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NOVEMBER 2013

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VEGAS

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue pinstriped tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. He is looking down and to his left, with his right hand resting on his hip. The background is a dark, textured wall with vertical lines.

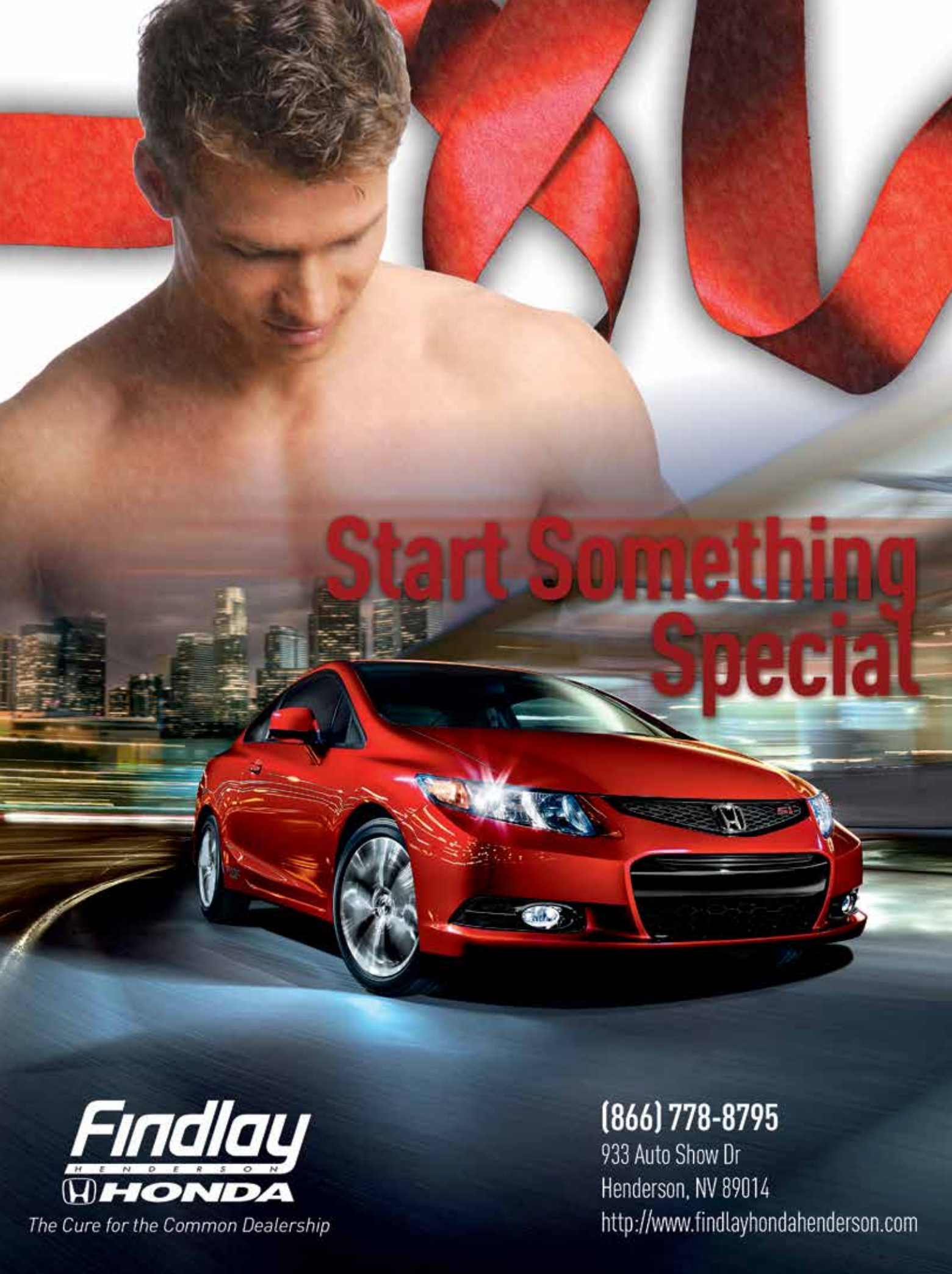
*The
Holiday
Issue*

STEVE
GRAND

Las Vegas Debut #SpiritDay

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ON THE COVER

Steve Grand,
All-American
Singer-songwriter

Stylist Ryan Beyer
Wardrobe Courtesy of STITCHED

Location: Utopia @House Nightclub

Photography by
Linda Quackenboss
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a note from our Editor

Welcome to the annual *QVegas* Holiday Issue. Our team has once again searched locally and online for gift ideas in the annual Holiday Gift Guide. All I want for Christmas is great food and to be surrounded by even greater friends and family. My favorite tradition is sitting with my family as my grandmother recites her own poetic version of "The Night Before Christmas" in which every family present has a starring role. Then, the little ones each open a gift before being rushed off to bed so the adults can continue wrapping gifts. However, A little pie, eggnog, and a story and I am usually passed out on the couch.

The Smith Center For the Performing Arts is excited to announce Tony® and Emmy® Award-winning sensation Kristin Chenoweth to perform this year's New Year's Eve concert inside Reynolds Hall. The evening will feature Chenoweth performing an array of her most memorable songs and Broadway show tunes, including music from "Wicked," "Promises, Promises" and "Glee." This unique night with the multitalented performer promises to take concert goers on a ride of laughter, heartbreak, thrills and great music.

This month's cover boy is Mr. Steve Grand, musician and singer-songwriter from Lemont, Illinois. You might have caught this artist in his



music video that earned over 1,000,000 views in just eight days this past July. He joined Las Vegas for Spirit Day this October performing on The Strip at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas and downtown at the Fremont Street Experience.

Be sure to grab *QVegas* next month for our an Year in Review Issue. We are accepting nominees to appear in our annual "Best of *QVegas*" feature. Log onto www.qvegas.com and download *QVegas* 2.0 from the Apple App store today.

Janise "Noah" Henderson

twitter.com/noahsartark

facebook.com/janise.noah.henderson

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

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

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



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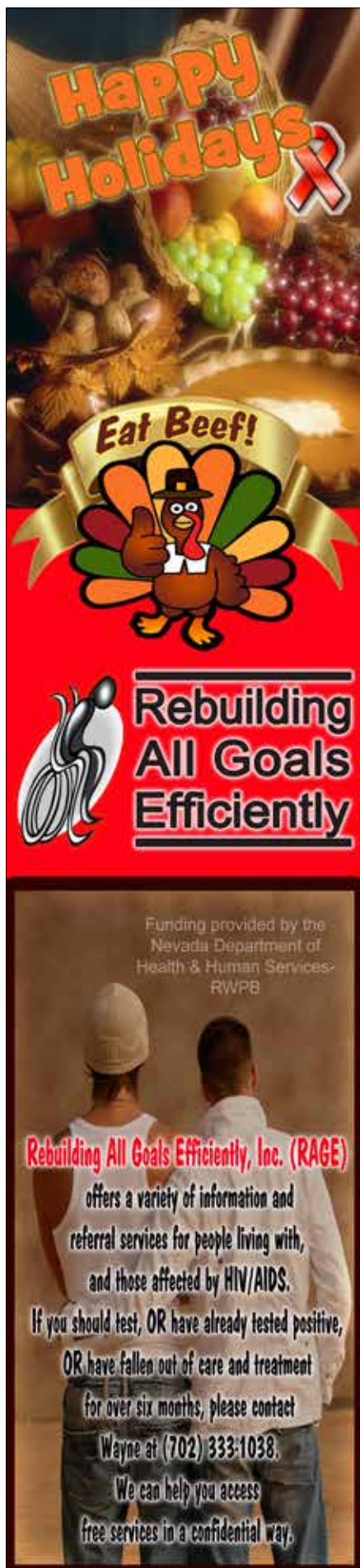
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Happy Holidays

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Funding provided by the
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Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently, Inc. (RAGE)
offers a variety of information and
referral services for people living with,
and those affected by HIV/AIDS.
If you should test, OR have already tested positive,
OR have fallen out of care and treatment
for over six months, please contact
Wayne at (702) 333-1038.
We can help you access
free services in a confidential way.

What Day?

QVegas is collaborating with local LGBT students in a long term HIV prevention campaign we call "What Day." Current infection rates in Clark County have reached about 1 diagnosis per day. Growth rates in the Las Vegas area have recently climbed at an alarming 25% rate since January 2013. QVegas is committed to this bold and aggressive campaign and will continue to run the campaign until infection rates decline. Get tested. Know your status. Know your partner's status. Use protection. Stay safe.

The following organizations provide resources to individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

The Center

702-733-9800
thecenterlv.org

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)

702-382-2326
afanlv.org

Community Outreach Medical Center

702-657-3873
nvcomc.org

Golden Rainbow

702-384-2899
goldenrainbow.org

Nevada AIDS Hotline

1-800-842-AIDS
nvhotline@aol.com

RAGE

702-333-1038

Saint Therese Center

702-564-4224
saintthereseccenter.org

The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

sinsitysisters.org

So. Nev. Health District (SNHD)

702-759-1000
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org



What day are you getting infected?

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
					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



HIV Infection Rates in Clark County are now averaging about 1 per day for 2013

2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by Miranda Boyd]

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

Moldova Repeals Gay Propaganda Ban

The Eastern European nation of Moldova voted to overturn a law, similar to the law recently passed in Russia, that banned the promotion to minors of other "relationships than those linked to marriage and the family." While the move is seen as largely political—an attempt by Moldova to gain membership in the European Union—it's still a positive move for the former Soviet state. Protestors met outside the parliament building with one priest derisively stating, "Today they are allowing this propaganda and tomorrow they will allow gay marriages."



Trans Teen Homecoming King

Ray Ramsey, a transgender student in New Hampshire, was elected homecoming king in a landslide victory. Heather Oullette-Cygan, adviser to the school's LGBT club, said, "It's a big deal. I think it means a lot for our school, it certainly means a lot for the kids in the club and even the LGBT students who aren't necessarily in the club." Anna Robert, the school's homecoming queen, said, "He doesn't fear any of the repercussions of being completely who he is, and that's one of the most inspirational things about him."



NC County Accepts Marriage Applications

One county in North Carolina has begun accepting applications from same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses. Buncombe County register of deeds Drew Reisinger said that he has been upset by having to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses and didn't want to turn away "upstanding citizens" because of an unfair law. Since the North Carolina constitution defines marriage as being between a man and woman, Reisinger has been holding the applications of same-sex couples while awaiting advice from the state attorney general.



NBA Team Supports Marriage Equality

The Portland Trail Blazers became the first major professional sports team to openly endorse marriage equality by voicing their support for the organization Oregon United for Marriage which is attempting to place a marriage equality initiative on the ballot for the upcoming election. The team stated, "The Portland Trail Blazers are in support of the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection ballot initiative. We do so as believers in individual choice as a fundamental right of all people."

UK Asks For Proof of Sexuality

A committee of the British Parliament has stated that persons seeking asylum in the UK from persecution because of their sexuality are being asked to provide proof of sexuality to Border Agency officials in the form of photos or video depicting sexual acts. Committee chairman Keith Vaz said, "It is absurd for a judge or a caseworker to have to ask an individual to prove that they are lesbian or gay... This practice is regrettable and ought to be stopped immediately."



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



Fox News Misleads About Trans Student

Fox Nation, a news website run by Fox News, reported that a transgender high school student was harassing other students in the school's restrooms. The report was based on a story by the Christian Broadcasting Network, and has proven to be entirely false. According to the superintendent of the school in question, "To our knowledge and based on our investigation, none of those things have actually happened." The Daily Mail and other news sites have since retracted the story, though it currently remains on Fox Nation.

Man's Luggage Defaced

A passenger on a Jetstar flight in Australia was waiting for his bag to arrive on the carousel when he noticed the phrase, "I AM GAY" written across his suitcase in luggage tag stickers. The man wrote, "I am a white heterosexual male. This trifecta of privilege means that I'm not routinely subjected to prejudice. But for a few minutes I got to walk in the shoes of a gay person in a public place. ... I was degraded. I was shamed. I was humiliated."

Home Office
UK Border Agency

Student Expelled For Being Trans

A student at California Baptist University had her acceptance revoked after school officials found out that she is transgender. The student marked "female" on her online application, because she's identified with that gender since birth and has been living openly as female since age 13. Despite those facts, the school insinuated that she committed fraud. Since CBU is a private, religious institution it is not obligated to follow California law prohibiting discriminating on the basis of gender identity or expression.

THAT'S SO Vegas

Tidbits from The Strip & Beyond

NOVEMBER 2013							DECEMBER 2013							JANUARY 2014							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		



Friday, November 1 - 2

Nevada Ballet Theatre Presents *Swan Lake* Act II And *Sleeping Beauty* Act III In A Tribute To Tchaikovsky

Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT) will launch its 42nd main stage performance season and its second year as Resident Ballet Company of The Smith Center for the Performing Arts with *Swan Lake* Act II and *Sleeping Beauty* Act III in A Tribute to Tchaikovsky on Friday, November 1 at 7:30 PM and Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 PM. Tickets range from \$35 - \$128 (plus fees) and can be ordered by calling The Smith Center Box Office at (702) 749-2000 or by visiting www.nevadaballet.org.

NBT will pay tribute to legendary composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and his collaborative partnership with choreographers Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa. Staged by former Prima Ballerina Cynthia Gregory, *Swan Lake* Act II tells the tale of "Odette," a beautiful maiden transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer and the prince who swears his enduring love for her. NBT Company Artist Alissa Dale will dance the role of "Odette" and Steve Goforth will dance the role of "Prince Siegfried."

On Friday, November 1 at 11 AM, over 1,500 local students will witness the magic of *Sleeping Beauty* Act III (Aurora's Wedding) and gain a deeper understanding of the art form through a special question and answer period with Education & Outreach Director, Terané Comito.

Friday, November 1

Krave Nightclub Opening

That's it! You heard right! Krave Nightclub is back on the Strip. The Grand Opening night is Friday, November 1, at a new location, and under new ownership. The new locations is at 3765 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (across from the Monte Carlo) formerly Empire Ballroom. There will be sexy GoGo dancers, and sexy beats from DJ Lightknife. This is 21+ event and doors open at 10:30 PM. For more information call or text 702-677-1740.

SUNDAYS

- Showtunes High Tea @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Pride Pajama Brunch Bingo (bi-monthly)
- Charlie's Amazing Drag Show @ Charlie's LV
- "She's Dope" Ladies Night (1st Sun.) @ FreeZone
- REVO Sundays @ Revolution Lounge

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

- Dark & Double Thursdays @ Entourage Men's Spa
- POP Thursdays @ Share Nightclub
- Nothing But Country Thursdays @ Charlie's LV
- Prism @ Artifice (Every 2nd Thurs.)
- Boys Night @ FreeZone

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

Friday, November 1

The Medium by Gian Carlo Menotti

Sin City Opera will present The Medium by Gian Carlo Menotti on November 1 - 2, 8 - 9, at 8 PM at the Onyx Theatre in conjunction with Off-Strip Productions. The production is helmed by Renato Estacio, whose idea behind the staging, interaction and layout of the show is to combine artistic elements that convey a sense of religious humanism while touching on the surreal. The driving force behind the creation of this production is to develop scenes that are coarse but beautiful, which heightens the expressive thoughts of each character.

Tuesday, November 12 Ladies QSocial

Sisters Pamela and Christina Dylag's dream of opening their own cocktail lounge finally became a reality when the Velveteen Rabbit swung open its doors in the Arts District.

Here you'll find a room decorated with trompe-l'oeil wallpaper with reclaimed furniture put together in smaller chatting areas. Look for an elixirs list with cocktails that find inspiration from the Golden Age of mixology, each with their own story. Jewel-toned decanters sit inside a Queen Anne cabinet behind the bar while a series of silver hands make up the beer taps. Overall, the place takes on the gallery setting of the art dealers found nearby. This is going to be another great event in Vegas' growing arts district!

Friday, November 15 - 16 "Nine Inch Nails: Tension 2013"

Plans were unveiled for "Nine Inch Nails: Tension 2013" - a fall 2013 North American tour with special guests, Explosion In The Sky. The legendary rockers will perform two shows, both starting at 8 PM, at The Joint inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. For ticket price and information, visit hardrockhotel.com

Wednesday, November 20 Trans Pride Week

The First Annual Trans Pride March: Will begin at 7 PM starting at The

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. Come and share your pride, create your own sign of pride. They encourage any supportive organization to join the march with your signs and banners. Trans Pride Week is five days worth of events and activities to bring awareness and pride to our community. Everyone is invited to attend, regardless of how you self-identify especially our beloved allies. Events and activities will take place from Wednesday, November 20, 2013 through Sunday November 24, 2013.

Sunday, November 17 The Ultimate Female Illusions Competition

Royal Crowning Systems Inc. presents, The Ultimate Female Illusions Competition. The newest female illusion competition in Nevada, which brings excitement, entertainment, fashion and captures the essence of female illusions. This years' Competition will be hosted by Latrice Royale from Rupauls Drag Race, at the Texas Station's Dallas Ballroom. The competition is looking for the hottest female impersonators that can best represent RCSI's yearly Crowning. This crowning competition is challenging, competitive and innovative. With over \$5000 in cash and prizes, they are also the first crowning system in Las Vegas to offer a monthly royalty stipend. There will be free admission and the competition starts at 6 PM.

November LGBTQ Billiard Tournament

IBL is the only LGBT-oriented pool league in Las Vegas and they are always on the lookout for new members. The league is open to all LGBT, no matter their skill level at pool, and all gay-friendly pool shooters as well. Although competition runs high, the league's main goal is to promote a fun and safe environment for its members and supporters. IBL will be holding open tournaments at various sponsor locations throughout Las Vegas during November, and they will be looking for new prospective members to join the fun and maybe win a little money in the process. For locations and times, visit their website at www.ibl-lasvegas.com.

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Dr. Azimi's dental veneers filled the gaps in my top teeth — which only seemed to be growing. The only other alternative was 1 year of braces, which I did not want to do. Getting these veneers was the best decision ever for my smile — and his comfortable and modern office made the experience even easier!"

- Paris R.

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THE SUGAR FACTORY

@ Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

[by Michael Barbieri]
www.myvegasobsession.com



A hot new chef, new menu items, and tasty liquid nitrogen cocktails - these are all great reasons to sample the fare at The Sugar Factory at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino! We had received news here at *QVegas*, that the restaurant had undergone some big changes, and I was invited, along with two friends, to a special tasting luncheon, where we were treated to some of the new dishes from their updated menu, and a few of the new specialty drinks. We soon found out...this is a brand new Sugar Factory! Our meal started on a flashy note when bar manager Greg Waters, brought out the new tableside cocktail cart. On our table were two spherical silver bowls of warm water. Greg went to each one, poured in some liquid nitrogen, and suddenly we were enveloped in clouds of thick, chilly fog! Greg explained how the nitrogen freezes the alcohol in the cocktails, crystallizing the flavors, making them extremely pure. Altogether that afternoon, we sampled four of these frosty creations, including the wonderfully tropical Banana Mango Margarita - Cuervo Especial Tequila, banana puree, mango syrup, and a touch of sour mix. There was also the Blow Pop - bubblegum vodka, green apple pucker schnapps, fresh lemon juice and green apple syrup - a bit too sweet for my palate, but a big hit with everyone else at the table!

At this point, Sugar Factory's new Executive Chef, Matthew Piekarski appeared with a selection from the Breakfast Menu, the Fruit Loop Panna Cotta - Fruit Loop infused milk, simmered with cream and sugar, then mixed with gelatin and allowed to cool. The result - a bit like a firm pudding, was set atop a house-made strawberry jam and garnished with actual Fruit Loops. This was a playful confection which brought back



one of the most popular dinner items, but Chef Piekarski has improved upon it by using lightly fried chicken fingers and adding a delicious bourbon maple syrup! Last was a tasty, crispy Cuban Sandwich made with savory roast pork, glazed ham, Swiss cheese, mustard, and pickles for a touch of acid, warmed in a sandwich press and served with a jardiniere salad. Highly recommended!

The Strawberry Blonde, my favorite of the nitrogen concoctions was the last to arrive - a decadent mixture of Marilyn Monroe Strawberry Vodka, Fragoli strawberry liqueur, Godiva White Chocolate liqueur, a touch of heavy cream, and strawberry puree. This was one of those deceptive drinks - one minute you're ordering one too many, the next you're singing "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to a complete stranger at the next table, so be careful!

Finally, desserts were as decadent as you might expect. We tried the Chocolate Mousse Bar - airy and smooth, topped with caramel popcorn and pop rocks, this would be a nice light choice with which to end a meal. There was also a Homemade Ice Cream Sandwich, with chocolate chip ice cream pressed between two blondies. An excellent selection was the Coconut "Tres Leches" Cake - a popular Cuban and South American dessert featuring coconut sponge cake soaked in three different types of milk - evaporated milk, condensed milk, and heavy cream. This one, topped with fresh whipped cream and toasted coconut, was moist and delicious, with just a touch of sweetness. Oh, and for good measure, they threw in a Black Forest Milkshake, too! All the creamy, chocolatey, cherry goodness of the best Black Forest Cake you've ever tried, in a shake that goes down way too easily.

childhood memories of cereal and milk, then turned it into something modern! Sweet, but not too sweet, it was a yummy and surprising first offering, which could also work very well as a dessert.

Next came samples from the Lunch Menu: A twist on a classic: Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwich - the tomato bisque was light and silky, garnished with micro-basil for a fresh herbal contrast, and the perfect complement to the grilled cheese panino, which featured a mix of Boursin, Muenster, and American cheeses. There was a Pulled Pork Slider topped with a pickle slice and a dab of slaw for crunch. Easily one of our favorites, the pork was flavorful, with just the right touch of fattiness. Lastly, the Buffalo Chicken Bites: creamy chicken croquettes with a blue cheese sauce, and a crispy outer coating with the tang and subtle heat of a traditional Buffalo wing!

Another nitro-libation arrived: a fabulous Pineapple Cosmo, made with a house-made, ultra-smooth pineapple infused vodka. This was a lovely take on a frozen Cosmopolitan, but without the harsh bite of lemon. To break up the sweetness of the drinks, we also sipped an excellent non-nitrogen Bloody Mary featuring vodka infused with cilantro, Serrano, Anaheim, and Jalapeño peppers; each flavor crisp and distinct - certainly one of the best I've tried.

Our Dinner sampler arrived: an excellent Jambalaya made with dirty rice, carrots, peas, Cajun spices, Andouille sausage, shrimp, and chicken. The flavors were authentic, not overly spicy, and very satisfying. We also sampled the Chicken and Waffles. Already on the current menu, it is

Originally opened in 2011, the Sugar Factory's dining space will undergo a few physical changes to go along with the new menu: new furniture, new floor-to-ceiling windows opening directly onto the sidewalk cafe on the famous Las Vegas Strip, and a newly re-branded name - The Sugar Factory Bar and Grill. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late night bites, they're always open, so from cutting-edge confections, to savory meals, or fabulous frozen drinks found in a billowing cloud of nitrogen fog, no matter what you're craving, the Sugar Factory will make your trip to Vegas much, much sweeter! ■





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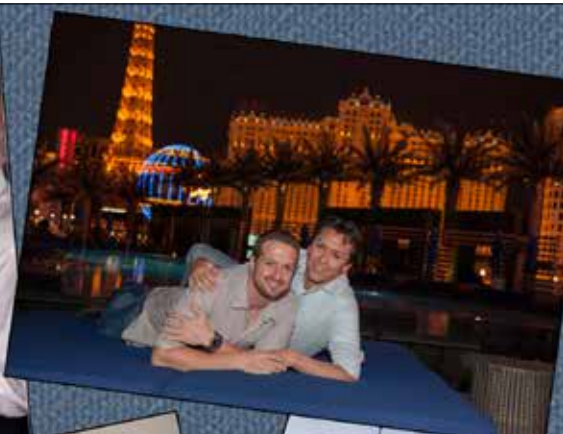
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NOVEMBER 2013 | THE HOLIDAY ISSUE



[by Noah Henderson]

Philadelphia celebrates 10 years of its award-winning Get Your History Straight and Your Nightlife Gay® campaign—one of the first US TV commercials for the LGBT travel market. Today, Philadelphia continues its effort to attract gay visitors. The Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation (GPTMC) invited QVegas to embark on a Philadelphia tour to experience some of early America's rich history, boutique dining, and its world-famous artist collections and attractions.

The tour began with my check-in to The Independence Hotel in the heart of the Gayborhood—an enclave for lively nightspots and excellent restaurants and a great getaway for foodies, intellectuals and creative types. Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus with support from the City of Philadelphia, Washington Square Civic Association and Philadelphia City Councilman Frank DiCicco championed a move to install 36 new street signs that are permanently affixed with the rainbow flag to designate the “Gayborhood.” Philadelphia joins a short-list of other North American cities that have erected permanent rainbow installations in gay-friendly districts including San Francisco, Chicago, Montreal, and Toronto, illustrating the city's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. The Gayborhood stretches from Chestnut to Pine streets between 11th and Broad streets.



From the hotel I could toss a penny to the nearest gay bar. I barely dropped my luggage before heading off to Woody's, a classic Philadelphia Gay Bar located on 13th street. This was my first night in the city and I knew I had a long day of tours so I turned in early this night.

The next morning I changed hotels, moving to the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia Center City. Just a block round the corner from the Gayborhood, the hotel sits on the Avenue of the Arts and was located just minutes from City Hall, the historic district, Walnut Street's Restaurant Row and more. I met up with the rest of the touring press and we headed to Barnes Foundation.

Albert Barnes established one of the world's most important collections of impressionist, post-impressionist and early modern paintings in 1922 in Merion. Today that collection includes some 181 Reniors, 69 Cézannes, 59 Matisse's, and 46 Picassos and is now housed in a 93,000-square-foot building that is four times the original Merion location but displays works in the eclectic manner that the late Mr. Barnes had intended, mixing iron work and paintings. The new Barnes Foundation museum was open within the Fairmount Park on the north side of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia in 2012.

The next stop, I met the group and we took off for the

Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building. Housing the Philadelphia Museum of Art's vast costume and textile collection, as well as modern designer and photographs. The most stunning features include a soaring sky-lit walkway, a glass-walled study gallery and a cathedral entrance. We took a behind the scenes look at an upcoming installation. The museum was pleased to announce that it had acquired work of renowned fashion designer Patrick Kelly from a museum in New York. I welcomed the opportunity to touch gowns that Grace Jones and many early top models wore in Kelly's shows in Paris. I must return to Philadelphia when the retrospective show opens. Consisting of about 80 full-accessorized ensembles dating from 1984 to 1990, it will examine how the American-born, Paris-based Patrick Kelly challenged radical and cultural boundaries in fashion.

Anchoring the Parkway, the third largest art museum in the country, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, houses 227,000 works spanning 2,000 years. Among the impressive holdings in Renaissance, American, impressionist and modern art: a Rogier van der Weyden altarpiece, a large Bathers by Cézanne, a room devoted to Philadelphia's own Thomas Eakins and Marcel Duchamp's mixed-media *Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors* (The

Large Glass). On display, making its only US stop was Léger: Modern Art and the Metropolis. the post-cubist masterpiece *The City* (1919), and it included pieces by other avant-garde artists of the period, such as Piet Mondrian, Alexandra Exter and Francis Picabia.

The most anticipated part of any trip for me is food. However, my impending doom—a visit to the haunted Eastern State Penitentiary—was a huge distraction to Jack's Firehouse crab cakes, baked chicken and mac and cheese. Set in a 19th-century firehouse—the fireman's pole still standing—Jack's has been serving American cuisine, along with impressive whiskey and scotch selections, for over 20 years. The Peach Tea cocktails I had gave me just enough liquid courage to actually leave my seat and head for the Eastern State Penitentiary.

Once the most famous prisons in the world, the massive Eastern State Penitentiary is open year-round for tours. During the Halloween season, *Terror Behind the Walls* opens to frighten even the most daring at night. Now daring is something that I am not. When I discovered this on the itinerary weeks ahead of this trip, I made a special request to pass. However for the sake of journalism I grew a pair and hopped in the back pocket of the nearest tour




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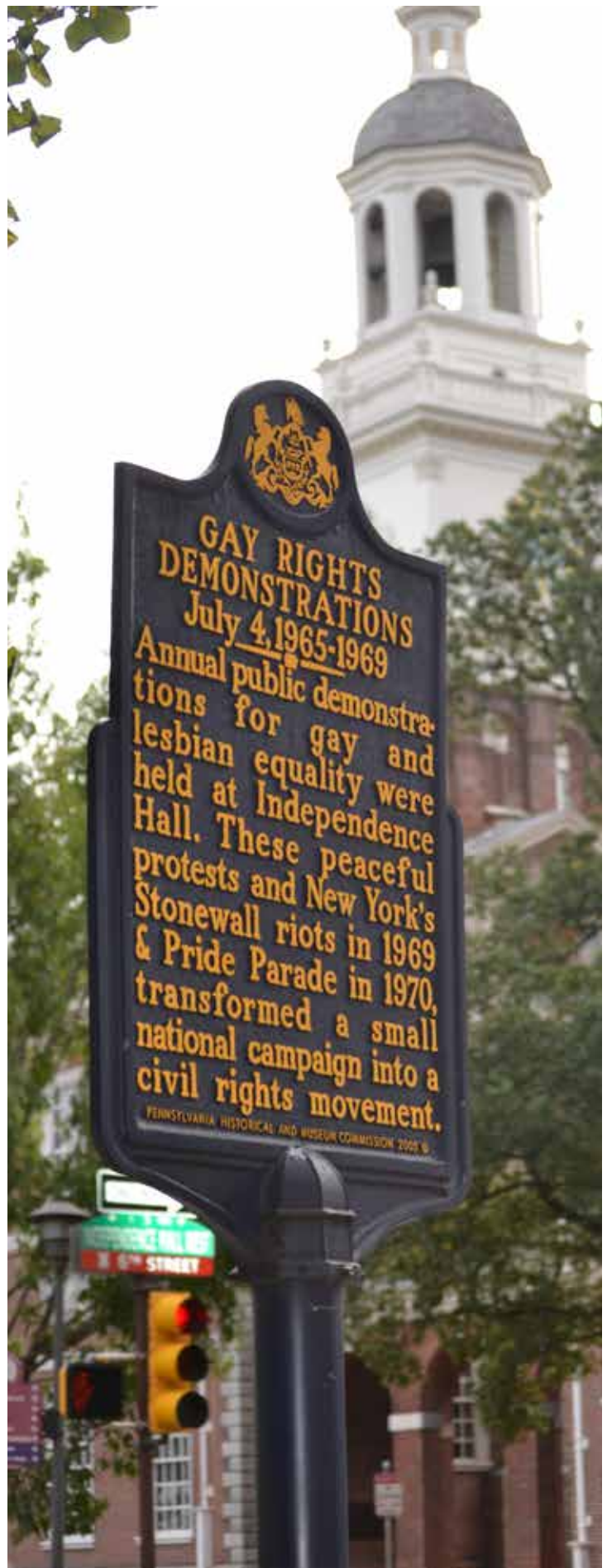
member, Phil from Toronto's Daily XTRA I believe. By accepting a bloody 'x' and red glowing tracking device, visitors welcomed a more intimate and chilling experience as these signaled to the zombies, ghouls and monsters that one was free to be touched and kidnapped on the tour. Of the six or seven of us present, all but two decided to indulge in the more intimate experience. By default this made my experience more intimate as well. I had some serious fun with my group traveling through six haunted attractions inside the cellblocks of the Eastern State Penitentiary. After the main tour we took a visit to the guard tower and Al Capone's cell.

The next morning we toured historic Philadelphia, the cradle of American democracy. Philadelphia was once the capital of our nation and a geographical center for the original 13 American colonies. Benjamin Franklin significantly influenced the layout of the city. The government shutdown made certain sites off limits to the public during our tour. Still, some of America's most sacred historic sites stood side-by-side of the hustle and bustle of the 21st century city. Old City is peppered with shops, cafes, restaurants and bars while Society Hill welcomes visitors to stroll its cobblestone streets and take in architecture of the centuries-old homes, churches, and landmarks. Horse drawn carriages lined the streets and a few actors in colonial wear could be spotted.

One of the last activities we enjoyed was taking a walk over to the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and an intimate view of Lisa Lampanelli's developmental production of her new one-woman show *Skinny Bitch: NOT A Stand-Up Comedy Show*. This very revealing show was a departure from her signature "Queen of Mean." Sharing the woman behind the comic, Ms. Lampanelli reveals her struggle with food, men and body image. I'd heard about her infamous shows, and I just prayed she would NOT pick on this black girl or the gays. Her first theatrical-production showed a new side of Lisa Lampanelli but it was real, relatable and funny.

After the show, the weather was just right to take a stroll around the Gayborhood. I stopped in for the 13th Street Gay Pizza Shop, U-Bar, iCandy Lounge and Tabu. Now a 2 PM last call was not what this Vegas girl was expecting but I was exhausted so turned in.

Last stop on this trip was Philadelphia Outfest, part of the National Coming Out Day Festival. This is the largest event of its kind in the world. From the producers of Philadelphia's PrideDay LGBT Parade and Festival, Philly Pride Presents this street festival for all ages. This largest festival takes over the Gayborhood and draws thousands to its food trucks, games, drag shows and other vendors selling eclectic wares. I took this opportunity to grab my third cheesesteak of the trip at Jim's on South street. This was the best way end my Gay Philadelphia experience. Philadelphia invites you to create your own experience and go to visitphilly.com for more information.



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TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AWARENESS DAY

10AM-7PM at The Center

The Wall of Remembrance, honoring victims of hate crimes, will be displayed at The Center.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

7PM at The Center

This annual event memorializes those who were lost due to anti-trans hatred or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to attend.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *Miss Major Griffin-Gracy*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

TRANSGENDER DAY OF EMPOWERMENT

11AM-3PM at The Center

Various workshops, a resource fair and other special activities bring empowerment to the trans community of Las Vegas.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *Miss Major Griffin-Gracy*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

TRANSGENDER DAY OF CELEBRATION

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STEVE GRAND

ALL-AMERICAN BOY

Not long ago, Steve Grand was a little-known singer-songwriter from a Chicago suburb. But that all changed in July, when his self-funded music video, “All-American Boy,” was posted to YouTube. The song – about unrequited love between two men – accumulated more than 2 million views and landed Steve on CNN, “Good Morning America” and other national media. Steve was hailed as an “overnight sensation” and one of America’s “first openly gay country stars.”

“It’s been a whirlwind! On July 2, my life changed. When I posted “All-American Boy” to YouTube, I knew I was making myself vulnerable, telling my story to the world. But I never could have guessed how many people would be so touched by it! I wake up every day feeling grateful to my fans. Now I’m focused on turning

“It’s been a whirlwind! On July 2, my life changed. When I posted “All-American Boy” to YouTube, I knew I was making myself vulnerable...”

all of this into something lasting for the thousands of people who have reached

out to me.” Grand recounts his rise to popularity with a humility he extends to his role as an emerging gay icon.

“I’m certainly not the first. I am in awe of the trailblazers who came before me.” And that same unpretentious nature lends itself to Grand’s views on music. “I never labeled myself country. But if some people hear that in my music, that’s great. I’m not sure I fit into any one box. I just want my music to touch people. If it does, I’m happy.”

Grand salutes the fans who’ve found that happiness, been touched by his music, and made him a viral sensation, saying, “Thank you for changing my life and giving me a sense of purpose. You are what I think about when I wake up each morning and go to work writing music. The best part of all of this has been the people who walk up to me and say, “I’m from a small town. Thanks for telling my story. Thanks for giving me a voice.”

The voice and style Grand uses to inspire his fans were born from a lifetime of enjoying music. Many influences exemplify the drive that musicians find. “My dad was the first person to inspire me to play music. Many of my musical inspirations align with his: The Beatles, the

Stones, Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, Bruce Springsteen, Elton John, Billy Joel. Later on, I began listening to music my parents didn’t quite understand: Blink-182, Green Day, Taking Back Sunday, Brand New and Fall Out Boy. But it was Dad who got me started. He would listen to a song and tell stories about what each song meant to him: where he was in life, who he was dating, what car he was driving. He made me realize the lasting power of music -- how a great song can take you back to the moment you first heard it. From that point on, I knew that’s what I wanted to do in life, create something so real and beautiful that it stays with its listener forever.”

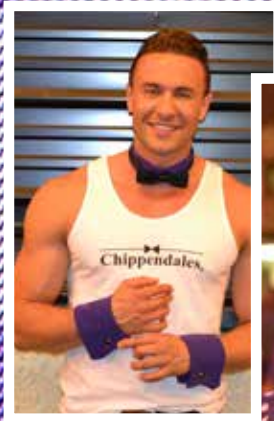
And, when explaining his first musical influence, Grand shows that the will to play and perform can come from some unlikely models: “Charlie Brown’s Schroeder! I think I was 4 or 5 years old, and I was just fascinated by the sounds he would create sitting at that little piano. I became obsessed with every aspect of the piano -- sonically and visually. I began making models of pianos of all different sizes, with cardboard and glue and crayon. My parents finally got the hint and bought us a little used upright piano from the Penny Saver!”

With one single shining online, and the recent release of a second titled, “Stay,” Grand is bringing his musical themes of love had and lost, lust, friendship, the trials and tribulations of growing up, the struggles of self-acceptance, being accepted by our parents for who we are, and, of course, unrequited love, to masses of already adoring fans as well as new ones forthcoming. And through it all he’s maintained a heartened outlook. “I’m taking it one day at a time. I want to release an EP in the future. So for now I’m just going to keep writing, recording and getting better. I feel a sense of purpose to honor the relationship and trust I’ve built with fans. Whenever I’m making a decision about my career, my fans are always at the forefront of my mind.” ■

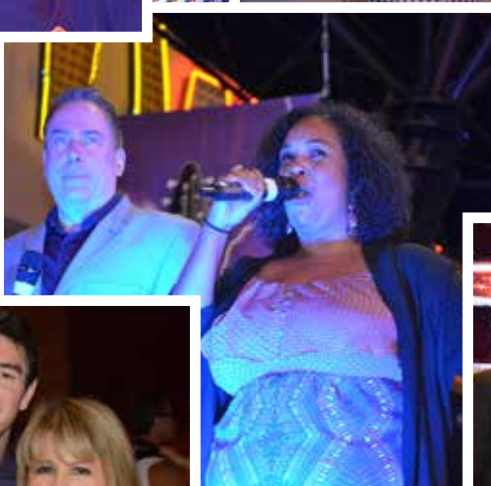
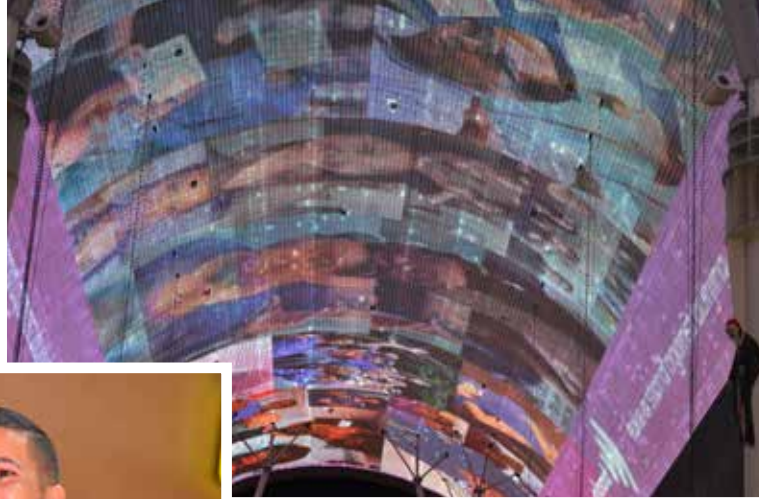
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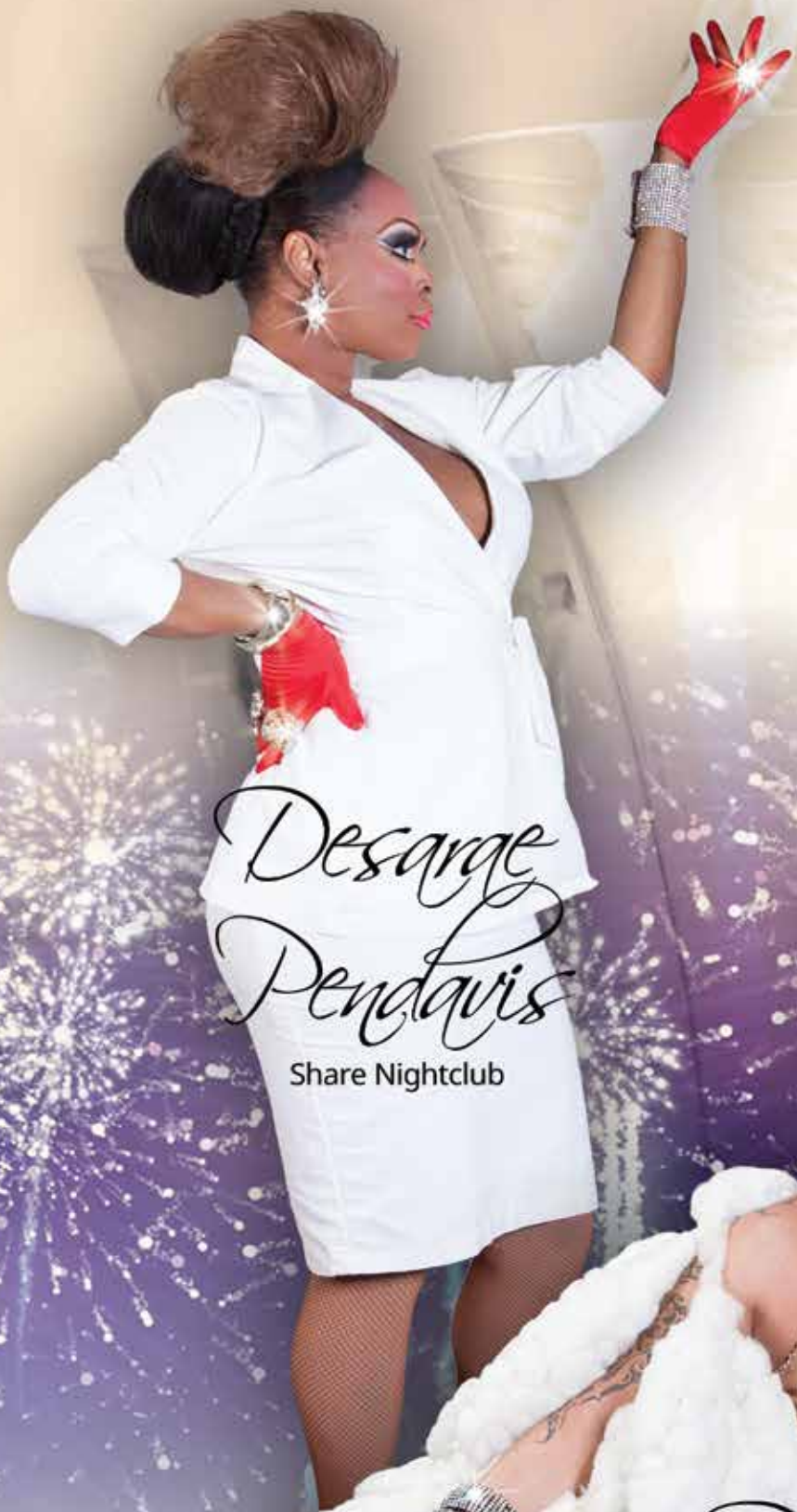
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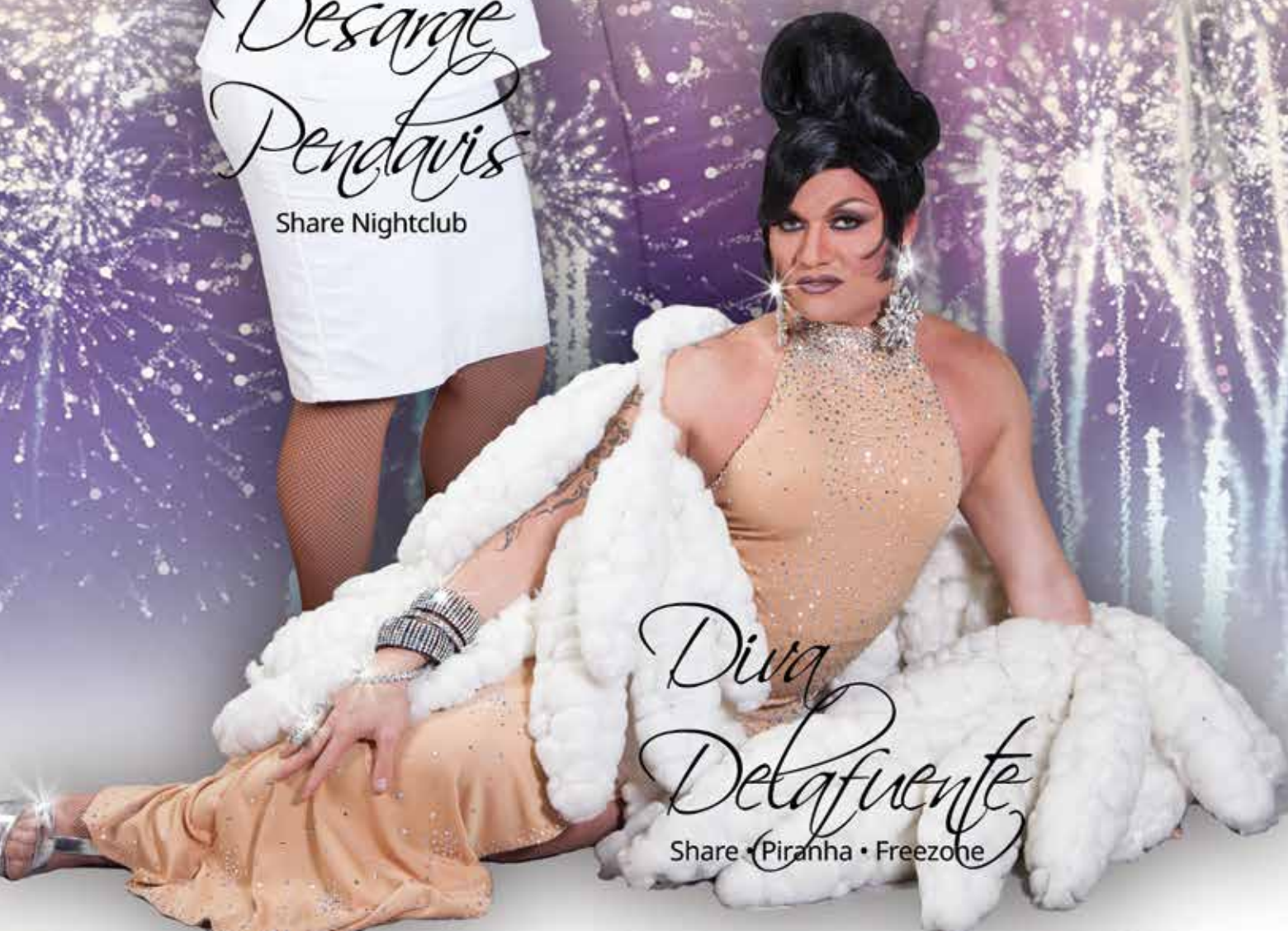
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KRISTIN CHENOWETH

[by Randy Slovacek]

Will Ring in the New Year at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts

For world-class musical fireworks before the stroke of midnight this New Years Eve, audiences in Las Vegas have the chance to enjoy Tony® and Emmy® Award-Winning actress Kristin Chenoweth as she rings in 2014 with her debut performance at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

“I am so delighted to celebrate the New Year with a performance at The Smith Center,” said Chenoweth. “What better place for a New Year’s Eve party than Las Vegas!”

“I can’t believe I finally get to come back to Vegas,” says Chenoweth, who is appearing at The Smith Center for the first time. Even though she’s performed in Las Vegas before, she’s a definite fan of the city itself, and plans to have a little fun of her own while she’s in town.

“I love to be in that town so I would imagine there’ll be everything to do: eating, shopping, blackjack,” she admits. “I plan on enjoying myself. And there is no better way to ring in the new year than in Vegas. I have family and friends coming in for this event.”

Fans can look forward to songs from her Broadway musicals *Promises, Promises*; *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *Wicked*, where she originated the role of “Glinda the Good Witch,” as well as music from her appearances on the hit TV show *Glee* and her four studio CDs.

No stranger to the world’s best concert stages, Chenoweth has a few surprises in store as well.

In an interview with USA Today, Chenoweth shared, “My director and I, Jay Alexander, will fashion a show just for Vegas. I will, of course, do songs I’m known for by my fans, but also newer material that I just started singing,” she revealed. “Opera, musical theater and country pop will all be well represented. I will be doing a show with background singers, actors and dancers with a small orchestra. There of course is dancing! What is New Years without that!”

The choice of Chenoweth as a New Years Eve entertainment option sits right in the sweet spot for the Las Vegas LGBT community. What could be better – a first class evening with a true Broadway & TV star with tons of talent and charisma who’s also a longtime LGBT ally?

For some, the 4'11" powerhouse may seem like a study in contradiction: a devout Christian who believes fervently in the equal rights of gays and lesbians. "I read my Bible and I pray and all of that. I really do," she told the Advocate in 2011. "But at the same time, I don't think being gay is a sin. Period. I don't judge you for your opinions, so please don't judge me for mine. I'm not out to tell people they're wrong. I'm just here to say what I believe."

This past Valentine's Day, Chenoweth tweeted "My Valentines Day wish? That all the gays can get married if they want! Because I have that right. They should too!"

And in March of this year, Chenoweth spoke at length with Gay Star News regarding her support for marriage equality: "Well I just want it to hurry up and not be an issue anymore! I'm very proud of the work that has been done so far; I want us to hurry it up a bit more. I speak as a Christian person, and as a woman and as an artist. I would love nothing more for my friends who love each other to get married."

"I guess I just don't understand why we're still having this conversation. It's the biggest equal rights issue – at least in our country since the 50s. I'm hopeful that in my lifetime it'll just be a faint memory."

And then there's the Newsweek episode.

In 2010, writer Ramin Setoodeh penned an online article for Newsweek saying "Will & Grace" star Sean Hayes (Chenoweth's co-star in the Broadway revival of *Promises, Promises*) came across as "wooden and insincere, like he's trying to hide something, which of course he is." The writer's broader point of the article, titled "Straight Jacket," insinuated that Hayes' public openness about being gay made it difficult for audiences to find his performance believable.

Upset by Setoodeh's article, Chenoweth wrote an open letter to the magazine defending not only her co-star but the LGBT community.

"I was shocked on many levels to see Newsweek publishing Ramin

Setoodeh's horrendously homophobic 'Straight Jacket,' which argues that gay actors are simply unfit to play straight," she wrote to Newsweek.

"I know how much it means to young people struggling with their sexuality to see out & proud actors like Sean Hayes, Jonathan Groff, Neil Patrick Harris and Cynthia Nixon succeeding in their work without having to keep their sexuality a secret," she noted.

Chenoweth has also demonstrated her support for LGBT equality by taking part in the National Equality March in October 2009, as well as supporting Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and GLSEN. In addition, she has been honored with the 2008 Point Courage Award, and the 2011 Vanguard Award from GLAAD, which is presented to media professionals who have increased the visibility and understanding of the LGBT community.

Don't miss consummate artist AND ally Kristin Chenoweth at 7:30 PM on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Tickets available at The Smith Center Box Office, located at 361 Symphony Park Avenue, by phone at 702-749-2000 or 808-326-6868 (TTY) and online at thesmithcenter.com. ■



Randy Slovacek is the author of The Randy Report, covering entertainment and political news of interest to the LGBT community. You can follow him online at www.therandyreport.com.



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LGBT Teen Homeless Population Continues To Grow

[by Cristina Di Gioia]

The reality of life on the streets for homeless LGBT teens can be unimaginably horrible: not knowing where they will sleep, if they will eat, and what tomorrow will bring, all while living in constant fear of violence.

When these teens came out to their families, 26 percent report being kicked out of their homes, and up to 50 percent reported a negative reaction. The homeless LGBT population has continued to grow, and is an issue that must be addressed immediately.

The majority of homeless LGBT youth have been sexually victimized, and are more than twice as likely to attempt suicide (62% vs. 29%), according to a collaborative study by The Palette Fund, True Colors Fund, and the Williams Institute. The prospect of getting help can be frightening, as many face discrimination by other residents at shelters. Furthermore, they fear, and rightly so, that many councilors will be unprepared to offer the emotional support necessary to overcome

additional challenges of familial rejection. LGBT youth report they are threatened, belittled and abused at shelters by staff as well as other residents (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force). Homeless LGBT youth are without economic support and often engage in drug use and risky sexual behaviors (Cochran, Stewart, Ginzler, & Cauce et al., 2002). Many often engage in prostitution for a warm place to sleep or enough money to eat. As terrible as life on the streets can be, it is often an improvement over the family situation these young people fled.

The experience of being homeless is one no young person should have to endure. Furthermore, being homeless and LGBT presents additional often-overlooked difficulties. "There are a number of extra challenges facing the homeless

LGBTQ community," Alysson Michelle Love says. As the Vocational Services Director at Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, Love personally witnesses and helps teens overcome these challenges on a daily basis. She goes on to explain that these additional challenges are felt most strongly by the transgender community. They face discrimination by potential employers, making getting a job a major problem. Male-to-female transgender teens often face discrimination of shelter access. They are denied access to women-only shelters, but face potential violence against them staying with the men in other shelters. "We are trying to help them to prevent chronic homelessness, but we are not able to provide them with the options that other homeless youth face," Love adds.

Nevada has one of the highest homeless youth populations in the United States, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness. Of the estimated 1.6 million homeless American youth, up to 42 percent identify as lesbian or gay, and a disproportionate number identify as bisexual or transgender, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In Clark County, the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth has estimated that a smaller portion, 15 percent, of homeless youth identify as LGBT.

Fortunately, Las Vegas has a range of service offerings to serve these youths (see sidebar for contact information). It has a variety of shelters that cater to all age groups, sexual orientations, and gender identities. Many of them offer other support services that are greatly needed. For example, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth offers such services as counseling, substance abuse treatment programs, family mediation, and assistance with travel to reunite with other family members. Street Teens offers educational, healthcare, and employment resource services. The Center offers support groups and educational programs for all issues surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity support. It also provides free internet access and a safe environment to socialize and work on homework.

The effects of family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity are devastating. Most young people who find themselves on the streets ran away from their homes to escape it. Sadly, nearly as many are forced out of their homes by their parents because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Nearly a third of these teens faced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse at home before leaving. Many others simply leave because of financial or emotional neglect by their families.

Another often overlooked cause of homelessness in teens is aging out of the foster care system. Most of these children do not have a savings or means of supporting themselves when they lose the support of their foster parents at age 18. As a result, a great many of them (12 to 36 percent, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness) begin sleeping on

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The Prettyboy Empire, Homes For LGBTQ Youth Project

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Westcare (12 & over)

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couches and eventually sleeping in shelters and on the streets.

The LGBT community has made great strides over the last several years. In this age of victories battles for the LGBT community, the war is far from over. The homelessness faced by LGBT youth requires our attention and energy. For these youths, the transition back to society can seem all but impossible. While trying to cope with the issue of homelessness, they are also often wrestling with the rejection and abuse they experienced as a result of their identity. At the same time, they are denied many services offered to other homeless youth. "People need to become more aware of the issue of LGBT teen homelessness and more sympathetic," Love says. "All homeless youth face challenges, but LGBTQ youth experience even more. We need to become more cognizant of it to change it." ■



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GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS & UPDATES

QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE RENAMED TO ALIGN WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

In October, the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada today announced its new name and a new branding campaign to closer align itself with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Formerly QVegas Business Alliance, GLCCNV's board of directors approved the name change as part of a new branding strategy in preparation for next summer's National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Business and Leadership Conference to be held at Caesars Palace. GLCCNV will be the host city Chamber of Commerce for the 11th annual conference.

As the local affiliate for NGLCC, GLCCNV provides the gateway for Nevada-based, LGBT-owned businesses to become certified through the NGLCC Supplier Diversity Initiative. "We send our sincere congratulations to the QVegas Business Alliance on their name change to the Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada. Stepping up to the plate to advocate for all of Nevada's LGBT-owned and allied businesses is a major step and as our official Nevada affiliate, we look forward to working with GLCCNV to provide value to each

and every one of their current and future members," said Justin Nelson, President and Co-Founder of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

"Networking engagement is only the beginning of what GLCCNV provides," says Russ White, founder and president of the organization and owner of QVegas Magazine. White adds, "We're becoming a voice within the Las Vegas business community. Our support spans commercial and municipal sectors, and we participate in economic and development opportunities throughout the region. Bringing our relationship with NGLCC to the region enables LGBT business owners to participate in corporate supplier diversity programs in Nevada and throughout the country."

Dina Proto, GLCCNV board member and co-owner of

Teazled Greeting Cards, certified her business through NGLCC's Supplier Diversity Initiative and knows first-hand the benefits of certification. "Becoming certified and engaging with NGLCC corporate partners provided our business with the resources we needed to become a successful enterprise. We can attribute the recent success of our business to our certification and the relationships we've built because of the local Chamber and our relationship with NGLCC."

Based in Las Vegas, the Chamber had previously served the local metropolitan area, but the new name also changes the scope of the organization and will be reaching out to communities across the Silver State. GLCCNV's mission is to advocate, promote and facilitate the success of LGBT and ally businesses in the Las Vegas region and the State of Nevada.



As the Statewide affiliate for the NGLCC, The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada will be the host Chamber of Commerce next Summer for the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Business & Leadership Conference. Joining GLCCNV today.



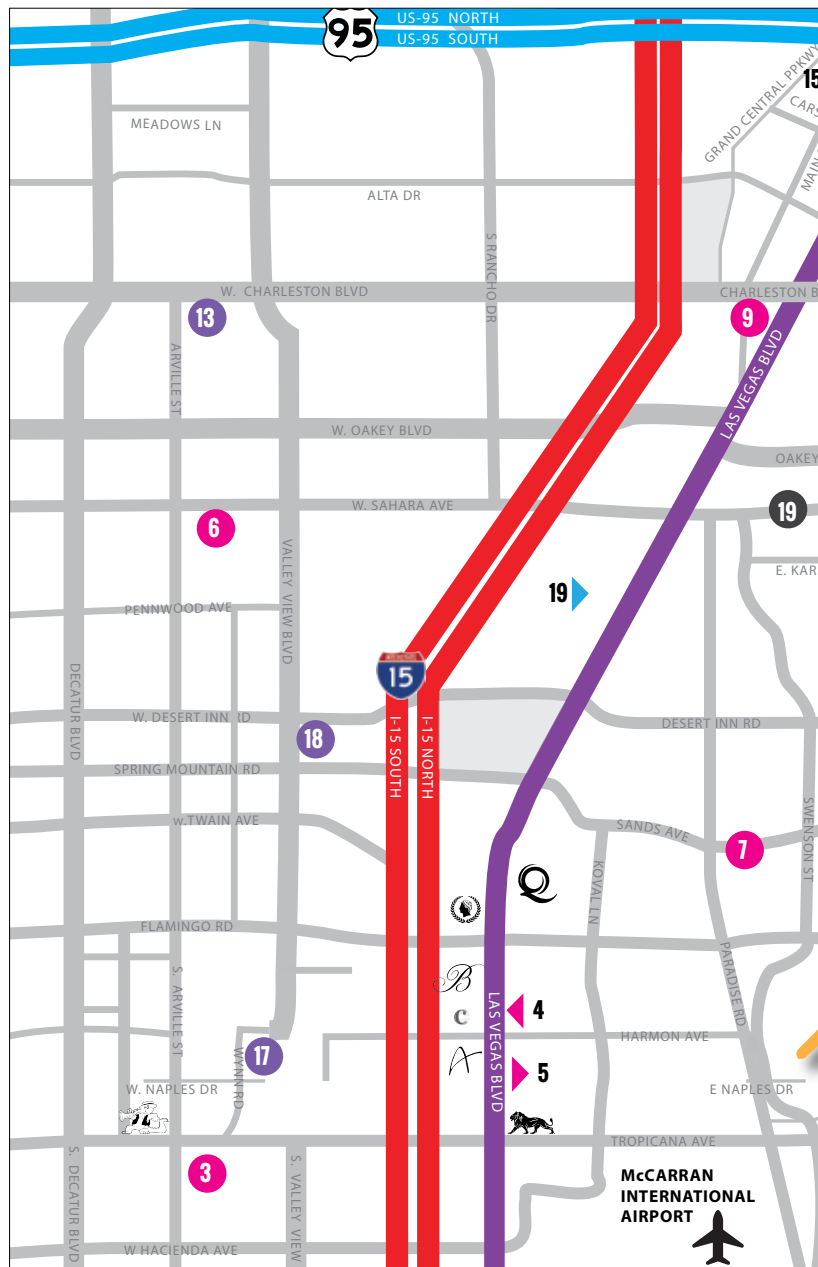
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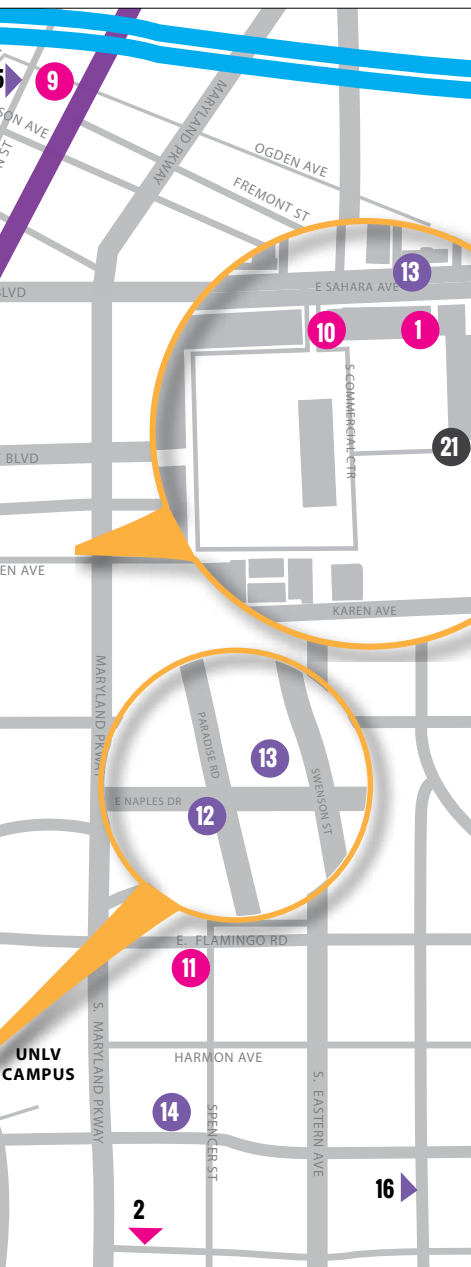
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SCORPIO October 23 - November 21

What you want is clearly in your grasp this month, Scorpio. But first, you must clear all other distractions to persist in what you treasure most. Don't deplete your energies by choosing your battles well this month. Focus your energy only on what you value most to make your dreams come true.



SAGITTARIUS November 22 - December 21

You chose everything you are, in order to gain deeper compassion towards those you too, don't understand. Your life and choices are as precious as any on this planet. Hold your head high this month, Sagittarius and pull the trigger on your new way of alignment with your soul. What and who you fear you will lose is later replaced by a deeper and authentic happiness.



LEO July 23 - August 22

Events of this month will dry the tears and disappointments of yesterday. Be prepared for people, places, and experiences that challenge your outmoded beliefs about you, the outside world, and your future. Put aside your long held fears of your emotional self. Tears of grief wash away long-held thought patterns that no longer serve your soul. Feel the beauty of all life this month. Look around, it all is alive and is only awaiting your engagement.



VIRGO August 23 - September 22

Prepare for a true metaphysical awakening this month, Virgo. Your ability to mine the invisible world for answers to what you seek most becomes clearer this month. Understand by design, your goals will always be derailed by fear and logic of the mind and ego. However, a renewed focus on simple gut feelings brings about a deeper awareness of soul's messages and those of your Spirit Guides. Quiet the mind and simply follow your feelings.



ARIES March 21 - April 19

Unknown experiences that will happen this month will make you wiser. Therefore in your own self-interest, delay making any important decisions. Also, avoid any making any major agreements, whether oral or in writing until this month passes to benefit your future. Intuition will draw you into knowing when new wisdom has arrived and the time is right to decide all important matters.



TAURUS April 20 - May 20

An unexpected twist of fate is going to give you the opportunity to improve your financial situation this month, Taurus. Be prepared for what you don't expect, be generous in heart to those around you to enable a long-held desire to be fulfilled. Your spirit is called to the energy of gratitude this month. Gratitude is an energy form that you yourself create to attract what you seek and deserve. Practice gratitude this month to draw in your reward.



GEMINI May 21 - June 20

A time to withdraw from others has come to gain a deeper sense of self this month, Gemini. Emotional distance begins with physical distance in order to untangle yourself from the perceptions of the outside world that hold you back. As your ego fears lack of support or forced isolation, your soul's brief sabbatical bring gains of unsurpassed value. You will need to step outside your usual circle of friends and family this month to reassess and ignite your future.



CANCER June 21 - July 22

A person of unique personality and charm, whom you do not know at present, will become prominent and influential in your life. The magic and charm may be magnetic however, never lose yourself in another. This person too has unresolved inner conflicts leading them to falsely project a nurturing of others while in actuality, they seek to dominate.



LIBRA September 23 - October 22

An unexpected adventure to excite and please, awaits you this month, Libra. Take greater risks into the unknown while feeling and trusting the invisible forces at work. All experiences gained this month will call you to recount many times thereafter with great pleasure in the future what you chose this month. Enjoy knowing that life is meant for living!



CAPRICORN December 22 - January 19

Like a magnet, you will be drawn to one who will awaken your romantic emotions this month, Capricorn. Be aware that true soul mates are true enablers of each other where jealousy and fear are absent. Seek easy going feelings while becoming aware of past circumstances that trigger outdated emotions that do not suit this new romantic partnership. If you seek a good relationship, become self-aware and know that the outside world is only a mirror to what issues remain unresolved within you today.



AQUARIUS January 20 - February 18

Be aware of the risk of gambling all that you value this month, Aquarius. In money, a gambler always believes he knows the result before the race or roll of the dice. "Betting to win" often changes to "playing with the house's money," only later to become "gambling to catch up." In relationships, firmly place your bet only on the one who has long supported you and your dreams. In relationships, know that a king or queen of hearts is always your best bet.



PISCES February 19 - March 20

Your generosity of spirit in mentoring of others is rewarded by the Spirit-World this month, Pisces. Since you have given unconditionally to those around you, a patron offers you financial and/or emotional capital in return for your good deeds this month. Be open, not surprised at the good fortune brought by a sincere source. Be pleased, you deserve it.

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last word!

[by Jamie Sprague]

Remembering Our Dead: The Transgender Day of Remembrance



The Transgender Day of Remembrance was started following the murder of Rita Hester on November 28, 1998, through the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candle light vigil in 1999. Like many Transgender Murder cases; Rita Hester's case remains unsolved.

We have kept the names of those killed in hate crimes, by back tracking to the year 1970 until present day. This is now held each year nationally on or around November 20, depending on the individuals who coordinate the event in their area.

I became involved with the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 2003, after I had started to transition in July 2003. I heard that UNLV had a group of people who were going to hold the event on the evening of November 20. My partner David and I attended the event, which was held outside on the plaza of the campus. It was a cold, rainy and windy evening; including Dave and myself, there were about eight other individuals gathered. As we read through the names of the victims killed during that year, I was struck with an inner voice that said I would become the voice of these people.

After three years had passed, and not hearing anyone else hosting the event each year, I took the initiative in November 2007 to start hosting the event at Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas. The event was hosted for five years at MCC, then the past two years at UNLV. We have been averaging about 100 people in attendance for the vigil. Each year local churches and organizations have helped me sponsor the event. Wilfred Moore and Latoya Holman of HRC have been involved for the past four years, helping with printing, refreshments, and advisory planning.

For myself, as I cannot speak for the whole community, but I would think some would agree; it is important to remember those in our community here and abroad who have been victims of hate crimes. It is important in such a way to remember them, because without them, we would not be here today

as we continue to fight for justice and equality. Each one of our victims was killed due to their commitment and willingness to stand up against adversity to be themselves. Through their deaths, we are given voices to be heard, as we fight for their justice, as they dwell in our hearts and spirits, as we continue to march and fight for the justice and equality of all individuals, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religious affiliation, etc. By remembering the victims, we restore their dignity, which is most often stripped away from them, while they were suffering in their deaths, and many of their murders go unresolved.

This year The Center along with Gender Justice Nevada and Mary Magdalene Friends- my church in which I am a Student Pastor-are playing key roles in expanding the event into a five day Trans Pride Week, which will include the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil on Friday November 22, 2013 at 7 PM. This is a vision I have had for a couple of years as I wanted more for our local community. At a sit-down meeting with Jane Heenan and others from Gender Justice Nevada and Mel Goodwin from The Center along with Derek Washington from GetEQUAL Nevada; I had the opportunity to share the idea, and I was elated as each member embraced the total concept. Right now a core group of us are meeting on Friday evenings to plan out different segments of the event. It is wonderful to see the Trans community along with our allies come together to help bring positive awareness into our community.

This year will be the first year that I will have an out of state keynote speaker come to Las Vegas for the event. Miss Major Griffin-Gracy; who is one of the last surviving activist from the 1969 Stonewall Riots will be coming in for our event to speak on Friday evening at the vigil and Saturday at the Day of Empowerment. This would not have been possible without the support of The Center. ■



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