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Editor's Note

Last month was an incredible and historical month in LGBT history. The number of states that allow same-sex marriages rose to 32. Nevada finally joined the party and despite some back and forth on the logistics, over 250 same-sex couples were married in one week!



November is usually our Holiday Issue but we had to grab the opportunity to cover Marriage Equality in a big way. Be sure to check out my Wedding Registry/Gift Guide as well as Quick Pics of some of the first couples wed in Las Vegas. Greg Chase, officiant of the mass wedding ceremony, held at the Las Vegas PRIDE National Coming Out Day Festival, shares what it was like to perform the large wedding with seven couples. Attorney Marek Bute closes this issue with The Last Word, sharing his experience hearing the news of ruling in Nevada.

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Janise "Noah" Henderson
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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]

32 down 18 to Go

Since October, 32 of the 50 states in the US of A, have legalized marriage between same sex couples. Due largely to the rulings of the ban of same sex marriage being unconstitutional made at the beginning of October of this year. Although this is a HUGE step forward, 12 of the 18 remaining states still ban same sex marriages. The other 6 have legislation pending. So Yay for this massive progress and hopefully we will soon be a COUNTRY that gives equal rights to all.

NV Wins the Freedom to Marry

In the 7 days after the ban on same sex marriage was lifted in Nevada 255 marriage licenses were issued to same sex couples. Same sex couples across the state are coming in force to take advantage of a right so long denied. Personally I know more than one LGBT couple planning trips down the aisle now that they have the right and opportunity to wed. Las Vegas wedding chapels have geared up for the increase of weddings in the near future. Hailed as the Wedding Capital,

time will tell what affect this new law will have on Nevada's wedding economy.

Making a Family

After the defeat of marriage bans across the nation, it seems that the pathway for the LGBT community to start families has just gotten a little easier. This seems especially true in the state of Virginia. Gov. Terry McAuliffe issued an executive order to state agencies informing them to comply the lifting of the same sex ban on marriage. He also extended the adoption rights to married same sex couples. Which means that same sex couples will have the same rights as heterosexual couples as far adopting and fostering children. These couples will now also have the option of step adoption in which case one partner can adopt the others child or children. So far 28 other states either allow same



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dt-hell-hillz-002-dis

sex couples to adopt or have no bans on adoption by same sex couple and or individuals, which is great. Hopefully these fabulous developments and victories will continue so that more children have opportunities to have loving homes and Same sex couples will have chances to have their own families.

Buried Love

Now it appears that the love of all couples will be honored even in death. In Idaho this month the states veterans cemetery will now bury same sex married couples to be buried together. This decision couldn't have come at a better time for 74-year-old Veteran Madelynn Taylor whose late wife Jean Mixner died in 2012. The

pair met in 1995 on a blind date and was married in California in 2008. Now almost 20 years these to brave vets will be able to rest in peace together. Which is how lovers in life should be in death.

Hello Mr. President

President Obama has shown on more than one occasion that he is a president of the people. Here he is again. In 2008, he legalized gay marriage before it was shot down in the Senate. Now in 2014 he has again spoken on behave of the LGBT community. After the defeat of the same sex ban across the nation, Mr. President is quoted with saying that "marriage is a constitutional right of all Americans regardless of sexual orientation." It seems

that the USA has progressed a lot as a nation and we are blessed to include our president in that progress.

Lance is getting married.

It seems that 2014 will not only be an important year for the LGBT community but for Lance Bass as well. The former N'Sync member has set a wedding date of December 20, 2014 for his wedding to partner Michael Turchin. The couple has been together 2 ½ years and became engaged in September of 2013. Bass reportedly purposed twice to Turchin, the second time was on the 1-year anniversary of the 1st one. We are happy for this beautiful couple and wish them a long happy union.

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Sorry Mr. Sam

Michael Sam was released from the Dallas Cowboys last month. Sam is the first openly gay player to be drafted by an NFL team. Although highly praised for being a hard working player by both the Cowboys coach Garrett and defensive coordinator Marinelli, Sam was said to have been a causality of the numbers game. Since there are already 10 defensive linemen and 2 on the practice squad it appears that Michael's services were not required.



States still blocking marriage

Three states are still refusing to allow same sex

couples to get married. Officials in Kansas, Montana, and South Carolina are refusing to allow same sex couples to obtain marriage licenses without court orders. This coming after federal appeals courts of these states declared the ban on same sex marriage unconstitutional. A federal hearing was to be held on Friday October 24. Only time will tell if these three states will say yes to equality.

Serving a Higher Court

Magistrate Judge Gilbert Breedlove resigned this week, after nearly 24 years on the bench, to avoid having to preform same sex marriages. The North Carolina judge, who is also and ordained minister, cited his religious belief as cause for his resignation. Although Breedlove's main source



of income was from being a judge, He does not seem concerned. He believes that His God will provide because he is in his service. Time will tell if Judge Breedlove's faith is properly placed.

Kissing Drop

A gay couple in London was kicked off of a bus this past month for kissing. The bus driver witnesses the couple exchange a peck on the lips and began verbally abusing and cursing at them. After finishing his tirade the driver told the couple to get off of the bus. The Transport Department assured the couple that the incident was being investigated. The further went on to state that they by no means tolerate discrimination.



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Weddings Stalled out by Elvis

After the October 7 ruling that proclaimed that bans on same sex marriage was unconstitutional thus making same sex unions legal in Nevada, Two wedding chapels, which offer Elvis themed weddings, are turning same sex couples away. A Elvis Chapel in Las Vegas said it would NOT marry same sex couples citing

their biblical beliefs as reason for this decision. Dolly de Leon who owns Vegas Wed Chapel has also declined to do same sex unions. Saying that her faith will not allow her to go against her Christian teachings. Since Las Vegas Chapels are considered money making businesses not religious institutions, these chapels could face misdemeanor charges for discrimination.

Gremlin

Republican Anthony Culler released a video on Facebook this week in which he referred to same sex couples as Gremlins who were going to destroy his way of life. He further went on to refer to homosexuals as destructive creatures. Culler further went on to encourage others to preserve "OUR" way of life by NOT allowing



same
sex

1 STEP BACK

marriage. He was running as the Republican candidate for congress in South Carolina. After the release of the video the South Carolina Republican Party denounced Culler's statements saying, "most people learn in kindergarten not to call other people names."

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



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30						



NOVEMBER 2

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LIPSHTICK

Vegas' first all-female comedy series continues this month at The Venetian with headliners Wendy Williams, Roseanne Barr, Fortune Feimster, and Iliza Shlesinger, Fortune Feimster, and Loni Love. Get special **Dinner and a Show for 2 Packages** for only \$100

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NOVEMBER 16

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NOVEMBER 19

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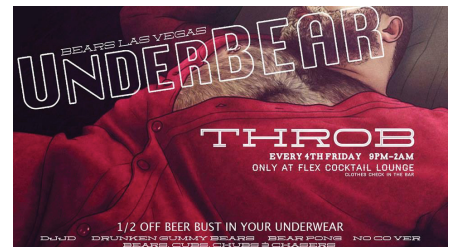
thecenterlv.org/events/careerfair



NOVEMBER 20-23

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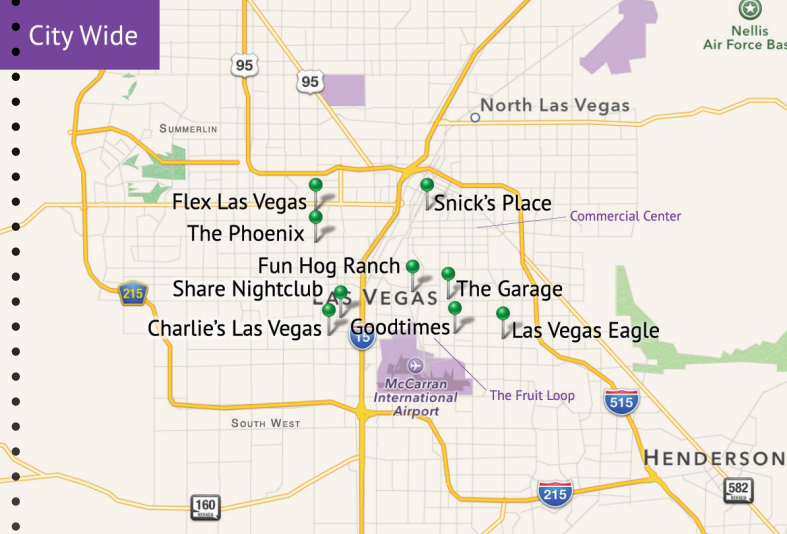


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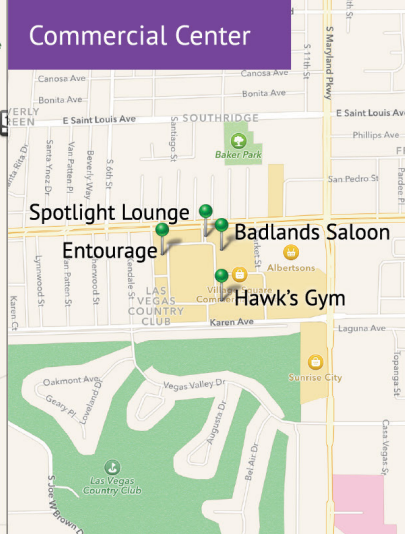
Strip down and drink up! All you can drink BEER BUST is from 9pm-2am. Men in their underwear enjoy half off beer bust!!! Bear Pong hosted by the Las Vegas Lightning Gay Softball Team.



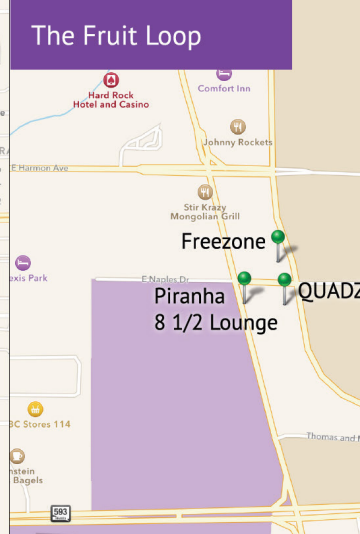
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Saturdays

Day

- Weekly Pool Tournament at The Phoenix

Night

- ✓ Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
- Equalibrium
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin City Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog (3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball Social at Sunset Park

Fridays

Day

- 2-for-1 drinks at Goodtimes

Night

- ✓ Stripped Circus at Share Nightclub
- Phired Up Fridays at The Phoenix
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Fabulously Funny Fridays with Jimmy Emerson at Badlands Saloon

Thursdays

Evening

- 3rd Thursday

Night

- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
- Line Dancing Lessons at Charlie's Las Vegas
- Volleyball Social @ Sunset Park
- Liaison Nightclub

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Day

- Happy Hour 11am-7pm at The Garage

Evening

- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park

Night

- ✓ Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
- Hot Mess Mondays at Piranha
- Marquee Monday Industry Night
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Sing-Along Musical Mondays at Charlie's Las Vegas

Day

- \$2 drinks at Fun Hog Ranch
- 2-for-1 drinks at Quadz

Night

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

Night

- PRIDE Family Bingo (1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at Charlie's
- Party Drag at FreeZone
- Wicked Wednesday Ladies Night at The Phoenix
- Boylesque Wednesdays with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- Industry Night at LIGHT Nightclub

Sundays

Brunch

- DW Bistro
- John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group

Evening

- Line Dancing Lessons at Charlie's
- Broadway Open Mic Night at Onyx

Nightlife

- ✓ REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel
- Get on the Guest List gay.vegas/revosundays
- Ladies Night at Freezone

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The Lipshtick™ Lesbian

[by Russ White]

Fortune Feimster returns to Las Vegas this month as part of *Lipshtick*, the first all-female comedy series in Vegas. Joining other household names in the series like Joy Behar, Wendy Williams, Roseanne Barr, and Whitney Cummings, Fortune makes her debut at The Venetian

Arriving in Los Angeles 11 years ago, Feimster struggled to be noticed in the comedy circuit. Even after finishing “Last Comic Standing” as a semi-finalist and two auditions for SNL, it wasn’t until appearances on *Chelsea Lately* that Fortune had her career breakout.

Feimster joined the writing team for “*Chelsea Lately*” and the cast for “*After Lately*.” *Chelsea Handler*’s strong gay following embraced this new, openly gay

comedienne. She was on her way to making her dreams of acting and writing a show come true.

We caught up with Fortune ahead of her Vegas performance to find out a little more about this *Lipshtick* lesbian.

QVEGAS: Who did you look up to as an out comic?

FORTUNE: Growing up, Rosie and Ellen were visible. They bridged the gap between gay and straight. It was so cool to see. It showed me that humor and laughter can mend fences and bring people together.

QVEGAS: Did you have any mentors?

FORTUNE: Wanda Sykes and I became good friends. It was so cool to have that kind of mentor in my life. When i was about to film

my Comedy Central special we were having drinks and she gave me some really good advice. She said make it my own. They call it a special because its special.

QVEGAS: Rosie, Ellen, and Wanda came out later in their careers. How does being out early in your career make you feel?

FORTUNE: It was never a question to me that I would reveal my sexuality. Yes I am a gay comic. It’s not all of who I am. It’s part of who I am. I never thought I should hide that part of myself. Part of being a comic is being authentic to yourself.

QVEGAS: What advice would you give an aspiring comedian today?

FORTUNE: Work hard. Nothing comes easy. It’s rare in this business that something is just handed to you. It takes years of

working for free and most people just don't want to put in the work. You have to put everything you have into it.

QVEGAS: What was your biggest challenge along the way?

FORTUNE: Paying the bills. You want to do this for a living, but coming up with an act is hard. It takes years to craft. It's constantly evolving and changing. You rack your brain trying to think of new jokes. It's a long process.

QVEGAS: Are you excited about coming to Vegas?

FORTUNE: Vegas is such a cool city. There are so many Lately fans and I'm honored to be a part of the Lipshtick series.

QVEGAS: For our readers that don't know you, what's your comedic style?

FORTUNE: I tell stories. Fun stories. About growing up. Being gay. Random stuff. My mom. People love stories about my parents.

QVEGAS: You recently announced a new collaboration. What's that all about?

FORTUNE: Yes! I just sold a sitcom about my life story to ABC. I'm collaborating with Tina Fey to produce it. It's based on my stand-up and my life.

QVEGAS: You had worked with Tina before, right?

FORTUNE: Yes. We did a pilot together called Cabot College on Fox. It bummed me out they didn't move forward.

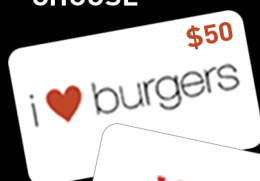
QVEGAS: Nevada just received Marriage Equality, and Vegas is the Wedding Capital of the world. Any other plans while you're in town? :-)

FORTUNE: I'm not taking the marriage plunge. I've been dating, but not in a relationship. I'm focused on my career. When I find someone who can put up with my work schedule, then dating and the relationship will fall into place.

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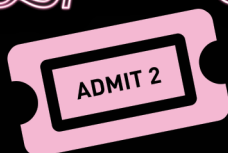


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EATING OUT



BOUCHON LAS VEGAS @ THE VENETIAN

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

*Photography by
Sabin Orr and Deborah Jones*

It's safe to say that I've never had a bad meal at Bouchon. I've never even had a mediocre meal at Bouchon. I've eaten at Thomas Keller's French bistro 7 or 8 times and it's never been anything less than spectacular!

Located in the Venetian, there are two challenging things about Bouchon: the first is actually finding it. When I first decided to dine there, I looked EVERYWHERE! I looked in the Canal Shoppes, I searched in the passage between the Venetian and The Palazzo, where many of the restaurants are located, I made several rounds of the entire casino floor - nothing. I finally made my way back to the main lobby, to ask the concierge where to go. Approaching the concierge desk, I spotted a doorway to the right with a sign above it, reading Venezia Tower and Bouchon Restaurant. THERE IT WAS... sort of. Once I went through the door and down a short hall, I had to take an elevator up to the Venezia Lobby, turn left, go down an incredibly beautiful, ornate marble hallway with faux Italian frescoes on the ceilings and gorgeous gaslit sconces on the walls, until I finally saw a modest sign, telling me I had reached my destination. Bouchon itself is lovely - high ceilings,

blue and white tiled floors, dark wood panels, topped with etched glass, dividing the room up nicely, large arched windows at one side, classic globe-shaped sconces on the walls and columns, and tables nicely set with immaculate, white linen tablecloths and napkins. The menu comes printed on a large piece of parchment-like paper, wrapped around your napkin - it makes a nice keepsake if you want to take it home.

This leads to the second challenging part of eating at Bouchon - ordering!! This is French comfort food at its finest! There are so many amazing dishes from which to choose, I still have difficulty selecting. I'll want to go with an old standby, but then I'll see something I've never tried and end up not knowing what to order! To that end, I suggest putting your trust in your servers. Fine dining in Vegas has become something of a show, and the servers are a part of that show. At Bouchon, they're also incredibly knowledgeable about the food they're serving, and while they may come across as a bit highbrow, using words like "exquisite", "lovely", or other flowery descriptions, don't let that intimidate you. Ask them anything. They're true professionals who will help you find

something that's to your taste! I can definitely recommend starting your meal with any of their selection of oysters on the half shell - the variety is always wonderful and they're cold, briny and fresh. The Salade de Poulpe (Grilled Octopus Salad) is also an amazing starter, served warm over a spring vegetable tabouleh salad and an incredible, neon-green parsley vinaigrette. The Terrine de Foie Gras de Canard (Duck Liver Paté) is a sumptuous livery treat and good for sharing - you'll need more toast points! The onion soup is about as perfect as you'll ever try, and if you like salmon, the Rillettes aux Deux Saumons; a spreadable mixture of two different salmons, minced and mixed with spices and clarified butter, is one of the best things I've ever eaten!

The main courses are equally good. To date, I've tried the Steak Frites; a pan-seared flatiron steak served with crispy French fries, the Gigot d'Agneau; a beautifully cooked roasted leg of lamb with chick peas, turnips and lamb jus, the Moules au Fenouil; Maine mussels steamed with Pernod and fennel, and the Magret de Canard; a perfect duck breast with crispy skin, served with Swiss chard and white asparagus. Unfortunately, I've only found the duck breast on the menu once and have not been able to order it again - the menu does change with the seasons, so some items are not always available.

I do feel that there is something for just about everyone on the menu at Bouchon. On one occasion, a friend of mine who doesn't eat beef or chicken was more than happy with the mussels. Another friend doesn't care for shellfish or most seafood - she actually went with the Truite Amandine; pan-roasted Idaho trout with toasted

almonds and brown butter. She loved it. One last friend was a strict vegetarian and she chose the Gnocchi a la Parisienne; sauteed gnocchi with vegetables and a brown butter sauce. On one of my recent trips, my uncle, a true meat-and-potatoes type guy, loved the onion soup and the steamed mussels!

The desserts are just as exquisite and lovely as anything else on the menu. On my first trip, I tried the Tarte au Citron; a fantastic lemon tart that brought me back to my childhood. My current favorite is the Pot de Creme; an infused custard - the flavor of the custard differs according to available ingredients, but they've all been amazing. There is also a dessert that is not listed on the menu, but which you should definitely try: the Bouchons. I won't spoil the surprise by describing it, just know that it's worth it!

Lastly, you might like to know that locals and staff members alike agree that Bouchon has the best breakfast and brunch in Las Vegas, and while I'm not much of a breakfast eater, I'll have to reserve a table soon.. I'm sure I will be amazed all over again!

If you visit Las Vegas, you MUST treat yourself to a meal at Bouchon. I think you'll agree with all of the accolades. I think you'll find the experience to be truly exquisite and lovely! GO!!

Poulet et des Gaufres
roasted chicken, with
bacon-chive waffle,
Tahitian vanilla bean
butter & sauce
Chasseur



Truite Poêlé
sautéed Idaho rainbow
trout with roasted
sunchokes, Swiss chard,
sunflower seeds & brown
butter sauce



Poulet Rôti
roasted chicken with
Brussels sprouts,
fall squash, lardons &
chicken jus

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NOAH'S WEDDING

REGISTRY/GIFT GUIDE

With the addition of so many states winning the freedom to marry, there's a good chance you'll end up at a wedding or two. Wedding gifting has always been an interesting matrix of traditions, rules and cultural ideas leftover from generations past, who probably experience marriage much different than the way we do today. In fact, there's about a 40% chance that a couple who invites you to their wedding will provide a wedding website with links to their online registry.

DINING

- Michael Lloyd Serene 45-Piece Stainless Steel Flatware Set
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- Cheese and Crackers Serving Board
- Yours, Mine, and Ours Decanter Set
- Serving Bowls

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- Oreck Steam-It Multi Purpose Steam Wand
- Yankee Home Accent Candles
- Personalized Picture Frames
- Candles

KITCHEN

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- Juicer
- Pressure Cooker
- Deep Fryer
- Westhof Classic Black Hollow Edge Steak Knife Set
- Kobenstyle Casserole
- Kitchen Aid
- Corning Ware French White 14-Piece Bakeware Set

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Hers & Hers Pillowcase Set

Hers & Hers lesbian pillowcase set is the perfect accessory for the home! "Hers" is printed on each standard cotton pillowcase and measures 21" x 32."



STICK TO THE BASICS

BUY FROM THE REGISTRY

If your couple supplies the guest with their registry, there's no need to get too creative. By sticking to their list, there's no way you could buy a gift they won't enjoy.

KITCHEN, ENTERTAINMENT, BED AND BATH...YES!

A couple's most prized gifts come from these departments: kitchen, dining, bedding, and bath.

SPEND AT LEAST \$50

Some use the price-per-plate as a measure for how much to spend on the gift. A better measure is what you think is appropriate to your relationship with the couple.

GIVE A BIG GROUP GIFT

Purchase the couple's gift of their dreams by banding together with other guests. Big-ticket items are often placed out of reach after wedding and honeymoon expenses.

BUY IT WITHIN TWO MONTHS

Don't delay, send the gifts right away! Don't bring the gifts to the wedding for the couple to lug around, have it shipped within two months of the wedding ceremony



photo by Barbara Maeker

LAS VEGAS
PRIDE
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 coming
 out
 day
 OCT 11
 2014
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HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE

[by Greg J. Chase]

October 9th, 2014 was a historical day in Nevada and world history, as it was the first day that Same-Sex Marriage was made legal in the State of Nevada. It has been quite a journey, especially those in the LGBT community as we have watched state after state, slowly become more accepting of Same-

Sex Marriage. It is important to think that in the minds of many, they had never imagined this day coming, especially during their lifetime. This was a very monumental day, as Same-Sex couples in Nevada were able to finally "legally" exchange vows, and receive the same equal rights and benefits of any married "straight" couple.

October 11th was a very special day in Nevada, especially, Las Vegas. October is an important day in the LGBT Community, as it is recognized as National Coming Out Day. The intent of National Coming Out Day is not to force those who may be questioning their sexuality to "Come Out," but to share love and equality to everyone. National Coming Out Day is an opportunity to show anyone who may be struggling

with their own identity that it does indeed get better, and that there are countless resources available to support them in this both challenging and exciting time in their life.

National Coming Out Day this year, however, carried a very special opportunity. Being the first Saturday after same-sex marriage had become legal in Nevada, it seemed like no better time than to also celebrate love and marriage equality, by offering some of the first same-sex weddings, free of charge to any couples who were interested in legally tying the knot on this meaningful day.

On October 11th, 2014, I had the distinct privilege and honor of presiding over the wedding of seven amazing same-sex couples, all who had waited years to bring this dream to reality. As a

wedding officiant, this is an act that one does not take lightly. It was extremely heart warming to have a bit of time before the weddings to hear the stories of each of the couples, and the deep love and commitment that they have shared with each other. As the couples took the stage, one at a time, my Co-Host, Dear Friend, and Local Chippendales Host, Ryan Stuart, took a moment to interview each couple, allowing each of them to share their story with all in attendance. It was extremely touching watching each couple exchange stares of love and joy as they prepared to exchange their vows.

One by one, each couple said "I Do," and turned to greet the crowd for the first time ever as husbands and wives. The amount of emotion that was running through each of us was hard to hold back. When glancing around, it was difficult to find anyone with a dry eye, especially these amazing couples! Reflecting back, I can honestly say that I had never imagined in my life, that I would have the opportunity to be a part of such a historical and special day in all of these lives. Several years ago, I was approached by some friends who wanted to get married in Las Vegas, and had asked me to perform their ceremony. This is when I did some research to learn what it took to ensure their wedding would actually be legal once we were finished. After going through the process of getting ordained, as well as licensed in Clark County, Nevada, my friends decided to hold off on their wedding. This left me with a distinctive opportunity, instead of just sitting on this empowerment, I felt it was necessary to put to good use. I look forward to seeing the remaining states within our country continue to move forward towards marriage equality, and am even more excited about the



MANY same-sex weddings that will now be occurring in Nevada. I know of many couples that live in states that will recognize same-sex marriage, but not allow it within the state, who are now coming to Las Vegas, to share their special day.

As I had said before, when talking to many same-sex couples who are tying the knot, this is an occasion that many had thought they would never see. Thank you to all of the legislators, activists and community members and organizations who have spent countless days and years fighting for equality. It is important to remember that the fight is not close to over, but we have made significant headway, far more than I had ever imagined in my lifetime.

I would like to again congratulate all the amazing couples that were married on NCOD this year – Michael & Robert, Sarah & Lisa, Kawika & Craig, Kitzia & Monica, Stewart & Randy, Haley & Jes and Jacky & Megan. And, to all of the wedding chapels in Las Vegas who are refusing to perform same-sex weddings... It's time to get with the times, it's illegal! ■

Greg J. Chase is a Las Vegas resident and is an ordained & licensed wedding officiant. To contact him for your wedding, email LVMinister@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays

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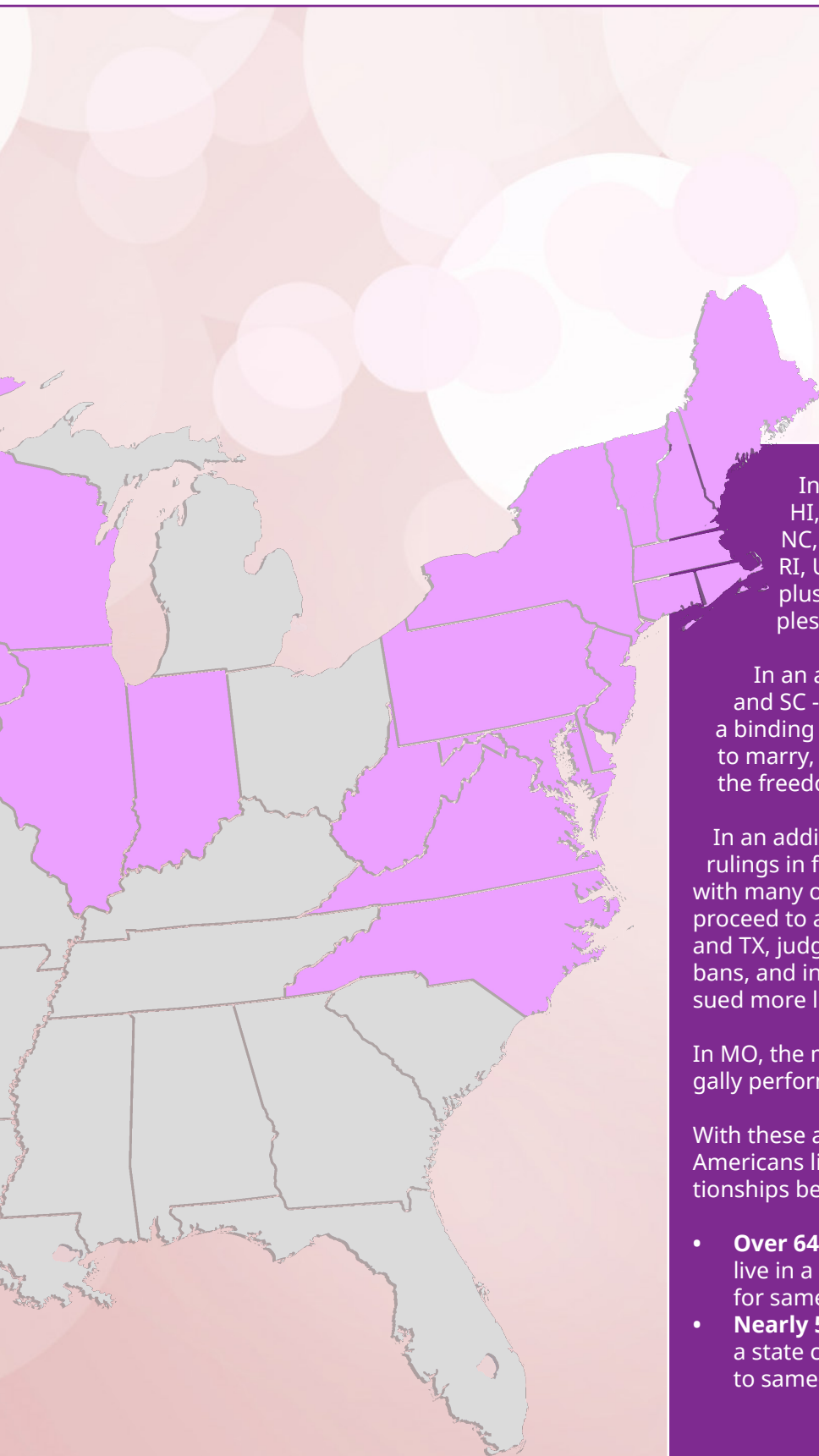
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In an additional three states - KS, MT, and SC - federal appellate rulings have set a binding precedent in favor of the freedom to marry, meaning the path is cleared for the freedom to marry there.

In an additional 8 states, judges have issued rulings in favor of the freedom to marry, with many of these rulings now stayed as they proceed to appellate courts: In AR, FL, KY, MI, and TX, judges have struck down marriage bans, and in LA, OH and TN, judges have issued more limited pro-marriage rulings.

In MO, the marriages of same-sex couples legally performed in other states are respected.

With these advances, a record number of Americans live in states that recognize relationships between same-sex couples:

- **Over 64%** of the U.S. population will soon live in a state with the freedom to marry for same-sex couples.
- **Nearly 59%** of the U.S. population lives in a state currently issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples state-wide.

*32 States as of 10/24/14

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The collaboration between Gay.Vegas, QVegas Magazine, and Garrett's Gay Guide provides a one-stop-shop for everything from how to file for a marriage license in Clark County, a directory of chapels, photographers, limo services, florists, tuxedo and dress tailors and rentals, spas, bakeries,

jewelers, caterers, officiants, salons, nightclubs, celebrity impersonators, invitations, and more.

The Guide will be available online at Gay.Vegas. The full-color, glossy, printed Guide will share distribution with QVegas Magazine at prominent locations throughout the Southwest including Las Vegas, Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Palm Springs, and San Diego. Copies will be available from most concierge desks on the Strip and all advertisers. Couples not living in Las Vegas will be able to order a copy of the Guide at no charge.

The first edition of the Guide will be printed in January 2015, and all advertisers receive a 1-year complementary listing in the Gay.Vegas online directory.

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JONI & GINA'S WEDDING

by Garrett Pattiani



What do you get when you have 2 women getting married in a Las Vegas style wedding show? A TON of laughs, great food, beautiful chapel, pleasant staff, and the chance to see HISTORY.

Joni and Gina's Wedding show couldn't have landed in Las Vegas at a better time. The recent arrival of Marriage Equality in Nevada has made this show so much more meaningful. I didn't quite know what to expect when we were invited to watch this show, but I absolutely LOVED it. The show takes place in a real Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, owned and operated by a gay man who has been performing commitment ceremonies for many years. I could tell how PROUD he was to finally be an official grantor of marriage to ALL couples.

Part one of the show takes place in the Chapel and you get to learn what the characters are like. As you arrive, you are seated in the chapel pews and soon discover

that some people in the audience are actually part of the show. Joni and Gina start their wedding and before you know it, you feel like you are a part of the show.

The family and friends of the brides (that's fun to say) have over-the-top personalities that come from all walks of life. You can definitely tell that some of them still have a hard time wrapping their heads around the idea of two people of the same sex getting married. My favorite character is Pat Miass, the officiant of the wedding. Her hippie spiritual outer space craziness kept us laughing the whole time.

Gina's ex girlfriend, Marueen, is the "best man". And Joni's flamboyant Best Friend, Rychard, plays her "Maid of Honor" / Wedding Coordinator. Then there is the Military Father with a Drunk wife. The Cool Dad who brings his much younger Latina girlfriend to the wedding, making his ex-wife upset. The Jewish sister who reminds me of Mary Catherine Gallagher. Oh. And then there's Joe—the VERY HOT straight heart-throb Brother.

We then leave the ceremony for the reception and move into the gorgeous dining area where a delicious meal is waiting. As you eat and drink cocktails, the show resumes and you enjoy more laughs, fun, emotions, and drama! Dancing and even a conga line allow the audience to once again feel a part of this show.

By the time the show concludes, the audience becomes aware of the lesson that is to be experienced here. It means that these people are all your friends and you see that the characters begin to see Joni and Gina in a way that's serious. They are family, some blood related, and some chosen. The saying is true that on your special day surround yourselves with those that really love you. After all, isn't that what TRUE family is. They say that Blood is thicker than water, but I say Love is thicker than Blood.

It's great that Nevada decided LOVE is better than Discrimination and Hate. Go see this show. It really is the best way to celebrate this joyous time. ■

Viva Las Vegas



Joni and Gina's Wedding plays alternating Thursdays at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel and Event Center, 1201 Las Vegas Blvd. S.

Check-in and cocktails start at 6:45 p.m. and the ceremony begins promptly at 7:30. Tickets include the show, buffet, non-alcoholic beverage, and champagne toast.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.joniandgina.com.

WEDDING CHAPEL

Joni & Gina's WEDDING

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QuickPics



- **Caesars Entertainment Properties** celebrated its first legal same-sex wedding at the beautiful Garden Chapel of the Flamingo Las Vegas on Saturday, October 11. Grooms Atrau Stoller and Raymond Huntington of Washington State had originally planned their union as a destination commitment ceremony and when they learned of the change in Nevada law they filed for a wedding license and exchanged legal vows of marriage. Exchanging vows in the beautiful gardens of Flamingo Las Vegas, the newly married couple and wedding guests made their way to the High Roller Observation Wheel where they celebrated with a champagne toast at 550-feet above the Las Vegas Strip.

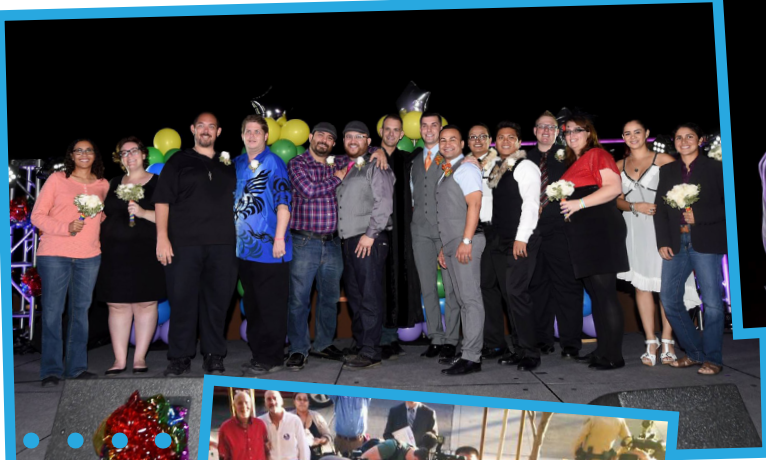
Photo by Denise Truscello

Nevada Senator Kelvin Atkinson proposed to Sherwood Howard at immediately after hearing that an appeals court had overturned the state ban on same-sex marriage. The two later became the first same-sex couple to wed in Las Vegas.

- Two days after Nevada won the freedom to marry for all couples, Las Vegas PRIDE's National Coming Out Day Family Festival provided more to celebrate. A mass wedding of seven couples was performed by Greg Chase. Monica Lopez and Kitzia Anderson, Robert Huges and Michael Deville, Kawika Pimental-Leopoldo and Craig Oliveira, Jes Cumpian and Halley Clark, Sarah Clancy and Lisa Guadagno, Stewart Holguin and Randy Albertson, and Jacky Swallia and Megan Swallia posed together as they celebrated legally marrying in Nevada.



- Theodore Small and Antioco Carillo-Miramonts were among the first in Clark County receive their marriage certificate at the Marriage License Bureau Oct. 9. Small and Carillo-Miramonts fought for two years to secure the freedom to marry.



Photos courtesy of
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last word!

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

[by Marek P Bute]

At 12:52pm, the notice came through, bold letters “FILED OPINION AFFIRMED; REVERSED; AND REMANDED” – but wait, the NV and ID cases were consolidated, what did this mean? Clumsily rushing to pull up the opinion, I read all 95 pages on my tiny screen, weeping, first gently, then uncontrollably, in the privacy of my parked car. One simple line from Judge Reinhardt stood out more than any other: “The lessons of our constitutional history are clear: inclusion strengthens, rather than weakens, our most important institutions.”

We did it. The lower court’s decision was reversed. Marriage equality now existed in Nevada. A text from Antioco, “Hi dear we won the case check your email!!!!!!” Emails flew amongst the legal team. Social media exploded. We would meet at The Center for the Decision Day rally. I had no words. Though I knew this moment was coming, it was surreal.

At 5:08, the 9th Circuit issued its mandate – now it was real. Licenses would issue the next day at 2:00pm. Hugs, kisses, tears, smiles, joy, frustration, exasperation, relief, disbelief, you could feel and see it all. And a moment, to recognize and celebrate the decades of work put in by local and national legislators, community leaders, advocates, organizations, and allies, as this was not something that happened overnight. The foundation they built through years of blood, sweat, and tears, gave us the legal ammunition to succeed. We stand proudly on their shoulders today.

As I got ready for work the next morning, another notice popped in my inbox. An order. From SCOTUS. The case had been stayed. Marriage equality existed for 14 hours and

28 minutes, only to be stayed? Obviously this was a mistake, so we worked on clearing it up. While Judge Jones recused himself and the Coalition filed motions to recall and stay the mandate, I waited with 2 of our Plaintiffs, Antioco and Theo, and several other couples at the courthouse, hoping things would clear up by 2:00pm. At 3:31, SCOTUS corrected its order and vacated the stay as to Nevada. Marriage was back. But wait, no licenses would issue that day because of the Coalition’s motions? Absurd. The stay was lifted. There was no legal basis to withhold licenses. Utterly disappointed, but remaining optimistic, the couples took their line passes and called it a day. The confusion was exhausting.

Meanwhile, the legal team pulled together a 30-page brief in response to the Coalition. Drafts circulated until 9:45 the next morning. It was Thursday. Marriage equality existed now for 32 hours and 42 minutes, but no license had issued. We were still on hold, though it was unclear why. At 10:15am, in a surprise move and before we could file our brief, the Coalition withdrew its motions. At 11:53, the 9th Circuit reissued its mandate. Marriage equality was (once again) the law in Nevada.

I rushed to meet Antioco and Theo at the courthouse. They were hesitantly hopeful. I was determined. For hours, the media frenzy kept the energy buzzing, while all contacts worked to get the injunction signed. Finally, at 4:51, the injunction was filed. Those receiving the notice, including myself, simultaneously shouted out confirmation and the crowd went wild. The clerk announced immediate issuance of licenses and escorted



Antioco and Theo through the media tunnel to the window – as Plaintiffs, they would be the first in Clark County. The next moments were a blur, until I saw them step out of the crowd, proudly clutching their license and absolutely beaming with joy, pushing through to give me big hug, kiss, before being consumed by the media. Within minutes, Ron Quinn and Ken Solis stepped out in the same fashion. Followed by Senator Kelvin Atkinson and Sherwood Howard, who surprised the entire crowd with a pop-up wedding on the courthouse steps, making history as the first gay couple legally married in Clark County. The moment was unforgettable.

Thank you to our predecessors [too many to name] who fought for decades to get us here. Thank you to our legislators, community leaders, and advocacy organizations that continue to fight for our basic human rights. Thank you to the Plaintiffs, Lambda Legal, O’Melveny Myers, and Snell & Wilmer for putting the final nail in the coffin. Although marriage equality is not the end of our work (think ENDA, transgender rights), take a moment to revel in this victory. You deserve it. And, now that we have marriage equality, respect the institution. Don’t rush to get married just because it’s legal. Appreciate that, whether or not you ever do, you have the right to marry anyone you love in Nevada. That is freedom. That is equality. ■

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