Day to create a world that supports and accepts LGBT youth. See you next month for the Holiday Issue where we dig deep for gift ideas and holiday cheer!

Janise "Noah" Henderson

twitter.com/noahsartark

facebook.com/janise.noah.henderson

Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/qvegasmagazine) and follow us on Twitter (@qvegas) to be the first to know about our new events and possibly participate in upcoming *QVegas* stories. By joining the #QCrew social network you can also get a chance to win some exciting giveaways throughout the year.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

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



PUBLISHER/OWNER

Russ White

publisher@qvegas.com

CHIEF EDITOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Janise "Noah" Henderson

editor@qvegas.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

CJ Sturgis

COPY EDITORS

Miranda Boyd

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

Miranda Boyd

Aida Kian

Jesse Luján

STAFF WRITERS

CJ Sturgis

Miranda Boyd

Russ White

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Barbieri

Bryan Chan

Congressman Steven Horsford

Tara Newberry

Donald Pile

Mike Schopp

Randy Slovacek

Ray Williams

QVEGAS MAGAZINE

The Gay & Lesbian Community Center

401 South Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89101

Phone 702-650-0636

Fax 702-650-0641

E-mail Editor@QVegas.com

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NCOD

National Coming Out Day

On October 11, 1987, half a million people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The anniversary of that date was chosen by Rob Eichberg, a founder of the personal growth workshop, The Experience, and Jean O'Leary, then head of National Gay Rights Advocates as a national day to celebrate coming out. From this idea the National Coming Out Day was born.

13 years later, in 2000, Kaye Taylor, then owner of Freezone and Kelly McFarlane-Smith, then publisher of The Bugle (now QVegas), collaborated to create a block party in the Fruitloop to celebrate NCOD. This year marks the 14th anniversary of NDOC in the Loop.

Prior to the Fruitloop NCOD, the Vegas LGBT community celebrated around town with low turnouts, Kaye recounted in an interview with QVegas. "We really didn't know what we were doing, but we just kept building every year, adding carnival games, stages, and bringing in non-profit organizations," recalls Taylor.

Other NCOD events have happened around town, including Commercial Center and a nearby hotel, but the tradition of NCOD continues to have its home at Naples and Paradise. Freezone and Piranha host this year's event. With Gipsy under construction and The Buffalo seeking a new owner, the nightlife scene will most certainly change in the coming year, but the resident clubs are dedicated to hosting this year's event.

"The younger generation doesn't really know about the NCOD history or the history of Stonewall," said Taylor. The festival provides awareness to LGBT history and presents an opportunity for people



to come out in a safe and embracing environment. "About four years ago, we made a door jamb in the parking lot so people could take pictures coming out of the closet," she added.

The 14th annual block party attracts hundreds each year. National Coming Out Day is celebrated on October 11 each year, but the Las Vegas NCOD Street Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12 starting at 8 PM. ■

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- Paris R.

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A man is shown from the chest up, partially submerged in a pool of water. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background features a classical building with arches and columns, possibly a casino or hotel entrance, with palm trees and a bright, hazy sky. The overall color palette is dominated by purples, pinks, and blues, with a checkered pattern visible in the lower left.

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ON DESSERT INN - ONE BLOCK EAST VALLEY VIEW

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by Miranda Boyd]

Here we highlight some of the accomplishments achieved over the past month. This is but a taste of all the progress made and all the victories won by LGBT and Ally individuals and organizations constantly striving for full equality and an end to discrimination.

Combating Bullying in Ireland Schools

Ruairí Quinn TD, the Irish Minister of Education and Skills, has launched new policies to address anti-gay and anti-trans bullying in schools. The policies include strategies for education and prevention. Sandra Irwin-Gowran, Director of Education Policy at Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), said, "These new procedures provide the opportunity to radically transform the lives of young LGBT people in every school in the country, and make Irish schools safe, supportive and affirming for young LGBT people." According to research, 50% of Irish students have experienced verbal homophobic or transphobic bullying.

Russian Lawyer Comes Out as Trans

Masha Bast, the Chairwoman of the Association of Russian Lawyers for Human Rights, an organization dedicated to protecting, "human rights and freedoms without any kind of distinction," came out as transgender. Bast stated that, among other reasons, "My coming out was a protest against what is going on in Russia today. I couldn't just sit there and do nothing." To young transgender individuals Bast says, "Come out. The sooner, the better. Don't be afraid of your parents. Too many trans people worry about how society sees them and think they're a problem for society. Don't think that. It is your right."

Toys 'R' Us to Drop Gender-Targeted Marketing

The toy retailer announced that it will begin developing new guidelines for advertising that will remove references to gender and show images of children of all genders playing with the same toys. Megan Perryman, a campaigner with Let Toys be Toys, a consumer campaign organization lobbying against gender stereotypes in the toy industry, said, "Even in 2013, boys and girls are still growing up being told that certain toys are for them, while others are not. ... We look forward to seeing Toys 'R' Us lead the way to a more inclusive future for boys and girls."

Air Force Base in New Mexico Recognizes Marriages

Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has issued an official spousal ID to the wife of a female Senior Airman. The couple were wed in one of the counties in NM in which same-sex marriage is legal, although same-sex marriage is not recognized statewide. Currently, Kirtland is the only military base in NM to recognize same-sex marriages, and the Pentagon has not commented on whether the policy will be enacted at all bases in the state.

National Guard in Two States Refuses to Recognize Marriages

According to Major General John Nichols, the commanding general of Texas Military Forces, the Texas National Guard, Texas Air Guard, and Texas State Guard, will not provide benefits to same-sex couples due to the statewide ban on same-sex marriage. Nichols did say that gay and lesbian couples could still apply at federal installations. Similarly, the Mississippi National Guard has refused to process requests for benefits claiming the determining factor is whether the base is located on federal or state land.



As we move ever forward, we must pause to acknowledge the backslides. Here we show the defeats suffered recently at the hands of adversaries and the misguided who continue to deny the rights, respect and beauty of us all.

Trans Student Denied Bid for Homecoming King

When Kasey Caron, a transgender student in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, attempted to run for homecoming king, his name was moved to the female ballot on the day of voting. More than 100 supporters were present while Caron appealed the decision to the school board. The board ultimately concluded that they would not allow Caron on the male ballot, despite male being his legally recognized gender according to the PA DMV. Caron said, "It felt like everything I had worked for had been destroyed. A new and important door had been opened for me and then slammed right in my face."

Teacher Fired for Coming Out

A teacher at Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, Minnesota, was forced from her position as English and religion teacher after admitting that she's in a long-term relationship with another woman. She's the second employee to be fired from the school for coming out. In a statement to school administrators she said, "I want to be very clear about this. I'm not embarrassed about what I said. I will not dance around it. I will tell every future employer precisely why I left. And if that's a problem, I don't want to work there."

Woman Sexually Assaulted in Florida

A woman in Orlando, Florida, was leaving a popular LGBT nightclub when she stopped to give money to a homeless person. A car approached and three men exited the vehicle. One of the men raped the woman while shouting homophobic slurs and allegedly said, "I'll show you how a real man feels." While no official statement has been released confirmed whether or not the woman identifies as a lesbian, police officials are currently investigating the incident as a hate crime.

THAT'S SO Vegas

Tidbits from The Strip & Beyond

OCTOBER 2013							NOVEMBER 2013							DECEMBER 2013							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					



SUNDAYS

- Showtunes High Tea @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Pride Pajama Brunch Bingo (bi-monthly)
- Charlie's Amazing Drag Show @ Charlie's LV
- "She's Dope" Ladies Night (1st Sun.) @ FreeZone
- Burgers & Boys @ Blue Moon Resort
- REVO Sundays @ Revolution Lounge
- FREEDOM @ Marquee Las Vegas

MONDAYS

- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- Sin Monday's @ The Garage LV
- Liquor Bust @ Spotlight Lounge
- Pool and Pong @ Club Metro LV

TUESDAYS

- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- QSocial Ladies Event (Every 2nd Tues.)
- Drag Queen Bingo @ Charlie's LV
- Pajama Slumber Party @ Club Metro LV

WEDNESDAYS

- QBA Luncheon (Every 1st Wed.) qvegasba.com
- Confidential @ Bond
- Pride Bingo @ Circus Circus (Every 1st Wed.)
- Skin/Underware Night @ Charlie's LV
- Gay Men's Mpowerment Groups @ The Center
- Ntoxxicated- Diva Toxxx Drag Show @ FreeZone

THURSDAYS

- Dark & Double Thursdays @ Entourage Men's Spa
- POP Thursdays @ Share Nightclub
- Nothing But Country Thursdays @ Charlie's LV
- Prism @ The Artifice (Every 2nd Thurs.)
- Boys Night @ FreeZone
- Lei'd Back Thursdays @ Drink & Drag
- Big Gay Thursdays @ Krave Massive

FRIDAYS

- Stripper Circus @ Share Nightclub
- 3D Fridays @ Piranha
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- flamBoyance @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Amateur Night with Jodie Maldone @ Club Metro LV

SATURDAYS

- SNAPI Saturdays @ Charlie's LV
- Porn Stars in Vegas @ Share Nightclub
- Goddess Saturdays with India Farrah @ Piranha
- What A Drag @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- CumUnion @ Hawk's Gym

Wednesday, October 2

PRIDE Family Bingo
Circus Circus Hotel & Casion
www.lasvegaspride.org

Sunday, October 6

"SHE'S DOPE!" Ladies
Open Mic Night
FreeZone Nightclub Bar and Restaurant
www.facebook.com/freezonelv

Saturday, October 12

Downtown Las Vegas
2nd Annual Walk 'N' Roll
actionred.org

Saturday, October 12

National Coming Out
Day Street Festival
www.facebook.com/fruitlooplv

Saturday, October 19

The Center's
Honorarium
www.thecenterlv.com

Saturday, October 26

Fetish & Fantasy
Halloween Ball
www.halloweenball.com

Friday, October 25

PRE-PARTY@ SHARE
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Saturday, October 26

AFTER-PARTY@ THE
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Thursday, November 7

An Evening Cabaret
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 GO PURPLE FOR #SPIRITDAY

Millions will wear purple on Spirit Day in a stand against bullying and to show their support for LGBT youth. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple, which symbolizes 'spirit' on the rainbow flag. Wear purple or go purple online on October 17th and help create a world in which LGBT teens are celebrated and accepted for who they are. Hashtag #SpiritDay on your social media pages and post picture of yourself with friends and family wearing purple. Together we can make a difference. For more information visit glad.org



JIM CARUSO'S CAST PARTY NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS

TICKET PRICES: \$20-\$30

[by Randy Slovacek]

Jim Caruso's Cast Party, the wildly popular weekly soiree that brings a sprinkling of Broadway glitz and urbane wit to the legendary Birdland in New York City for ten years every Monday night, is coming back to the Cabaret Jazz room at the Smith Center on October 9.

In case you somehow missed the Cast Party debut last spring, this is a cool cabaret night out via a hilariously impromptu variety show. Showbiz superstars hit the stage alongside up-and-comers, serving up jaw-dropping music and general razzle-dazzle. Cabaret super-star Ann Hampton Callaway says, "Cast Party is come what 'mayhem!'"

The buoyant and sharp Jim Caruso guides the entire affair like a charming, witty cruise director; musical genius Billy Stritch holds court at the ivories; and the audience is invited to participate in the festivities. Says Caruso, "I can't tell you how excited both Billy and I are at having a regular home at that incredible Smith Center. It is a party. And that's what I want everyone to know. It's a really fun party with people you know, some people you don't know, and some people you will never need to know in your life (laughs). What makes this whole thing work is the audience and how they take this whole experience in."

Some of the A-Listers seen at Cast Party include Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Clint Holmes, Donny Osmond, Martin Short, Melissa Manchester, Josh Groban, Frankie Moreno, Jon Bon Jovi, Dave Koz, Carol Channing, Stephen Schwartz and Tony Bennett!

Jim Caruso has been spreading the fun all across the country, celebrating local talent in Los Angeles, Chicago,



Las Vegas, Austin, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Orlando, the Hamptons, Provincetown, and on the high seas. Somewhere between "there's no business like show business" and "there's no place like home," you'll find Cast Party - On The Road! ■

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CHEER LV!

GIVE ME A V! GIVE ME AN E! GIVE ME A G! GIVE ME AN A! GIVE ME AN S!

What do you get? Cheer LV, the new Vegas-based Cheerleading team started by new Vegas resident Aleksandr Dissan this summer.

[by Russ White]

"I've always wanted to be involved with our community, I just didn't know what I'd be able to do,"

said Dissan, a former member of Cheer Los Angeles. "When I moved to Vegas three months ago, I searched around to try and find if there was a team in Vegas, and I sadly came to find that there was none. Vegas has been up and coming with change in the gay community, so it was time for Vegas to join in and have their own team."

Cheer LV is part of an international umbrella of Cheerleading teams under the Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA). PCA is currently managed by Cheer San Francisco, the largest and longest-running adult squad in the world. The Las Vegas squad is a coed level 6 team that thrills crowds locally, nationally, and internationally with a unique brand of high-energy routines that only Las Vegas can provide. The team provides polished professional entertainment and serves as ambassadors of good will from Las Vegas to the communities in which they perform.

As a non-profit organization, Cheer LV raises money for other organizations serving individuals with HIV/AIDS, and other life-changing conditions.

The squad practices every week, once a week at the Las Vegas Elements Cheerleading and Gymnastics gym. As a new organization, Cheer LV seeks out new members to join the squad. Men and women (18+) from all experience levels are welcome to join.

"We are looking for members with a desire to work with local charities to

join our squad!," said Dissan. "Many people hear about our organization and it all sounds great and they're excited about being a part of the team, that don't realize that it is hardwork. We are all adults and of course we all have our busy schedule with work, school, and/or family, but commitment is key to make our routines possible. We need everyone to be able to build our pyramids, and perform it to crowds."



Cheer LV made its debut performance at the Las Vegas Pride Festival and is planning additional performances in the coming months.

"Thanks to the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc. (SNAPI), who has partnered up with us to help make this non-profit a reality. We are very happy and lucky to have them sponsor us," concluded Dissan. ■

For more information about Cheer LV, visit CheerLV.org or email Aleksandr@CheerLV.org

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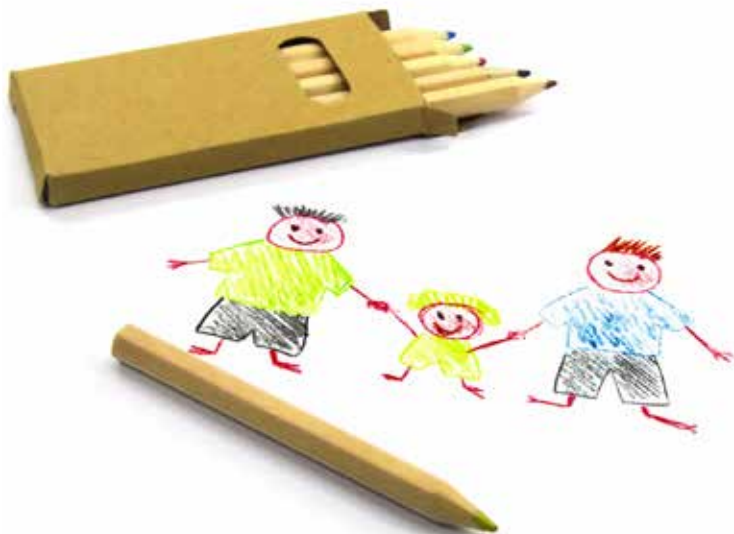
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Summer's Out, School's In

Tales from a modern day daddy

[by Bryan Chan]



Dear Miss Danielle,

Hi. I'm Mia's dad. She's the tall, fair skinned, half Asian with brown hair and pig tails. I know this is the first day of school. I know there are 19 other kids and 19 other sets of parents you're dealing with today, so I thought I'd write you a letter to help you with my daughter.

She may be quiet today. She's not quiet. In fact, she's really social and loves other kids. But she gets overwhelmed easy. And when she's overwhelmed, she just gets quiet. Just give her a while to warm up. When she finally comes around, you'll see a social butterfly.

She'll go for the puzzles at playtime. She loves puzzles. More importantly, she loves showing off when she finishes. Could you tell her how great she did? ...even if she smashed the wrong pieces into the wrong places. You'll make her day.

We went back and forth over the socks. She couldn't decide if she wanted to wear the ankle ruffles or the knee highs. She finally decided on the knee highs. If all the other kids end up wearing ankle ruffles, she'll start to panic. She may ask to take her socks off all together. Would you mind telling her that the knee highs look pretty? It will fix the issue immediately.

She just turned three on Sunday. She's really proud of that. She thinks she's a big girl. If you do something special for birthdays in your class, I'd hate for her to miss out by two days. If you sing to her, you'll see a smile from ear to ear and a mouth full of little white teeth. She loves

attention...I can't imagine where she got that from.

You have my best friend in there. She means the world to me, and sharing her with you is just going to take a minute to adjust. I know you are amazing at your job. I have read all your references. Twice.

On a slightly unrelated topic, I'm gay. I don't say this to be abrupt or to make it an issue, but you'll likely see my partner and I on back to school night. My daughter may make two father's day cards instead of one. Her crayon family portrait may feature her and two dads. I say this so that if anyone questions what she's doing, they'll know that her interpretation is completely accurate. I would never tell you how to do your job, but I'm hoping that by now, you've probably run into this situation, and know how to acknowledge it, talk about it, and integrate it. I would appreciate if her ability to define her family is given as much validation as everybody else's. Basically, If you could treat her no different than any of the other kids and their families that would be great, because, well...we are just like all the other families.

If there are any issues today, please don't hesitate to call me and I'll come right over. Even the slightest issue. Even if you feel that there may be an eventual issue, or a hint of an issue. Just call. Really. Please. Call. I'll be sitting in the school parking lot right outside, and it really won't be a problem to come back in.

Sincerely,
Bryan Chan

When I sent my daughter off to school for the first time, it wasn't her that I was worried about. She's three. She's fearless and she loves to make new friends. But that's pretty much all three-year-olds starting preschool. It's the parents, the teachers, the staff, who I worried would make a judgment, who would have an opinion, who may somehow influence the other kids, which would in turn affect my daughter.

Since I can't control what people will think or what words may come out of their mouths, I do the one thing I do have control over: I teach my daughter to be kind to everybody. I teach her to be accepting of everyone. I tell her to be gracious, respectful, overly generous, and as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside. And above all, I let her know that she is loved beyond measure. With those traits, she will move mountains. With that attitude, others with like minds will gravitate towards her. If I can continue to instill those beliefs in her, I will have done everything I can as a parent.

I never gave her teacher that letter. In the end, I put my trust in the system, in her teacher and in humanity. I decided for that day, I wasn't going to try and change the world. That, I would leave for my daughter. ■

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Kelly Campbell Photography

EATING @B & B RISTORANTE

Seasonal produce, farm-to-table, local ingredients—dining out as often as I do, I’ve noticed these phrases becoming more and more common.

[by Michael Barbieri]

Restaurateurs everywhere are striving to put the finest, freshest ingredients on their menus. And at B & B Ristoranti, Mario Batali and his business partner, Joe Bastianich, have done just that. The fare at B & B made me feel I had a sweet Italian *nonna* in a farmhouse in the Italian countryside, cooking just for me.

Now, this was not a planned review. In this case, my partner and I were simply looking for somewhere new to eat. We checked out the websites of various other establishments, but Batali’s menu just spoke to me and I knew somehow that this would be an amazing meal!

We arrived early, but were accommodated immediately. Located in the Restaurant Row-type passage between the Venetian and the Palazzo Hotels, the decor was like an elegant trattoria—white tablecloths, Italian marble, dark wood accents everywhere, glass-enclosed wine racks, and large, open “windows” which looked out on the other eateries. The tables were fairly close together, and along with the weekend crowds outside, the place seemed noisy and crowded. Still, there was a communal friendliness that made for an entertaining evening.

Michael Barbieri is the author of www.myvegasobession.com and resident of New York. While some people run to the beach or the mountains, Barbieri runs away to Las Vegas.



We started with cocktails. Vincent chose the excellent **Blood Orange Cosmo**, while I chose a new creation, the **Lavender Mist**—a rum based libation with a subtle, soothing floral finish, brightened nicely by a hint of lime juice. We were then presented with an amuse-bouche: tasty **Bruschetta** topped with chick peas, olive oil and rough chopped basil—a simple, slightly spicy way to pique our appetites.

Kevin, our server, mentioned the special ingredients that were being highlighted on the menu that evening, primarily the heirloom tomatoes, which were perfectly in season. For the *Antipasti* course, I took his advice and ordered the **B & B Caprese Salad**. The tomatoes were quartered, tossed with olive oil and fresh basil, served with homemade Genovese pesto and topped with unbelievably fresh, creamy burrata cheese. We also tried the **Warm Lamb's Tongue**. The braised tongue was sliced thin and served with sliced Chanterelle mushrooms, fresh arugula for a bit of spice, slivers of San Marzano tomatoes for a touch of acid, and a three-minute egg on top. I was a little taken aback by the gaminess of this dish. The tongue was quite strong and definitely tasted of the barnyard, but for the most part, I enjoyed it, especially when the egg yolk flowed down, creating an earthy, eggy sauce which brought all the elements together.

Next came the *Primi Piatti*—the pasta course. Vincent decided on the **Spaghetti** with Spicy Budding Chives, Sweet Garlic, and One-Pound Lobster. The lobster meat was sweet and firm, the noodles had a nice bite, and the tomato-based sauce was never overpowered by the garlic, with the spicy chives adding a lovely heat. I opted for the **Homemade Orecchiette** with Spicy Lamb Sausage and Rapini. Perfectly al dente “little ears” of pasta were nestled in a light tomato sauce with hearty chunks of sausage that could’ve been made just hours before. The spiciness of the sausage played nicely against the touch of bitterness from the broccoli rabe. A bit of fresh Pecorino cheese on the top was the finishing touch—rustic, delicious, and very satisfying.

We weren’t sure if we were up for a *Secondi*—a meat or fish course—but decided to split the **Grilled Pork Belly** with Heirloom Tomatoes, Arugula, and Balsamic—or as Kevin called it, “Our version of a B.L.T.” The pork belly, braised in red wine and caramelized onions, is removed from the braising liquid and transferred to their grill, where at 500 degrees, the outside is quickly crisped up. Served on a bed of heirloom tomatoes and arugula, dressed with a drizzle of balsamic vinegar, the belly was done to perfection showcasing the two textures of the pork—the crispy bacon-like



edges and the rich, buttery inner layer. Combined with the peppery greens and the punch of the tomato and balsamic, the dish had a fresh and unexpectedly light feel. Comforting and addictive, we polished it off quickly! Yum!

Vincent and I both were in the mood for something sweet to end our dinner. Kevin brought the dessert menus and we made our selections. Vincent chose the **Vanilla Mascarpone Bruciato** with Fresh Peaches—an Italian take on creme brûlée made with creamy mascarpone cheese. The delicate burnt sugar crust was topped with thinly sliced peaches. It was Peaches and Cream, so to speak, with the warm vanilla cream and the juicy peaches combining beautifully. I decided to try the **Dark Chocolate Torta** with Peanut Butter Milkshake—a beautifully composed plate, featuring a dense, creamy chocolate cake with a white swipe of meringue across the top. Made with Amano chocolate handmade from Brazilian cocoa nibs, the cake was intensely chocolatey and played well against the sinful adult milkshake on the side, made not only with peanut butter and a touch of cream, but with a bit of bourbon as well.

Our meal at B & B Ristoranti was remarkable—not just the food, but the service, which was consistently on point letting the dinner flow effortlessly from course to course. Also, the extent of Kevin’s knowledge about the food was astounding. He told us of the farms where the produce is procured, the custom butcher shop they have on premises where they break down the animals they buy, and even gave us details about the cocktail I had ordered. His information led me to better understand the importance of the farm-to-table philosophy that’s become so popular in fine dining these days.

I may not have a *nonna*, but as long as Batali and Bastianich are making delicious, hearty, unpretentious comfort food like this, I know exactly where to go for a taste of the Italian countryside. ■

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BOTTOMS UP

[by Russ White]

Di Sogno - The Dream

A few months after our review of Wolfgang Puck Pizzeria & Cucina, I dropped by the City Center restaurant to plan the September QBA After Hours Mixer. Reminded of my last dining experience here, I decided to match my cocktail selection to the rustic Italian flavors. The Di Sogno takes the harshness of grappa and lightens it with grapefruit and raspberry.



The Bertagnoli Grappa is one of the six grappas on display at Wolfgang Puck. Originally a peasant liquor, the distinct flavor of grappa has evolved to a better, refined product, and the Bertagnoli is a cleaner flavor that makes grappa more approachable.

Vodkas provide mixology with a tasteless and odorless base, allowing the flavors of the mixers to come forward. Creating a cocktail from a base like grappa requires equally distinct flavors, and the Di Sogno accomplishes that with Aperol, a citrusy version of Campari. Slightly bitter and rich in color, the Aperol doesn't overpower the grappa and punches up the grapefruit juice and raspberries. The St. Germaine and thyme finishes off the cocktail with sweet and savory aromas.

A digestif, grappa would normally be served after a meal, but Di Sogno wakes up the palette and pairs well with Puck's grilled meatballs, crispy calamari, or fresh garbanzo bean pesto and garlic bread.

Corpse Survivor #2

The Corpse Survivor #2 comes from a classic family of cocktails created as hangover cures. This 'hair of the dog' brings together the astringent Brokers Gin and Kübler Absinthe liquors. Brokers is a softer gin than the more popular Bombay Sapphire, letting the anise flavors of the absinthe come forward. Cocchi Americano, Cointreau, and lemon juice add to the complexity of the drink.



As should be with any hangover cure, Corpse Survivor #2 goes down easy. It's fresher than an Aviation, and while you can detect the distinct citrus of lemon, the Cocchi and Cointreau assure you that this is not a lemon drop. The Marasca cherry laying in wait at the bottom of the glass provides a sweet reward.

Corpse Survivor #2 pairs exceptionally well with the glazed pork belly skewer appetizer. The herbaceous flavors become richer with the saltiness of the pork belly, and the star anise in the glaze compliments the absinthe. ■



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ROSS MATHEWS

[by Randy Slovacek]

Since 2001, Ross Mathews has traveled the world and established himself as one of the most in-demand television correspondents and hosts in the pop-culture arena today.

Endearing and witty, undeniably funny and one of the hardest-working people in show business, he has gone from “Ross the Intern” on *The Tonight Show* to reporting on red carpets at major awards shows to now hosting his own pop culture talk show, “Hello Ross!” on E! every Friday night.

Ross will visit Las Vegas on October 19 to receive The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada’s first “Qmmunity Advocate Award” at this year’s Honorarium. This will be the Center’s first award for someone of national distinction.

The Honorarium will be held on October 19 at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. According to Ryan Marquardt, Director of Communication at The Center, “The Center turns 20 years old just four days before the Honorarium, so this year’s event will be a massive 20th anniversary celebration. Because it’s our most historic year yet—we moved into a new building, added a handful of new staff members including a new CEO, and we’re committed to rapidly and significantly growing programs and services—we are amping up everything else we’re doing, including the Honorarium. Having Ross join us this year as our first-ever Qmmunity Advocate Award recipient is just the most recent testament to how we’re taking The Center to the next level.”

Speaking to Ross Mathews is as fun as his new talk show. I recently had

the chance to catch up with the “pop culture super-fan” for a few minutes:

Randy: Ross Mathews! You’re coming Las Vegas!

Ross Mathews: I’m so excited. For starters, I’m so honored that you thought of me. I love going to Las Vegas—it feels almost... decadent. You dress up, you go to a show, you have a great time. The food, the shopping—it feels special.

Randy: Perhaps a trip to Chippendales?

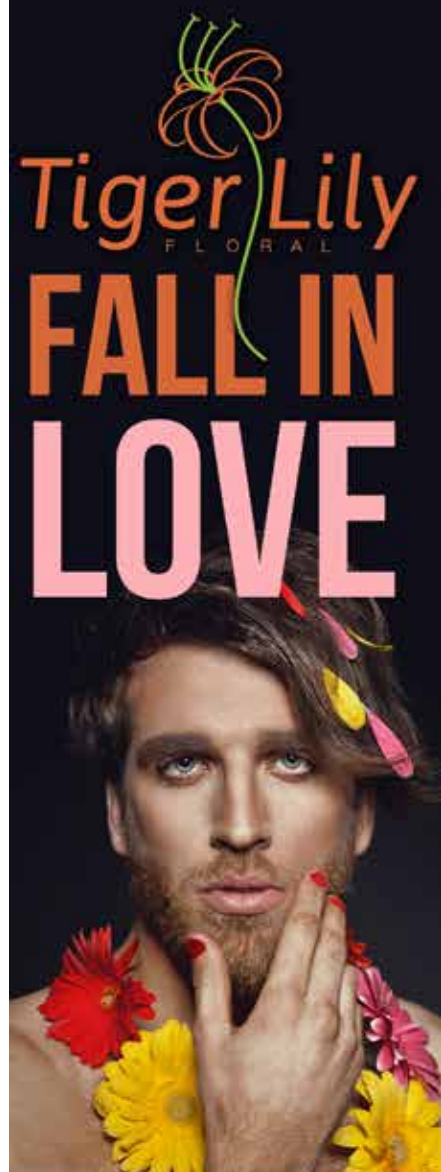
Ross: Love it! Love it! We should have a “Hello Ross!” night there.

Randy: Speaking of, let’s talk about your new show.

Ross: I’m so excited about it. It’s a dream come true. I’ve wanted to have a talk show since I was eight years old. When I was growing up, I always knew that if I ever had my own show, I’d want to make sure the voices of the fans could be heard, to be part of pop culture. I used to watch Rosie and Oprah and Sally Jesse, and I would talk at the TV and wonder, “Why can’t they hear me?” This show really is about bringing pop culture and fans together. That’s why I talk with the audience, I’m in the audience; the audience is really like my co-host.

Randy: Sounds like you really knew what you wanted. Was there anything you knew you didn’t want to do?

Ross: The one thing I knew I did not want is tear down pop culture. There are shows that do that already. And it



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can be funny. But my point of view is saying, “I love this stuff, you love this stuff, let’s talk it out.”

The only thing I try to do is produce what I am authentically, and something worth watching. You can only do what’s authentic to you. That’s the only way you win.

Even the people in the audience of my show—these are not people out of Central Casting. These are people who are fans, people we have tracked down on Facebook or Twitter, or if we’re talking about Britney Spears, people from the Britney Spears fan site. We are finding these people who are out there. Because if I hadn’t had some lucky breaks and gotten to where I am, I’d be those people. I’d be running a website obsessing about this stuff. It’s really about giving a platform to the super-fans.

Randy: Have you thought about giving an intern on your show a break like you got?

Ross: We are going to have an intern program. But it’s about that spark—someone who’s interesting, someone who brings a point of view. That’s what happened with me. I was behind the scenes, and they thought I was funny. They just couldn’t help but notice me. So when an opportunity came

“There is a time to celebrate milestones, especially with so many cultural shifts in the right direction, but more than ever it’s a time to roll our sleeves up because we are really at the precipice of a great change.”



up and someone dropped out, they said, “Let’s send him.” So, I’m definitely starting an intern program here.

Randy: You do a lot of work with the Human Rights Campaign on LGBT rights. Can you talk about that?

Ross: At any time in history I would have worked with the Human Rights Campaign because they are fighting for equality for all. And I do feel a responsibility being one of the LGBT voices in the middle of pop-culture today. But what’s important is to do this work now. There is a time to celebrate milestones, especially with so many cultural shifts in the right direction, but more than ever it’s a time to roll our sleeves up because we are really at the precipice of a great change. When the Supreme Court ruled in our favor on DOMA and Prop 8, what a day that was! But after a moment of celebration I was like, “Now let’s get to work!” Because there are 13 states that recognize marriage equality but 37 that don’t! So, that’s not good enough. I think in my lifetime, 50 states will have marriage equality. But until that moment comes? Many, many celebrations—then get back to work.

Randy: I notice you’ve never “officially” come out in the press?

Ross: (Laughing) I might want to officially come out one of these days. I’m waiting for the right magazine cover. We’re trying to get *PEOPLE*. I’d like to think it would be like an old Sears or JC Penney portrait with me kneeling on a carpeted box with my hand under my chin. And instead of the caption reading, “Yep! I’m Gay!” it would read, “Duh! I’m Gay!” But until then, I’m going to wait to officially come out. Let the people wonder... (laughs).

Randy: Thanks for chatting, we look forward to seeing you on October 19 here in Las Vegas.

Ross: It’s going to be a big celebration. I can’t wait to come. Come give me a big hug. And who knows? Maybe I’ll go dancing with the Chippendales!

In addition to Ross Mathews, this year The Honorary will include three local awards: Person of the Year, Barbara Molasky; Volunteer of the Year, Ron Quinn; Corporation of the Year, UFC. ■

To purchase your tickets to The Center’s Honorary, call The Center at 702.733.9800.

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



UTOPIA @HOUSE

3355 PROCYON ST | LAS VEGAS NV 89102 OCTOBER 25

Joshua Kessler wants to bring an over-the-top nightlife to gay Vegas. Not since the early days of Krave has Vegas seen the extravagance Kessler plans this month when he opens Utopia to House Friday October 25.

Utopia will feature top DJs from around the country and will start on Friday nights, expanding to Saturdays after the October soft opening. The high production value evenings will bring the best of circuit party to the nightclub. The spectacular venue becomes a stage for the aerialists, contortionists, body painting, and spectators that will set the club apart from other venues in town.

Bottle service, starting at \$200, will be available, and the massive 30,000 square foot space provides lounging areas throughout. House music will be the focus in the main sound room. A sunken hooka lounge upstairs allows for additional relaxation. Kessler even plans a fruit bar for a new twist.

Utopia takes over House Nightclub located at Procyon and Desert Inn, with easy access from the Strip by way of Spring Mountain. Ample parking and a convenient cab route will most certainly be appreciated by locals and tourists.





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Diana Manzaneres received her esthetician license from Christine Valmay, has worked for Sephora and L'Oreal Pro, and studied special effects makeup and prosthetics at the Make Up For Ever Paris Academy. Now a makeup artist for Hair Room Service in New York, Manzaneres used EVOLUTIONMAN on Ernest Alexander to create the suave and handsome image for this shoot. "The idea was to keep them looking natural," she states. "Keeping the skin looking like skin. Not too matte, but not oily either."

"We first made sure they had a clean fresh shave and prepped the skin with EVOLUTIONMAN Moisture Protect SPF 20 and EVOLUTIONMAN Lip Balm. Secondly we groomed the brows. We then used, EVOLUTIONMAN Conceal & Treat to conceal anywhere they might have needed a bit of cover up, around the nose, under eyes, any blemish or razor bump was covered. Depending on the model we also hit them with a bit more of the moisturizer at the end so they weren't too matte looking."

Manzaneres' superb work has appeared in publications such as Paper Magazine, Vibe, and People. She's been a renowned makeup artist for fashion shows by Victoria's Secret, Ralph Lauren, DKNY and more. And she's the understudy makeup artist for the current production of Mary Poppins on Broadway. When she's not beautifying the world with her artistry, she also partners with Mary Kay to help women who've been the victims of domestic violence. ■



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Betty Buckley

[by Randy Slovacek]



Betty Buckley, direct from rave reviews for her star turn in the Off-Broadway world premiere of Horton Foote's "The Old Friends," is bringing her critically acclaimed concert "The Other Women: The Vixens of Broadway" to the Smith Center on October 25, 26 and 27.

The Theater Hall of Fame honoree's "The Vixens of Broadway" highlights some of the most memorable supporting female characters in Broadway's most popular shows. Song selections include hits from "Chicago,"

"Evita," "Company," "Oklahoma" and "Into the Woods."

The Tony Award-winner will also perform songs from Jerry Herman's "Dear World" in which she just starred in the London premiere earlier this year.

Described as "The Voice of Broadway" by *New York Magazine*, Betty Buckley has become the premiere leading lady of the American musical theatre via her show-stopping performances in "Cats," "Sunset Boulevard, Song and Dance," "1776," "Pippin and The Mystery of Edwin Drood". Buckley won a Tony Award for her performance in "Cats", received a Tony Award nomination for "Triumph of Love", and an Olivier Award nomination in London for her performance in "Sunset Boulevard", which she reprised on Broadway to rave reviews.

"The Vixens of Broadway" debuted last fall at Feinstein's in New York to rave reviews. Stephen Holden of the New York Times wrote, "You leave few evenings feeling exhilarated after peering into the souls of more than a dozen musical theater characters, all embodied by the same singer...the show is rich in musical theater lore and spicy autobiographical tidbits...the show is a master class in how a singer arrives at the right balance of self, the personality of a song and the character who sings it."

A perfect fit at the comfortable and stylish Cabaret Jazz room, this appearance marks Buckley's second run at the venue. Playing to packed houses last fall in her Smith Center debut, she dazzled Las Vegas audiences with her show, "Ah Men - The Boys of Broadway."

Don't miss this theatre legend as she brings powerful and new interpretations to some of Broadway's greatest female roles.

TICKET PRICES: \$39-\$79

October 25, 2013, 7 PM; October 26, 2013, 3 PM & 7 PM; October 27, 2013, 3 PM.

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

THE KINSEY SICKS

Trampolina

Born on a mountaintop in Tennessee and hitting every rock on the way down, Trampolina fell into show business by accident. Well, by an accident. At age four, she was already an accomplished comedienne with her sister Benzadrina in a duo team called Ham & Cheese. During one fateful performance, Benzadrina fell asleep doing a tightrope act with a baby grand piano. Fortunately for the piano, Trampy happened to be underneath it all to break the piano's fall. And her leg. While recovering in the hospital and trying to remember who she was, Trampolina began humming the tune the piano made when it crashed. It was then and there she discovered a passion for music. When she's not touring with The Kinsey Sicks and carrying all nine pieces of Trixie's luggage, Trampolina spends most of her days in a trailer park outside of Belton, Missouri waiting for Maury Povich to call her and tell her she IS the mother of a bastard child she conceived one spring break in Cancun.

Rachel

Although Rachel's parents told her that she was born in a manger, the truth is that she was conceived in one. Nonetheless, she was born with mange, which is good enough for her.

Rachel caught her first break in show business as a masseuse for John Travolta. With John's help, and the assistance of a legally-binding confidentiality agreement, Rachel landed a starring role in the national tour of "Two Girls One Cup: The Musical", with co-star Ann Coulter. Now that she is with The Kinsey Sicks, Rachel has gone viral, but she is taking acyclovir. Rachel will soon be the host of a new tv show, "Pole Dancing with the Stars," on Fox.

Rachel is an activist. She is the founder and director of the militant animal rights group, Free the Scabies. She is widely sought after for her inspirational lectures on topics such as "Desperation: An Underrated Tool in Dating" and "Eat Me: You Bring the Spoon"

Rachel wishes to extend her love and gratitude to anyone who will have sex with her.

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Trixie

Not much is known about Trixie's early life, and frankly she prefers it that way. Although she has enjoyed a multifaceted career as a gorgeous blonde, a really gorgeous blonde, and a somewhat unbelievably gorgeous blonde, Trixie has never allowed the complexity and depth of her character to come between her and her many admirers.

In addition to the considerable vocal and visual talents that she brings to The Kinsey Sicks, Trixie enjoys a reputation as a shrewd business person (she owns a chain of Las Vegas wedding chapels as well as numerous drive-thru divorce courts). An avid fitness fan, Trixie has produced and starred in several award-winning workout videos including "Tae-Bo in Taffeta" and "I'd Run a Mile for a Martini." Incredibly, she has also found time in her busy schedule to develop a signature line of cosmetics, "Spackletacular!" (available at finer department and hardware stores everywhere).

During her rare moments of leisure, Trixie can be found at Tiffany and Bergdorf's in the company of handsome (and generous) gentlemen. She has never married, and is addressed simply as "Trixie." As she has reminded her less glamorous Kinsey colleagues, great ladies of the stage and screen (Beyonce, Madonna, Lassie) find surnames superfluous.

Winnie

Winnie had conventional parents. In fact, they attended conventions all the time. It was at an Amway Convention that they abandoned her. Luckily she was come upon and taken in by a band of radical lesbian tupperware ladies who raised her as one of their own pups.

After a brief career as a governess for impressionable young children, Winnie moved into the performance world as a roadie for a heavy metal klezmer band (a period about which she will not willingly speak). Bitten now by the show business bug and with her youth solidly behind her, she waited for her opportunity and pounced upon it with gusto upon meeting the other girlz who were to become The Kinsey Sicks. It took several years for Winnie to get her chops, which she then immediately broiled and served to the audience on a bed of radicchio with garlic mashed potatoes and a horseradish coulis -- a feat that dazzled fans and critics alike.

Winnie sees herself as an old-fashioned girl, and yearns for the days before the Great Vowel Shift. Winnie is currently awaiting publication of her new Passover cookbook entitled *I Can't Believe It's Not Chometz!*





New Nevada Parentage Laws Make Family Formation Available to All

by Tara D. Newberry, Esq.

For thirty years, Assisted Reproductive Technologies, or ART, has provided fertility procedures to help infertile couples have children. While medicine evolved to fulfill the dream of being a parent, the laws in Nevada remained stagnant and incongruent with the development of ART. As every same-sex couple has an issue of infertility, ART physicians have been the gateway to parentage for the LGBT community.

Until the latest legislative session, the laws governing ART were restricted to heterosexual married couples and often discouraged many from creating their families via ART because of the legal uncertainty of the non-biological parent. Family formation attorneys were left with limited options to create legal parent-child relationships for children conceived through ART, generally a second parent adoption for lesbian couples after the birth of their child. For male couples, without having legally enforceable surrogacy contracts in Nevada, practitioners would often recommend going to another state to ensure parentage rights and enforceability of the surrogacy agreement.

Beginning October 1, 2013, Nevada will have the most progressive ART laws in the entire United States, including gestational carrier agreements or what is often referred to as “surrogacy.” The new laws result from SB 421 and have changed the way attorneys will be able to form families for the LGBT community as Nevada’s Assisted Reproductive Technology Law is now gender and marital neutral. Family formation attorneys will now be able to assist LGBT couples and single individuals achieve parentage without leaving the state, with a streamlined legal

process, and in a much more affordable manner. Below is a highlight of the significant changes:

- Donors (sperm, egg and embryo) have no rights
- Compensation for donors and gestational carriers is now legal in addition to expenses
- Procedural guidance to the courts
- Pre-Birth Orders regarding parental rights

The most important factor of the new ART laws of which everyone in the community needs to be aware: You must have valid consents in place prior to conception. I am often faced with clients who have downloaded a donor agreement or surrogacy agreement from the Internet without legal counsel. They conceive at home and then are shocked to find out that the resulting child is the legal child of the donor, because the contract and the process did not fit Nevada

While many may believe Nevada’s Domestic Partnership Law establishes a legal parent-child relationship, the law actually only provides for a presumption of parentage and has no enforceability outside of Nevada. Until Marriage Equality exists in every state, an order from a court is the gold standard to establish parental rights for LGBT couples that is portable from state to state. A birth certificate does not entitle anyone to “full faith and credit” in another state, only an order from a judge triggers this 14th Amendment right.

law. When this occurs, there must be a legal proceeding to terminate the rights of the “donor.” While often the donor cooperates and consent for the non-biological parent to adopt is obtained, there are the horror-story situations where the donor changes their mind once they see the cute little bundle of joy and it may take

years and tens of thousands of dollars to litigate. The new law provides for “intent” to be the basis for parentage, so long as consent forms are executed properly; then the donor has no parental rights.

Gestational Carrier Agreements–Surrogacy

A surrogate in the LGBT community is most often used by gay male couples, but also can be the result of a lesbian couple not being able to sustain a pregnancy or a trans-woman wanting to have a child. The new ART law in Nevada still bans traditional surrogacy (where a surrogate uses her own eggs and carries), but provides for a surrogacy arrangement where a “gestational carrier” is used. When another woman’s egg(s) (either from the intended mother or from a third-party donor), are used, the woman carrying the resulting child is called a “gestational carrier.” The new ART law in Nevada clarifies the requirements to enter and enforce a gestational carrier agreement and clarifies that anyone can hire a surrogate in Nevada.

Now that modern medicine and Nevada law are in alignment, the dream of becoming a parent will be much more attainable for many in our community. Anyone considering family formation should first consult with a qualified legal professional to understand ART laws, and how best to preserve and establish parentage recognition before moving forward with conception. ■



Tara and her wife Adele have two children conceived through artificial insemination; her experience in assisted reproductive law has been personally and professionally attained. She has formalized legal parentage for dozens of families in Las Vegas, and is the managing partner of Family Formation & Surrogacy Law of Las Vegas, a Division of the Connaghan Newberry Law Firm. She is a member of AFA, ASRM, RESOLVE, ABA-FLS-Committee for Assisted Reproductive Technology and the National LGBT Bar Association’s-Family Law Institute. She is a 2012 Vegas Inc., Top Lawyer, a 2013 Super Lawyers Rising Star and National LGBT Bar Association Top 40 Lawyers Under 40 for 2013.



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"Ft. Lauderdale, Florida - where the boys are"

[by Donald Pile and Ray Williams]

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TRAVELING IN OUR FABULOUS GAY WORLD is written by Donald Pile and Ray Williams, Award-winning, Celebrity travel columnists. Proud members of the IGLTA. You can email them at gaytravelers@aol.com

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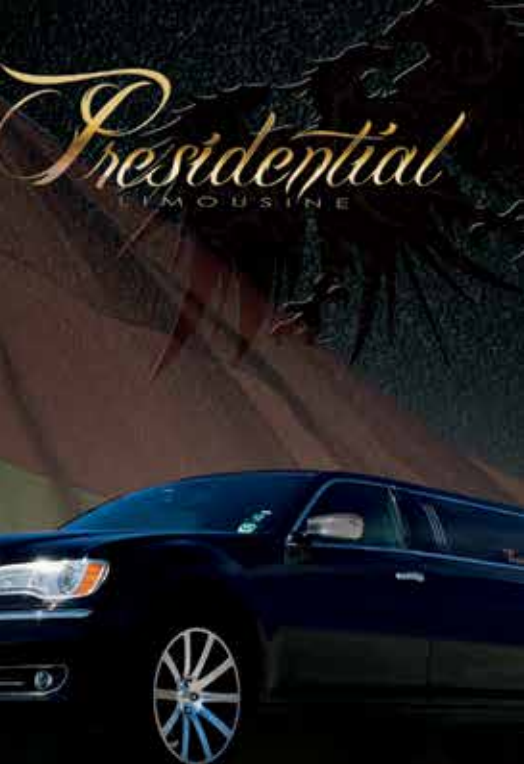
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ASK CJ

6 ways NOT to come out of the closet!



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1. Via Social Media: Most people think that this is the easiest way to come out, because you can avoid the verbal backlash you'd get with face to face contact. Let's face it, these social sites were created solely for drama. Well, at least in my head they were. While you're busy updating your relationship status to "In a relationship with Brandon," Brandon is being tagged in a photo at Confidential with his face in between the go-go dancer's booty meat. And that's when the chat room messages start flooding your inbox.

2. Photo tagging: Don't get caught in the background photo at a gay club, because you know the first hating b*tch will tag you and your whole family. With your luck, most likely you'll be face down, booty up, not even serving cuteness. Not only would that be shocking, but the gays will never let you live down a ratchet club photo, unless...you live in #GayVegas!

3. Spreading it as a secret: Don't tell your one big mouth friend hoping they will spread the rumor. This can end terribly. The rumor that might start off as "Jacob's gay," will most likely end with, "Jacob is gay, and I heard he's dating a rich guy, which means all drinks are on him whenever

we go out! Yay!" So to avoid having to buy drinks for ALL of your lush friends, it's better coming straight from the source.

4. Using music: Don't think for a second that listening to Cher's "Strong Enough," or Madonna's "Vogue," will help you come out. These songs have been run into the ground and back up to earth again by all the gays that have come before you. It's almost like single the national anthem during morning announcements. No one pays attention to the actual lyrics, they just fiercely shake their hips to the rhythm as if they were in the making of the video.

5. Drunk Confession: Don't get drunk and confess your love to your straight friend...no reason other than it's just creepy!

6. Wearing Lip Gloss: And lastly, don't come to work with lip gloss on hoping someone will ask you, only for you to deny it, only to admit it again.

Let's help each other avoid these situations at all cost. Until the next time you #AskCJ, I leave you with this message: Don't get caught coming out the closet the wrong way :)

This article was written solely for comical entertainment. It is in no way to be taken seriously. We as a community have all struggled, or are still struggling with "coming out." Which is why organizations like The Trevor Project are around. If you or someone you know may be struggling with their sexuality, no matter how mild or severe the situation, don't hesitate to contact The Trevor Project at info@thetrevorproject.org, or by calling 310.271.8845

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HOROSCOPES



LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

You may have poured your heart into past relationships to seemingly no avail. However, know that a life without difficult relationships presents no opportunities for your soul's growth. All that you've learned, shared, and lost comes back in a new welcomed and loving form this month, Libra. Be aware, open, and receptive to all invitations in new friendships and romance as a result of your good past deeds in karma.



SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

Quick fixes can solve the problems before you. Trust your intuitive soul as you venture towards new people, places, and opportunities this month. Any difficulties can be simply put to rest by following divine inspiration, freeing you to enjoy the moment and progress, especially in relation to work, business, and income. Anticipate tweaking dealings that result in success.



ARIES

March 21 - April 19

You have all the ingredients for success this month, Aries. Don't reject offers out of hand. Even if you think your dreams are out of reach consider every opportunity in a positive light. You are blessed and supported by all those around you this month. Ride the wave of creativity that brings you all that you wish to achieve this month.



TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Major changes for which you are ill-prepared sprout into your life this month. You are likely to stubbornly resist all changes that assault the ego's needs for complete control over your destiny. However, it is better to give in than to lose your energy by holding onto what is now futile to cling to. Life is a series of gains and losses to support your soul's growth. Give up this month to gain more in the near future.



GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

A second chance reveals itself with an opportunity to right previous wrongs and to make amends. Use this opportunity wisely, as you are being offered to spiritually reinvent yourself. Karma is always at work each day. You will be rewarded for past efforts leading to new opportunities and successes the second time around.



CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Innovation and thought may be being wasted this month as a sense of frustration with work and business arises. You can expect delays and anxieties resulting from depending on others too much to follow their part. Let reason and self-reliance share its messages with you on your own course of needed action to pull things together. All that you are brings a growing awareness that if you want it done right, do it yourself this month.



LEO

July 23 - August 22

Inspiring words from a random person unlock a series of truths that result in emotional freedom. Pay attention to those who pop along side your journey with an unexpected message from the Spirit-World. Although it may not be apparent at the time of meeting, in retrospect you will realize you are on the right path based upon the right words from the right person this month.



VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

Your intuitive gifts are ripe for development this month, Virgo. If you find yourself drawn to a book, training course, or online video trust your intuitive draw. There is much more awaiting for you after you follow your soul's compass this month that brings great pleasure and reward. Calm the rational mind and ego—they are your only obstacles to gaining pleasure in expressing your soul this month.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

Don't share what you are doing with others who are not of like minds this month. Ridicule and disbelief will introduce a negative energy into an otherwise very positive and uplifting experience in the expression of your passions. Follow your heart and remember: Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.



CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

The Spirit-World calls you to recognize limitations within your viewpoints this month for your own growth. It is an ideal time to detach from both the burdens and benefits in this specific lifetime to gain a better spiritual perspective. Understanding the nature of the Spiritual Self, the Real Self, which is immortal helps you realize that this is only one incarnation of your soul in view of many. There is no loss in death. What wisdom and talents you gain in this lifetime are brought into the next. Such an understanding will help you see things in the proper perspective for a greater sense of peace.



AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

This month you are called to forgive the past in all forms in order to free your soul. It is over. Learn from it and let it go. Even the past perpetrators of ill will have changed and grown. As you cling to a negative image of a person from your past, that person has indeed changed while your reaction to him/her has not. Escape from your self-imposed prison of blaming others to experience the spiritual freedom of letting bygones be bygones. Your ego's blame has mistaught you that you "only survived." However, your soul's wisdom reveals "it is only a choice for you now, to choose to genuinely thrive."



PISCES

February 19 - March 20

Great time for financial investment into things that you keep up-to-date on. As you consider the advice from others, know that your own intuition will communicate its own wishes in the simple form of calm towards investments and endeavors good for your soul. Protection on financial ventures are in your cards this month. Follow your gut on all matters related to investment this month. You'll be glad you did.

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THE FESTISH FANTASY HALLOWEEN BALL

BY MIRANDA BOYD

RETURNS TO TICKLE, TEASE AND MORE.

Halloween isn't just for kids. Adults have their own desires to dress in costume and solicit sweetness from strangers. And each October, the Fetish and Fantasy Halloween Ball, Las Vegas' largest and longest-running Halloween event, and one of the most outlandish spectacles in North America, provides an outlet for our weirder, wilder and willing sides to relish in each other's.

Introduced in 1996 at The Attic Vintage Clothing Store, the FFHB has grown from a showing of 700 attendees to an extravaganza averaging nearly 7,000. Though it's had multiple locations since its inception, this year the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will once again play host to one of the world's freakiest and most fantastic affairs. While the nature of the Ball demands the suspension of many rules of day-to-day life, one new mandate is made.

Costumes are a must! Fetish gear, uniforms, lingerie, latex or even formal wear are acceptable. Creativity may vary by individual, but the FFHB is a place where the opportunity to dress in sexy, seductive, and outrageously creative attire is as valued as the spirit behind it all. Promoters don't require that attendees stick tightly to the theme, and admit that it's not uncommon for people to come in modest outfits or gag costumes, but they do make it known that as long as you come to have fun you are certainly welcome at the FFHB. And fun is almost a guarantee.

Entertainment is a mainstay of the FFHB. It's an aspect that the hosts have meticulously assembled to delight party-goers and create memories. At past Balls, bands like The Tubes and The Motels, DJs like Mixmaster Mike and DJ





“THE ONE YOU DON’T
WANT TO MISS”

- the Los Angeles Times

Skribble, and performers such as Dita Von Tease and Pyro-a-gogo have shown the phenomenon of the FFHB is more encompassing than any ordinary party. But even with the thrills taking place on stages, the focus has and will continue to be the people who attend with wanton displays.

A man built an end table around his neck and stuck his head through it with a lamp beside him—he was a one night stand. Another wore a window pane with curtains and a row of flowers—a peeping Tom. Cleverness finds its home at the FFHB. It’s every bit as important as the sexuality and debauchery. They certainly go hand in hand. One all-time favorite of Kerry Schatz, owner of Great White Entertainment, the production company responsible for the FFHB, was a six foot six, three hundred-fifty pound man with a blacked-out tooth who came with his wife adorned in cotton balls. The man sported a massive fake penis hanging from his overalls. And his wife bent ahead of him baaing like one of the hottest sheep ever. Clearly the bar’s been set. The only way to know what beautiful insanity the attendees will bring next is to show up with your own—within the reigns of the law.

No nudity is allowed. Realistic-looking artificial genitals are prohibited as well—though inflatable and other obviously fake ones are fine. And functional weapons are obviously a bad idea. Certain “Prudes for the Elimination of Erotic Parties” or “PEEPers” as they’re called, backed by local elected officials, have demanded certain restrictions be imposed. Promotors point out, “The fragile reputation of Las Vegas is at stake after all.” But that won’t stop this year’s Ball from assembling giant sculpted penises and vaginas as well as having a human petting zoo complete with body-painted persons positioned for pawing. The PEEPers may weep, but the fantasies will thrive.

For 17 years, the FFHB has been one of the most exciting, raucous and revered Halloween parties in the country, and there’s no end in sight. The chance to stand in a sea of sexuality and innovation is unrivaled even in Sin City. The occasion offers an experience that most certainly would not pop up in ordinary, daily life. And the validation of lifestyle, desire and originality has certainly earned the FFHB the claim of the world’s wildest Halloween party. ■

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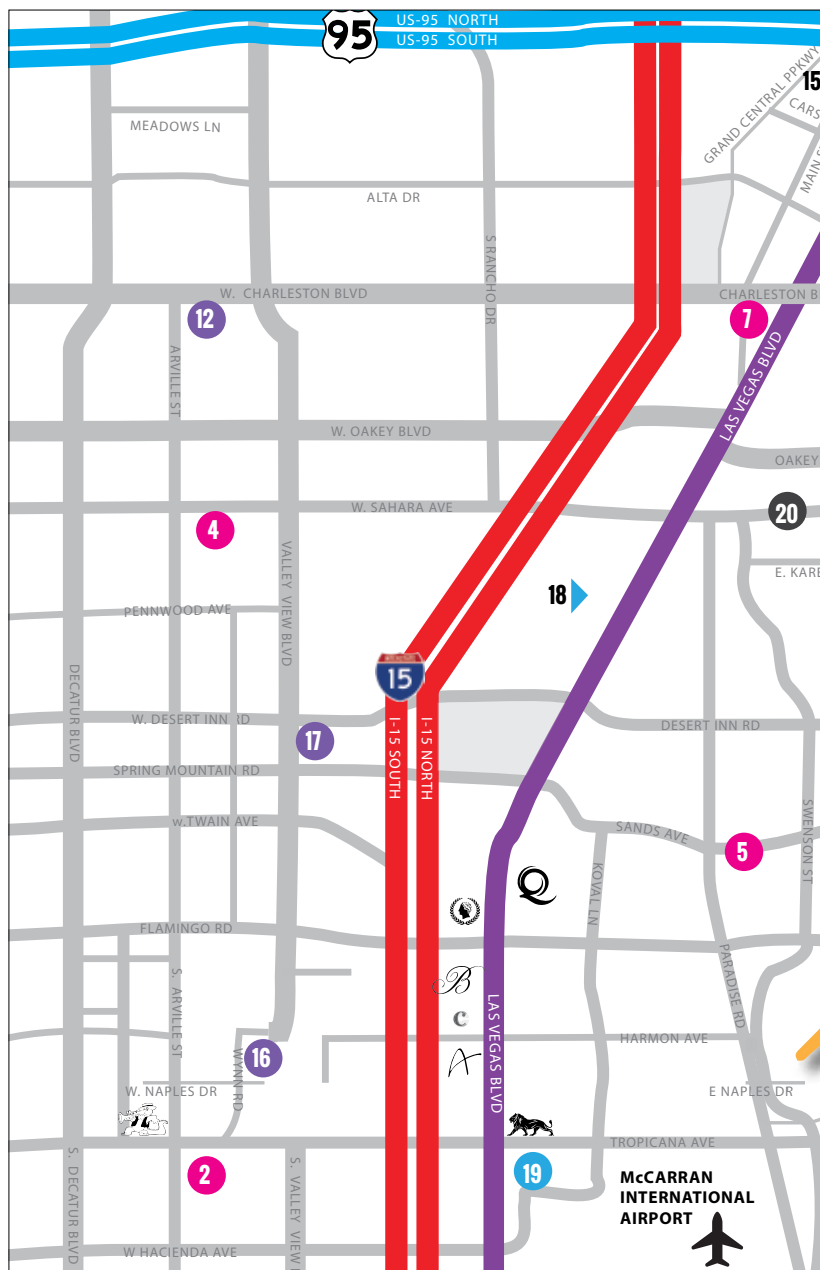
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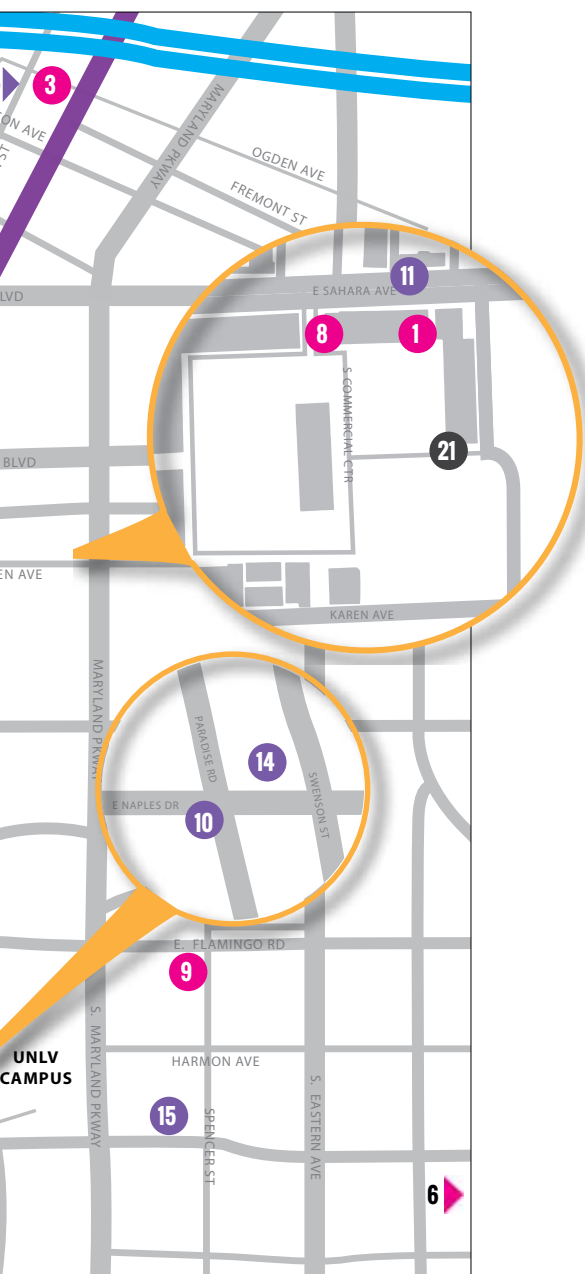
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last word!

[by NV Rep. Steven Horsford]

THE DEFINING MOMENTUM

On September 4 I attended the 30th annual Las Vegas Pride Festival, an event dedicated to celebrating diversity and equality and championing the rights that have for too long been denied to the LGBT community. The parade and festival demonstrated the energy and enthusiasm of a successful progressive movement marching forward. Momentum is clearly defining what will be the right side of history when it comes to LGBT equality.

For example, in June, America saw two Supreme Court decisions that sustained a fundamental value of every single American—the right to love, freely and openly. By striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act—a discriminatory federal law that singled out citizens based on who they love—the Court affirmed a fundamental tenet of our democracy: no group may legislate discrimination that infringes upon the rights of others. I'm proud to have joined 211 of my colleagues and signed onto the amicus brief opposing DOMA.

In the midst of this progress, there is still much work to be done to make America a land of equality and opportunity for all. The fight to make America a beacon of equality extends to the international stage as well, which is why I joined the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada this weekend to call on Secretary of State John Kerry to protect gay athletes from persecution at the Sochi Olympics next winter. If we make progress and act as allies at home, we have to stand tall when we travel abroad.

However, there is still much to be done in the battle for full rights for our LGBT brothers and sisters at home. Legislatively, the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has passed out of a Senate committee. I encourage my House colleagues to take similar action. In the workplace, people should be judged for their productivity and their talent. Sadly, ENDA is necessary because

many LGBT Americans live without workplace protections. A related bill, the Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA), would ensure that all students have equal access in our education system regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, similar to how Title IX prevents discrimination on the basis of gender in our nation's schools. I am a proud supporter of both of these important efforts to ensure the safety and the dignity of our nation's youth.

Congress must also work together to ensure that our LGBT youth—our sons and daughters, family members, and loved ones—are empowered and feel safe in school. The Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) has been introduced in both houses of Congress several times in the past years. Despite a tragic string of bullying and youth deaths, SSIA has yet to become federal law. This measures to be the most effective way of creating inclusive, safe, and affirming campuses.

The fight for equality is far from over. I anticipate the day, which I expect will be in my lifetime, when we will see same-sex marriage fully recognized by every state across the country and by the federal government. It is critical that Congress catch up to the rest of America on this issue, and that's why I've co-sponsored the Respect for Marriage Act. This bill would repeal DOMA in its entirety, and root out for posterity the damaging discriminatory language currently in the books that blemishes the American promise of equality and liberty.

It is important we recognize that as a people we all have a responsibility and a duty to our neighbor, and to our fellow American. To the LGBT community specifically, we must recognize the incredible diversity within. No singular issue defines a community, and as long as there are issues to be addressed, I look forward to working together for a more fair and just country. ■



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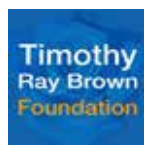
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