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ON THE COVER



Equality Forum salutes 31 icons for LGBT-History Month



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Editor's Note

National Coming Out Day is a time for celebration whether you're deciding to actually come out that day or to just celebrate yourself. We thank Rob Eichber, personal growth workshop founder and the half million people that participated in a March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987.

Don't miss the annual National Coming Out Day block party in the Fruitloop on October 10 starting 8 PM. The festivities brings stage shows, games, and dozens of vendors.

In addition to some inspiring coming out stories we bring you incredible LGBT history facts, the all new Gay.Vegas Business Directory, and a look at what it's like to come out in the Nevada Legislature while fighting for LGBT rights.

Don't forget to wear your purple in support of National Spirit Day. Help create a community that accepts and supports LGBT youth.

'Like Us' on Facebook (facebook.com/qvegasmagazine) and follow us on Twitter (@qvegas) to be the first to know about 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

Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK



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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?



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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by FRM Taylor]

The "Open" Mosque

In Wynberg, Cape Town South Africa on September 19, 2014, the Wynberg Open Mosque opened. This mosque is the 1st "gay friendly, gender equal mosque in South Africa. Not only are openly gay Muslims welcomed, women are allowed to preach and lead congregational prayer, which is controversial in the Islamic faith. Founder Taj Hargey told BBC "We are opening the mosque for open-minded people, not closed minded people". Hargey's goal is

revert to "the original mosque of Prophet Muhammad, where there were no barriers".

Backing Gay Rights

Mary Cheney, lesbian political consultant and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, made a case backing gay rights to the Log Cabin Republicans this past week at their annual "Spirit of Lincoln" dinner in D.C. Mary who refers to herself as conservative republican, believes that freedom and equality are

the founding morals of the party. She further went on to say that all families-regardless of how they look, how they're made or where they live- all families deserve to be treated with the same respect, dignity, legal rights and recognitions as every other family.

Push for PrEP

After San Francisco supervisor Scott Wiener admitted to being an user of the revolutionary HIV preventative drug, PrEP, on the Huffington Post, activists in San Francisco are rallying in support of an initiative to make PREP (also known as Truvada) available citywide to all regardless of income. As it stands now PrEP is too costly for the working class to afford even with insurance ranging from \$8,000 to \$14,000 a year for the drug. Supervisor



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David Campos is one the forerunners for the initiative suggesting San Francisco make a national example. "By making PrEP available to all regardless of income, we could set the tone for the rest of the country on how to effectively eradicate a disease that has claimed the lives of so many of our loved ones."

Students Supporting Classmate

Seventeen-year-old Mario Munez, who goes by the name Maria, is a transgender student who attends Sao Cristão do Colégio Pedro II high school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Maria, who recently came out, was fined for breaking the dress code earlier this month when she wore a skirt to school instead of trousers. The school cited their code of ethics which did not allow 'Male' students to

wear female uniforms. After being fined Maria decided to adhere to the dress code. A few of her fellow classmates did not agree. So taking matters into their own hands, 9 days after Maria being fined, a group of male classmates showed up to school wearing skirts in protest. After posts and pictures of the skirted males appeared on social media with the hashtag #VouDeSaia (meaning I'll skirt in Portuguese) the school released a statement declaring a change in the dress code to allow for greater gender expression. Maria was touched by the support from her classmates saying, "I am really happy about the way my classmates supported me and I hope it serves as an example to others to feel encouraged to do the right thing."

Bayou Judge Rules Against State Ban On Gay Marriage

A Louisiana couple had a victory in a Louisiana state court when Judge Edward Rubin ruled that the states ban on was unconstitutional. Chasity Brewer and Angela Constana were legal wed in California and are in court trying to get their union legally recognized in Louisiana where the couple live. Constana also wishes to adopt her stepchild, brewer's 9 year old from a previous relationship. While an appeal is expected from the state's attorney general, this might be a start to the end of the same sex ban in Louisiana.

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Brutal Attack in Philly

Two gay men in Center City Philadelphia were victims of a violent attack. One of those men was left in the hospital with multiple fractures. The 27-year-old and 28-year-old were walking from a restaurant in the area of the 16th and Chancellor around 10:45 PM. They were suddenly approached by a visibly intoxicated group of two men and six women. A witness said that someone in the group asked, "Is this your fucking boyfriend?" When one of the victims told them yes, the group allegedly snatched a victim's bag containing a cellphone, wallet and credit cards. The group fled in an unknown

direction.

Fox News' Sean Hannity: Parents should be allowed to teach their kids that 'Being Gay is Not Normal'

In his syndicated radio show, Fox News "celebrity" Sean Hannity reacted to child abuse charges again Minnesota Vikings, Adrian Peterson, by saying that government might start interfering with what parents can teach their children and that he's concerned that parents will be prohibited from teach their kids that "being gay is normal."

Facebook's Dangerous Name Policy

Facebook's "real name" policy sparked headlines when a slew of profiles owned by drag queens, including Sister Roma, were shut down after being reported



by unknown users to be in violation. After an outcry from users, Facebook invited a group of local leaders and advocates representing various communities to attend a meeting on their campus. The issue is yet to be resolved. The policy states that Facebook users should use their "real name" like that on their "driver's license or credit card." The policy was intended to ensure people were their authentic selves online and to help keep others safe, it is clearly having the opposite effect. Victims of domestic violence, people in law enforcement, closeted LGBT people, and a host of others who need privacy are also at risk because of the policy.

LGBT Military Families Still Face Challenges 3 Years After "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Despite the repeal of DADT, transgender individuals are still

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prohibited from openly serving in the military due to outdated and obsolete Department of Defense (DoD) medical regulations. In May of this year, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he was "open" to reviewing the military's ban on transgender people. An estimated 15,000 transgender individuals are currently serving in silence. Non-Discrimination Protections: LGB service members who face discrimination or harassment have few options for addressing their problem. No marriage recognition or Access to Veterans' Benefits.

Bisexual Youth in America Face Widespread Skepticism, Harassment

A ground-breaking report published today by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation reveals that 40 percent of more than 10,000 LGBT youth surveyed by the organization identify as bisexual -- and many of them say they face more challenges coming

out and gaining acceptance than their lesbian and gay peers. The Supporting and Caring For Our Bisexual Youth report, based on one of the largest surveys ever of LGBT youth and released in partnership with the Bisexual Resource Center, BiNet USA, and the Bisexual Organizing Project, also reveals a troubling chasm between the experiences of bisexual youth in America and their non-LGBT peers. And many of the young people surveyed expressed the potential to be attracted to more than one gender, but rejected the term "bisexual" when describing their sexual orientation. Instead, they wrote their own descriptions, including "queer" and "pansexual."

The survey of 10,030 young people ages 13 to 17 and commissioned in 2012 by the HRC Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBT civil

rights

1 STEP BACK

organization, found that bisexual youth remain deeply disconnected from the larger LGBT community and its services. They are less optimistic about their futures than their non-LGBT counterparts, less engaged in their communities and schools, and highly susceptible to sexual harassment.

Find more LGBTQ stories like this at www.QVegas.com

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GILEAD: THE SOVALDI TAX

Forbes
com

“The drug Sovaldi is generating enormous profits on the backs of patients...” *June 16th, 2014*

A cure for Hepatitis C is within reach for 170 million people around the world thanks to poor and sick Americans who are picking up the tab.

Gilead Sciences, the manufacturer of the Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi has priced the medication at \$1,000 each in the United States. An entire treatment regimen of 84 of those pills costs just \$900 in Egypt.

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

NCOD Weekend Events

OCTOBER 10

- > The Original NCOD Street Festival at The Fruit Loop
- > UNLV Spectrum and HPA's Coming Out Day Carnival

OCTOBER 11

- > Walk n Roll 2014 in Downtown Bicycle Ride & Walk
- > NGRC Coming Out with the Boys

OCTOBER 12

- > NCOD at Revo Sundays

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, VISIT
www.gay.vegas/ncod

3 Queens of Las Vegas 10PM

Join us for the opening of QUEENS OF LAS VEGAS at the Tommy Wind Theater. We are offering free tickets for this show as we'll be filming and taking photos for promo. Enjoy celebrity impersonations, comedy, and a variety of performances to entertain you! Then stay as theater turns to Equalibrium Nightclub.

13 Mondays Dark Third Mondays @ 9PM

Join performers from all over Las Vegas for a monthly charity benefiting a new charity each month. October benefits THE HEALING CURVE with the theme Women Who Rock.

mondaysdark.com

15 Night Fever Bingo

8PM

Jimmy Emmerson hosts Night Fever Bingo at Palace Station with a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. A portion of proceeds benefit The Center.

16 Spirit Day

Millions go purple on Spirit Day in a stand against bullying and to show their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple, which symbolizes 'spirit' on the rainbow flag.

glaad.org/spiritday

18 Honorarium

5PM

Celebrate the contributions to our community by Person of the Year Diana Bennett, Ally of the Year Fred Keeton and Corporation of the Year Wynn Resorts. We're also celebrating 21 years of serving Nevada's LGBTQ community! For this year's Honorarium, we have chosen the amazing new Drai's Beach Club • Nightclub atop The Cromwell Las Vegas boutique hotel at the corner of Flamingo Road and Las Vegas Boulevard. The Honorarium begins with a cocktail reception, silent auction and gourmet food stations poolside in the breathtaking Drai's Beach Club (with million

dollar views of the sunset beyond the bustling Vegas Strip!) before moving into the luxurious, well-appointed Nightclub for live entertainment and the presentation of The Center Honors.

thecenterlv.org/honorarium

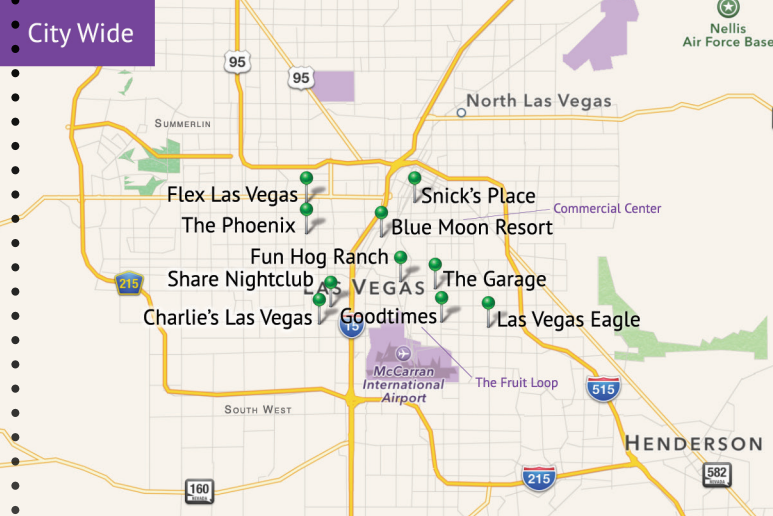


31 Fetish & Fantasy Ball 10PM

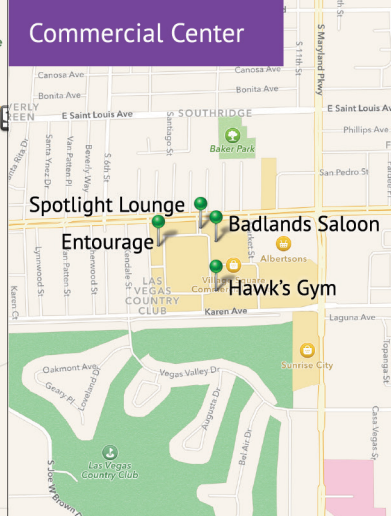
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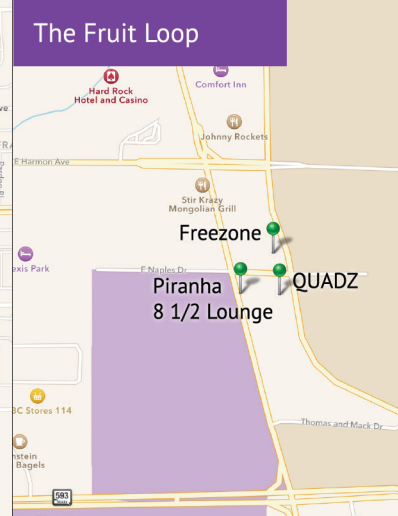
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The Fruit Loop



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1st Tuesday
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2nd Tuesday
Wildcard Location

3rd Tuesday
Light Group LGBT

4th / 5th Tuesday
Wildcard Locations



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- ✓ Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
- Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's (Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin City Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog (3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

- ✓ Strippier Circus at Share Nightclub
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone

- ✓ HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
- Line Dancing Lessons at Charlie's Las Vegas
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park
- Liaison Nightclub

Saturdays

Fridays

Thursdays

Sundays

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

- ✓ REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel
- ✓ Get on the Guest List gay.vegas/revosundays
- ✓ John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group
- ✓ Join the Summerlin Gays Group
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Broadway Open Mic Night at Onyx Theater
- Boys & Burgers at Blue Moon Resort

- ✓ Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
- Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
- S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage
- Pigs on Broadway Video Night with Kitty Litter at Fun Hog Ranch
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park

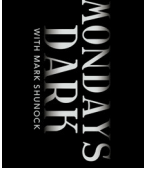
- ✓ Social Tuesdays
- Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
- Karaoke Night at FreeZone
- Trashy Tuesdays at Hawks Gym

- PRIDE Family Bingo (1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at Charlie's
- Game Night at FreeZone
- Boylesque Wednesdays with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- #WomanCrushWednesdays at Stratosphere



Get on the Guest List for Open Bar 10-11 and No Cover until 1AM.

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lgbt™ HISTORY MONTH

The 31 LGBT Icons, living or dead, are selected for their achievements in their field of endeavor; for their status as a national hero; or for their significant contribution to LGBT civil rights. Equality Forum solicits nominations from regional, state, national and international organizations, activists, and the public.

Richard Adams filed the first U.S. lawsuit to seek federal recognition of same-sex marriage. What should have been the beginning of a happy marriage laid the groundwork for his almost 40-year quest for federally recognized marriage equality.

Born to Pakistani parents and raised in Connecticut, queer Muslim activist Faisal Alam has navigated the precarious terrain of clashing identities. From an early age Alam felt a strong connection to his Islamic faith. He was an active member of Muslim youth groups as a way of engaging with his faith and his community; he became a model of Islam's focus on goodwill and strong communal ties.

A Hollywood celebrity, Tallulah Bankhead exemplified what it meant to be a liberated woman at a time when women were Victorian and marginalized.

Natalie Clifford Barney, a leading pioneer of feminist literature, was a free spirit whose eccentricity and insatiable desire for life, love and art make her one of the most fascinating women of the 20th century.

Allan Bérubé is best known for his 1990 book, "Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two." He posits that servicemen and women during the war found the freedom to explore sexuality in a relatively judgment-free environment. When these soldiers returned home, many settled into a domestic heterosexual lifestyle that launched the baby boom. But a few, knowing they were not as "deviant" as they had been led to believe, decided to stand up against homosexual persecution.

A leading Asian-American artist, Bernice Bing spent her early childhood in a Chinese orphanage, in Caucasian foster homes and with her Chinese grandmother. She described her grandmother as having residual feelings of "anger and subservience" combined with an underlying strength. "For me there was the

difficulty of being an Asian-American child going to a basically very middle-class white school and trying to assimilate both of these cultures," Bing said.

Ivy Bottini is a pioneering lesbian feminist. In 1966 she was inspired by Betty Friedan's book "The Feminine Mystique." She met Friedan and together they established the first chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Bottini served on the national board of NOW for three years and was president of the New York chapter for two years.

Born George Gordon, Lord Byron was a leading poet of the Romantic period. His ambiguous sexuality, flamboyant persona, and lifestyle of excess have made him a cultural and literary legend and among the first prominent bisexuals.

Michael Callen was a pioneering AIDS activist. In 1982, when Callen was diagnosed with Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID), little was known about the "gay cancer." Those with the disease knew their days were numbered and that the disease stigmatized them. Callen did not hesitate to come out openly as a gay man with the fatal disease and to take action.

Tseng Kwong Chi, also known as Joseph Tseng, was the preeminent photographer of the 1980s New York pop scene. His work engages a wide variety of traditions, from landscape photography to portraiture. His best-known photographs examine perceptions of "foreign-ness," as he experimented artistically with his Asian-American identity.

Margaret Cho is a nationally known comedian. She was born to Korean immigrant parents in San Francisco, a place that she calls "different than any other place on Earth." Despite this melting pot of ethnicities and sexualities, Cho faced discrimination because of her weight.

For Jean Cocteau, life was art. This writer, illustrator, poet and filmmaker knew no boundaries in his creative endeavors. A prolific catalog of genre-spanning work makes Cocteau one of the most influential figures of the 20th century French art world.

The 2000 Olympic Games were pivotal for boxer Orlando Cruz. After representing Puerto Rico in the games, Cruz launched his professional boxing career. He won a

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lgbtTM HISTORY MONTH



Glenn Greenwald



Megan Rapinoe



Margaret Cho



Marc Jacobs



Richard Adams



John Cameron Mitchell



Kathy Kozachenko



Freddie Mercury



Lou Sullivan



Darlene Garner



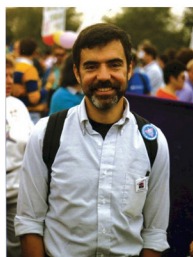
June Jordan



Bernice Bing



Faisal Alam



Allon Bérubé



Angelina Weld Grimké

world featherweight title and went nine years without a defeat.

Lee Daniels is an Academy Award nominated producer, director, screenwriter and actor. Daniels survived a traumatic childhood. After being caught wearing his mother's pumps, he was violently assaulted by his father. Daniels stated, "When I came out it was because I loathed my dad so much."

Stormé DeLarverie was a Stonewall veteran and the sole

female performer for the Jewel Box Review, a traveling drag show that toured the country from 1939 into the 1960s. At that time, cross-dressing was considered a criminal offense in most municipalities. The review included 24 drag queens and Stormé (pronounced "Stormy"), the only drag king.

In 1996 Rudy Galindo became the first United States skating champion to come out as openly gay. Galindo is famous for his grace on the ice. A singles and doubles skating phenomenon,

he won the World Junior Championship in 1987 and the U.S. National Championship in 1997. With doubles partner Kristi Yamaguchi, he won the World Junior Championship in 1988 and the U.S. National Championship in 1989 and 1990. In 1996 he won the bronze medal at the World Championships.

Before Darlene Garner helped found the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG)— later known as the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays—"gay"

was largely synonymous with "white." Garner and other early black LGBT leaders were determined to make their voices heard and their unique experiences as LGBT people of color known. "What we were doing had the capacity to change the face of history," Garner stated. "Our youth and naiveté helped us do it with a boldness. If we had been seasoned activists, we might not have taken it on. We know that if it was not us, there might be no one." The NCBG became the first non-white LGBT organization in the country.

Glenn Greenwald was born in New York and raised in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, where his grandfather was a city councilman. Greenwald's youthful ambition was politics. He became the first teenager on the county parks and recreation board.

Angelina Weld Grimké was a poet, teacher and playwright who helped pave the way for the Harlem Renaissance. Grimké was one of the nation's first celebrated female African-American authors.

If one has to live the blues to sing the blues, it is no wonder that Billie Holiday became a legendary jazz/blues vocalist and songwriter and a seminal influence in phrasing, tempo and style.

Marc Jacobs is an internationally renowned American fashion designer best known for his own label and his work with Louis Vuitton. His designs have explored the spaces between clashing influences such as androgyny, traditional Japan and rock 'n' roll.

June Jordan was an activist, journalist, essayist, educator and celebrated African- American poet. Her commitment to fighting oppression, particularly of women and blacks, was the defining element of her work.

Kathy Kozachenko was the first openly gay person to be elected to a public office in the United States. In 1974 she was elected as a Human Rights Party candidate to the City Council of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Armistead Maupin ranks among the most celebrated authors of the

LGBT experience. To many in Maupin's hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina—including Maupin's one-time employer, the segregationist Senator Jesse Helms—homosexuality was even more blasphemous than racial integration. Maupin recounted about Helms, "Homosexuality, he told me, was the most heinous sin a man could commit. I nodded dutifully and kept my mouth shut."

CeCe McDonald is a transgender prison-reform activist. While on her way to the grocery store with friends, she encountered a drunken group outside of a bar. Seeing McDonald and her friends, the group began taunting them with racial, homophobic and transphobic slurs. After taking a stance that their hate speech would not be tolerated, McDonald was assaulted with a shattered drinking glass across the face. The attack perforated her cheek and lacerated her salivary gland.

Freddie Mercury ranks among the most sensational rock 'n' roll vocalists in history. He was one of the leading musicians, record producers and songwriters of the 1980s.

Born Farrokh Bulsara to Parsi parents, Mercury was a British citizen who spent his childhood in India. At age 7, he began to study piano. When he was 8, he matriculated to an all-boys school near Bombay (now Mumbai). While enrolled there, he adopted the name "Freddie" and formed a band, the Hectics. In his teens, he moved with his family to Middlesex, England. John Cameron Mitchell is best known for writing, directing and starring in the cult classic film "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

In 2012 critically acclaimed singer and songwriter Frank Ocean changed the face of hip-hop when he came out two days prior to the release of his second album, "Channel Orange." The album shot to number two on the Billboard charts.

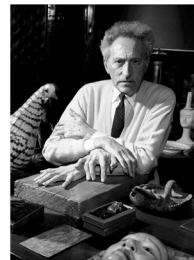
In 2012 professional soccer player Megan Rapinoe came out publicly two weeks before she was to play for the women's soccer team in the London Olympics. "I feel like sports in general are still homophobic in the sense that



Lee Daniels



Armistead Maupin



Jean Cocteau



Tallulah Bankhead



Rudy Galindo



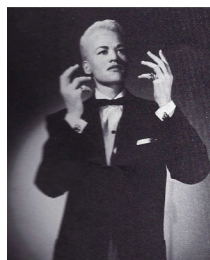
Ivy Bottini



Frank Ocean



Michael Callen



Tormé Delavigne



Natalie Barney



Orlando Cruz



Billie Holiday



Tseng Kwong Chi



Lord Byron



Cece McDonald



Sylvester

not a lot of people are out," she said. "I feel everyone is really craving [for] people to come out. People want—they need—to see that there are people like me playing soccer for the good ol' U.S. of A."

Born Sheila in a Midwestern Catholic household, Sullivan recorded in a childhood diary the joy of "playing boys." As a teenager, Sullivan was fascinated by male homosexuality. "I want to look like what I am, but I don't know what someone like me looks like," she recalled. When

Sullivan began to identify as a transgender gay man, the prospects were daunting: "What can become of a girl whose real desire and passion is with male homosexuals?"

Before he became "Sylvester" and before he was crowned the "Queen of Disco," Sylvester James Jr. was a member of a group of transvestites known as the Disquotays. While many Disquotays explored their identities as trans women in a cross-dressing party circuit, Sylvester identified as male.



Equality Forum is a national and international LGBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. For more information, visit www.equalityforum.com.

For complete biographies, visit gay.vegas/equalityforum



EATING OUT

Serendipity III

October. The Fall harvest. Apple picking, pumpkin gathering, and cornfield mazes. October in Las Vegas. Food events galore, from the Rock 'n Roll Wine Amplified Festival, to the LUCKYRICE Night Market, showcasing Asian foods and cultures. And then, of course, there's the holiday for big kids and little ones alike...Halloween! To my mind, few restaurants embody the fun of Halloween better than Serendipity 3!

Located near the fountains in front of Caesar's Palace, Serendipity 3 has become my go-to spot for lunches with friends, but it's more than just a lunch spot. Serendipity serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner, but lurking in the background is the knowledge that you'll be tempted by one of their many indulgent dessert creations!

The original Serendipity in New York City, was the city's first boutique coffee house, combining a small restaurant, a general store, and a gift shop. Their success eventually necessitated moving to a larger space, and the addition of several new locations, including Las Vegas.

The Vegas restaurant is a cheery, colorful place with orange and magenta striped awnings outside, looking like something out of a carnival. Inside you'll find a modern take on the old turn-of-the-century ice cream parlor, with white tables and chairs, striped wallpaper, a couple of whimsical clocks, and several Dr. Seuss-like chandeliers with brightly-hued lampshades. There's seating on

the terrace, which looks out on The Strip, and although there is almost always a wait for tables, the hostess will take your cell phone number and text you when your table is ready. The staff are young, cute, and always friendly, considering how crowded the place can become. The atmosphere is casual and an average check will usually come to about \$25 per person.

When it comes to food, there is a lot from which to choose. A LOT!! The Lunch/Dinner menu lists over 116 items alone! Don't let that intimidate you, however. Just dive in and choose an appetizer like the Wagyu Sliders - four tiny, perfectly cooked burgers with American cheese and an excellent bacon aioli, or the Empire State Onion Rings - a tall, tall tower of wonderfully crispy onion rings sprinkled with Romano cheese and served with Ranch and BBQ dipping sauces.

Main courses can go in any number of directions: There are salads like the Ahi Tuna Salad - seared Ahi tuna, a mix of spring greens, candied walnuts, avocado, and an herb vinaigrette. If salads aren't your thing, Serendipity has long been known for it's Foot-Long Dogs served on house-made buns. They also know their way around a good burger - the simple cheeseburger can be topped with your choice of Cheddar, American, Provolone, Blue, Brie, Jack, or Swiss cheese. The "A.B.C." Burger is topped with avocado, Brie and caramelized onions - sloppy but worth the mess.



[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

You'll also find sandwiches like the Las Vegas Strip Steak Sandwich or the Big Island Pulled Pork Sandwich, made with Hawaiian style pulled pork, ponzu aioli, ginger slaw, and haystack fries on a pretzel bun. There are fish dishes, pasta selections, omelets, hand-tossed artisanal pizzas, and full entrees like Seared Atlantic Salmon, the "Don't Drop Your Skirt Steak", or the Fried Chicken served with mashed potatoes and gravy - true comfort food.

But hey! Weren't we talking about Halloween?!

Halloween! That one day a year when we threaten people, literally, if they refuse to give us treats! Well, Serendipity has plenty of sweet treats on their menu and they don't mind when you ask for them!

For those adults who desire an alcoholic treat to start their meal, try the Ruby Slipper, the Coco Berry, the Tutti Fruity Daiquiri, or the Cotton Candy Martini, made with cotton candy vodka, white cranberry juice, vanilla syrup and real cotton candy!

When I think of Halloween, I think of the classic fun size candy bars. If you do too, you might want to indulge in the Deep Fried Snickers Sundae - the candy bars are battered, fried and combined with vanilla and chocolate ice cream, hot fudge, caramel, white chocolate sauce AND peanut butter sauce. It's all topped with whipped cream, peanuts and chocolate flakes. There's the Colossal Brownie Sundae, with raspberry chocolate brownies, the Deep Fried Twinkie Sundae, and the Serendipity Las Vegas Treasure Chest - a monstrous dessert for four people (or more!), featuring a chocolate chest containing 12 scoops of ice cream, 3 pieces of cake, deep fried Oreos, assorted fresh berries, whipped cream and sprinkles!

There are "Over 21 Desserts" like the Root Beer Float with vodka and Jagermeister, the Frozen Girl Scout Cookie, with vanilla vodka and green creme de menthe, the Birthday Cake Martini, and more.

If there is one item on their menu for which Serendipity is truly famous, however, it's their Frozen Hot Chocolate! Imagine the best, most delicious and comforting hot chocolate you've ever had. Now imagine it's been transformed into insanely good ice cream, blended with milk until smooth and then topped with luscious whipped cream and chocolate shavings! Words cannot describe how good this is. All I can say is go out and order one!

Halloween in Las Vegas is definitely a unique experience - hot young guys and girls fill the clubs dressed even more provocatively than usual, if that's possible! But if clubbing and costumes aren't really your style and you just want to indulge in some real treats, head on over to Serendipity 3. There's no trick to it! ■

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COMING OUT

by Randy Slovacek

Coming out is the process of accepting ourselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, and sharing that truth of who we are with our family and friends. The process is different for everyone, and fears of rejection are very real.

For many, the coming out process can focus on what we have to lose, rather than what we can gain: the freedom to live our lives fully and authentically.

Coming out has become easier due to the increasing visibility of gays and lesbians in daily American life. From Gay/Straight Alliances in high schools to every corner of the media, "gay" isn't nearly as closeted as it once was. As we've learned over time, the more visible the LGBT community is, the more acceptance we find in our homes, workplace and the world at large.

The most immediate and accessible role models are those with the brightest spotlight. The presence of the hit TV show "Will & Grace" in our homes on a weekly basis for most of the 1990s contributed greatly to an environment where it seemed everyone finally knew someone

gay, even if only in a "virtual" sense. This continues today with LGBT characters like married gay couple Cam & Mitchell on "Modern Family" and many others.

Through the prism of the famous and the fabulous, America has learned that LGBT folks are present in all walks of life. We find personal confidence in not only the visibility but the public coming out stories of celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell, Neil Patrick Harris, Chris Colfer, Jonathan Groff, Ricky Martin, Frank Ocean, Anderson Cooper and Thomas Roberts. All have helped people across a wide spectrum relate to the gay community.

Then there's the world of professional sports. For years, the LGBT community could look to premiere athletes from tennis to figure skating to high diving for our own sporting heroes. But now, the gamut of out athletes extends into the most hyper-masculine professional team sports in the United States.

From pro soccer player Robbie Rogers of the L.A. Galaxy to Brooklyn Nets basketball player Jason Collins, to the Dallas Cowboys' Michael Sam, the list of professional athletes being "out and proud" continues to expand and grow. And with each out athlete, another hero is born.

**There are
always people
to listen and
to hear you.**

The Trevor Project
(866-488-7386)

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Center**
(866-483-4564)

Even with all these role models to inspire us, the coming out process will always be one of the most singularly private moments in a queer person's life. Much of the time, the majority of us find that preparation for "the talk" with our loved ones is much more stressful than the event itself. Anxiety and emotion ride high as we worry about sharing this personal side of ourselves. And, often, we end up with a reaction of "oh, we always knew" from parents, family and friends.

This was the case in the story of fraternal twins Adam and Luke Monastero of Canada, who posted a video of coming out to their parents that went viral on YouTube.

In sharing the news with their parents, Luke expressed concerns that their sexual orientation would affect relationships within their extended family. Mother Monastero had this to say: "Well, you know what, Luke? If it does, hon, that's their choice. It cannot be your worry or your burden. You can't live your life for someone else... I'm just so glad you're not keeping it from us anymore."

Throughout the discussion, the father barely looks up from eating his lunch. Hardly the dramatic moment the twins had imagined in the lead up to the big moment.

Near the end of the video, both Luke and Adam were jubilant in having come out.

"I feel like my parents' reactions were completely better than any of us thought they were going to be, and hopefully this will show you guys that people don't really care and your parents will love you no matter what," Luke says.

"That's kind of why we're making these videos—to just show people

that are gay in the closet you know you can just be who you are and not to be afraid," Adam adds.

Sadly, though, there are still coming out stories that end with painful results, both emotional and physical.

Nineteen year-old Daniel Pierce of Georgia became a national focus recently after he recorded his coming out to his family. What began as a "pray the gay away" intervention quickly escalated to his family verbally and physically abusing him, and ended with being thrown out of his home.

While possibly the worst imaginable scenario in coming out, the story took an uplifting turn when Daniel's crushing experience was shared with the LGBT community. A crowdsourcing fund was established with a goal of raising \$2,000 to help Daniel cope with living on his own at nineteen years old. Within a few days, a staggering \$93,000 was pledged by 3,561 individuals, most of them strangers who understood the universal experience of coming out.

Only a few weeks since the incident, Daniel is still estranged from his family but he's embraced the idea of using his story to help other homeless LGBT youth. Appearing on Dr. Drew Pinsky's show on HLN, Daniel shared that the massive outpouring of support was inspiring.

"I am so overwhelmed with joy," Pierce shared referring to the response to the video's viral reach. "I am very blessed to have all of the comments and the messages and everything that everyone has done — the donations, all of that — has been a big surprise. It's helping me get through the day."

"I want to give a portion of it back

to the cause," Pierce said. "I'm going to get actively involved with as many organizations as I can. My main focus with the video was ... I want to bring awareness that this is still happening. If it saves one kid the misery of what I went through, I will be satisfied."

Daniel is now working with local LGBT homeless shelter Lost-N-Found in Atlanta, and directing his energies and some of the funds raised for him towards helping other LGBT teens in crisis.

If you or someone you know needs to talk about coming out, there are always people to listen and hear you. Two great resources are The Trevor Project (866-488-7386) and the GLBT National Help Center (866-483-4564).

In addition, there is a wealth of support at ItGetsBetter.org, founded by columnist and LGBT advocate Dan Savage. There you can find personal coming out videos and other media to let you know you are not alone and that "it gets better."

As varied as the responses to coming out can be, it's important to remember that coming out is just one step in having a healthy relationship with not only those closest to us, but with ourselves.

Coming out is the beginning of a personal journey to accepting and loving who we are, and building lives that honor our authentic selves. ■

Becoming *Me*

[by Greg Chase]

Growing up as a child and through out my college years, I was very unaware of what the LGBT community was or what it must be like to associate as a member of the community. I, like many, had heard many stereotypes both good and bad, which really made me think about who I am. I would say that during my college years is when I started to feel that something about me was different. I remember countless nights praying by the side of my bed that I wasn't gay, hoping that the feelings I had were just a phase. I lived many years "hiding" in this space, just assuming that everything was going to come back to what I then had perceived as "normal."

After graduating college I took my first big job at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. This was a very exciting time for me as I was chasing a childhood dream and had allowed my self to be open to new experiences, as I was truly on cloud nine. I remember the day very clearly, where I was at a sports bar in Orlando celebrating one of my female friend's birthdays. I recall looking across the bar at another table of her friends, and saw a gentleman who I immediately took a liking to, unaware if he liked guys or not. I went to talk to him, and next thing you know we were in a relationship. We had some amazing times together, but one thing consistently challenged me from day to day. I had not told any of my friends or family that I was



gay, and neither had he. There was such a strong weight on my shoulders knowing that I was unable to share the happiness that I was encountering in my life with those who I cared for the most.

After about a year of being in a relationship and not many knowing about it, I hit a wall, and decided that it was time that my family knew. I will never forget the day, sitting on his patio at night; I picked up the phone and called my mother. I danced around the subject and finally had the confidence to say it. After saying the words, "Mom, I am Gay," I was met with silence, which quickly turned to tears. I had into this process not known what to expect. We didn't talk much more in that phone conversation, as I knew she needed some time to process what I had just shared with her. I knew that I needed to tell my father before she did, so after a couple days, I called my father and shared my story with him as well.

I was shocked when my father immediately said, "I love you for who you are." I had anticipated telling my father would have been much tougher than it really was. I played competitive sports growing up as a kid, and am sure his vision for who I was going to be in my adult years was very different from what he was hearing now. I'll fast forward to last month. During that period of time we had times in which we talked about many things, but I never



brought up me being gay. I tried to not cause any drama or evoke any emotions by bringing up the subject for many years. However, last month was truly a milestone for my coming out process.

I was very honored and humbled to be asked to host the main stage at the Las Vegas Pride Parade this year, something that I don't know I would have been comfortable doing a couple years prior. When I told my family, my sister immediately said that she was booking a flight to come and be a part of the festivities. In that same conversation, she had told me that she thought that my mother was really wanting to come, but didn't bring it up to me as she thought it may make me uncomfortable. I remember telling my sister to tell her that I would absolutely love if she could come, and she did. My father even sent a box of cookies congratulating me on a successful event, with the sweetest note ever. I had never imagined that my family would be this supportive, and what made it even better is my mom and sister were seated with my bosses and colleagues from work, which meant the world to me.

I share my story because there are many out there who have fears or apprehensions about coming out, but to me it was so much more than just "coming out." It was about truly being able to be who I am. It was about

loving myself. Yes, I have a very supportive family and circle of friends, which made this process easy for me. However, there are people like us all around willing to lend support and guidance for anyone who are going through this period of their life. When I think back to what life was like right after college to now, I can simply say that I feel free. I no longer worry about what people think of me. I am happy with who I am and who I have become, that at the end of the day is what it is all about.

October serves as National Coming Out Month, to raise awareness of the resources and support systems that are out there. While I acknowledge that this process is difficult, there are ways to get through it. I tell friends who are going through this process that they will often be very surprised at the support that they receive, especially as our culture is shifting very quickly to a culture of support and equality. If you are one who has been hiding who you really are, you will know when the time is right. Don't do it for someone else, do it for you, and I promise that once you are able to be in a place where you can be comfortable with who you are, that is when you truly start seeing all the amazing things that life has to offer. ■

So basically...

I'm GAY!

[by Bill Janisse]

Oscar Wilde wrote

"Be yourself; Everyone else is already taken".

As I was asked to write about my Coming Out story this month I was forced to spend quite a bit of time reflecting on my past and the journey that has brought me to be the person I am today. Looking back it seems as if I was living a completely different life before officially coming out as an openly gay man. I am so blessed in my life now that I am constantly surrounded by supportive, loving and loyal community of family and friends, but it wasn't always this way. I remember reading this quote as an older teenager and thinking about how powerful the message was. It was easy to understand the concept but the execution of it was not as simple and in fact felt as if it was almost impossible.

I grew up in suburban Detroit, the Midwest at its best with every stereotype that entails. As young as I can remember, I always knew I was different than the others I grew up with.

I was brought up in a very Right Wing, Conservative, Christian household.

My mother brought my sister
and I to church 3 times
per week

(Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening). This particular church preached openly about how homosexuality was a sin and in fact didn't even really exist, any homosexual thoughts you may be having must be lies from the Devil. I remember a youth pastor once saying at the pulpit that he believed all gay men should be lined up and shot dead. The church followed Pentecostal practices and was quite radical but somehow I managed to try and fit in and even as a young teenager going through puberty, I pretended that I was attracted to the girls in the youth group rather than the boys. Denial is, in fact, very strong and I told myself over and over again in my head that I couldn't be gay and that I was either confused or just curious. I actually started to believe it for a short time and tried to date girls, but we all know how that story ends.

My personality, energy and flamboyance have always been. I was simply a younger version of my silly and gay self. As a young boy in elementary school I remember feeling like an outcast and never quite "fitting in" but never knowing why. I'm sure that the pastors and teachers working at the Private Christian School I was sent to were confused and put off by me. Not really ever understanding me, while other students were making coffee cups and ash trays in art class I was sculpting an Academy Award Oscar Statue. I remember when we were assigned book reports with oral presentations, always with a flare for the dramatic, I would actually act out my report with home made

cardboard sets and costume changes. I was my own one man show in front of the 5th grade. As I got a little older I realized that this kind of behavior wasn't really accepted by the people around me. Trying to fit in and be "normal" I made a conscious effort to hide my mannerisms, my attraction to other boys, my Cher and Madonna cassette tapes etc. I remember watching television with my Mom one evening and there was a show that had a one time Gay character on it, a rarity at that time, and I decided to test my Mom's reaction. I asked her in a sarcastic tone, "what would you do if I were gay?" and her response was "I would kill you if you were gay". You can imagine how that made me feel and only fueled the fire within me to continue to hide and deny who I really was.

In high school I felt like I had finally mastered a happy medium version of hiding who I was but still being outgoing and silly. I stopped going to church against my Mother's wishes and attended a public High School rather than the private school I attended in elementary and junior high. I don't know how convincing I was as a heterosexual teenager but at least it was the start of a very long process of finally accepting who I really was. At this point I knew I was gay but was so incredibly scared to admit it to myself and the people around me especially my family. I hadn't really even accepted the fact that being gay wasn't a sin. I still had all the beliefs that were drilled in my head since day 1 at the church,

stating that if you were gay there was something wrong with you and that you were basically a bad person, a misfit or a freak. It was a very conflicting time for me as I had finally realized I couldn't deny to myself that I was gay but I still thought there was something wrong with me for having those feelings.

It wasn't until I moved away from home to be a professional dancer that things started to become clear for me. I had to get out of Michigan and fled to the nearest big city to seek refuge. I knew that homosexuality was more socially accepted in the larger cities. I found myself in NYC and Chicago training as a dancer and I was finally accepting me. It still took a year after removing myself from MI and being in an atmosphere where being gay was not frowned upon and reversely was actually celebrated.

By the universe blessing me with such wonderful and supportive friends in the city and the companies I was dancing with, I finally learned that I needed to love and respect myself within before I could completely live and speak my truth. I found myself slowly coming out to everyone one at a time instead of one large coming out moment. The last and most important person I came out to was of course my Mother. Still remembering what she had said years prior in our living room loudly stating her disapproval.

To give you a full perspective on our relationship at this point I must mention that my Mother and

I had our share of disagreements and fights, one of them stemming from my choice to be a dancer and move away. Looking back now I realize that her lack of support was probably stemming from the suspicions she must have had about my sexuality. She never supported my decision to make a career out of dancing at that point and had in fact never even attended one of my professional performances. I was scheduled to perform in MI with the Joffrey Ballet and I was excited to come home as a success and show my Mom everything I had accomplished. Perhaps showing her how wrong she was to not believe I could be a professional dancer. I had planned on also coming out to her on this trip as well.

To my surprise and disappointment even though I was performing in my hometown, she did not find it in herself to attend. The next day when the company was scheduled to depart she called and asked if she could see me. She wanted to give me a ride to the airport and I guess she actually felt bad about not coming to the show. So I figured this was my chance to have one on one time with her and come out. I was so angry with her though. Unfortunately I gave in to my anger and decided to tell her in a hurtful and somewhat malicious way. I basically timed the ride to the airport so that I would tell her as I was getting out of the car and not giving her the chance to respond. I prefaced it by telling her that I know she has certain

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religious beliefs that she tried to instill in me but I no longer agree with or believe in them. As we pulled up to curbside check in I mentioned how happy I was in my new life and that she needed to know that I love and have sex with men not women. I said "so basically I'm GAY" and I slammed the car door and walked into the airport and didn't turn back to even see her reaction.

Some people may say that she got exactly what she deserved or that my anger was justified, but looking back I know that even in that situation I could have found a more loving way to tell her. I believe now that when a message is expressed in anger only the anger is heard and the actual message may be lost.

My mom and I didn't really speak after that at all for about a year. My sister was always supportive of my sexuality and at one point even admitted to me that she always knew I was gay growing up. The rest of the family slowly started to come around as well. When my Mom and I started to speak again she tried to act as if she was accepting of my homosexuality but would still find key moments to quote bible scripture or make comments to try to get me to go on dates with women. I'm not going to lie and say it hasn't been a long road with her but I'm happy to say that currently she is very accepting and happy to have a gay son.

I believe that you have to learn to love yourself, who you are, and what you are unconditionally before you can expect others to do the same. Our minds are very powerful

As National Coming OUT Day approaches I encourage you to share the good news that you're GAY!

things and I believe that we manifest the life we are living. "My life didn't please me, so I created my life." – Coco Chanel. I've always endeavored to surround myself with like-minded people and approach everything with loving intention and non-judgment. I honestly feel that it was in this mindset, spirituality and lifestyle that aided in my Mother finally fully accepting me as a gay man. She could see that I was happy, healthy, respectful of others and not a freak or bad person for being gay. It opened her heart and perspective, I'm so grateful that she is finally in a loving and accepting mindset.

Today I am proud to say that I am gay and I love my life. There will always be speed bumps or road blocks along the journey but it is how you handle the rough times that matters the most. I've learned a lot in my achievements but I've learned more important lessons in my failures. One's strength is found more in their failures rather than their successes. You get strong by swimming upstream against the current. "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it" – Maya Angelou. I encourage you all to wake up daily with a grateful mind and heart, love yourself daily and approach your work

and relationships with loving intention always regardless the circumstances or obstacles in your way that day.

When you live and speak your Truth, everything else seems to fall into place naturally and organically. Opportunities will arise and the proper path in your career, friendships, and relationships will be revealed to you and the universe will always be there to guide you as long as you continue to love yourself, give love and respect to others and don't give in to the low vibrational energy of judgment, anger or insecurities. As National Coming OUT Day approaches I encourage you to share the good news that you're GAY! There is no shame in being gay. None of us is alone and the Universe, God, Higher Power or just Nature (whichever you believe in) rejoices in you and will strengthen you when you live congruently. Integrity & authenticity are the door to peace, ease, joy, love and light. So let your lights shine EVERYONE! I have and will continue to rejoice in you! To all of my friends and family who know a gay person who is not yet out, I hope you'll offer a gentle and loving reminder today and always that whenever she or he is ready, you will be there as support.

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'Coming Out' in the Nevada Legislature

[by Cameron Catton]



Kelvin Atkinson

For many people hoping to learn about the politics of Nevada, there is often a surprised reaction at discovering that our legislature only meets every other year, for 120 days. Nevada is one of only a handful of other states whose lawmakers meet in this fashion, as the trend since the 1960's has been for many state governments to meet annually.

Another major surprise comes when the sizable amount of openly LGBTQ people and allies in our legislature is revealed. The Assembly and Senate are both teeming with support for LGBTQ and intersecting issues. During the 2013 session, Nevada's lawmakers heard arguments on marriage equality and transgender hate crimes, and in previous sessions passed legislation for domestic partnerships and transgender public accommodations. It has never been a better time to be an LGBTQ Nevadan.

One of the hottest and most popular issues within the LGBTQ community across the globe is that of marriage. Couples the world over await decisions in their

home countries, where the issue is usually hotly contested, leading to protests, demonstrations and even horrific violence. Many countries have settled the issue: Canada's laws embrace same-sex couples, and have since 2005. Russia legally forbids the concept of sharing, "homosexual propaganda," purportedly to protect the impressionable minds of minors.

Here in the US, the marriage debate rages nationally, but faces obstacles at the federal and state levels. The Supreme Court has yet to make a decision regarding marriage equality for the country, and states are currently to make their own decisions. The past year has shown an incredible trend toward acceptance of same-sex marriage across the country, with even conservative states like Utah showing trends of acceptance. Where does Nevada fit into all of this commotion? For a long time, the process was simple, if tedious: The Nevada Legislature had to pass the marriage bill in two consecutive sessions and then allow the vote on the matter to go to the people. This was

predicted to occur in the 2013 and 2015 sessions, with a vote on the Presidential ballot in 2016.

Things, however, seem to have the opportunity for some dramatic change, as three lawsuits have escalated to the Ninth Circuit Court. On September 8th, oral arguments were heard by the Court for Nevada and Idaho, and the judges involved are expected to rule later this year to either strike down Nevada's same-sex marriage ban or to uphold it. The chance to speed up the decision for Nevada and leap ahead of the 2016 projection has same-sex couples and Nevada lawmakers extremely excited.

Activists like the Tod Story, Executive Director of the ACLU of Nevada, firmly believe that the time has come for change. "Same-sex couples choose to marry for the same reasons as opposite-sex couples: love, family, children, community, and sharing and spending their lives together as one. We are confident that the Ninth Circuit will uphold the rule of law... The time has come to reverse Nevada's discriminatory definition of marriage and live up

to our moniker as the Marriage Capital of the World," Story said after the arguments on September 8th.

And what is it like to be an active member of Nevada's government, making decisions that create and craft the laws we live by – while also identifying as LGBTQ? Kelvin Atkinson is Nevada State Senator, representing District 4, and is the Chairman of the Commerce, Labor and Energy Committee inside the Senate. Before being elected Senator, Atkinson was an Assemblyman for District 17 for ten years. He's also gay.

During 2013's Legislative Session, Senator Atkinson spoke to defend the same-sex marriage bill during its hearing. "I made a speech and announced to everyone that I was a father, black and gay," Senator Atkinson says. "I wasn't sure what happened, but it was a very late night debate, and I wasn't sure who all was listening." Those not in attendance at the legislature were able to watch live telecasts online. The reaction was electric. The Senator continued, "I woke up the next morning to a barrage of emails, Facebook requests, Twitter follower requests and demands for interviews! The very first call that I received was from my then 17 year-old daughter saying, "Dad. I am proud of you." Similar reactions blazed across social media throughout the night of the speech, with Atkinson and LGBTQ politicians ardently supporting the Senator's choice to come out in such a meaningful way.

"Many of my Senate colleagues came over to my seat on the floor offering hugs and words of congratulations, and my constituents have been supportive as well, so all is good," Senator Atkinson said when asked about the support he received politically, following his coming out and personal attachment to the same-sex marriage bill. "It has most certainly changed my life in a positive way," the Senator

added. "Being recognized for who I am on important topics that I stayed away from before has been quite rewarding for me. I am proud to have been able to participate in my first Las Vegas PRIDE this year, and it was an awesome experience for my friends and I that we will never forget."

Atkinson is confident in the Ninth Circuit Court, but is ready to take on the challenges that could arise should the judges rule against marriage equality. The original plans to work the bill through both houses in 2015 would be back on, and the final decision would fall to Nevadans at the voting booths in November, 2016. "Well, obviously, if the Ninth Circuit Court does not rule in our favor, the struggle to get it passed through the voters in 2016 will be enormous. I am confident that it will pass state-wide, but it will be a very, very costly campaign," Atkinson said of the worst-case scenario regarding the recent hearings.

Others in the Nevada agree with Senator Atkinson, and the showing of support for LGBTQ equality has once again been tremendous. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has devoted enormous effort to legalizing same-sex marriage, and Nevada's chapter is extremely important to the marriage powerhouse whose logo has become almost as iconic for LGBTQ people as the rainbow flag: a yellow equal sign against a navy blue background. HRC actively engages Nevadans on marriage regularly, working with its allies in the legislature, including openly gay Assemblyman James Healey, to spread the word about the importance of marriage for all. A representative from HRC said, "It's about getting the word out there to people and working at all levels, from government to doorstep, to get the job done. This is a really exciting time!"



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LAS VEGAS PRIDE BOARD

Controversial Changes Concern Community Leaders

[by Seb Lozano Rice]

Hello! My name is Seb and I am a student at UNLV. Having come out as pansexual only a year ago, I am still quite new to the queer community. Throughout this past year, with help from my fabulous new friends, I have discovered parts of myself that I would never have thought to look for. But until recently, I had very little contact with the older queer community of Las Vegas, and was quite intimidated with the prospect of trying to reach out and become a larger part of our community outside of my university.

That being said, last month I had the privilege to attend a Las Vegas Pride Board of Directors meeting. I had no idea what to expect or who to expect to see there. As it was the week before Pride, this meeting had a record number of attendees, with many prominent members of the Las Vegas queer community in attendance.

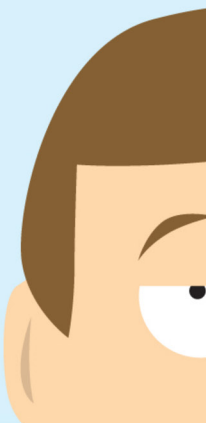
To my astonishment I was one of the youngest in attendance by quite a large margin. It was disconcerting to be the only representation of the queer youth community at this meeting. Something that was even more unsettling was the lack of diversity on the board.

It is always easier to feel comfortable amongst a group of people when you look around and can identify with someone who is in a position of power. As a pansexual femme-identified gender nonconforming

teenager, I felt more than a bit out of place. But I was there for something bigger than myself; to become more involved in my community and to get to know the people in large part that represent us to the media, to our fellow community members, and sometimes to our national counterparts.

The meeting began with palpable tension, so a board member stood and said something to the effect of; "We are one community, we must come together." As a lover of unity, this seemed to be a throwaway statement. But a few others among the audience found this to be more problematic than I did, stating that it was a bit patronizing, and the statement was quickly rescinded. After that statement, the atmosphere in the room continued to descend rapidly. The behavior of some of the board members was problematic, and bordering on childish. Tempers flared and terse words exchanged as accusations began to fly. I was thoroughly confused until it came time for questions. And finally, the source of this tension was revealed.

Two paid positions were being declared for the Pride board, even though I had previously believed this organization to be non-profit. The moment this revelation came about, my heart began to race. Already the behavior of the board in this public "professional" setting was setting me on edge. Then the subtle accusations and



underlying feeling of mistrust that ran thick in this room clicked in my mind with one word: corruption. They spoke of money issues for Pride, yet two positions were being created that would pull over \$80,000 from the Pride budget. Yet I soon found out that this wasn't the deepest that this secrecy ran. The positions had already been "opened", applied for and closed. And there had only been three applicants: all of the applicants were current members of the Pride board. With every word that dropped from the lips of the people behind the tables at the head of the room, my stomach sunk lower and lower. And the anger in the room continued to rise. Deb Browning, an attendee, spoke out in a calm and organized manner. She spoke of the lack of mention of these positions in previous meetings, which is a requirement for positions to be established, and asked a question that was on everyone's mind: Where was this money coming from?

Unfortunately, the response to these poignant questions was a bout of back pedaling and, what seemed to me, to be thinly veiled excuses and subtle insults to those who wished to be a bigger part of the community. Rather than making sure that all of this information was available and transparent to the public, including those who might not know about or are unable to attend the meetings, there was a round of complaining that barely anyone shows up for the meeting and the only time people do come is when they are in the public eye. Of course that's when the most people would come. Unfortunately the old adage 'out of sight, out of mind' is very true, even for those who are honestly concerned. Garrett

Pattiani of Gay.Vegas noted that the boards social media presence was minimal at best and that to increase attendance, they might possibly benefit from posting their monthly meetings as events.

A rational solution, I thought, that was again met with polite "consideration" and then dismissal.

We then came down to the meat of the matter. Were these positions filled and if so, by whom? And where was this job even posted? The answers: the position had been posted on the Pride website under the employment tab approximately 6 weeks before the meeting. And that was it. Only there and no one else was made aware of it on social media of any kind.

So the only ones who would have been aware of its existence would be people who consistently checked the website, including that particular tab, or those who were previously aware of its existence. In other words: Board Members. And those were the only applicants. Three members of the board: Brady, Ernie and Jake. This was starting to have the feel of a grade school playground club that had a sign up on the jungle gym saying that they were the only ones allowed to play there.

Over an hour into the meeting and we were finally getting down to the important information. Browning again stood to offer a few words to remind us of why every one of us in that room were there: not to get a paycheck, but to get involved with our community. With wholehearted agreement resounding around the room, it seemed like the meeting would soon get out of control. It was at this moment that a few of the more vocal opposition members became heated to stay any longer in the meeting. I quickly followed after them, and had a very enlightening conversation as to what some of the opinions of the community were. Browning offered these words concerning the recent actions of the Pride board:

"For an organization of such high standards, so to speak, to take over \$80,000 away that they could be donating to our community... that could be used for scholarships, medications, or for burials, all of these things that we should be doing to help should not be going into someone's pocket... We're

supposed to be doing this out of the greatness of our heart. Just paying it forward. Giving it back to someone who can't give it to themselves right now."

West Fisher of Bears Las Vegas and Tracy Skinner of the Sin City Sisters also joined in the conversation. It turned to the topic of inclusiveness and awareness. Such important issues that, as a new member of the queer community, I had noticed were lacking severely. Another quote from Browning summarizes my sentiments to the T:

"Instead of segregating and saying, okay, we're going to have a Lesbian Pride, Gay Pride, a Bear Pride; it should be 100% inclusive... No one should be excluded, whether you were gay, straight or anything else."

Fisher also mentioned something that had been plaguing mind since the first moment I had looked for a local queer support groups. "I wouldn't feel welcome in some of these organizations, and that shouldn't happen."

No, it really shouldn't. As this is National Coming Out Month, take a step back and look at it from the eyes of a young questioning individual. They might not be very sure of themselves, they are not sure where to turn and are overwhelmed when they see all of these categories and niches. They might even be a bit demoralized when they see how even at our core, there is tension, mistrust and inappropriate displays of immaturity. This should not be the first image that we present to the newest members of our community. I am not quite sure of the steps that need to be taken, but I do know what I hope for. The desegregation of a community and the formation of a fantastic and welcoming community that showcases an accepting and unified whole that a fresh and starry eyed version of myself once (and still do) believe is what we strive for in our fight for equality.



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[by Russ White, Publisher]

Mom: Russ, I think you're roommate might be gay.

Russ: Well... we both are.

[Long Pause]

[Click]

There. That's my coming out story.

The moment that I had agonized over for years was over in a matter of seconds. I mean, it wasn't really *OVER*. In fact, it took a few months years to be *OVER*.

Slowly, one by one, Dad called. My brother called. My grandparents called. Then Mom called. When my family realized that nothing had changed—I was still the same me—one by one acceptance of what each knew to be reality emerged as the same love they had for me before. And then it grew.

Because now I was authentic. I wasn't hiding part of my life. I wasn't evading "the girlfriend" questions. I wasn't changing pronouns. I was living the complete me.

Coming out is always going to be difficult. You're telling the world around you that you're not who they perceived you to be. You don't want to get caught in the lie. You don't want to tarnish expectations. Even as society evolves and being gay becomes more accepted, reactions by friends and family can never be truly predicted.

In August, Daniel Pierce recorded his own verbally abusive and physically violent coming out experience. His posting of the hidden video recording on YouTube has reached over 6 million views. It's hard to watch. Then you have fraternal twins

Luke and Adam Monastero, who at age 21 also record their coming out video on a hidden camera in their kitchen, only to reveal supportive parents and a positive experience so many of us wished for as we played different scenarios out in our minds.

But coming out isn't a one-time event. It's a continual process. I don't recall ever telling my older nieces, but I know they know. And it excites me that my youngest niece will grow up in a world and a family where it's just not that big of a deal.

Every new job means a whole new coming out... to your boss, your colleagues, your customers, vendors. Life introduces new friends, neighbors, doctors, each requiring choice and timing on when to reveal that facet of your identity.

Then you can also try being me and create every sort of new opportunity or reason to come out all over again.

Ten years ago I took a leadership role as the co-chair of the LGBTQ employee organization at one of the largest and most recognizable companies in the world. There would be times where I would have to let my manager know I'd be taking time off to go to a LGBT conference. Or that I'd be taking the afternoon off to host an employee social.

Other times I'd have to call up a another manager and explain why David wouldn't be coming in to work next week, but Susan would. And she'd have the same job as David, the same desk as David, the same employee ID as David. She would be getting a different employee badge and a new email

address, but everything else about work would remain the same.

Then there is the continuous coming out process I experience as the publisher of QVegas. I remember right before acquiring the magazine 2 years ago (Happy Anniversary to me), I called up my parents to tell them the big news.

My second coming out happened when I decided to acquire the magazine and went something like this:

Russ: So, you guys know I'm gay, right?

Mom & Dad: Yes.

Russ: I'm about to become REAAALLLY Gaaayyy.

When you own a gay magazine, you very literally out yourself every single day with every introduction you make. It becomes the forefront of your identity. It's always interesting to see the unexpected look on someone's face who just shook your hand at a social, mixer, conference, or other event and now all of a sudden knows you're gay from the very beginning of the conversation rather than incidentally and optionally sometime later through casual conversation.

There isn't the opportunity to delay it. There's no side stepping the issue. The "so what do you do?" question can play out with "I publish a magazine." or "I work in advertising and promotions" if I feel the need to side-step the issue, but in just about every case, it comes full circle to "I own a gay magazine." So I've found it's easiest and best to start with my authentic self.

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THE COMING OUT ISSUE

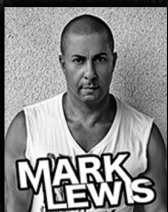
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ON THE COVER



Equality Forum salutes 31 icons for LGBT-History Month



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Editor's Note

National Coming Out Day is a time for celebration whether you're deciding to actually come out that day or to just celebrate yourself. We thank Rob Eichber, personal growth workshop founder and the half million people that participated in a March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987.

Don't miss the annual National Coming Out Day block party in the Fruitloop on October 10 starting 8 PM. The festivities brings stage shows, games, and dozens of vendors.

In addition to some inspiring coming out stories we bring you incredible LGBT history facts, the all new Gay.Vegas Business Directory, and a look at what it's like to come out in the Nevada Legislature while fighting for LGBT rights.

Don't forget to wear your purple in support of National Spirit Day. Help create a community that accepts and supports LGBT youth.

'Like Us' on Facebook (facebook.com/qvegasmagazine) and follow us on Twitter (@qvegas) to be the first to know about 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

Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK



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?



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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by FRM Taylor]

The "Open" Mosque

In Wynberg, Cape Town South Africa on September 19, 2014, the Wynberg Open Mosque opened. This mosque is the 1st "gay friendly, gender equal mosque in South Africa. Not only are openly gay Muslims welcomed, women are allowed to preach and lead congregational prayer, which is controversial in the Islamic faith. Founder Taj Hargey told BBC "We are opening the mosque for open-minded people, not closed minded people". Hargey's goal is

revert to "the original mosque of Prophet Muhammad, where there were no barriers".

Backing Gay Rights

Mary Cheney, lesbian political consultant and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, made a case backing gay rights to the Log Cabin Republicans this past week at their annual "Spirit of Lincoln" dinner in D.C. Mary who refers to herself as conservative republican, believes that freedom and equality are

the founding morals of the party. She further went on to say that all families-regardless of how they look, how they're made or where they live- all families deserve to be treated with the same respect, dignity, legal rights and recognitions as every other family.

Push for PrEP

After San Francisco supervisor Scott Wiener admitted to being an user of the revolutionary HIV preventative drug, PrEP, on the Huffington Post, activists in San Francisco are rallying in support of an initiative to make PREP (also known as Truvada) available citywide to all regardless of income. As it stands now PrEP is too costly for the working class to afford even with insurance ranging from \$8,000 to \$14,000 a year for the drug. Supervisor



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David Campos is one the forerunners for the initiative suggesting San Francisco make a national example. "By making PrEP available to all regardless of income, we could set the tone for the rest of the country on how to effectively eradicate a disease that has claimed the lives of so many of our loved ones."

Students Supporting Classmate

Seventeen-year-old Mario Munez, who goes by the name Maria, is a transgender student who attends Sao Cristão do Colégio Pedro II high school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Maria, who recently came out, was fined for breaking the dress code earlier this month when she wore a skirt to school instead of trousers. The school cited their code of ethics which did not allow 'Male' students to

wear female uniforms. After being fined Maria decided to adhere to the dress code. A few of her fellow classmates did not agree. So taking matters into their own hands, 9 days after Maria being fined, a group of male classmates showed up to school wearing skirts in protest. After posts and pictures of the skirted males appeared on social media with the hashtag #VouDeSaia (meaning I'll skirt in Portuguese) the school released a statement declaring a change in the dress code to allow for greater gender expression. Maria was touched by the support from her classmates saying, "I am really happy about the way my classmates supported me and I hope it serves as an example to others to feel encouraged to do the right thing."

Bayou Judge Rules Against State Ban On Gay Marriage

A Louisiana couple had a victory in a Louisiana state court when Judge Edward Rubin ruled that the states ban on was unconstitutional. Chasity Brewer and Angela Constana were legal wed in California and are in court trying to get their union legally recognized in Louisiana where the couple live. Constana also wishes to adopt her stepchild, brewer's 9 year old from a previous relationship. While an appeal is expected from the state's attorney general, this might be a start to the end of the same sex ban in Louisiana.

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Brutal Attack in Philly

Two gay men in Center City Philadelphia were victims of a violent attack. One of those men was left in the hospital with multiple fractures. The 27-year-old and 28-year-old were walking from a restaurant in the area of the 16th and Chancellor around 10:45 PM. They were suddenly approached by a visibly intoxicated group of two men and six women. A witness said that someone in the group asked, "Is this your fucking boyfriend?" When one of the victims told them yes, the group allegedly snatched a victim's bag containing a cellphone, wallet and credit cards. The group fled in an unknown

direction.

Fox News' Sean Hannity: Parents should be allowed to teach their kids that 'Being Gay is Not Normal'

In his syndicated radio show, Fox News "celebrity" Sean Hannity reacted to child abuse charges again Minnesota Vikings, Adrian Peterson, by saying that government might start interfering with what parents can teach their children and that he's concerned that parents will be prohibited from teach their kids that "being gay is normal."

Facebook's Dangerous Name Policy

Facebook's "real name" policy sparked headlines when a slew of profiles owned by drag queens, including Sister Roma, were shut down after being reported



by unknown users to be in violation. After an outcry from users, Facebook invited a group of local leaders and advocates representing various communities to attend a meeting on their campus. The issue is yet to be resolved. The policy states that Facebook users should use their "real name" like that on their "driver's license or credit card." The policy was intended to ensure people were their authentic selves online and to help keep others safe, it is clearly having the opposite effect. Victims of domestic violence, people in law enforcement, closeted LGBT people, and a host of others who need privacy are also at risk because of the policy.

LGBT Military Families Still Face Challenges 3 Years After "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Despite the repeal of DADT, transgender individuals are still

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prohibited from openly serving in the military due to outdated and obsolete Department of Defense (DoD) medical regulations. In May of this year, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he was "open" to reviewing the military's ban on transgender people. An estimated 15,000 transgender individuals are currently serving in silence. Non-Discrimination Protections: LGB service members who face discrimination or harassment have few options for addressing their problem. No marriage recognition or Access to Veterans' Benefits.

Bisexual Youth in America Face Widespread Skepticism, Harassment

A ground-breaking report published today by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation reveals that 40 percent of more than 10,000 LGBT youth surveyed by the organization identify as bisexual -- and many of them say they face more challenges coming

out and gaining acceptance than their lesbian and gay peers. The Supporting and Caring For Our Bisexual Youth report, based on one of the largest surveys ever of LGBT youth and released in partnership with the Bisexual Resource Center, BiNet USA, and the Bisexual Organizing Project, also reveals a troubling chasm between the experiences of bisexual youth in America and their non-LGBT peers. And many of the young people surveyed expressed the potential to be attracted to more than one gender, but rejected the term "bisexual" when describing their sexual orientation. Instead, they wrote their own descriptions, including "queer" and "pansexual."

The survey of 10,030 young people ages 13 to 17 and commissioned in 2012 by the HRC Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBT civil

rights

1 STEP BACK

organization, found that bisexual youth remain deeply disconnected from the larger LGBT community and its services. They are less optimistic about their futures than their non-LGBT counterparts, less engaged in their communities and schools, and highly susceptible to sexual harassment.

Find more LGBTQ stories like this at www.QVegas.com

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Forbes
com

“The drug Sovaldi is generating enormous profits on the backs of patients...” *June 16th, 2014*

A cure for Hepatitis C is within reach for 170 million people around the world thanks to poor and sick Americans who are picking up the tab.

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

NCOD Weekend Events

OCTOBER 10

- > The Original NCOD Street Festival at The Fruit Loop
- > UNLV Spectrum and HPA's Coming Out Day Carnival

OCTOBER 11

- > Walk n Roll 2014 in Downtown Bicycle Ride & Walk
- > NGRC Coming Out with the Boys

OCTOBER 12

- > NCOD at Revo Sundays

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3 Queens of Las Vegas 10PM

Join us for the opening of QUEENS OF LAS VEGAS at the Tommy Wind Theater. We are offering free tickets for this show as we'll be filming and taking photos for promo. Enjoy celebrity impersonations, comedy, and a variety of performances to entertain you! Then stay as theater turns to Equalibrium Nightclub.

13 Mondays Dark Third Mondays @ 9PM

Join performers from all over Las Vegas for a monthly charity benefiting a new charity each month. October benefits THE HEALING CURVE with the theme Women Who Rock.

mondaysdark.com

15 Night Fever Bingo

8PM

Jimmy Emmerson hosts Night Fever Bingo at Palace Station with a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. A portion of proceeds benefit The Center.

16 Spirit Day

Millions go purple on Spirit Day in a stand against bullying and to show their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple, which symbolizes 'spirit' on the rainbow flag.

glaad.org/spiritday

18 Honorarium

5PM

Celebrate the contributions to our community by Person of the Year Diana Bennett, Ally of the Year Fred Keeton and Corporation of the Year Wynn Resorts. We're also celebrating 21 years of serving Nevada's LGBTQ community! For this year's Honorarium, we have chosen the amazing new Drai's Beach Club • Nightclub atop The Cromwell Las Vegas boutique hotel at the corner of Flamingo Road and Las Vegas Boulevard. The Honorarium begins with a cocktail reception, silent auction and gourmet food stations poolside in the breathtaking Drai's Beach Club (with million

dollar views of the sunset beyond the bustling Vegas Strip!) before moving into the luxurious, well-appointed Nightclub for live entertainment and the presentation of The Center Honors.

thecenterlv.org/honorarium

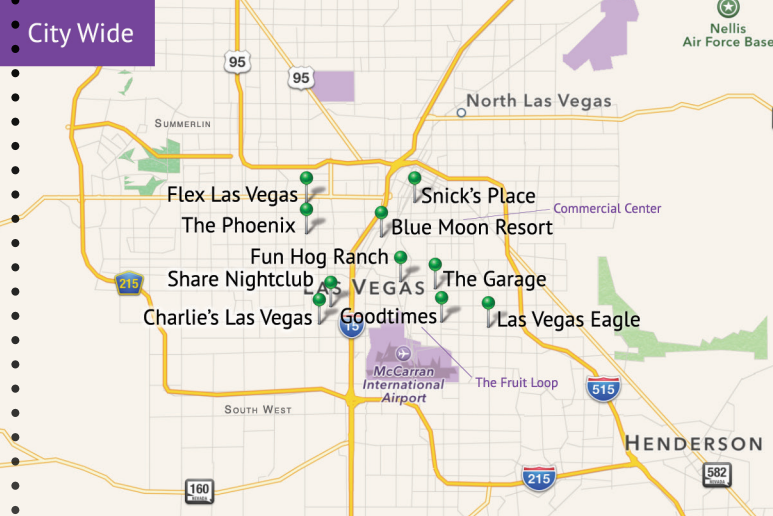


31 Fetish & Fantasy Ball 10PM

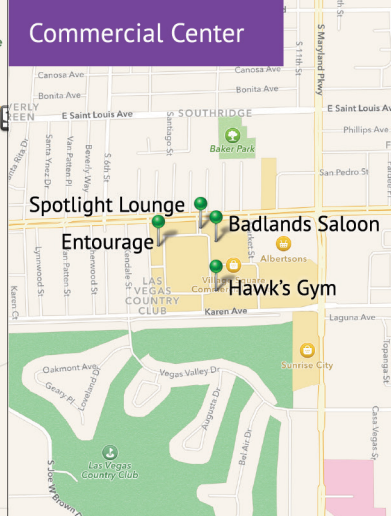
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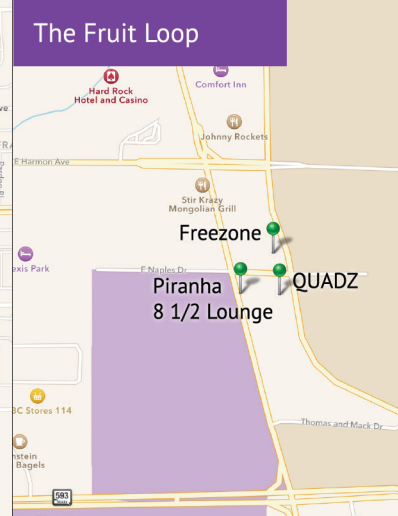
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4th / 5th Tuesday
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 - ✎ Get on the Guest List gay.vegas/revosundays
- ✓ John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group
 - ✎ Join the Summerlin Gays Group
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Broadway Open Mic Night at Onyx Theater
- Boys & Burgers at Blue Moon Resort

Mondays

- ✓ Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
 - Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
 - Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
 - Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
 - S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage
 - Pigs on Broadway Video Night with Kitty Litter at Fun Hog Ranch
 - Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park

Saturdays

- ✓ Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
- Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's (Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin City Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog (3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

Tuesdays

- ✓ Social Tuesdays
 - Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
 - Karaoke Night at FreeZone
 - Trashy Tuesdays at Hawks Gym

Fridays

- ✓ Strippier Circus at Share Nightclub
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone

Wednesdays

- PRIDE Family Bingo (1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at Charlie's
- Game Night at FreeZone
- Boylesque Wednesdays with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- #WomanCrushWednesdays at Stratosphere

Thursdays

- ✓ HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
- Line Dancing Lessons at Charlie's Las Vegas
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park
- Liaison Nightclub

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lgbt™ HISTORY MONTH

The 31 LGBT Icons, living or dead, are selected for their achievements in their field of endeavor; for their status as a national hero; or for their significant contribution to LGBT civil rights. Equality Forum solicits nominations from regional, state, national and international organizations, activists, and the public.

Richard Adams filed the first U.S. lawsuit to seek federal recognition of same-sex marriage. What should have been the beginning of a happy marriage laid the groundwork for his almost 40-year quest for federally recognized marriage equality.

Born to Pakistani parents and raised in Connecticut, queer Muslim activist Faisal Alam has navigated the precarious terrain of clashing identities. From an early age Alam felt a strong connection to his Islamic faith. He was an active member of Muslim youth groups as a way of engaging with his faith and his community; he became a model of Islam's focus on goodwill and strong communal ties.

A Hollywood celebrity, Tallulah Bankhead exemplified what it meant to be a liberated woman at a time when women were Victorian and marginalized.

Natalie Clifford Barney, a leading pioneer of feminist literature, was a free spirit whose eccentricity and insatiable desire for life, love and art make her one of the most fascinating women of the 20th century.

Allan Bérubé is best known for his 1990 book, "Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two." He posits that servicemen and women during the war found the freedom to explore sexuality in a relatively judgment-free environment. When these soldiers returned home, many settled into a domestic heterosexual lifestyle that launched the baby boom. But a few, knowing they were not as "deviant" as they had been led to believe, decided to stand up against homosexual persecution.

A leading Asian-American artist, Bernice Bing spent her early childhood in a Chinese orphanage, in Caucasian foster homes and with her Chinese grandmother. She described her grandmother as having residual feelings of "anger and subservience" combined with an underlying strength. "For me there was the

difficulty of being an Asian-American child going to a basically very middle-class white school and trying to assimilate both of these cultures," Bing said.

Ivy Bottini is a pioneering lesbian feminist. In 1966 she was inspired by Betty Friedan's book "The Feminine Mystique." She met Friedan and together they established the first chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Bottini served on the national board of NOW for three years and was president of the New York chapter for two years.

Born George Gordon, Lord Byron was a leading poet of the Romantic period. His ambiguous sexuality, flamboyant persona, and lifestyle of excess have made him a cultural and literary legend and among the first prominent bisexuals.

Michael Callen was a pioneering AIDS activist. In 1982, when Callen was diagnosed with Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID), little was known about the "gay cancer." Those with the disease knew their days were numbered and that the disease stigmatized them. Callen did not hesitate to come out openly as a gay man with the fatal disease and to take action.

Tseng Kwong Chi, also known as Joseph Tseng, was the preeminent photographer of the 1980s New York pop scene. His work engages a wide variety of traditions, from landscape photography to portraiture. His best-known photographs examine perceptions of "foreign-ness," as he experimented artistically with his Asian-American identity.

Margaret Cho is a nationally known comedian. She was born to Korean immigrant parents in San Francisco, a place that she calls "different than any other place on Earth." Despite this melting pot of ethnicities and sexualities, Cho faced discrimination because of her weight.

For Jean Cocteau, life was art. This writer, illustrator, poet and filmmaker knew no boundaries in his creative endeavors. A prolific catalog of genre-spanning work makes Cocteau one of the most influential figures of the 20th century French art world.

The 2000 Olympic Games were pivotal for boxer Orlando Cruz. After representing Puerto Rico in the games, Cruz launched his professional boxing career. He won a

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lgbtTM HISTORY MONTH



Glenn Greenwald



Megan Rapinoe



Margaret Cho



Marc Jacobs



Richard Adams



John Cameron Mitchell



Kathy Kozachenko



Freddie Mercury



Lou Sullivan



Darlene Garner



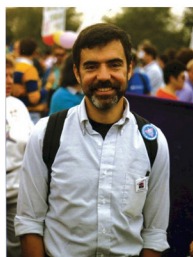
June Jordan



Bernice Bing



Faisal Alam



Allon Bérubé



Angelina Weld Grimké

world featherweight title and went nine years without a defeat.

Lee Daniels is an Academy Award nominated producer, director, screenwriter and actor. Daniels survived a traumatic childhood. After being caught wearing his mother's pumps, he was violently assaulted by his father. Daniels stated, "When I came out it was because I loathed my dad so much."

Stormé DeLarverie was a Stonewall veteran and the sole

female performer for the Jewel Box Review, a traveling drag show that toured the country from 1939 into the 1960s. At that time, cross-dressing was considered a criminal offense in most municipalities. The review included 24 drag queens and Stormé (pronounced "Stormy"), the only drag king.

In 1996 Rudy Galindo became the first United States skating champion to come out as openly gay. Galindo is famous for his grace on the ice. A singles and doubles skating phenomenon,

he won the World Junior Championship in 1987 and the U.S. National Championship in 1997. With doubles partner Kristi Yamaguchi, he won the World Junior Championship in 1988 and the U.S. National Championship in 1989 and 1990. In 1996 he won the bronze medal at the World Championships.

Before Darlene Garner helped found the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG)— later known as the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays—"gay"

was largely synonymous with "white." Garner and other early black LGBT leaders were determined to make their voices heard and their unique experiences as LGBT people of color known. "What we were doing had the capacity to change the face of history," Garner stated. "Our youth and naiveté helped us do it with a boldness. If we had been seasoned activists, we might not have taken it on. We know that if it was not us, there might be no one." The NCBG became the first non-white LGBT organization in the country.

Glenn Greenwald was born in New York and raised in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, where his grandfather was a city councilman. Greenwald's youthful ambition was politics. He became the first teenager on the county parks and recreation board.

Angelina Weld Grimké was a poet, teacher and playwright who helped pave the way for the Harlem Renaissance. Grimké was one of the nation's first celebrated female African-American authors.

If one has to live the blues to sing the blues, it is no wonder that Billie Holiday became a legendary jazz/blues vocalist and songwriter and a seminal influence in phrasing, tempo and style.

Marc Jacobs is an internationally renowned American fashion designer best known for his own label and his work with Louis Vuitton. His designs have explored the spaces between clashing influences such as androgyny, traditional Japan and rock 'n' roll.

June Jordan was an activist, journalist, essayist, educator and celebrated African- American poet. Her commitment to fighting oppression, particularly of women and blacks, was the defining element of her work.

Kathy Kozachenko was the first openly gay person to be elected to a public office in the United States. In 1974 she was elected as a Human Rights Party candidate to the City Council of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Armistead Maupin ranks among the most celebrated authors of the

LGBT experience. To many in Maupin's hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina—including Maupin's one-time employer, the segregationist Senator Jesse Helms—homosexuality was even more blasphemous than racial integration. Maupin recounted about Helms, "Homosexuality, he told me, was the most heinous sin a man could commit. I nodded dutifully and kept my mouth shut."

CeCe McDonald is a transgender prison-reform activist. While on her way to the grocery store with friends, she encountered a drunken group outside of a bar. Seeing McDonald and her friends, the group began taunting them with racial, homophobic and transphobic slurs. After taking a stance that their hate speech would not be tolerated, McDonald was assaulted with a shattered drinking glass across the face. The attack perforated her cheek and lacerated her salivary gland.

Freddie Mercury ranks among the most sensational rock 'n' roll vocalists in history. He was one of the leading musicians, record producers and songwriters of the 1980s.

Born Farrokh Bulsara to Parsi parents, Mercury was a British citizen who spent his childhood in India. At age 7, he began to study piano. When he was 8, he matriculated to an all-boys school near Bombay (now Mumbai). While enrolled there, he adopted the name "Freddie" and formed a band, the Hectics. In his teens, he moved with his family to Middlesex, England. John Cameron Mitchell is best known for writing, directing and starring in the cult classic film "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

In 2012 critically acclaimed singer and songwriter Frank Ocean changed the face of hip-hop when he came out two days prior to the release of his second album, "Channel Orange." The album shot to number two on the Billboard charts.

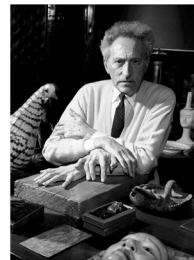
In 2012 professional soccer player Megan Rapinoe came out publicly two weeks before she was to play for the women's soccer team in the London Olympics. "I feel like sports in general are still homophobic in the sense that



Lee Daniels



Armistead Maupin



Jean Cocteau



Tallulah Bankhead



Rudy Galindo



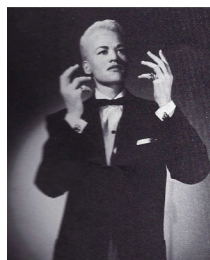
Ivy Bottini



Frank Ocean



Michael Callen



Tormé Delavigne



Natalie Barney



Orlando Cruz



Billie Holiday



Tseng Kwong Chi



Lord Byron



Cece McDonald



Sylvester

not a lot of people are out," she said. "I feel everyone is really craving [for] people to come out. People want—they need—to see that there are people like me playing soccer for the good ol' U.S. of A."

Born Sheila in a Midwestern Catholic household, Sullivan recorded in a childhood diary the joy of "playing boys." As a teenager, Sullivan was fascinated by male homosexuality. "I want to look like what I am, but I don't know what someone like me looks like," she recalled. When

Sullivan began to identify as a transgender gay man, the prospects were daunting: "What can become of a girl whose real desire and passion is with male homosexuals?"

Before he became "Sylvester" and before he was crowned the "Queen of Disco," Sylvester James Jr. was a member of a group of transvestites known as the Disquotays. While many Disquotays explored their identities as trans women in a cross-dressing party circuit, Sylvester identified as male.



Equality Forum is a national and international LGBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. For more information, visit www.equalityforum.com.

For complete biographies, visit gay.vegas/equalityforum



EATING OUT

Serendipity III

October. The Fall harvest. Apple picking, pumpkin gathering, and cornfield mazes. October in Las Vegas. Food events galore, from the Rock 'n Roll Wine Amplified Festival, to the LUCKYRICE Night Market, showcasing Asian foods and cultures. And then, of course, there's the holiday for big kids and little ones alike...Halloween! To my mind, few restaurants embody the fun of Halloween better than Serendipity 3!

Located near the fountains in front of Caesar's Palace, Serendipity 3 has become my go-to spot for lunches with friends, but it's more than just a lunch spot. Serendipity serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner, but lurking in the background is the knowledge that you'll be tempted by one of their many indulgent dessert creations!

The original Serendipity in New York City, was the city's first boutique coffee house, combining a small restaurant, a general store, and a gift shop. Their success eventually necessitated moving to a larger space, and the addition of several new locations, including Las Vegas.

The Vegas restaurant is a cheery, colorful place with orange and magenta striped awnings outside, looking like something out of a carnival. Inside you'll find a modern take on the old turn-of-the-century ice cream parlor, with white tables and chairs, striped wallpaper, a couple of whimsical clocks, and several Dr. Seuss-like chandeliers with brightly-hued lampshades. There's seating on

the terrace, which looks out on The Strip, and although there is almost always a wait for tables, the hostess will take your cell phone number and text you when your table is ready. The staff are young, cute, and always friendly, considering how crowded the place can become. The atmosphere is casual and an average check will usually come to about \$25 per person.

When it comes to food, there is a lot from which to choose. A LOT!! The Lunch/Dinner menu lists over 116 items alone! Don't let that intimidate you, however. Just dive in and choose an appetizer like the Wagyu Sliders - four tiny, perfectly cooked burgers with American cheese and an excellent bacon aioli, or the Empire State Onion Rings - a tall, tall tower of wonderfully crispy onion rings sprinkled with Romano cheese and served with Ranch and BBQ dipping sauces.

Main courses can go in any number of directions: There are salads like the Ahi Tuna Salad - seared Ahi tuna, a mix of spring greens, candied walnuts, avocado, and an herb vinaigrette. If salads aren't your thing, Serendipity has long been known for it's Foot-Long Dogs served on house-made buns. They also know their way around a good burger - the simple cheeseburger can be topped with your choice of Cheddar, American, Provolone, Blue, Brie, Jack, or Swiss cheese. The "A.B.C." Burger is topped with avocado, Brie and caramelized onions - sloppy but worth the mess.



[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

You'll also find sandwiches like the Las Vegas Strip Steak Sandwich or the Big Island Pulled Pork Sandwich, made with Hawaiian style pulled pork, ponzu aioli, ginger slaw, and haystack fries on a pretzel bun. There are fish dishes, pasta selections, omelets, hand-tossed artisanal pizzas, and full entrees like Seared Atlantic Salmon, the "Don't Drop Your Skirt Steak", or the Fried Chicken served with mashed potatoes and gravy - true comfort food.

But hey! Weren't we talking about Halloween?!

Halloween! That one day a year when we threaten people, literally, if they refuse to give us treats! Well, Serendipity has plenty of sweet treats on their menu and they don't mind when you ask for them!

For those adults who desire an alcoholic treat to start their meal, try the Ruby Slipper, the Coco Berry, the Tutti Fruity Daiquiri, or the Cotton Candy Martini, made with cotton candy vodka, white cranberry juice, vanilla syrup and real cotton candy!

When I think of Halloween, I think of the classic fun size candy bars. If you do too, you might want to indulge in the Deep Fried Snickers Sundae - the candy bars are battered, fried and combined with vanilla and chocolate ice cream, hot fudge, caramel, white chocolate sauce AND peanut butter sauce. It's all topped with whipped cream, peanuts and chocolate flakes. There's the Colossal Brownie Sundae, with raspberry chocolate brownies, the Deep Fried Twinkie Sundae, and the Serendipity Las Vegas Treasure Chest - a monstrous dessert for four people (or more!), featuring a chocolate chest containing 12 scoops of ice cream, 3 pieces of cake, deep fried Oreos, assorted fresh berries, whipped cream and sprinkles!

There are "Over 21 Desserts" like the Root Beer Float with vodka and Jagermeister, the Frozen Girl Scout Cookie, with vanilla vodka and green creme de menthe, the Birthday Cake Martini, and more.

If there is one item on their menu for which Serendipity is truly famous, however, it's their Frozen Hot Chocolate! Imagine the best, most delicious and comforting hot chocolate you've ever had. Now imagine it's been transformed into insanely good ice cream, blended with milk until smooth and then topped with luscious whipped cream and chocolate shavings! Words cannot describe how good this is. All I can say is go out and order one!

Halloween in Las Vegas is definitely a unique experience - hot young guys and girls fill the clubs dressed even more provocatively than usual, if that's possible! But if clubbing and costumes aren't really your style and you just want to indulge in some real treats, head on over to Serendipity 3. There's no trick to it! ■

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COMING OUT

by Randy Slovacek

Coming out is the process of accepting ourselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, and sharing that truth of who we are with our family and friends. The process is different for everyone, and fears of rejection are very real.

For many, the coming out process can focus on what we have to lose, rather than what we can gain: the freedom to live our lives fully and authentically.

Coming out has become easier due to the increasing visibility of gays and lesbians in daily American life. From Gay/Straight Alliances in high schools to every corner of the media, "gay" isn't nearly as closeted as it once was. As we've learned over time, the more visible the LGBT community is, the more acceptance we find in our homes, workplace and the world at large.

The most immediate and accessible role models are those with the brightest spotlight. The presence of the hit TV show "Will & Grace" in our homes on a weekly basis for most of the 1990s contributed greatly to an environment where it seemed everyone finally knew someone

gay, even if only in a "virtual" sense. This continues today with LGBT characters like married gay couple Cam & Mitchell on "Modern Family" and many others.

Through the prism of the famous and the fabulous, America has learned that LGBT folks are present in all walks of life. We find personal confidence in not only the visibility but the public coming out stories of celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell, Neil Patrick Harris, Chris Colfer, Jonathan Groff, Ricky Martin, Frank Ocean, Anderson Cooper and Thomas Roberts. All have helped people across a wide spectrum relate to the gay community.

Then there's the world of professional sports. For years, the LGBT community could look to premiere athletes from tennis to figure skating to high diving for our own sporting heroes. But now, the gamut of out athletes extends into the most hyper-masculine professional team sports in the United States.

From pro soccer player Robbie Rogers of the L.A. Galaxy to Brooklyn Nets basketball player Jason Collins, to the Dallas Cowboys' Michael Sam, the list of professional athletes being "out and proud" continues to expand and grow. And with each out athlete, another hero is born.

**There are
always people
to listen and
to hear you.**

The Trevor Project
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Even with all these role models to inspire us, the coming out process will always be one of the most singularly private moments in a queer person's life. Much of the time, the majority of us find that preparation for "the talk" with our loved ones is much more stressful than the event itself. Anxiety and emotion ride high as we worry about sharing this personal side of ourselves. And, often, we end up with a reaction of "oh, we always knew" from parents, family and friends.

This was the case in the story of fraternal twins Adam and Luke Monastero of Canada, who posted a video of coming out to their parents that went viral on YouTube.

In sharing the news with their parents, Luke expressed concerns that their sexual orientation would affect relationships within their extended family. Mother Monastero had this to say: "Well, you know what, Luke? If it does, hon, that's their choice. It cannot be your worry or your burden. You can't live your life for someone else... I'm just so glad you're not keeping it from us anymore."

Throughout the discussion, the father barely looks up from eating his lunch. Hardly the dramatic moment the twins had imagined in the lead up to the big moment.

Near the end of the video, both Luke and Adam were jubilant in having come out.

"I feel like my parents' reactions were completely better than any of us thought they were going to be, and hopefully this will show you guys that people don't really care and your parents will love you no matter what," Luke says.

"That's kind of why we're making these videos—to just show people

that are gay in the closet you know you can just be who you are and not to be afraid," Adam adds.

Sadly, though, there are still coming out stories that end with painful results, both emotional and physical.

Nineteen year-old Daniel Pierce of Georgia became a national focus recently after he recorded his coming out to his family. What began as a "pray the gay away" intervention quickly escalated to his family verbally and physically abusing him, and ended with being thrown out of his home.

While possibly the worst imaginable scenario in coming out, the story took an uplifting turn when Daniel's crushing experience was shared with the LGBT community. A crowdsourcing fund was established with a goal of raising \$2,000 to help Daniel cope with living on his own at nineteen years old. Within a few days, a staggering \$93,000 was pledged by 3,561 individuals, most of them strangers who understood the universal experience of coming out.

Only a few weeks since the incident, Daniel is still estranged from his family but he's embraced the idea of using his story to help other homeless LGBT youth. Appearing on Dr. Drew Pinsky's show on HLN, Daniel shared that the massive outpouring of support was inspiring.

"I am so overwhelmed with joy," Pierce shared referring to the response to the video's viral reach. "I am very blessed to have all of the comments and the messages and everything that everyone has done — the donations, all of that — has been a big surprise. It's helping me get through the day."

"I want to give a portion of it back

to the cause," Pierce said. "I'm going to get actively involved with as many organizations as I can. My main focus with the video was ... I want to bring awareness that this is still happening. If it saves one kid the misery of what I went through, I will be satisfied."

Daniel is now working with local LGBT homeless shelter Lost-N-Found in Atlanta, and directing his energies and some of the funds raised for him towards helping other LGBT teens in crisis.

If you or someone you know needs to talk about coming out, there are always people to listen and hear you. Two great resources are The Trevor Project (866-488-7386) and the GLBT National Help Center (866-483-4564).

In addition, there is a wealth of support at ItGetsBetter.org, founded by columnist and LGBT advocate Dan Savage. There you can find personal coming out videos and other media to let you know you are not alone and that "it gets better."

As varied as the responses to coming out can be, it's important to remember that coming out is just one step in having a healthy relationship with not only those closest to us, but with ourselves.

Coming out is the beginning of a personal journey to accepting and loving who we are, and building lives that honor our authentic selves. ■

Becoming *Me*

[by Greg Chase]

Growing up as a child and through out my college years, I was very unaware of what the LGBT community was or what it must be like to associate as a member of the community. I, like many, had heard many stereotypes both good and bad, which really made me think about who I am. I would say that during my college years is when I started to feel that something about me was different. I remember countless nights praying by the side of my bed that I wasn't gay, hoping that the feelings I had were just a phase. I lived many years "hiding" in this space, just assuming that everything was going to come back to what I then had perceived as "normal."

After graduating college I took my first big job at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. This was a very exciting time for me as I was chasing a childhood dream and had allowed my self to be open to new experiences, as I was truly on cloud nine. I remember the day very clearly, where I was at a sports bar in Orlando celebrating one of my female friend's birthdays. I recall looking across the bar at another table of her friends, and saw a gentleman who I immediately took a liking to, unaware if he liked guys or not. I went to talk to him, and next thing you know we were in a relationship. We had some amazing times together, but one thing consistently challenged me from day to day. I had not told any of my friends or family that I was



gay, and neither had he. There was such a strong weight on my shoulders knowing that I was unable to share the happiness that I was encountering in my life with those who I cared for the most.

After about a year of being in a relationship and not many knowing about it, I hit a wall, and decided that it was time that my family knew. I will never forget the day, sitting on his patio at night; I picked up the phone and called my mother. I danced around the subject and finally had the confidence to say it. After saying the words, "Mom, I am Gay," I was met with silence, which quickly turned to tears. I had into this process not known what to expect. We didn't talk much more in that phone conversation, as I knew she needed some time to process what I had just shared with her. I knew that I needed to tell my father before she did, so after a couple days, I called my father and shared my story with him as well.

I was shocked when my father immediately said, "I love you for who you are." I had anticipated telling my father would have been much tougher than it really was. I played competitive sports growing up as a kid, and am sure his vision for who I was going to be in my adult years was very different from what he was hearing now. I'll fast forward to last month. During that period of time we had times in which we talked about many things, but I never



brought up me being gay. I tried to not cause any drama or evoke any emotions by bringing up the subject for many years. However, last month was truly a milestone for my coming out process.

I was very honored and humbled to be asked to host the main stage at the Las Vegas Pride Parade this year, something that I don't know I would have been comfortable doing a couple years prior. When I told my family, my sister immediately said that she was booking a flight to come and be a part of the festivities. In that same conversation, she had told me that she thought that my mother was really wanting to come, but didn't bring it up to me as she thought it may make me uncomfortable. I remember telling my sister to tell her that I would absolutely love if she could come, and she did. My father even sent a box of cookies congratulating me on a successful event, with the sweetest note ever. I had never imagined that my family would be this supportive, and what made it even better is my mom and sister were seated with my bosses and colleagues from work, which meant the world to me.

I share my story because there are many out there who have fears or apprehensions about coming out, but to me it was so much more than just "coming out." It was about truly being able to be who I am. It was about

loving myself. Yes, I have a very supportive family and circle of friends, which made this process easy for me. However, there are people like us all around willing to lend support and guidance for anyone who are going through this period of their life. When I think back to what life was like right after college to now, I can simply say that I feel free. I no longer worry about what people think of me. I am happy with who I am and who I have become, that at the end of the day is what it is all about.

October serves as National Coming Out Month, to raise awareness of the resources and support systems that are out there. While I acknowledge that this process is difficult, there are ways to get through it. I tell friends who are going through this process that they will often be very surprised at the support that they receive, especially as our culture is shifting very quickly to a culture of support and equality. If you are one who has been hiding who you really are, you will know when the time is right. Don't do it for someone else, do it for you, and I promise that once you are able to be in a place where you can be comfortable with who you are, that is when you truly start seeing all the amazing things that life has to offer. ■

So basically...

I'm GAY!

[by Bill Janisse]

Oscar Wilde wrote

"Be yourself; Everyone else is already taken".

As I was asked to write about my Coming Out story this month I was forced to spend quite a bit of time reflecting on my past and the journey that has brought me to be the person I am today. Looking back it seems as if I was living a completely different life before officially coming out as an openly gay man. I am so blessed in my life now that I am constantly surrounded by supportive, loving and loyal community of family and friends, but it wasn't always this way. I remember reading this quote as an older teenager and thinking about how powerful the message was. It was easy to understand the concept but the execution of it was not as simple and in fact felt as if it was almost impossible.

I grew up in suburban Detroit, the Midwest at its best with every stereotype that entails. As young as I can remember, I always knew I was different than the others I grew up with.

I was brought up in a very Right Wing, Conservative, Christian household.

My mother brought my sister
and I to church 3 times
per week

(Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening). This particular church preached openly about how homosexuality was a sin and in fact didn't even really exist, any homosexual thoughts you may be having must be lies from the Devil. I remember a youth pastor once saying at the pulpit that he believed all gay men should be lined up and shot dead. The church followed Pentecostal practices and was quite radical but somehow I managed to try and fit in and even as a young teenager going through puberty, I pretended that I was attracted to the girls in the youth group rather than the boys. Denial is, in fact, very strong and I told myself over and over again in my head that I couldn't be gay and that I was either confused or just curious. I actually started to believe it for a short time and tried to date girls, but we all know how that story ends.

My personality, energy and flamboyance have always been. I was simply a younger version of my silly and gay self. As a young boy in elementary school I remember feeling like an outcast and never quite "fitting in" but never knowing why. I'm sure that the pastors and teachers working at the Private Christian School I was sent to were confused and put off by me. Not really ever understanding me, while other students were making coffee cups and ash trays in art class I was sculpting an Academy Award Oscar Statue. I remember when we were assigned book reports with oral presentations, always with a flare for the dramatic, I would actually act out my report with home made

cardboard sets and costume changes. I was my own one man show in front of the 5th grade. As I got a little older I realized that this kind of behavior wasn't really accepted by the people around me. Trying to fit in and be "normal" I made a conscious effort to hide my mannerisms, my attraction to other boys, my Cher and Madonna cassette tapes etc. I remember watching television with my Mom one evening and there was a show that had a one time Gay character on it, a rarity at that time, and I decided to test my Mom's reaction. I asked her in a sarcastic tone, "what would you do if I were gay?" and her response was "I would kill you if you were gay". You can imagine how that made me feel and only fueled the fire within me to continue to hide and deny who I really was.

In high school I felt like I had finally mastered a happy medium version of hiding who I was but still being outgoing and silly. I stopped going to church against my Mother's wishes and attended a public High School rather than the private school I attended in elementary and junior high. I don't know how convincing I was as a heterosexual teenager but at least it was the start of a very long process of finally accepting who I really was. At this point I knew I was gay but was so incredibly scared to admit it to myself and the people around me especially my family. I hadn't really even accepted the fact that being gay wasn't a sin. I still had all the beliefs that were drilled in my head since day 1 at the church,

stating that if you were gay there was something wrong with you and that you were basically a bad person, a misfit or a freak. It was a very conflicting time for me as I had finally realized I couldn't deny to myself that I was gay but I still thought there was something wrong with me for having those feelings.

It wasn't until I moved away from home to be a professional dancer that things started to become clear for me. I had to get out of Michigan and fled to the nearest big city to seek refuge. I knew that homosexuality was more socially accepted in the larger cities. I found myself in NYC and Chicago training as a dancer and I was finally accepting me. It still took a year after removing myself from MI and being in an atmosphere where being gay was not frowned upon and reversely was actually celebrated.

By the universe blessing me with such wonderful and supportive friends in the city and the companies I was dancing with, I finally learned that I needed to love and respect myself within before I could completely live and speak my truth. I found myself slowly coming out to everyone one at a time instead of one large coming out moment. The last and most important person I came out to was of course my Mother. Still remembering what she had said years prior in our living room loudly stating her disapproval.

To give you a full perspective on our relationship at this point I must mention that my Mother and

I had our share of disagreements and fights, one of them stemming from my choice to be a dancer and move away. Looking back now I realize that her lack of support was probably stemming from the suspicions she must have had about my sexuality. She never supported my decision to make a career out of dancing at that point and had in fact never even attended one of my professional performances. I was scheduled to perform in MI with the Joffrey Ballet and I was excited to come home as a success and show my Mom everything I had accomplished. Perhaps showing her how wrong she was to not believe I could be a professional dancer. I had planned on also coming out to her on this trip as well.

To my surprise and disappointment even though I was performing in my hometown, she did not find it in herself to attend. The next day when the company was scheduled to depart she called and asked if she could see me. She wanted to give me a ride to the airport and I guess she actually felt bad about not coming to the show. So I figured this was my chance to have one on one time with her and come out. I was so angry with her though. Unfortunately I gave in to my anger and decided to tell her in a hurtful and somewhat malicious way. I basically timed the ride to the airport so that I would tell her as I was getting out of the car and not giving her the chance to respond. I prefaced it by telling her that I know she has certain

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religious beliefs that she tried to instill in me but I no longer agree with or believe in them. As we pulled up to curbside check in I mentioned how happy I was in my new life and that she needed to know that I love and have sex with men not women. I said "so basically I'm GAY" and I slammed the car door and walked into the airport and didn't turn back to even see her reaction.

Some people may say that she got exactly what she deserved or that my anger was justified, but looking back I know that even in that situation I could have found a more loving way to tell her. I believe now that when a message is expressed in anger only the anger is heard and the actual message may be lost.

My mom and I didn't really speak after that at all for about a year. My sister was always supportive of my sexuality and at one point even admitted to me that she always knew I was gay growing up. The rest of the family slowly started to come around as well. When my Mom and I started to speak again she tried to act as if she was accepting of my homosexuality but would still find key moments to quote bible scripture or make comments to try to get me to go on dates with women. I'm not going to lie and say it hasn't been a long road with her but I'm happy to say that currently she is very accepting and happy to have a gay son.

I believe that you have to learn to love yourself, who you are, and what you are unconditionally before you can expect others to do the same. Our minds are very powerful

As National Coming OUT Day approaches I encourage you to share the good news that you're GAY!

things and I believe that we manifest the life we are living. "My life didn't please me, so I created my life." – Coco Chanel. I've always endeavored to surround myself with like-minded people and approach everything with loving intention and non-judgment. I honestly feel that it was in this mindset, spirituality and lifestyle that aided in my Mother finally fully accepting me as a gay man. She could see that I was happy, healthy, respectful of others and not a freak or bad person for being gay. It opened her heart and perspective, I'm so grateful that she is finally in a loving and accepting mindset.

Today I am proud to say that I am gay and I love my life. There will always be speed bumps or road blocks along the journey but it is how you handle the rough times that matters the most. I've learned a lot in my achievements but I've learned more important lessons in my failures. One's strength is found more in their failures rather than their successes. You get strong by swimming upstream against the current. "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it" – Maya Angelou. I encourage you all to wake up daily with a grateful mind and heart, love yourself daily and approach your work

and relationships with loving intention always regardless the circumstances or obstacles in your way that day.

When you live and speak your Truth, everything else seems to fall into place naturally and organically. Opportunities will arise and the proper path in your career, friendships, and relationships will be revealed to you and the universe will always be there to guide you as long as you continue to love yourself, give love and respect to others and don't give in to the low vibrational energy of judgment, anger or insecurities. As National Coming OUT Day approaches I encourage you to share the good news that you're GAY! There is no shame in being gay. None of us is alone and the Universe, God, Higher Power or just Nature (whichever you believe in) rejoices in you and will strengthen you when you live congruently. Integrity & authenticity are the door to peace, ease, joy, love and light. So let your lights shine EVERYONE! I have and will continue to rejoice in you! To all of my friends and family who know a gay person who is not yet out, I hope you'll offer a gentle and loving reminder today and always that whenever she or he is ready, you will be there as support.

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'Coming Out' in the Nevada Legislature



[by Cameron Catton]

Kelvin Atkinson

For many people hoping to learn about the politics of Nevada, there is often a surprised reaction at discovering that our legislature only meets every other year, for 120 days. Nevada is one of only a handful of other states whose lawmakers meet in this fashion, as the trend since the 1960's has been for many state governments to meet annually.

Another major surprise comes when the sizable amount of openly LGBTQ people and allies in our legislature is revealed. The Assembly and Senate are both teeming with support for LGBTQ and intersecting issues. During the 2013 session, Nevada's lawmakers heard arguments on marriage equality and transgender hate crimes, and in previous sessions passed legislation for domestic partnerships and transgender public accommodations. It has never been a better time to be an LGBTQ Nevadan.

One of the hottest and most popular issues within the LGBTQ community across the globe is that of marriage. Couples the world over await decisions in their

home countries, where the issue is usually hotly contested, leading to protests, demonstrations and even horrific violence. Many countries have settled the issue: Canada's laws embrace same-sex couples, and have since 2005. Russia legally forbids the concept of sharing, "homosexual propaganda," purportedly to protect the impressionable minds of minors.

Here in the US, the marriage debate rages nationally, but faces obstacles at the federal and state levels. The Supreme Court has yet to make a decision regarding marriage equality for the country, and states are currently to make their own decisions. The past year has shown an incredible trend toward acceptance of same-sex marriage across the country, with even conservative states like Utah showing trends of acceptance. Where does Nevada fit into all of this commotion? For a long time, the process was simple, if tedious: The Nevada Legislature had to pass the marriage bill in two consecutive sessions and then allow the vote on the matter to go to the people. This was

predicted to occur in the 2013 and 2015 sessions, with a vote on the Presidential ballot in 2016.

Things, however, seem to have the opportunity for some dramatic change, as three lawsuits have escalated to the Ninth Circuit Court. On September 8th, oral arguments were heard by the Court for Nevada and Idaho, and the judges involved are expected to rule later this year to either strike down Nevada's same-sex marriage ban or to uphold it. The chance to speed up the decision for Nevada and leap ahead of the 2016 projection has same-sex couples and Nevada lawmakers extremely excited.

Activists like the Tod Story, Executive Director of the ACLU of Nevada, firmly believe that the time has come for change. "Same-sex couples choose to marry for the same reasons as opposite-sex couples: love, family, children, community, and sharing and spending their lives together as one. We are confident that the Ninth Circuit will uphold the rule of law... The time has come to reverse Nevada's discriminatory definition of marriage and live up

to our moniker as the Marriage Capital of the World," Story said after the arguments on September 8th.

And what is it like to be an active member of Nevada's government, making decisions that create and craft the laws we live by – while also identifying as LGBTQ? Kelvin Atkinson is Nevada State Senator, representing District 4, and is the Chairman of the Commerce, Labor and Energy Committee inside the Senate. Before being elected Senator, Atkinson was an Assemblyman for District 17 for ten years. He's also gay.

During 2013's Legislative Session, Senator Atkinson spoke to defend the same-sex marriage bill during its hearing. "I made a speech and announced to everyone that I was a father, black and gay," Senator Atkinson says. "I wasn't sure what happened, but it was a very late night debate, and I wasn't sure who all was listening." Those not in attendance at the legislature were able to watch live telecasts online. The reaction was electric. The Senator continued, "I woke up the next morning to a barrage of emails, Facebook requests, Twitter follower requests and demands for interviews! The very first call that I received was from my then 17 year-old daughter saying, "Dad. I am proud of you." Similar reactions blazed across social media throughout the night of the speech, with Atkinson and LGBTQ politicians ardently supporting the Senator's choice to come out in such a meaningful way.

"Many of my Senate colleagues came over to my seat on the floor offering hugs and words of congratulations, and my constituents have been supportive as well, so all is good," Senator Atkinson said when asked about the support he received politically, following his coming out and personal attachment to the same-sex marriage bill. "It has most certainly changed my life in a positive way," the Senator

added. "Being recognized for who I am on important topics that I stayed away from before has been quite rewarding for me. I am proud to have been able to participate in my first Las Vegas PRIDE this year, and it was an awesome experience for my friends and I that we will never forget."

Atkinson is confident in the Ninth Circuit Court, but is ready to take on the challenges that could arise should the judges rule against marriage equality. The original plans to work the bill through both houses in 2015 would be back on, and the final decision would fall to Nevadans at the voting booths in November, 2016. "Well, obviously, if the Ninth Circuit Court does not rule in our favor, the struggle to get it passed through the voters in 2016 will be enormous. I am confident that it will pass state-wide, but it will be a very, very costly campaign," Atkinson said of the worst-case scenario regarding the recent hearings.

Others in the Nevada agree with Senator Atkinson, and the showing of support for LGBTQ equality has once again been tremendous. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has devoted enormous effort to legalizing same-sex marriage, and Nevada's chapter is extremely important to the marriage powerhouse whose logo has become almost as iconic for LGBTQ people as the rainbow flag: a yellow equal sign against a navy blue background. HRC actively engages Nevadans on marriage regularly, working with its allies in the legislature, including openly gay Assemblyman James Healey, to spread the word about the importance of marriage for all. A representative from HRC said, "It's about getting the word out there to people and working at all levels, from government to doorstep, to get the job done. This is a really exciting time!"



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Controversial Changes Concern Community Leaders

[by Seb Lozano Rice]

Hello! My name is Seb and I am a student at UNLV. Having come out as pansexual only a year ago, I am still quite new to the queer community. Throughout this past year, with help from my fabulous new friends, I have discovered parts of myself that I would never have thought to look for. But until recently, I had very little contact with the older queer community of Las Vegas, and was quite intimidated with the prospect of trying to reach out and become a larger part of our community outside of my university.

That being said, last month I had the privilege to attend a Las Vegas Pride Board of Directors meeting. I had no idea what to expect or who to expect to see there. As it was the week before Pride, this meeting had a record number of attendees, with many prominent members of the Las Vegas queer community in attendance.

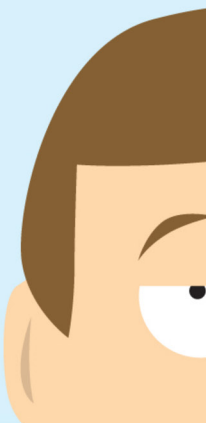
To my astonishment I was one of the youngest in attendance by quite a large margin. It was disconcerting to be the only representation of the queer youth community at this meeting. Something that was even more unsettling was the lack of diversity on the board.

It is always easier to feel comfortable amongst a group of people when you look around and can identify with someone who is in a position of power. As a pansexual femme-identified gender nonconforming

teenager, I felt more than a bit out of place. But I was there for something bigger than myself; to become more involved in my community and to get to know the people in large part that represent us to the media, to our fellow community members, and sometimes to our national counterparts.

The meeting began with palpable tension, so a board member stood and said something to the effect of; "We are one community, we must come together." As a lover of unity, this seemed to be a throwaway statement. But a few others among the audience found this to be more problematic than I did, stating that it was a bit patronizing, and the statement was quickly rescinded. After that statement, the atmosphere in the room continued to descend rapidly. The behavior of some of the board members was problematic, and bordering on childish. Tempers flared and terse words exchanged as accusations began to fly. I was thoroughly confused until it came time for questions. And finally, the source of this tension was revealed.

Two paid positions were being declared for the Pride board, even though I had previously believed this organization to be non-profit. The moment this revelation came about, my heart began to race. Already the behavior of the board in this public "professional" setting was setting me on edge. Then the subtle accusations and



underlying feeling of mistrust that ran thick in this room clicked in my mind with one word: corruption. They spoke of money issues for Pride, yet two positions were being created that would pull over \$80,000 from the Pride budget. Yet I soon found out that this wasn't the deepest that this secrecy ran. The positions had already been "opened", applied for and closed. And there had only been three applicants: all of the applicants were current members of the Pride board. With every word that dropped from the lips of the people behind the tables at the head of the room, my stomach sunk lower and lower. And the anger in the room continued to rise. Deb Browning, an attendee, spoke out in a calm and organized manner. She spoke of the lack of mention of these positions in previous meetings, which is a requirement for positions to be established, and asked a question that was on everyone's mind: Where was this money coming from?

Unfortunately, the response to these poignant questions was a bout of back pedaling and, what seemed to me, to be thinly veiled excuses and subtle insults to those who wished to be a bigger part of the community. Rather than making sure that all of this information was available and transparent to the public, including those who might not know about or are unable to attend the meetings, there was a round of complaining that barely anyone shows up for the meeting and the only time people do come is when they are in the public eye. Of course that's when the most people would come. Unfortunately the old adage 'out of sight, out of mind' is very true, even for those who are honestly concerned. Garrett

Pattiani of Gay.Vegas noted that the boards social media presence was minimal at best and that to increase attendance, they might possibly benefit from posting their monthly meetings as events.

A rational solution, I thought, that was again met with polite "consideration" and then dismissal.

We then came down to the meat of the matter. Were these positions filled and if so, by whom? And where was this job even posted? The answers: the position had been posted on the Pride website under the employment tab approximately 6 weeks before the meeting. And that was it. Only there and no one else was made aware of it on social media of any kind.

So the only ones who would have been aware of its existence would be people who consistently checked the website, including that particular tab, or those who were previously aware of its existence. In other words: Board Members. And those were the only applicants. Three members of the board: Brady, Ernie and Jake. This was starting to have the feel of a grade school playground club that had a sign up on the jungle gym saying that they were the only ones allowed to play there.

Over an hour into the meeting and we were finally getting down to the important information. Browning again stood to offer a few words to remind us of why every one of us in that room were there: not to get a paycheck, but to get involved with our community. With wholehearted agreement resounding around the room, it seemed like the meeting would soon get out of control. It was at this moment that a few of the more vocal opposition members became heated to stay any longer in the meeting. I quickly followed after them, and had a very enlightening conversation as to what some of the opinions of the community were. Browning offered these words concerning the recent actions of the Pride board:

"For an organization of such high standards, so to speak, to take over \$80,000 away that they could be donating to our community... that could be used for scholarships, medications, or for burials, all of these things that we should be doing to help should not be going into someone's pocket... We're

supposed to be doing this out of the greatness of our heart. Just paying it forward. Giving it back to someone who can't give it to themselves right now."

West Fisher of Bears Las Vegas and Tracy Skinner of the Sin City Sisters also joined in the conversation. It turned to the topic of inclusiveness and awareness. Such important issues that, as a new member of the queer community, I had noticed were lacking severely. Another quote from Browning summarizes my sentiments to the T:

"Instead of segregating and saying, okay, we're going to have a Lesbian Pride, Gay Pride, a Bear Pride; it should be 100% inclusive... No one should be excluded, whether you were gay, straight or anything else."

Fisher also mentioned something that had been plaguing mind since the first moment I had looked for a local queer support groups. "I wouldn't feel welcome in some of these organizations, and that shouldn't happen."

No, it really shouldn't. As this is National Coming Out Month, take a step back and look at it from the eyes of a young questioning individual. They might not be very sure of themselves, they are not sure where to turn and are overwhelmed when they see all of these categories and niches. They might even be a bit demoralized when they see how even at our core, there is tension, mistrust and inappropriate displays of immaturity. This should not be the first image that we present to the newest members of our community. I am not quite sure of the steps that need to be taken, but I do know what I hope for. The desegregation of a community and the formation of a fantastic and welcoming community that showcases an accepting and unified whole that a fresh and starry eyed version of myself once (and still do) believe is what we strive for in our fight for equality.



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last word!



[by Russ White, Publisher]

Mom: Russ, I think you're roommate might be gay.

Russ: Well... we both are.

[Long Pause]

[Click]

There. That's my coming out story.

The moment that I had agonized over for years was over in a matter of seconds. I mean, it wasn't really *OVER*. In fact, it took a few months years to be *OVER*.

Slowly, one by one, Dad called. My brother called. My grandparents called. Then Mom called. When my family realized that nothing had changed—I was still the same me—one by one acceptance of what each knew to be reality emerged as the same love they had for me before. And then it grew.

Because now I was authentic. I wasn't hiding part of my life. I wasn't evading "the girlfriend" questions. I wasn't changing pronouns. I was living the complete me.

Coming out is always going to be difficult. You're telling the world around you that you're not who they perceived you to be. You don't want to get caught in the lie. You don't want to tarnish expectations. Even as society evolves and being gay becomes more accepted, reactions by friends and family can never be truly predicted.

In August, Daniel Pierce recorded his own verbally abusive and physically violent coming out experience. His posting of the hidden video recording on YouTube has reached over 6 million views. It's hard to watch. Then you have fraternal twins

Luke and Adam Monastero, who at age 21 also record their coming out video on a hidden camera in their kitchen, only to reveal supportive parents and a positive experience so many of us wished for as we played different scenarios out in our minds.

But coming out isn't a one-time event. It's a continual process. I don't recall ever telling my older nieces, but I know they know. And it excites me that my youngest niece will grow up in a world and a family where it's just not that big of a deal.

Every new job means a whole new coming out... to your boss, your colleagues, your customers, vendors. Life introduces new friends, neighbors, doctors, each requiring choice and timing on when to reveal that facet of your identity.

Then you can also try being me and create every sort of new opportunity or reason to come out all over again.

Ten years ago I took a leadership role as the co-chair of the LGBTQ employee organization at one of the largest and most recognizable companies in the world. There would be times where I would have to let my manager know I'd be taking time off to go to a LGBT conference. Or that I'd be taking the afternoon off to host an employee social.

Other times I'd have to call up a another manager and explain why David wouldn't be coming in to work next week, but Susan would. And she'd have the same job as David, the same desk as David, the same employee ID as David. She would be getting a different employee badge and a new email

address, but everything else about work would remain the same.

Then there is the continuous coming out process I experience as the publisher of QVegas. I remember right before acquiring the magazine 2 years ago (Happy Anniversary to me), I called up my parents to tell them the big news.

My second coming out happened when I decided to acquire the magazine and went something like this:

Russ: So, you guys know I'm gay, right?

Mom & Dad: Yes.

Russ: I'm about to become REAAALLLY Gaaayyy.

When you own a gay magazine, you very literally out yourself every single day with every introduction you make. It becomes the forefront of your identity. It's always interesting to see the unexpected look on someone's face who just shook your hand at a social, mixer, conference, or other event and now all of a sudden knows you're gay from the very beginning of the conversation rather than incidentally and optionally sometime later through casual conversation.

There isn't the opportunity to delay it. There's no side stepping the issue. The "so what do you do?" question can play out with "I publish a magazine." or "I work in advertising and promotions" if I feel the need to side-step the issue, but in just about every case, it comes full circle to "I own a gay magazine." So I've found it's easiest and best to start with my authentic self.

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October 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NCOD Weekend Events

OCTOBER 10

- > The Original NCOD Street Festival at The Fruit Loop
- > UNLV Spectrum and HPA's Coming Out Day Carnival

OCTOBER 11

- > Walk n Roll 2014 in Downtown Bicycle Ride & Walk
- > NGRC Coming Out with the Boys

OCTOBER 12

- > NCOD at Revo Sundays

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, VISIT
www.gay.vegas/ncod

3 Queens of Las Vegas 10PM

Join us for the opening of QUEENS OF LAS VEGAS at the Tommy Wind Theater. We are offering free tickets for this show as we'll be filming and taking photos for promo. Enjoy celebrity impersonations, comedy, and a variety of performances to entertain you! Then stay as theater turns to Equalibrium Nightclub.

13 Mondays Dark Third Mondays @ 9PM

Join performers from all over Las Vegas for a monthly charity benefiting a new charity each month. October benefits THE HEALING CURVE with the theme Women Who Rock.

mondaysdark.com

15 Night Fever Bingo

8PM

Jimmy Emmerson hosts Night Fever Bingo at Palace Station with a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. A portion of proceeds benefit The Center.

16 Spirit Day

Millions go purple on Spirit Day in a stand against bullying and to show their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple, which symbolizes 'spirit' on the rainbow flag.

glaad.org/spiritday

18 Honorarium

5PM

Celebrate the contributions to our community by Person of the Year Diana Bennett, Ally of the Year Fred Keeton and Corporation of the Year Wynn Resorts. We're also celebrating 21 years of serving Nevada's LGBTQ community! For this year's Honorarium, we have chosen the amazing new Drai's Beach Club • Nightclub atop The Cromwell Las Vegas boutique hotel at the corner of Flamingo Road and Las Vegas Boulevard. The Honorarium begins with a cocktail reception, silent auction and gourmet food stations poolside in the breathtaking Drai's Beach Club (with million

dollar views of the sunset beyond the bustling Vegas Strip!) before moving into the luxurious, well-appointed Nightclub for live entertainment and the presentation of The Center Honors.

thecenterlv.org/honorarium

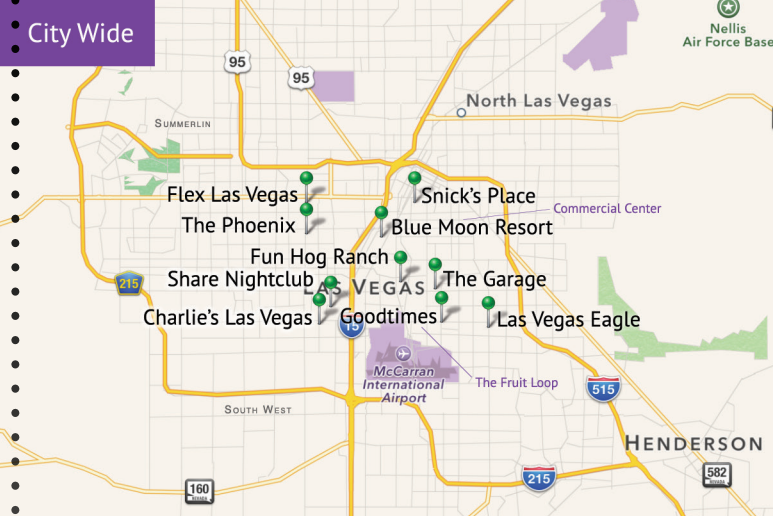


31 Fetish & Fantasy Ball 10PM

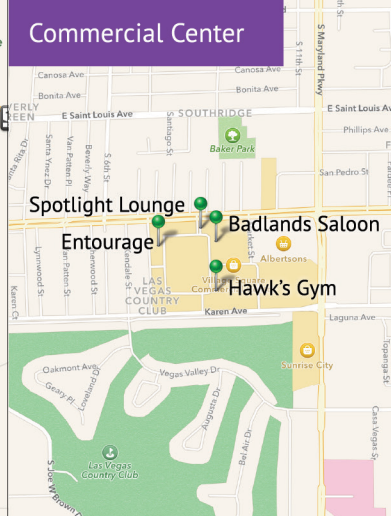
2014 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino !!! 7500+ of our closest friends will be on hand to party their brains out at the coolest Halloween event in the country. The 19th ANNUAL FETISH & FANTASY HALLOWEEN BALL promises to be even more extravagant baby, guaranteed to be the LARGEST, NAUGHTIEST, and most exciting ADULT Halloween event in VEGAS HISTORY!!!

halloweenball.com

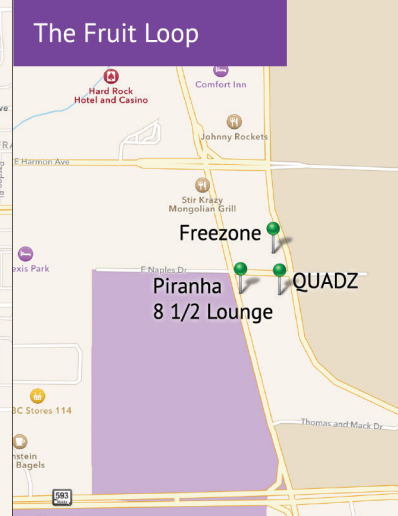
City Wide



Commercial Center



The Fruit Loop



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Garrett's Gay Guide fits right in your pocket! Just tear out, fold in half length-wise, and fan-fold to create a handy pocket-sized guide to Gay Las Vegas. Or, download the QVegas iPhone® app for these events, get on Garrett's guest lists, and more.



Equalibrium

Liaison
At Bally's



The G-Spot indicates an event hosted or sponsored by Garrett's Gay Guide.

REVO
sundays



Every Sunday Night
Open Bar 10-11
and No Cover with Guest List



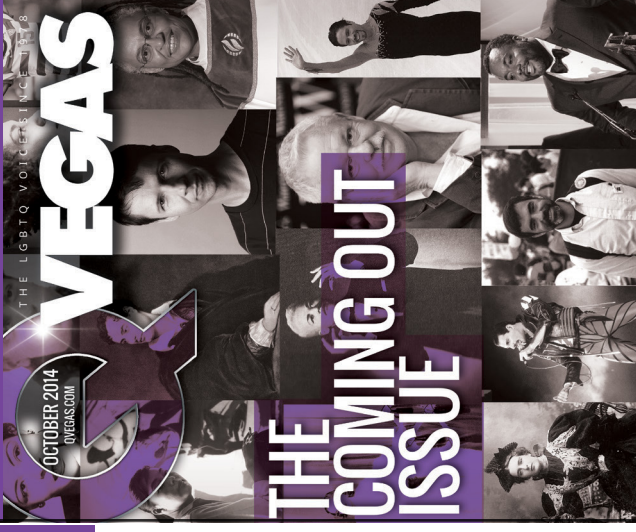
Social Tuesdays
Every Tuesday 7-10PM
SocialTuesdays.com

1st Tuesday
Local Gay Bar

2nd Tuesday
Wildcard Location

3rd Tuesday
Light Group LGBT

4th / 5th Tuesday
Wildcard Locations



GO VEGAS

Stay up to date at www.gay.vegas

- ✓ Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
- Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's (Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin City Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog (3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

- ✓ Strippier Circus at Share Nightclub
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone

- ✓ HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
- Line Dancing Lessons at Charlie's Las Vegas
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park
- Liaison Nightclub

Saturdays

Fridays

Thursdays

Sundays

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

- ✓ REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel
 - ✎ Get on the Guest List gay.vegas/revosundays
- ✓ John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group
 - ✎ Join the Summerlin Gays Group
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Broadway Open Mic Night at Onyx Theater
- Boys & Burgers at Blue Moon Resort

- ✓ Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
- Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
- S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage
- Pigs on Broadway Video Night with Kitty Litter at Fun Hog Ranch
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park

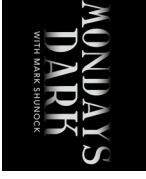
- ✓ Social Tuesdays
 - Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
 - Karaoke Night at FreeZone
 - Trashy Tuesdays at Hawks Gym

- PRIDE Family Bingo (1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at Charlie's
- Game Night at FreeZone
- Boylesque Wednesdays with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- #WomanCrushWednesdays at Stratosphere

REVO
sundays

Get on the Guest List for Open Bar 10-11 and No Cover until 1AM.

Visit gay.vegas/revosundays or download the QVegas iPhone® App.



Vegas Performers Support Local Charities Every Month at Hard Rock Hotel

Visit GarrettsGayGuide.com or download the QVegas iPhone® App.



Weekly Socials at great spots all over Las Vegas. 7-10pm every week

Sign Up for Weekly Announcements at gay.vegas/socialtuesdays