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A photograph of two men in a kitchen setting. The man on the left is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a patterned tie, and is leaning in to kiss the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a red V-neck sweater over a collared shirt, glasses, and a watch. He is holding a blue and white cup in his right hand and a small piece of food in his left hand. In the background, there are stainless steel pots on a counter and a plate with a dessert.

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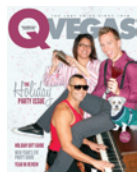
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About the Cover Photo by Marc Garcia. In honor of our stress-free holiday party guide and the New Year's Eve guide, we wanted the cover to be fun this month with a holiday party theme. Featured on the cover are Flo Lee, Justin J. McCoy and our own J.Son. Flo can be seen bartending weekly at FreeZone and is available for holiday parties (vegasflee7@gmail.com). Justin is a personal trainer and available for nutrition advice consultations (JustMC9@gmail.com). Special thanks to Mark Garcia and Patrick Lucas for the use of their beautiful home.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

All I need for Christmas are cookies and a hug

Can you believe that 2010 is almost over? It seems like yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and it's already time for another year to arrive. This year has been all over the map for LGBT news stories, from the DADT debate to the fight for marriage equality. We, as a community, have seen some battles won and some battles lost, but in the end 2010 seemed to be a big leap forward for the LGBT community. As we look back over the year, let's remember that Rome wasn't built in a day. We have a long journey ahead of ourselves to full equality, and with awesome activists and volunteers like you, we will one day truly have the same freedoms.

The holiday season is upon us, and I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for being loyal readers of *QVegas*. We know that it is because of you that we go to print every month. We want to say Happy Holidays and wish you the best during this time of the year and all year long. I personally celebrate Christmas and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope Santa finds his way safely to your house this year. I know that with the economy the way it has been lately, buying gifts can be hard, but remember that Christmas and the holidays are about family and friends. A homemade batch of cookies and a big hug say a lot more to me than an expensive watch any day. So I guess my holiday tip is this: Santa doesn't have to bring lavish gifts as long as he brings love.

I'm looking over this issue and I hope



you enjoy the features and departments we have for you this month. In this issue, we take a look back over the last 365 days and remember the ups and downs along the way. We threw in a stress-free holiday party guide and a guide to New Year's Eve in Vegas to get you through the holiday season hopefully without a headache. There is a new department called Tops and Bottoms. This is one of my favorites, and get your minds out of the gutter; here we show off the best and worst from tech to clubs to everything in-between. With this being AIDS Awareness Month, we have included a resource guide to the top HIV/AIDS organizations in the Las Vegas Valley. Always remember to play safe; we all can stop the spread of disease. If you need any assistance or need to get tested, please reach out to one of the organizations listed in this issue.

In closing, all of us at *QVegas* wish you the happiest new year and send you wishes for the best in 2011.


J. Son
Editor

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

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? We 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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A Las Vegas Bugle™ Publication
6000 S. Eastern Ave., Ste. 7B
Las Vegas, NV 89119
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CONGRATULATIONS



Tara Brosnahan and Angelina Lewis met and dated nine years ago but had some ups and downs throughout the years. They realized the love and devotion was always there, both knowing they were soul mates, but the timing wasn't right.

They began dating again when they crossed paths in 2009. Lewis proposed to Brosnahan in Zion National Park on July 24, 2009. They became domestic partners on October 1, 2009, when it became Nevada law. Thirteen months of planning the wedding resulted in more than 200 friends and family joining the couple on their special day, September 10, 2010 at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. ■

WELCOME

QVegas would like to welcome Vince Percy to our team, as Stonewall Publishing's new Vice President of Operations. In his new position, Percy will work to continue our efforts to be the voice of the LGBT community in southern Nevada while keeping us a leader in the new age of technology-driven media consumption.



Percy grew up all over the U.S., as his father served in the military, but he has called Omaha, Neb., his home. This is not his first move to Las Vegas. In 1999, Percy relocated to work as the director of operations for a telemarketing company. He wasted no time becoming involved in our community and was elected president of The Gay and Lesbian Community Center, but work soon relocated him to Europe after only one year.

No matter where he resides, Percy has been a solid voice in the LGBT community from the time he was in his early teens. In 1984, he assisted with the organization of the first Pride March in Omaha and that same year (as well as in 1987) was crowned Empress of the Imperial Court of Nebraska as Velvet, who is currently on vacation in Barbados. ■

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WEEK 9 • DECEMBER 1

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WEEK 10 • DECEMBER 8

Four passes to CSI: The Exhibit at MGM Grand and a pair of sunglasses by Marchon.

WEEK 11 • DECEMBER 15

Two-year Grindr Xtra membership and a stay at the El Cortez Cabana Suites.



WEEK 12 • DECEMBER 22

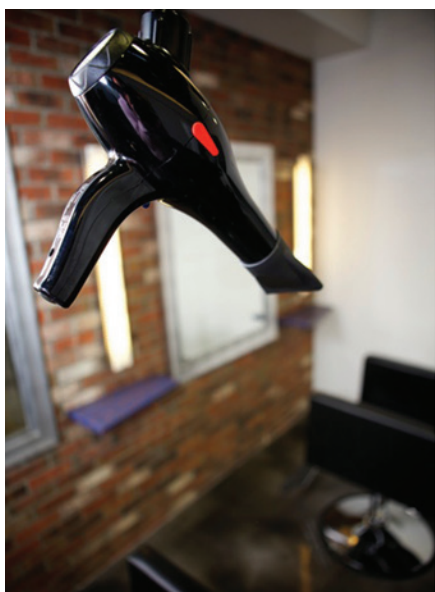
Four tickets to see the exciting MGM Grand's Crazy Horse Paris show.

PALM SPRINGS GETAWAY

This amazing package to sunny Palm Springs includes two docent-led Palm Springs Art Museum tickets, a gift certificate for two lunch entrees at Elmer's Restaurant, three \$10 gift certificates for Pinocchio's Restaurant, two tickets to the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, two tickets to the Palm Springs Tram, a gift certificate for two complimentary seats on a Desert Adventures Tour and a gift certificate for a two-night stay at the Movie Colony Hotel. This grand prize is valued at more than \$1000!

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NON-PROFIT NEWS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

Escape Lounge and Goodtimes to hold Festival of Wreaths

Escape Lounge and Goodtimes Bar & Nightclub are proud to announce the Festival of Wreaths to benefit Saint Therese Center. Individuals and businesses will be asked to showcase their personal creativity by decorating and donating a holiday wreath to either Escape or Goodtimes, which will be displayed at the bar until the day of the event and available to be purchased through a silent auction on Thursday, Dec. 9.

The Festival of Wreaths will begin at 6 p.m. with social hour and silent auction continuing until 8 p.m. A special Holiday

Edition of Glitz & Glamour will follow. Prizes of different categories will be awarded to those who created special or unique wreaths. A live auction will also be held with special prizes donated from some of our corporate friends. 100 percent of all proceeds will benefit Saint Therese Center.

For more information, pick up an information sheet at either location. Escape Lounge is located at 4213 W. Sahara Ave. (behind the Statue of Liberty) and Goodtimes is located at 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. (in the Liberace Plaza). ■

BOYZ OF CHARLIE'S TO HOLD FUNDRAISER ON DEC. 21

Boyz of Charlie's, a group comprised of go-go dancers from Charlie's Las Vegas, will hold a fundraiser on Dec. 21, devoted to helping the group raise money for costumes and travel expenses. During the course of the evening, the Boyz will perform and also sell shots and Charlie's Christmas ornaments. The Boyz themselves will be auctioned as well, each member to come with his own dinner package. This event will start at 7 p.m. at Charlie's Las Vegas (5012 S. Arville), with Drag Queen Bingo to follow at 9 p.m.

Jersey Boys' Rick Faugno to sing at MCC Christmas Eve service

Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas (MCC) will hold a candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, Dec. 24 at 11 p.m. The church is located adjacent to the intersection of Maryland Parkway and Sahara Avenue at 1140 Almond Tree Ln.

This year's service will feature some of the finest musical talent in Las Vegas, including Rick Faugno (star of *Jersey Boys* who plays Frankie Valli) and long-time popular

entertainers Tony Arias and Tim Searcy.

"Our Christmas Eve Service is one of the most attended of the year," said Rev. W. Wayne Lindsey, who has served the church for the past five years as Senior Pastor. "It's a great opportunity for folks to come back to church or to visit and check us out for the very first time. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate Christmas where they will find 'family' and friends." ■

Miss IGRA 2011 Kimberli Foxx expresses her appreciation

As I write this, I'm finally unwinding and coming down from the adrenaline rush of competing in the 2011 International Gay Rodeo Association Royalty Team Competition as well as the emotional roller coaster that was my step down as Miss Nevada Gay Rodeo Association 2010. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few thank-you's to my community.

First and foremost to anyone who came to a fundraiser and donated a dollar or performed and gave of your time and energy, I say thanks. I would also like to say thank you to a few businesses that helped me throughout this past year: the Imperial Court, SNAPI, the Sin City Sisters, Las Vegas League of Gentlemen, Charlie's, Badlands, Crews'N, QVegas, The Rack and Tiger Lily Flower Shop. And finally, last but not least are two very important men who shared me over the past

year, my two husbands: my title husband, Mr. NGRA 2010 JD Jensen and my husband, Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell. Words can't express how much you both mean to me; thank you for your steadfast support.

So as I close this letter I want to say one last "Thank You!" to the entire community of Las Vegas and southern Nevada. You welcomed me into your arms with love and kindness and supported me during my reign as Miss NGRA and in my dream of becoming Miss International Gay Rodeo Association. I can't think of a gift that is truly befitting of what you all have given to me except that I promise to continue to give back to my community for many more years to come.

*Sincerely and Forever In Your Debt,
Kimberli Foxx
Miss NGRA 2010/Miss IGRA 2011*



HRC Las Vegas – 2010 in review

The end of the year is always a good time to look back at the past twelve months, take stock of various accomplishments and set goals for the future. This is an exercise that HRC Las Vegas went through recently, with very positive results. Again this year, their activities ranged wider than their successful 5th annual Gala Dinner.

With the mid-term elections this past November, HRC was busier than ever campaigning and getting out the vote for fair-minded local candidates to the U.S. congress. HRC held more than six weekly phone banks including two LGBT community canvasses and staffed over 125 volunteer phone bank and canvass shifts. Moreover, HRC members were active participants in events across the state, including rallies with President Obama, First Lady Michelle, and GOTV events with Senator Reid and Reps. Titus and Berkley.

Another focus for HRC Las Vegas has been to pursue its commitment to the community. They boldly initiated the "Community Campaign" as a leader in the development of an LGBT community-based volunteer organization, in support of the entire local community. As a result, HRC volunteers have not only volunteered for LGBT community partners, but various other community and non-profit organizations while attracting ongoing volunteers and straight allies.

In an effort to further develop local volunteer opportunities, this past year the Las Vegas Volunteer Co-Chairs launched "HRC 101" in an effort to introduce individuals to HRC, the HRC Steering Committee, and fellow volunteers as a way to further educate

people on the many aspects of the Human Rights Campaign.

Many of these were in line with the HRC guiding principles of inclusion and diversity. As such, 2010 saw the creation of S.A.F.E. (Straight Allies for Equality) and the extension of our outreach to the LGBT youth through the formation of a S.A.F.E. chapter at UNLV. HRC also supported the Faithful Call to Justice – a round-table gathering of leading clergy members on transgender inclusion and acceptance; the Maybe Baby Workshops - an informative and educational event for anyone in the LGBT community that is considering parenting at which an HRC representative was available to talk about national programs such as All Children All Families, which promotes the recruitment of LGBT foster and adoptive families; and the YA ES HORA ¡CIUDADANIA! CITIZENSHIP CAMPAIGN, a community naturalization workshop, geared to help legal permanent residents of Las Vegas applying for U.S. citizenship.

Looking to the year to come, HRC Las Vegas is keenly aware of the challenges still to overcome on to road towards full equality for all and is remains committed to the work ahead. "There is a lot more to do, and a lot more we can do" muses James Healey, HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee Co-Chair, when asked about the year ahead for HRC. "One thing I can tell you is that we're moving our dinner to the spring: this year, it will be held on Saturday, May 7 at the ARIA Resort and Casino. So there's a scoop for you. For what else comes next, you'll have to stay tuned! But one thing's for sure. You'll be hearing a lot from HRC Las Vegas in 2011." ■



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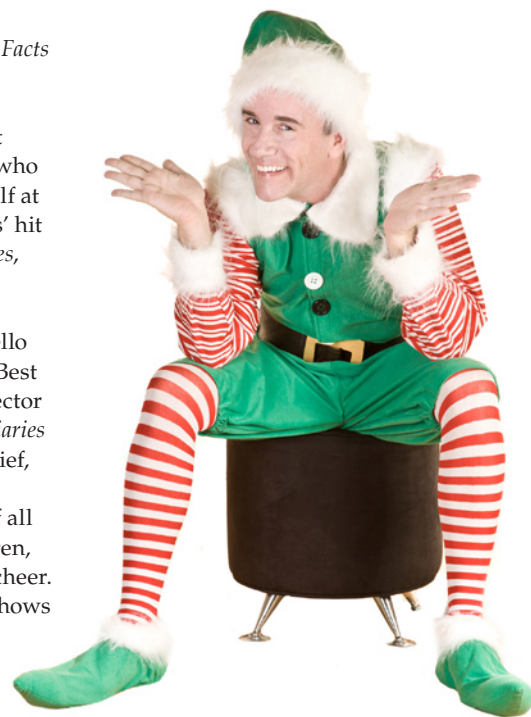
Jamie Morris to star in *The Santaland Diaries*

You've seen him as Joan Crawford in *Mommie Queerest*, Mrs. Garrett in *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*, and Hannibal Lichter in *The Silence of the Clams*.

Now, Jamie Morris tackles his most bitter role — an unemployed slacker who finds temporary holiday work as an elf at Macy's Santaland — in David Sedaris' hit one-man comedy, *The Santaland Diaries*, which comes to town Dec. 9–12 at the Onyx Theatre.

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello and directed by *City Life Magazine's* "Best of the Valley" Best Local Theater Director Christopher Kenney, *The Santaland Diaries* is Sedaris' hilarious send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. The show skewers our sentimental love of all things Christmas — the happy children, the spritely elves, the gifts, the good cheer. Sedaris' character, Crumpet the Elf, shows us the other side of what it's like to work at Santaland, and the result is bawdy and irreverent.

The Santaland Diaries comes to Las Vegas for four performances only, Dec. 9–11 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. at the Onyx Theatre (953 E. Sahara,



inside Commercial Center). All seats are \$15 and may be purchased by calling (702) 732-7225 or online at onyxtheatre.com. ■

Marriage Can Be Murder this holiday season

Las Vegas' highly acclaimed murder-mystery dinner show *Marriage Can Be Murder* is cooking up some dangerously good fun for the holidays with a special holiday-themed show taking place through Jan. 9 at the Fitz Casino & Hotel.

The show's audience-engaging format makes it the perfect choice for creating long-lasting memories. Whether you choose to see one of the show's nightly performances at the Fitz Casino & Hotel, or book a private event for your organization, *Marriage Can Be Murder* is sure to be entertaining in a "who-dunnit" fashion.

Marriage Can Be Murder is a fun show

for individuals, couples, groups and special or private/corporate events. For private events, the writers will incorporate the company and individuals within the company to have an interactive role within the show.

Marriage Can Be Murder can be seen seven nights a week at 6:30 p.m. inside the Showroom at Fitz Casino & Hotel downtown. The dinner show package is \$54.95 per person and includes one non-alcoholic drink and tip. A VIP package is available for \$69.95 and features premium seating, a souvenir t-shirt, one complimentary well cocktail, domestic beer or wine and tip. Special Nevada resident pricing is \$44.95 and includes one non-alcoholic drink, and tip. Prices do not include LET and service/ticket fee. Tickets can be purchased by calling (702) 388-2111 or by visiting www.marriagecanbemurder.com. ■



Recycled Percussion moved to Tropicana

Recycled Percussion moved their unique style and power percussion "Junk Rock" show to the Tiffany Theater at Tropicana on Nov. 15. The move will permit the band to bring their show to a wider audience by allowing all ages to experience their interactive show.

Formed in 1994 in New Hampshire at their high school talent show, Recycled Percussion's first performance gave birth to the style of music now known as junk rock. This small-town band has built their show into one of the more powerful live performances in entertainment. During every show, the band mixes their gritty assault on buckets, power tools or anything else they can get their sticks on with a sense of humor and gravity defying athleticism. Recycled Percussion pushed the limits again at Studio 54 in September with a revolutionary concept and set the bar high for all Las Vegas shows to follow.

Continuing the idea launched in early September, show goes at the Tiffany

Theater will immediately become a part of the performance as they are handed an instrument and a pair of drumsticks allowing them to become the fifth member of the band. Encouraged to play on anything from car parts to random items found around the house (their instrument of choice), guests will be called upon throughout the show and each audience member will be able to show their percussion skills along with the band. Now entire families can enjoy the show together as moms and dads can bring their children to play along with the band.

Produced by Adam Steck's SPI Entertainment, Recycled Percussion performs at the Tiffany Theater at Tropicana Thursday through Tuesday at 7 p.m.; dark Wednesday. Tickets are priced at \$40, \$45 and \$55 plus tax and handling fees. Guests must be 5 years or older to attend. Tickets may be purchased online at www.troplv.com or by calling the Tropicana Box Office at (800) 829-9034. ■

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The beautiful Vdara Hotel & Spa at CityCenter has introduced a Staycation Package (beginning at \$163 Sunday-Thursday and \$214 Friday-Saturday) for locals who want to get away, plus two-night Escape and Success packages. Visit www.vdara.com for info.

Nevada Ballet to present *The Nutcracker*

Debating last year as a new production to Las Vegas, Nevada Ballet Theatre is thrilled to present *The Nutcracker*, Dec. 17-26 at the beautiful Paris Théâtre. With choreography by Peter Anastos, this traditional story ballet has been a holiday favorite for thousands of families every year.

Anastos' lighthearted and whimsical

artistry brings to life imaginative choreography and ornate sets and costumes — adding up to a very fashionable holiday experience. With an elegant holiday party, a Christmas garland dance and a mix of magical characters, this year will include new highlights, choreography and special visual effects.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Paris Théâtre Box Office at (702) 946-4567, online through www.nevadaballet.org, or in person at the Paris Box Office or Ticketmaster outlets. Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$85 (plus fees). Special group pricing is also available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling Joel Mann at (702) 967-4938. Sponsored by The Harrah's Foundation. ■



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THE CENTER PAGE

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Adopt an LGBT teen for the holidays

Every holiday season, The Center hosts a special party for its youth group participants, many of whom are from unsupportive families, live in poverty or are homeless. The reality for some of these young people is that "holiday dinner" may equate to a fast food meal, and opening gifts may lack meaning in their lives altogether.

The Center is seeking donations to help make this holiday party a special and memorable one for the LGBT young people who call our facility their second home. We expect a group of 75 youth, and our wish list is as follows: \$20 gift cards (preferably from Target); individually wrapped snacks and candy; homemade baked goods; canned soda and bottled water; gloves or mittens; beanies or knit caps; and Chapstick. If you are interested in contributing any of these items, please contact Mel Goodwin at (702) 733-9800 or mel@thecenterlv.com. ■

A big thank you!

Once again, the Honorarium was a huge success as The Center's largest fundraiser of the year, due in part to our wonderful sponsors, those in the community who purchased tickets and supported us, and Harrah's Entertainment, which provided such a beautiful backdrop for the event at Caesars Palace. Guests enjoyed fabulous entertainment throughout the evening, including the outlandish antics of Miss Richfield 1981 and the beautiful song stylings of Lorena Peril, Karen Jones and David Andino. The silent auction area was filled with beautiful go-go boys from Secret, which also hosted the event after-party, and Las Vegas' favorite queer contortionist, Chris Twist. The amazing selection of silent and live auction prizes, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community supporters, contributed largely to the increase in event revenue this year. Twice as many attendees participated in our Heads or Tails paddle game, which fueled the evening's fun-filled excitement. And most importantly, the entirety of the event centered around four outstanding individuals — Jane Heenan, Gwen Migita, Arlene Cooper and Roger Thomas — who give so much of their daily lives to the LGBTQ community in Southern Nevada.

A special thanks goes to the Honorarium Committee members who gave so much of their time and talent in making this event a success over many months of preparation. Lastly, this event could not have happened

without the large crew of volunteers from HRC, Harrah's Equal, Wells Fargo, The Center and Vegas Empowerment Project.

If you missed the Honorarium, make sure you mark your calendar for Nov. 5, 2011. ■

HIV/STD testing hours

Due to the upcoming holidays, The Center will *not* have testing or vaccine clinics (normally 1:30-6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays) on the following days: Dec. 20, 23, 27 and 30. ■

The Center's holiday hours

Please mark your calendars that we will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31. If you attend a regularly scheduled group on Fridays, please reach out to other members to determine if there will still be a meeting. ■

World AIDS Day health fair

Wednesday, Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day. In collaboration with the Southern Nevada Health District, Spectrum and Students Organizing Diversity Activities, The Center will be participating in a health fair at UNLV. Stop by Pida Plaza (behind the student union) from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. for HIV awareness and prevention information. ■

ABOUT THE CENTER The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, serving our LGBT population for more than 15 years, is conveniently located in Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31. To learn more about The Center and its many services, visit www.thecenterlv.com, call 702-733-9800 or visit our profile at www.facebook.com/thecenterlv.

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MAN OF THE MONTH

Greg Nielson

Tired of cold and snowy winters and humid summers, Greg Nielson moved to Las Vegas six years ago from Washington, DC. He loves the heat of Las Vegas. Professionally, he works as a medical software IT analyst. Recently, he was elected President of the Board of Directors of Golden Rainbow.

Golden Rainbow is a grass roots organization, founded by members of the Las Vegas entertainment industry who saw the need to provide housing for people with HIV/AIDS when one of their own was forced to live and die in a garage. Entertainers, doing what they do best, put together a show to raise money for this worthwhile cause. That first show was called "Golden Rainbow" and premiered July 11, 1987, in the Ziegfeld Theatre at Bally's. Since then, the show's name has been changed to "Ribbon of Life" and it is one of the largest HIV/AIDS fundraisers in Nevada.

Nielson began volunteering for Golden Rainbow about two years ago. He developed a strong bond with the staff and other board members and was invited to join the board in the fall of 2009. A year later, he was elected president.

It may seem odd that Nielson would be elected to such a position with so little time with the organization, but he is well-suited to preside over the board. While in DC, he appeared in approximately a dozen musical theater productions and sang with the Washington Men's Camerata, for which he was also general manager. In addition, he has over ten years' experience serving on several boards in the DC area. Despite his relocation to Las Vegas, he continues to function as treasurer for a professional chamber choir in Washington, DC.

Nielson is excited about the upcoming year. This June will mark the 25th annual "Ribbon of Life" fundraiser. He, the Board, and the staff will be working hard to make it bigger and better than ever.

Follow Golden Rainbow on Facebook (GoldenRainbowLV) or on Twitter (@GoldenRainbowLV). The website is www.goldenrainbow.org. ■



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WHY THE ANGELS FALL

Playwright Edward D. Padilla shares the history of the AIDS epidemic

BY RICHARD DAVIS

The Las Vegas Little Theatre (LVLTL), in association with DP Productions, is honoring World AIDS Day with a production of Edward D. Padilla's iconic history of the early AIDS epidemic, *Fallen Guardian Angels*. The LVLTL production is also directed by Padilla, who was honored in the May 2010 issue of *QVegas* as an LGBT community leader.

Written in 1985 and first staged in 1987, *Fallen Guardian Angels* has been produced over 200 times and is now part of World AIDS Day events in six countries, with simultaneous openings on Dec. 1 in Mexico, Australia and Britain, as well as in several U.S. cities. The Las Vegas production, which opened Nov. 18, is a benefit for Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Each production of the play is required to split ticket proceeds with a program geared towards HIV/AIDS research, education or outreach and to date productions have raised over \$500,000 worldwide.

The play is a time capsule capturing the spirit of the early epidemic through the backstage bantering of six actors and their stage manager before the opening of an unseen production. Like the 1975 stage production of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls...*, Padilla personalizes his

Everyman/woman characters by clothing them in individual colors. And similar to *A Chorus Line*, the hit Broadway musical that also opened in 1975, Padilla has each of his actors step out from their anonymity to tell powerful stories of how AIDS has affected their lives. One can almost hear their monologues as songs.

Padilla says, "Unfortunately, I do not speak about AIDS in flashback. AIDS and I came out around the same time. I was 18 when I first read about the 'gay cancer' — it scared the hell out of me, and pushed me back into the closet."

He says, "In 1984, my best friend told me he had ARC, which was the early term for HIV. After he admitted his diagnosis, I avoided him. I did not want to catch it. At that time, rumors flew that AIDS was airborne, you could catch it through spit, and only gay men caught it."

When Padilla ran into his friend again, he realized, "I was a total ass in my ignorance. The only way to avoid being an ass? Learn, educate myself with the truth." Padilla wrote "Robert's Monologue" in the play as a eulogy for his friend. He says that the play captures the mindset of the time, "Instead of becoming 'dated' — the play built itself into a history of the ideology at the beginning of the crisis."

The audience brings with them to the play their own subsequent knowledge and history of the disease — the ACT UP demonstrations of the '90s, the bareback rebellion earlier this decade and the current globalization of the disease. Now a chronic, life-long condition rather than a death sentence, the poignancy of the early epidemic remains vivid in Padilla's script.

He says, "I held the hand of one of my dear friends when he passed on. I remember the instant he left this world: the whispering sigh of his final breath, the sudden feeling of emptiness, and the ensuing quiet engulfing his room with frightening reality. That was over 20 years ago, and it is fresh in my mind as if it happened only a moment ago."

Padilla says, "The title, *Fallen Guardian Angels*, refers to the characters of the play. In the opening scene, one character tells everyone else a guardian angel protects you from harm; if the angel fails, it falls. Each of these characters did not protect someone."

Remaining performances of the play are Dec. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m., with a matinee performance on Dec. 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the Las Vegas Little Theatre Studio. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the LVLTL Box Office at 3920 Schiff Drive, by calling (702) 362-7996, or online at www.LVLTL.org. ■

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the *Unraveling* of the *Ribbon*

Behind The Story of the AFAN Controversy

BY WILLIAM BESSETTE

Aid For Aids of Nevada, better known as AFAN, has been serving the Las Vegas community for more than 24 years, providing crucial services for people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. The extent of their outreach includes client services such as drug assistance, a food program, and numerous education and prevention programs. Some of AFAN's more visible fundraising efforts include the annual Black & White Party and the AIDS Walk Las Vegas. The organization has come to be very well respected in both the LGBT community and the community at large; it is for this reason that the recent controversy surrounding AFAN has been such a surprise to so many.

Jennifer Morss is the Executive Director of AFAN and is the primary target of the majority of accusations, which include financial mismanagement, exorbitant pay and high administration costs, services that have been decreased or cut, wrongful terminations, and a culture of fear and intimidation within the organization. Her main accuser has been Lane Olson, a former supervisor who worked for AFAN for eight years and was released from the organization in September, though he is not by any means the only person involved. There are a great many players involved in this dust up, both current and former employees ranging from the top of the organization on down; a local doctor, Jerry Cade, who is involved with AFAN and is now acting as a mediator; and both current and former clients of AFAN.

On Sept. 15, there was a significant theft of AFAN funds by a former employee; this is when the public face of this controversy came to light. The real story, however, began in October, when Olson himself was let go. Although Morss denies that Olson's termination was related to the theft, and indeed his termination paperwork does not mention it, Olson has provided a letter to *QVegas* that had been sent to clients after his separation that mentions "two former employees" being let go because of the theft. Though the letter does not mention Olson by name, since both he and this other employee were

let go around the same time, that led Olson to believe that he was being surreptitiously linked to the theft in the public domain in an effort to smear his name.

The nature of Olson's termination, which really lies at the heart of this whole thing, is much more complicated than that. The technical reason for his firing, as stated in his exit paperwork, was "gross misconduct and misappropriation of funds." According to both Morss and AFAN Interim President Patricia Saavedra, Olson was counseled and written up four times over the course of the past year for incorrectly misappropriating private donations and grant funds. Olson adamantly denies he was ever counseled four times over misappropriation of funds and never signed any write ups related to those instances. Without physically seeing that documentation, there is no way to independently verify his claim. One thing that does potentially help his case, however, is the fact that although AFAN initially refused his unemployment claim, the unemployment office ended up granting it to him because AFAN was unable to provide supporting documentation, which would have included signed write-ups.

One of these alleged instances of misappropriation of funds came in the form of receipts for gas that were apparently duplicate receipts. Of course, in any organization where gas is expensed out, one receipt is to be turned in to account for it and reimbursed, but apparently Olson had turned



in duplicates on multiple occasions. "When this originally happened," Olson says, "I was called into the office by the Director of Operations and was basically told it was no problem, we've all done it, it was no big deal. She even laughed about it. I wasn't written up or anything at all. We just talked about it and that was all. In all actuality, over the eight years I've worked there, I rarely even turned in receipts, so I gave them a lot of my own money and gas most of the time. So, the fact that this was just dug up after the fact is quite suspect."

The final piece to Olson's termination puzzle came courtesy of an incident that, on the surface, sounds quite innocuous: the selling of candy and snacks for fundraising purposes. According to Olson, this particular practice had been in place for a couple of years before he was finally approached about it shortly before he was let go. "I asked why," he begins, "and was told that the grant cannot fund a fundraiser for our agency. I responded that I didn't know that, and that Jennifer Morss had been aware of this program from its inception. Once I was told to shut down the sales, I did stop. Even after this event, however, Jennifer Morss and other executive staff members still continued to purchase or take candies. Yet this was being used as the final reason for my eventual termination," he concludes.

Morss strongly denies such claims. "This was not something that was a common practice and I most definitely was not participating in removing or selling this candy," she asserts. "Lane had been counseled on this in the past, that he could not use the grant in this fashion. To imply that I had anything to do with it is just flat out wrong."

Around the time Olson was released, five other former employees of AFAN came forward and wrote letters supporting him and reinforcing many of the accusations listed above. These letters were released to the media — though not *QVegas* — by those individuals and were reported on in both print publications and on TV news stations. This information was also sent to both clients and donors as well, further ratcheting up the intensity of this now quite public spectacle.

The charge of financial mismanagement, potential embezzlement, and suggestion that there was a federal investigation into AFAN's activities was probably the harshest of accusations, considering this carried with

it the implication that a crime may have been committed. This was also the first accusation picked up by the news media, for obvious reasons. While Olson himself does not endorse the charge of embezzlement, he does explain areas where he felt there was definite impropriety.

"I did see mismanagement of funds in regards to physically seeing money from one source of a grant being used for something else that it wasn't intended for, specifically by Jennifer Morss, which is — ironically — why I was supposedly fired," he says. "I also heard of accounts where money was paid for trips to go to a conference, but they



really didn't attend the conference and instead visited her family. I was also witness to something similar to this where we took a trip to Palm Springs for a conference and, while they made me go and lead the conference, they went out to eat, watch movies, and hang out around Palm Springs."

Saavedra explains the steps that the Board took once these various charges were levied at the organization. "We did a highly intense forensic audit and could not find any evidence of these charges. We brought in several independent outside agencies to do this audit, including one we did internally and could not find any merit to these suggestions. Additionally, there is no federal investigation going on in regards to AFAN.

"While the audits done on AFAN's books did turn up the missing funds related to the theft," she continues, "there were no findings that related to any mismanagement of funds, from the audit, our outside HR

person, or our outside legal counsel. Period. Again, as shown in our audit, our bottom line is very strong and we have had record fundraising years under Morss' leadership, in a terrible economic climate, mind you. We continue to do well in private funds and grants and the financial management is strong."

QVegas has not physically seen the results of this audit, so we have been unable to do an independent verification of this information, though Saavedra did openly offer to provide us with that information. Unfortunately, due to time constraints involved with the magazine going to print, we were unable to obtain this documentation in time to include it in this investigation. In the coming month, we hope to obtain as much documentation as possible, including audit information, for a comprehensive follow up in January's issue. This way we can provide further analysis based on detailed paperwork and supporting facts.

Closely linked to the allegations of financial mismanagement are accusations of high administration costs and an inordinately high salary for Morss, which was reported in the range of \$113,000, even as crucial services to clients are being cut. "When you think of a non-profit and you think of the times that we are in, I think it stands to call that kind of pay into question," Olson says.

In regards to this charge, Saavedra explains how the board decides what Morss gets paid. "We did a salary survey about a year ago," she says. "It listed non-profits and their amounts of revenue along with staff size, which we used to evaluate Jennifer's pay. I've heard one accusation that she makes \$113,000 a year and that is not true. She makes quite a bit less than that. When we looked at that salary survey, it listed low, mid, and high, and Jennifer is right below the mid-point. She has done so exceptionally well in fundraising and exceeding her goals, if we were in a better economy, we would have actually increased her pay."

QVegas interviewed a couple of AFAN's current clients to get a perspective on the state their current services are in. Derek Washington explains that he does feel there are some deficiencies that need to be addressed. "It's definitely been within the last year that things started going downhill," he says. "They stopped handing out food vouchers and cut back help on transporta-

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tion assistance and seminars, as well. I've heard this from many people, as well."

Conversely, John Willey, another AFAN client, has had a completely different experience. "I thought they were extremely professional, acted very quickly, and acted in my best regard," he reports. Granted, Willey did not attempt to use food or transportation vouchers. Instead, he took advantage of their AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which is funded by the Ryan White Act.

With these nuances in mind, Saavedra explains the reasons why some services have been cut. "The reason we have had a decrease in certain services is not related to financial mismanagement, high administration costs, or any one's pay," she explains. "Jennifer has been working with our guarantors on the bus and food vouchers. With some of the health care changes and changes in eligibility, AFAN is now severely restricted on how much of these services we can give out. The restrictions came into play March of this year and it's not AFAN limiting the services or an issue of money, it's coming from the federal guarantors. We have also sent letters to our clients explaining these changes."

The final allegation in this long and complicated tale is the one involving wrongful terminations and the culture of fear and intimidation within AFAN, both of which are inexorably linked. This is where the other five employees who came forward are involved. QVegas has also learned that there are apparently more former employees who have come forward and been vocal about their opposition to Morss, but they did not specifically write any letters. We were able to obtain a statement from a couple of the original five, however.

Lilliana Vasquez was Morss' receptionist over a year ago and in her written statement she explains that Morss personally fired her because she was pregnant with twins and a two-day notice was not acceptable when she was about to give birth, even though she claims Morss knew well over a month in advance. The details laid out in the statement involving their relationship is too much to go into here, but in closing Vasquez puts it this way:

I have copies of the e-mails, the voluntary resignation form, and the letter Jennifer Morss gave me when she terminated me. When things first happened, I didn't have the energy, time or

resources to pursue this matter against AFAN and Jennifer Morss. My family had to come first. After reading some of the recent news and hearing of certain events, I feel like it is the right time to come out and speak about my situation and the total lack of care in Jennifer's leadership at AFAN. I truly feel that she is brining such a great organization down.

QVegas was also able to obtain a transcript of a conversation that took place between Sybrina Bernabei, another former employee let go for alleged financial misconduct, and a current AFAN employee. Here is an excerpt of that conversation:

I can only speak for myself as an ex-employee and as a Sister in saying that I have never purposefully taken any money or gas cards or cheated clients the way she is accusing me of. I am hurt and saddened that she is trying to smear my name. I have worked in the field as a paid staff and non-paid volunteer for more than 20 years going back to 1987 when I came into AFAN as a child with my grandmother. I would never do anything to take from the agency or clients. My belief is that AFAN is a worse agency since Jenn has been leading it. There is less collaboration and unity in the community, the staff morale is at an all-time low and they are terrified of her. Clients do not seek services (or what is left of them) and most of all it isn't the agency that provides compassion and help like it once did. By Jenn executing people like Lane and myself, there are less people there who truly care and can listen and help.

Morss and Saavedra both vehemently deny these accusations and speak directly to what they feel is the real reason behind what is going on. "This all came together after Lane was let go," Saavedra explains. "Some of these people had been gone for quite some time and there were no problems, no postings on the Internet or anything. It was like suddenly this was the cool thing to do. We did have one small situation with an individual — and I can't talk about it unless you get a release from her — but it was nothing like this. It had died down. The fact of the matter is that there is a common thread between all of these people."

It does seem like that common thread is their animosity towards Morss. "My thought is," Saavedra again replies, "that all of these people felt very close to Jennifer. She is an extremely compassionate person and really reaches into people's lives. So I think people began viewing this as a

friendship and not a professional relationship. And yes, maybe Jennifer went way above what a boss should do... but I don't think she crossed the line per se. So when people asked for a promotion or a raise and it wasn't on the merits of the performance, people got really emotional. Jennifer had long standing relationships with these people, so if something happens and they get let go, it gets very emotional and they take it personally. Then, in a matter of months they are all coming together," she finishes.

Morss herself is quite a bit more blunt in her assessment. "The reality is that Lane is furious because his relationship has been severed with the organization, with AFAN, and he believes that was my sole decision, and it was not. It was a recommendation that came from the board, our HR person, and our legal counsel based on his past performance. So, I have born the brunt of his fury, and that has trickled in from Lane and Tracy [Skinner]. And everyone else who has attacked this organization in the past month can be linked back to the same individuals... they have all felt that personal relationships will affect my professional decisions and I just won't do it. They felt when did uncover things that were happening, I should have let it go because they were my friends, but I won't," she emphatically concludes.

Tracy Skinner is yet another name among the main five, and potentially a dozen more, who are levelling these accusations towards Morss and AFAN. The one, however, who may be able to break through this mud-slinging war of words and accusations is Dr. Jerry Cade, the mediator. He has met with all the parties involved, including the AFAN Executive Board. So, what does he think of all of this? "The bottom line is that it just doesn't make any sense," he says in exasperated tones. "It just seems pretty crazy in real world terms. Obviously, I will continue mediating and investigating and this isn't over yet, but ultimately AFAN's clients are my patients, so I owe them at least a fair attempt to get to the bottom of this. Of course, the other thing that seems to have happened, for whatever reason, is it seems to be taking a lot longer to get services and there are fewer services available, at least according to my patients. So, I do have a vested interest in seeing this through from both sides of it and I plan to do so."

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HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATIONS around the valley are **Reaching Out**

{ By John Dolpies }



With the 22nd annual World AIDS Day upon us, a concern for those affected by the virus is at an all-time high. With advancements in medication, a worldwide fight and a universal sense of hope, it is now evident that being positive is no longer a death sentence. However, just because this is fact does not mean that you shouldn't get tested or attempt to live with the disease without treatment or assistance. There are numerous organizations in Las Vegas that are reaching out and providing phenomenal ways of helping the community during its time of need.

One out of four people do not even know that they are carrying the virus. Joshua Montgomery is the HIV Prevention Coordinator at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. Montgomery started with The Center in 2003 and left to go back to school in 2007. Since his return in 2009, he has become one of the pivotal players in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"I found out my status in 1997 and I wanted to help those not go through what I went through. I run the Vegas Mpowerment project. It's for guys 20-29. We create social venues for guys to meet other guys in a safe environment where there are no drugs, alcohol or sex charges. We create social venues and hold events like movie nights, karaoke nights, open microphone nights and dance nights. We try to recruit members from the bars and places like that where guys find themselves at risk."

The Center's Outreach Program edu-

cates its members on HIV and other STDs. The main focus is HIV prevention but as Montgomery says, they "aim to have fun." The program aims to help people to be more comfortable talking about sex and practicing safe sex. The center administers free HIV testing Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. They are currently averaging 50 to 75 people a week. The center can be reached at (702) 733-9800.

Among these groups is Aids for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN), both the largest and oldest HIV/AIDS advocacy group in the state. They provide a multitude of great programs for HIV-positive clients, one of which is Case Management. Case Management provides first hand assistance administered by Care Coordinators. The coordinators meet with new clients and determine their eligibility for services offered by AFAN and other organizations as well. They inform clients of the necessary information and programs needed

for their individual circumstance. The Case Coordinators also determine the best short term and long term housing needs for clients based on their physical health, mental health, potential substance abuses and financial status. AFAN also assists in HIV/AIDS medication, insurance continuation and transportation needs. If you would like to contact AFAN, their phone number is (702) 382-2326.

On the subject of housing, it is important to note that many individuals living with HIV/AIDS cannot afford to live on their own. They may be living on the streets or in some debilitating alcove such as a basement or a garage. This may sound extreme, but it is not uncommon. Luckily, there is a group that provides permanent housing and direct financial assistance to men, women and children affected with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada. Golden Rainbow was started by the entertainment community to assist one of

their own who was forced to live and die in a garage because people were unable or unwilling to provide assistance. Although it was started by the entertainment community, it serves all people infected with HIV/AIDS. Gregory Nielson is the President of this organization.

"I began volunteering with Golden Rainbow about two years ago. I helped out with booths or at various events like Naked Hearts, the AIDS Walk, PRIDE, etc. A year ago, I was invited to join the Board of Directors and this past fall I was elected as President of the Board."

Nielson mentioned that all of Golden Rainbow's housing is completely paid for and that they don't have any significant liabilities.

"We are the only local organization that provides housing and direct financial assistance. We function as a 'safety net' organization. We get referrals from other agencies for clients who need housing or who are in need of emergency financial help."

The first fund-raising show orchestrated by the founders of the organization was called "Golden Rainbow." It was held in July of 1987. Several months later, the organization was founded and called Golden Rainbow. The fund-raising show was later renamed "Ribbon of Life." It remains one of the largest HIV/AIDS fundraisers in Nevada. Golden Rainbow can be reached at (702) 384-2899.

The St. Therese Center, named after Saint Therese of Lisieux, is a non-profit organization that extends their hand to people of all faiths affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. They are supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas. Father Joseph O'Brien founded the center 13 years ago after working with affected individuals and easing them through their time of suffering. The center provides not only spiritual guidance, support groups, prayer services and referrals to other HIV agencies for continued service, but they also administer daily lunches at 11:30 a.m. from Monday to Friday as well as a food pantry. Clients are welcome to use the pantry once a week on an as-needed basis.

"I was in a panic state. I wasn't sure what I was going to do; I didn't know anything about the virus. I found the center through a referral and counseling center. When I found the center, it saved my life," says Father Joseph's assistant David Brown. Brown has been a top contributor and volunteer to the St. Therese Center for three years.



JOSHUA



GREGORY



DAVID



LOOSY

"Father Joseph started helping people back in the war days. He would meet someone affected and be burying them nearly six months later. Father's heart is obviously in the right place by helping people that are afflicted by a potentially life-threatening virus."

You can contact the St. Therese Center's main campus at (702) 564-4224, their central Las Vegas Satellite at (702) 650-2776 and their west Las Vegas Satellite at (702) 336-2997.

If you haven't heard of the Sin City Sisters, you've probably seen them at local venues, in bars or at events such as Las Vegas PRIDE. They are usually adorned with stunning, extravagant outfits that represent a modern-nun style with a drag edge. Mother Loosy Lust Bea Lady, who is one of the twelve Sisters, founded the group in 2005.

"The original Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were founded in 1979 in San Francisco. What we have done here is create a program called Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program (SADAP) where people who aren't funded by the government or not financially able can come to us and we can assist them with their medical co-pays and other drug-related finances. Our program will allow these individuals to remain adherent to all their prescribed medications needs and will alleviate much of the emotional stress of monthly financial dilemmas."

Mother Loosy also explained that what the Sisters do as a group is reach out in all different types of venues and preach education, advocacy and a sense of urgency in regards to HIV/AIDS. The sisters not only stand out due to their illustrious outfits but their call to action. They are hands-on with the community and work directly with their clientele. They are constantly preaching social activism, diversity and essentially being who you are. To inquire about all the services the Sisters offer, you can reach Mother Loosy by sending an email to Loosy@sinsitysisters.org.

With all these organizations providing beneficial and vital assistance to the HIV-positive community, a beacon of hope shines bright in the distance. HIV/AIDS is a problematic and serious disease, something that should not be ignored or taken lightly. It is also preventable, treatable and not an excuse to lead a life that strips one of his happiness. A disease doesn't define a person. It is the actions one takes that shape who they are, such as taking the hands of those who are reaching out. ■



Stress-free HOLIDAY *Party Guide*

BY JOHN BEACHAM

The holiday season is here, and you are thinking you want to open your doors for a holiday party. Being an event planner is no easy task. An event planner's job description will literally run into pages! Why? Well imagine there is a function at your place, say a New Year's Eve party or an over-the-top Christmas party that you need to plan. Now think of all the phone calls you need to make — to the caterer and florist and all the guests. But does it stop there? No. You need to call, and call again to confirm their arrival. Think of all the supplies you need to buy and the trips to the market. Now don't let this get you down about planning a holiday party; here are some simple tips to help you have a stress-free holiday party.

Design *on a budget*

- ❖ Make it FUN (F-Fabulous U-Unique N-Naughty or Nice)
- ❖ Before buying any holiday decorations for the party, assess your personal decor to find items that fit within your chosen color scheme or theme.
- ❖ Use partyware to add color and to personalize the party. Find customized cocktail napkins and coasters for a reasonable price at several online retailers.

How to *dress a table*

- ❖ When dressing a table, people always think that renting from a party rental store is expensive, but I always say make your holiday party the least stressful on yourself as possible so you can enjoy it. For instance, to rent dinner service for 20 — includes china, silverware, wine and champagne flutes — will run you around \$50. When you rent, you return dirty, so there are no dishes to clean, leaving you the time to enjoy your holiday party and friends.
- ❖ Also, if you are having a buffet-type holiday party, place some different-sized, sturdy boxes on the table, then drape your favorite linen over them and puddle the linen on top of the table. This gives you different heights to display your favorite holiday treats with space in between the boxes to put candles and maybe Christmas tree clip-pings and ornaments.

How to *make a fun centerpiece*

- ❖ Add greenery for a seasonal touch. Many Christmas tree vendors give away cuttings, which you can collect for affordable centerpieces.
- ❖ Finish with flowers for pops of festive color. Carnations are a chic and inexpensive choice.

How to *make inexpensive crackers look like catered food*

- ❖ At Costco, pick up a variety pack of Carr specialty crackers. Display these on your favorite tray, putting a bowl in the middle for olives. Around that bowl place cheese cubes, then pick one of those crackers and place that one around the cheese. Then take some salami or pepperoni and go around that, then add another set of crackers, a different one of the four that come in the package and so on. You then will have this fabulous-looking, inexpensive tray. It's all about presentation.

"Lil Devil" spicy eggs

6 Whole Hard boiled eggs (cut in half)	1/8 Tsp Cayenne Pepper
1/4 Cup Mayonnaise	12 Whole Shrimp (peeled with tails)
1 Tsp Dijon Mustard	1 Pinch Salt & Pepper
1 Tsp Chives (finely chopped)	1 Pinch Chili Powder
4 Dashes Tabasco	

In a small bowl, place the egg yolks and mash with a fork. Add mayonnaise, mustard, chives, hot sauce and cayenne pepper. Mix thoroughly. Salt and pepper to taste.

Using a small spoon or a pastry bag fitted with a large tip, fill the egg-white shells halfway with egg yolk mixture. Place one shrimp on top of the filling with the tail standing up. Top the shrimp with another dollop of the egg yolk mixture. Garnish with chopped chives or a sprinkle of chili powder.

Serve at room temperature
Prep Time is 10-12 minutes

Candy Cane Martini

3/4 oz Peppermint Schnapps
3/4 oz. Crème de Cacao
1/4 oz. Grenadine
1/4 oz. Half & Half
A splash of 7-Up

In a cocktail shaker half-filled with ice, combine peppermint schnapps, white crème de cacao and grenadine. Add half and half and top with a splash of 7-up. Garnish with a small candy cane and enjoy! Fa la la la...

John Beacham is a professional event planner and owns Affordable Affairs Event Planning "An affair you can remember." He is there to help you this holiday season and all year long with your event needs. You can reach him at (702) 283-3193

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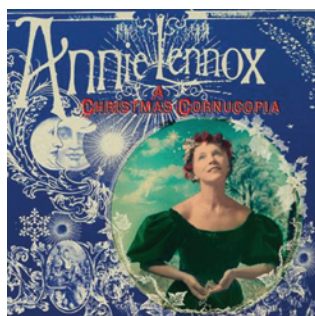
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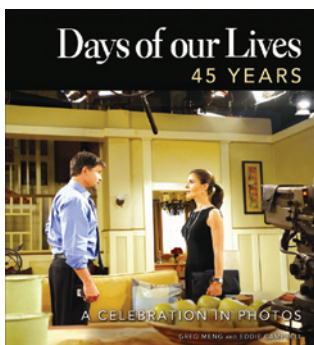
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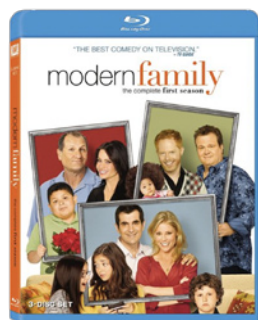
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HOLIDAY UNDIE PICKS

By DailyJocks.com staff

It's the holiday season! If you're looking for the perfect stocking stuffer for the guy in your life, we've got some below-the-belt picks, courtesy of the team at DailyJocks.com: the premiere guide for men's undies and swimwear.



Timoteo Sport Jock

Timoteo studio turns up the heat this season with their new sport range. These Sport Jocks won't make your mister run faster, but they will

certainly make his butt stand out. This modern take on an old favorite has been a best-seller at retailers worldwide. It's perfect for all body types and available in a range of color combinations. They're really low but will certainly leave a lasting impression as he walks away. Timoteo.net

Andrew Christian Freestyle Brief

Does your guy want a bulge bigger than Mount Everest? Then the Andrew Christian Freestyle Brief is for him.



These briefs work to make packages look huge, while giving extra support where it's needed. The soft waistband utilizes anti-muffin top technology so he'll never spill out of them, no matter his size. It has a great sporty look and the super soft spandex will let his pals breath in comfort. Andrewchristian.com



Calvin Klein X Element Low Rise Trunk

Since Marky Mark first appeared on billboards in his Calvins, men have been hooked to CK. The company

certainly knows how to make a man look sexy. Every few years, they release a new range and when they do, we pay attention. The new Calvin Klein X range launched with a bang thanks to *Twilight* hottie Kellan Lutz. The collection keeps getting bigger with new additions every few months; the Elements sub-range is quite unique.

Cocksox Brief

This Australian brand isn't trying to muscle in on AussieBum's territory. Cocksox has a distinctive look all its own with a pouch that enhances a man's package while keeping his two pals elevated and away from his body. Thankfully, there are no slings or rings and because it's made from a super-soft stretch microfiber, it is surprisingly comfortable and breathable. Men will want to buy this brief in every style and color. Cocksox.com



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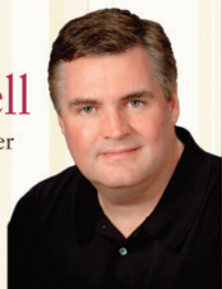
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'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE NEW YEAR

A NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY PLANNER BY JESSICA TRIPP

Las Vegas is one of the premium places to celebrate New Year's Eve, for both tourists and locals alike. There are events for those who love the limelight, the places to be seen, the Strip. There are smaller events in off-Strip clubs around town for those who want to avoid the tourist traffic (and crazy drunks running around). And there are a few LGBT parties already planned, the ones at Piranha Nightclub and Booty Bar being just two of them. Read on and start picking out a smashing outfit to break in 2011!

ClubZone.com is one site that is selling tickets to events all over Las Vegas and rating them by most sold. As of press time, their top event, Cathouse at Luxor, is currently selling general admission tickets at \$100 per person, with warnings that they will increase in price as the big night comes closer. They are advertising an open bar with party favors, hors d'oeuvres and several DJ's, as well as televisions showing the countdown. Most of the other clubs on the Strip run about the same, with a range from \$100 to \$200 for general admission and open bar, and upwards of \$400 for a table. Paul Oakenfold (at Rain) and LMFAO (at Moon) are only a couple of the celebrities being advertised as hosting events on the Strip.

The event at Piranha (4633 Paradise Rd.), called Evolution, is sponsored by www.justcircuit.com. Not satisfied with just one party, theirs spans the entire New Year's weekend. It opens on Thursday with DJ/producer Joe Gauthreaux. On Friday, New Year's Eve, DJ/producer Eddie Baez from New York will be in attendance and the party continues New Year's Day with another DJ/producer, Roland Belmares from Los Angeles. If you want to join this party, reservations for tables and three-day advance tickets can be purchased at www.piranhavegas.com.

For girls, Las Vegas lesbian DJ and event

planner Lisa Pittman is putting together an event to rival her memorable night from last year. "Last year I spun Tao Nightclub alongside DJ Five with Cristina Aguilera as the host. That was crazy! A sea of people smashed on the dance floor... A mega star like her... And the view of the Strip barely visible behind the DJ booth.... The energy was insane!" This year, she is spinning at Lavo for New Year's Eve. However, her big event will be a girl party she is throwing at Booty Bar (7700 Las Vegas Blvd. S.) on New Year's Day, Saturday.

"In 2011, I'm going to show Vegas what's going to come with the launch of a major celebrity star to bring in the very first day of the New Year," says Pittman. Booty Bar will be pairing up with Crush to bring in this surprise host, whom she confirms to be a huge celebrity in the lesbian world. While you have to visit her website, www.lesbi-anslasvegas.com, closer to the event time for set prices and other details, Pittman says one of the advantages of having it on New Year's Day is being able to keep the prices down to close to normal level.

In the Strip's only LGBT nightclub, Krave Las Vegas (corner of Harmon Ave. and Las Vegas Blvd.), drag sensation Lady Bunny will both DJ and perform. Direct from Paris, DJ Starz Angels will also spin, following an opening set by DJ P.A. Thirty-two circus acts — including pole dancers, stilt walkers, fire breathers and more — will entertain throughout the evening. Krave will also feed you as the sun comes up with a free breakfast buffet, compliments of Rockstar Energy Drink.

So whether you like to party with girls, guys or the general public, there is definitely a party for you this New Year's Eve. Don't drink and drive, and party in the New Year, and the new decade, with a fervor that will last you another 364 days. After all, New Year only comes once a year! ■

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Party in Palm Springs

A LOOK BACK AT PALM SPRINGS PRIDE NOVEMBER 6-7, 2010



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Marquis Villas Resort

When it comes to going on vacation we think of the airplane tickets, the rental cars, the hotels, the food and what to do once on vacation. But how about thinking outside the box? Marquis Villas Resort is definitely outside that box. The property is both a time share and a resort and gives you so many reasons to not even leave the property.

This resort offers every type of room imaginable from small quaint suites to two-story, grandiose mega suites with a full kitchen, dining room and more. So if you are going on a couple's getaway or bringing the whole family along, there is something to fit your needs. The amenities at this property will blow your mind away including a heated pool, tennis courts, fitness center and a jetted spa to relax in. With its location at the base of the San Jacinto mountains, the views from your private balcony are quite breathtaking.

If you do decide to leave the resort you are just steps away from the hottest nightlife and most delicious restaurants Palm Springs has to offer. There is no need to get in your rental car as literally everything you could want is steps away.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

THE HIGHS

Golden Nugget debuts elegant Rush Tower

Her HRC Las Vegas event a success

Viva Elvis opens at Aria Resort

Golden Rainbow celebrates 5th Annual Naked Hearts

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in DC

HRC Steering Committee wins national honor

Record turnout at AFAN's AIDS Walk

Kenyan athlete sets Boston Marathon record

QVegas celebrates 32 years of publishing

Toni Braxton releases comeback album, *Pulse*

The A-Team hits the big screen

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

7.0 magnitude earthquake hits Haiti

Brittany Murphy passes away

Corey Haim passes away

Toyota assessed largest fine ever (\$16.4M)

Polish president and 95 others died in plane crash

AZ Governor signs controversial immigration law

Controversy brews over Mosque at Ground Zero

Israeli troops attack aid boat going to Gaza

Rue McClanahan passes away

It seems like yesterday we were ringing in 2010, however 365 days have almost passed us by and 2011 is right around the corner. This year was full of ups and downs, from the warm welcome the LGBT community has had on the Las Vegas Strip to the devastating "September suicides." This will be a year for the history books, so take a look back with us over the year we called Twenty Ten!

MGM Mirage becomes MGM Resorts International

Judge Vaughn Walker overturns Proposition 8

MGM Resorts and Logo host Fabulous Vegas

Lady Gaga wins record 8 Video Music Awards

Frank Marino celebrates 25 years on Strip

33 Chilean miners rescued after 69 days

Penn & Teller celebrate 10 years in Vegas

Senator Harry Reid wins re-election bid

Mormon church changes stance on gays

The Cosmopolitan opens

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Lindsay Lohan goes to jail

Target donates money to anti-gay candidate

Wyclef Jean wants to run for President of Haiti

Rash of anti-gay bullying suicides

Liberace Museum closes its doors

Nevada jobless rate reaches high of 15%

Dina Titus loses re-election by 1290 votes

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Mundo

A CULINARY HAUTE SPOT

I believe Mundo in Spanish means world, which is appropriate because you will find Mundo (the restaurant) in the World Market Center. Very few restaurants have such an imposing location nestled, as it is, between the behemoths of wholesale shopping. So you haven't even entered the place yet and everything seems unusual. As you walk in, the difference quotient goes up even more as your eyes are met with an eclectic mix of Moorish/Spanish décor — the website describes it as old world Mexico meeting the glam of Las Vegas.



I came here to eat and I am already intrigued. The menu, which is a delightfully simple yet helpful guide to the offerings within, leads me on a journey of true difference. All the usual things one expects from a Mexican restaurant are there but the quality is superlative. My House Salad was supremely fresh and crisp delighting me with the notion that they had made it especially for me. I chose the Avocado Leaf Crusted Scallops, which was a delight, and the mango relish was an inspiration bringing a whole new depth and balance to one of my favorite sea foods. I stole a taste of my fellow diner's Red Chile Crust Prime Filet Mignon and immediately decided that would be my choice for the next time. Incidentally I have also decided to try the Mexican risotto, which the table next to me was raving about.

I have to confess I am not a desert person, so I can only report the visual, which was superb. Mundo is certainly a must on any gastronomic tour of Las Vegas. I have not tasted Latin grub this good anywhere else in this city. When the French — whose culinary expertise is legendary — would say *vive la différence*, Mundo is what they must have had in mind.

To make reservations, call (702) 270-4400 or visit www.mundolasvegas.com. ■

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TOP APP

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Having a bad day at work? Just flip 'em the bird... on your iPod, that is. There are no words to really describe this game, other than pure silly fun.

TOP SPOT

THE CHANDELIER inside THE COSMOPOLITAN

It doesn't even open until Dec. 15, however The Chandelier lounge at the Cosmopolitan will indeed be your new favorite spot on the Las Vegas Strip...we promise.



BOTTOM TECH

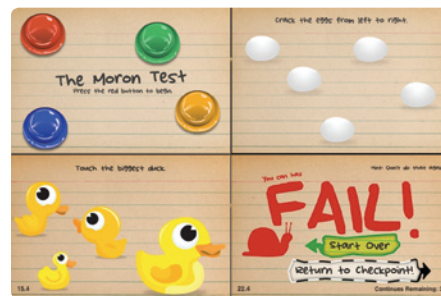
ARCHOS 7 TABLET

If you want a device that has the worst touch interface on the planet, then this is your device. Touch the screen and about 10 seconds later it does what you want it to.

BOTTOM SPOT

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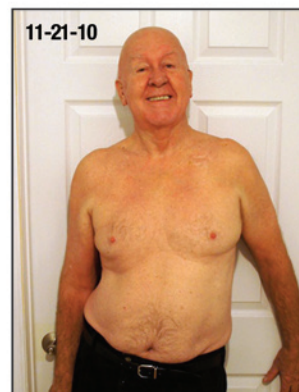
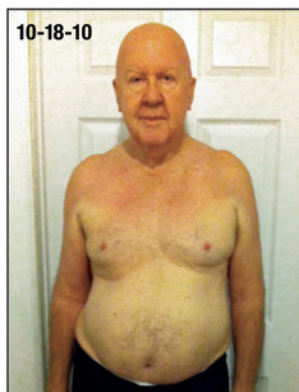
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QTRAVEL

BY M. CORY BURGESS



Fly south for the winter

If you want to spend a little time in a city that experiences four full seasons, and every little change in weather that goes with them, we suggest you hop on a plane and head over to the great Southern U.S. city of Nashville, Tenn. It's a great little change from exploring the Southwestern cities within drive-time from Las Vegas. And, believe it or not, a cowboy hat or boots is not required to fit in with the locals — but if you have them, don't hesitate to pack them.

Nashville is widely known by the nickname Music City, USA, due to its huge role as a hub of both the country and gospel music industries. Although the population of Davidson County (of which Nashville is the seat) is about a third of ours in Clark County, it's still a nicely metropolitan area, with plenty of dining, arts and shopping.

The crown jewel of country music has always been the Grand Ole Opry, a weekly stage concert in Nashville that began way back in 1925. Over the years, the Opry has been housed in multiple venues, most notably the Ryman Auditorium downtown and, since 1974, the Grand Ole Opry House. In May 2010, great rains drove the Cumberland River to overflow its banks and flood the Opry House, which

remained closed until Sept. 28. The Opry Mills shopping mall, sitting on the nearby former site of the greatly missed Opryland USA theme park, may never reopen due to its extensive and costly damage.

Next door, the Gaylord Opryland Resort was under 5-10 feet of floodwaters and remained closed for several months longer. Now reopened and renewed, as of Nov. 15, the resort is just as popular as ever with its breathtaking holiday decor and spirit. If you have a chance to visit Nashville before January, this is one place you shouldn't dare miss. Plan to spend a few hours wandering this massive resort and its three glass-roofed gardens with your better half. ■



Photo courtesy of Gaylord Opryland Resort.

Best way to see all the Nashville sights

If you're the type who loves to see all the touristy or historical sights when you visit a strange city, you may want to save a few bucks by purchasing the Music City Total Access Pass from www.visitmusiccity.com. For just \$50, you can visit four notable attractions (from a list of 16 possibilities) plus enjoy free admission to the Parthenon. These sights are highly recommended:

BELLE MEADE PLANTATION

Once a Thoroughbred horse farm where the bloodlines of Secretariat and Seabiscuit began, Belle Meade Plantation is an 1853 Greek Revival mansion. Tours are conducted by period-costumed interpreters.

CHEEKWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN AND MUSEUM OF ART

Named as a "Top Ten Public Garden" by the readers of *Southern Living* magazine, Cheekwood is a 55-acre historic estate and botanical garden with a nationally recognized art museum housed within a Georgian-style mansion.

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Rhinestone costumes, seasoned instruments and tear-stained lyric sheets are among the treasures you'll find in this destination. Enjoy a Southern meal in the on-site restaurant while there.

GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE DAYTIME BACKSTAGE TOUR

Now that the Opry House has reopened, it's a perfect time to go backstage and learn about its history as well as see what happens behind the scenes of the show.

THE HERMITAGE

When was the last time you visited an American President's home? Granted, Andrew Jackson was in office many, many years ago, but visiting The Hermitage lets you see how our nation's seventh President once lived. Believe it or not, it's actually been a museum for over a century.

THE PARTHENON

Recently depicted as the site of a major battle in the film, *Percy Jackson and the*



Olympians: The Lightning Thief, the Parthenon is full-scale replica of the original Greek Parthenon and sits in the middle of Centennial Park. Originally built of plaster, wood and brick in 1897 as part of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the structure was rebuilt of concrete in the 1920s. A 41-foot-tall, gilded re-creation of the Athena Parthenos statue stands inside.

RYMAN AUDITORIUM

Step even farther back into country music history by visiting the 1943-1974 home of the Grand Ole Opry. Built in the late 1800s by a riverboat captain originally as a church, and later left in a state of disrepair after the Opry moved out, the auditorium was reopened in 1994 as an intimate performance venue and museum. ■

RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATIONS HUTTON HOTEL

If you prefer to stay in the middle of the city, versus at the Gaylord Opryland Resort or other hotels near the airport, we strongly recommend checking into the Hutton Hotel, literally.

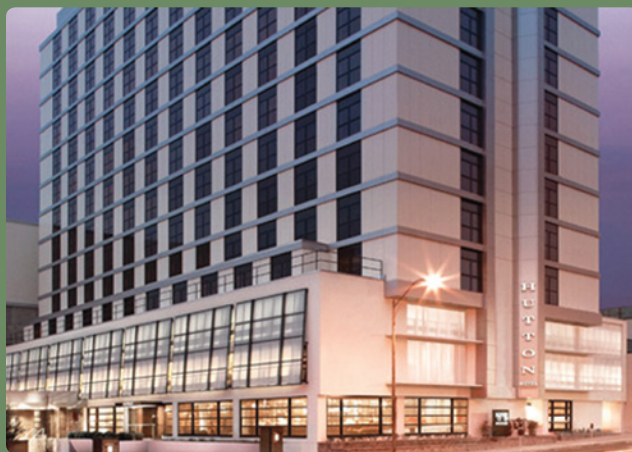
Located between downtown and Vanderbilt University, Hutton Hotel is consistently top-ranked by travel magazines and websites alike. While Nashville may not necessarily evoke feelings of urban chic, the Hutton Hotel certainly does.

All 248 stylish guest rooms (including 54 suites) are both beautiful and comfortable with plush queen- or king-size beds, HDTVs with multimedia interface, granite baths and showers, refreshment centers and laptop safes.

Not only is there a wonderful fitness center on site with several pieces of Pre-Cor equipment, but seven Cardio King Bedrooms offer either a stationary bike, treadmill or elliptical machine just steps away from your own bed. How's that for convenience when you just can't stop working out, even away from home? You know who you are.

Hutton Hotel is also extremely eco-friendly, featuring bamboo floors in the lobby and bamboo furniture throughout, LED or fluorescent lighting, dual-flush commodes and waterfree urinals, and a recycling program for glass, paper and plastics.

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BY THOMAS BOGLE

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son will start on Jan. 22. For more information,
visit www.sincitygaybasketball.com. ■

Softball

Dec. 5 will be the last day for the fall softball
season at Doc Romeo Park. For details, visit
www.LVGA3softball.com. Current stand-
ings: (C Division) Rat Pack 9-1, Card Sharks
5-5, Big Slick 4-6, Hooligans 2-8; (D Division)
LV Mafia 10-0, Blue Moon 6-4, Fun Hogs 6-4,
Spartans 5-5, The Center 3-7, Charlies 1-9. ■

LVGA³ stands for Las Vegas Gay Arts, Athletics & Activities. LVGA³ is an initiative to
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QYOUTH

BY NATHANIEL PHILLIPPS

We need to ring in the new year, too!

Oh, Las Vegas. How often you forget that *we* exist here. *We*, the people who supply the retail workforce for the many malls *you* hold so dear. *We*, the people who work *your* movie theaters and watch out for *your* children at public pools. *We*, the people who fetch *your* shopping carts after you have improperly and un-Americanly abandoned them in the parking lot. And *we*, the people who are stuck with an educational system that surpasses only one other state, the “official” winner of the 2010 unofficial award for “State You Don’t Want to be” — Arizona. Who are *we*? *We* are the “in-betweeners.” Some may disagree, but I think it speaks volumes about the moral compass of a country when its 18–20 year old population is permitted to enter into an establishment of sensual seduction, i.e. a strip club, but prohibited from bumping and grinding with each other at their local discotheque for some New Years Eve fun. What is to be done about this dilemma? Move to Germany. If you can’t, either invent a time accelerator or just wait it out like I’m doing.

Now that my rant is out of the way, I will attempt to provide some ideas on how to spend one of the most, if not the most, exciting night of the year as an “in-betweeners” in Las Vegas. The Fremont Street Experience is slapping us in the face this time, barring people under 21 from rocking out under the luminous glow of its “world’s largest big screen” on Dec. 31. If you’re like me, itchin’ to not be at home watching the fireworks on the local news by the fireplace with your grandma, here are some ideas:

If music is your thing, Area 702 Skatepark is having its 1st Annual New Year’s Eve Party, hosting 16 local bands from hip-hop, to punk, to rock, and screamo genres. The venue is the premier skatepark in Las Vegas but also functions as one of the only all-ages concert venues, with many concerts being endorsed by



XPOZLV, a popular urban culture magazine. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will be rocking well past midnight. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. If you’ve never tried skating before, rental equipment is available. (Located at 3040 Simmons St, North Las Vegas, NV, 89032).

A very cool way to spend the last night of 2010 is to watch *MUS.I.C* at the Monte Carlo — an incredible and high energy dance concert put on by American’s Best Dance Crew’s JabbaWockeeZ. The show starts at 9:30 and tickets start at \$60.

Chocolate Land is a new eatery in town, owned and operated by a local couple. Enjoy chocolate fountains, chocolate covered strawberries and pretzels, your own original candy, gourmet chocolate coffee, and amazing \$2 hot cocoa. The shop will be open well past midnight, and hosting a Wii Dance Dance Revolution party, free giveaways, and a lounge area where you can chill after a perhaps crazy night of partying. It’s located in the Commercial Square on Sahara in the same plaza as the LGBT Center. Call 892-9866 for directions.

Enjoy breathtaking views of the Strip from the top floor of any UNLV parking garage. This will get you as close as you can to the fireworks without having to worry about parking or crazed drunken partiers. For an even more memorable experience, watch the fireworks surrounded by the splendor of nature at Red Rock. There are driving trails that take you to observation spots where you can see the New Year’s show in the sky. ■

NATHANIEL PHILLIPPS is a sophomore Environmental Studies major at UNLV and a graduate of the Las Vegas Academy. He serves as the Co-Chair of GLSEN Southern Nevada, Youth Outreach Coordinator for Stonewall Democrats, and a Trevor Project national Youth Advisory Council member. Singing/songwriting is his biggest passion.





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Establishing a new culture of style in Las Vegas, 9037 Salon is now open in Summerlin. 9037 Salon offers stylists and clients a truly unique, modern and intimate salon experience. From custom-made European styling chairs and shampoo bowls to glass terrazzo ledges — it is the culmination of perfect salon equipment and stunning architecture.

At 9037 Salon, every hair artist maintains complete independence, empowering each stylist's artistry. "We set out to create the perfect working environment to attract the most talented stylists and colorists," says salon owner, Chris Emanuel. "We feel strongly we have done just that, starting with Lyle Malapit, our managing stylist."

Malapit, a hair stylist for six years, has known Emanuel since 2004, and when the opportunity arose to open his own hair salon with Chris, he was more than ecstatic. Malapit helped design the salon to fit the

needs of the salon's clientele and what hair artists would need. "Seeing the workspaces that Las Vegas hair salons offer, I realized independent hairstylists like myself struggle to do their best work because of inappropriate lighting, limited work spaces, and insufficient storage. The decor makes a big difference as well. Now my clients can enjoy a non-offensive ambiance that appeals to men and women of all ages."

9037 Salon has four, two-chair, private rooms and six open style stations. All hair stylists work independently from each other and they are given the opportunity to run their own business. Each stylist books their own appointments to fit their schedule, determines their own pricing scale, and sells their own professional hair care products.

9037 Salon (located at 9037 W. Sahara Ave.) invites the community to come into the salon for a free consultation. For more information, visit www.9037salon.com or call (702) 570-7108. ■

9037
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Sales/leasing consultant Florencio Rupley embodies Findlay Kia's commitment to providing exceptional customer service. The dealership, located on West Sahara Avenue, is constantly striving to exceed customers' expectations in its sales, service, and parts departments. The staff at Findlay Kia has pledged to provide a pleasant, hassle-free atmosphere for customers looking to find a large selection of new and pre-owned vehicles.

Rupley and the entire sales department are focused on gaining long term customers through attentiveness in each individual's needs as a car buyer. Peace of mind comes for owners who drive a Kia because the manufacturer provides an industry-leading 10-year/100,000 mile warranty program.

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JOHN E. CERESO, ESQ. | NEVADA LAW GROUP

John E. Cereso, Esq. is the owner of Nevada Law Group, Ltd. and a licensed attorney in both Nevada and New Jersey, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). An out and proud member of the LGBT community, Cereso resides with his husband Larry and their Rottie, Natasha. He is an outspoken legal advocate for his LGBT clients and believes that the community has played an enormous role in his professional success.

"Many of my most rewarding cases have involved achieving results for GLBT clientele when they never dreamed they could really win," says Cereso. "Being able to help a gay teen stay in a positive home environment instead of with harmful parents or preventing a child from being prosecuted for what was consensual experimentation is very fulfilling... but helping parents with adoptions, or getting a domestic partner their fair share of marital property after they break up, can be just as rewarding."

Primarily practicing in Family Law, Criminal Defense, Estate Planning & Probate, Bankruptcy, Corporate & Civil Litigation, and Franchise Law keeps Cereso on his toes. "I like being something of a generalist," he says. "The areas I practice in overlap in so many ways that it is important to be well rounded and versatile in your practice without going too far or getting overwhelmed."

The hardest part of being a lawyer, according to Cereso, is "having to tell a client what they don't want to hear... but I believe it's imperative that attorneys provide open and frank legal advice without a lot of bull... clients *need* to hear the good and bad news



and a realistic expectation of times and costs for a given matter, something that, unfortunately, too many lawyers simply don't provide."

Cereso is a graduate of the University of Toledo College of Law with a Juris Doctorate (J.D.), and also holds a Masters Degree in Arts Administration (M.A.) from St. Mary's University in Minnesota and a Bachelor's Degree in Management (B.A.) from Webster University in St. Louis. In addition to running Nevada Law Group, he is a partner

in Exardius Limited, a franchise consultancy. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Cereso worked as a consultant in the ticketing industry for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, ran a Grammy-nominated multimedia studio, was a sector coordinator for the Atlanta Olympic Games, and a house manager for the Fox Theatre in St. Louis following his service in the United States Air Force. ■



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Audi Henderson, 11am
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B&D Senior Pet Food Drive

Bogart's Bone Appetit (all locations), 1-4pm

IRSCDEI Coronation XIII

Tropicana Ballroom, 5:13pm
www.desertempire.org

Adam Corolla

House of Blues, 7pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Jeff Dunham

Colosseum at Caesars Palace, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Men of Charlie's Contest

Charlie's Las Vegas, 10pm
www.charlieslasvegas.com

Josh Gracin

Monte Carlo, 11pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

IRSCDEI Coronation Victory Brunch

Tropicana, 10:30am
www.desertempire.org

A Holiday Extravaganza

Atrium Theater (Luxor), 12:30pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Blake Shelton

House of Blues, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Improv – Vegas, S.E.T.

Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Occurs every Monday.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Prime Timers Dine-Out

Black Bear Diner, 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

IRSCDEI Court Meeting

The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Quench – Your Thirst for More

and AFAN Holiday Toy Drive
The Beatles' Revolution Lounge (Mirage), 7pm
www.qvegas.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds

Planet Hollywood, 7:30pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Another show on Dec. 11.

The Black Crowes

The Joint at Hard Rock, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Miranda Lambert

Pearl Concert Theater, 10pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

NGRA Country Christmas & Holiday Show

Charlie's Las Vegas, 8pm
www.ngra.com

Aziz Ansari

Pearl Connert Theater, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Bingo with the Sin Sity Sisters
Silver Nugget, 5pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

The Santaland Diaries
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
*Occurs until the 11th with a show at 8pm
and Sunday Matinee at 5pm on Dec.12.*

It's Snowing at Charlie's
Charlie's Las Vegas, 10pm
www.charlieslasvegas.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Prime Timers Buffet Lunch
Sam's Town Buffet, 12pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

**Quench – Your Thirst for More
SNAPI Ornament Auction and
HRC Third Thursday Holiday Party**
Ghost Bar (Palms), 7pm
www.qvegas.com

Charlie's Employee Turnabout
Charlie's Las Vegas, 10pm
www.charlieslasvegas.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Prime Timers Appreciation Banquet
Fiesta Rancho Buffet, 5:30pm (RSVP)
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

Jonathan Isley's Annual Center Benefit
Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Judds
Mandalay Bay, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Onyx Theatre, 11:30pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

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www.thecenterlv.com

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Every Tuesday evening, 8-10pm
www.sincityqsocals.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

AFAN Kids' Holiday Party
AFAN, 11am
www.afanlv.org

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Prime Timers Cocktail Night
Spotlight Lounge, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas
from the staff of QVegas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Commodores
Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

IRSCDEI BOD Meeting
The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Prime Timers Dine-Out
Olive Garden (Flamingo/Tamara), 6:30pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Pitbull
House of Blues, 9pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Thirty Seconds to Mars
Pearl Concert Theater, 10pm
www.ticketmaster.com

**New Years Eve Show and
Benefit for Off the Strip Productions**
Onyx Theatre, 10pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

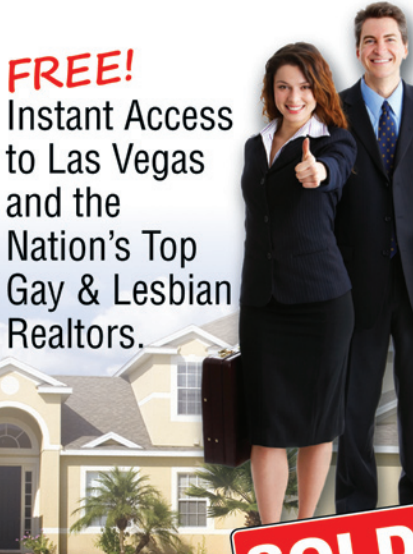
Prime Timers NYE Night Out
Spotlight Lounge
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

New Years Eve Mask Ball
Hawk's Gym, 10pm-4am
www.onyxtheatre.com

NOTE: Nearly every nightclub and bar in Las Vegas will be holding a New Year's Eve celebration on December 31, so we strongly suggest either calling or looking online for the website of your favorite nightspot for the most up-to-the-minute celebration details.



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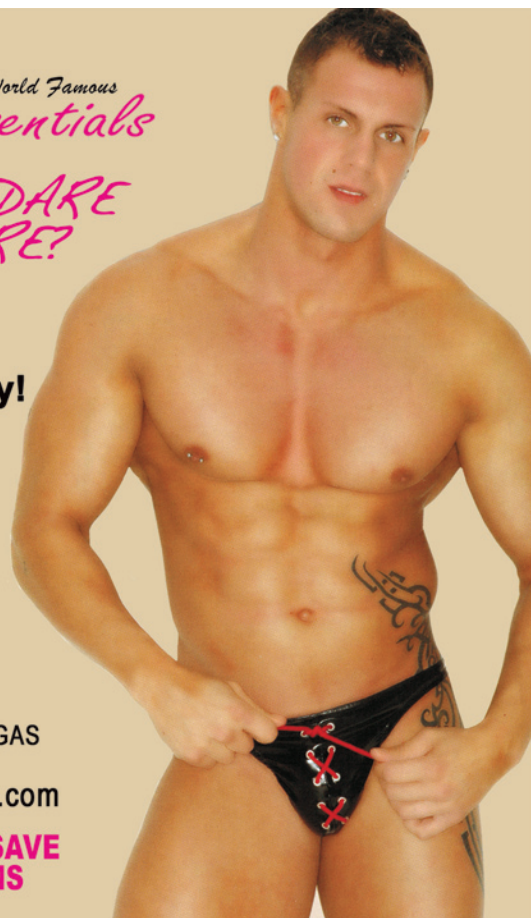
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- 3 Charlie's Las Vegas, 5012 Anville St, 876-1844
- CC Entourage Vegas Bath House, 953 E Sahara Ave, 650-9191
- 6 Escape Lounge, 4213 W Sahara Ave, 364-1167
- 7 Flex, 4371 W Charleston Blvd, 385-3539
- FL FreeZone, 601 E. Naples, 794-2300
- 8 Fun Hog Ranch, 495 E Twain Ave, 791-7001
- FL Gipsy, 4605 Paradise Rd, 731-1919
- CC Hawks Gym, 953 E Sahara Ave, 731-4295
- 11 Las Vegas Eagle, 3430 E Tropicana Ave, 458-8662
- CC Las Vegas Lounge, 900 E Karen Ave, 737-9350
- 13 Krave, 3663 Las Vegas Blvd S, 836-0830
- 4 Revolution Lounge inside the Mirage, lightgroup.com
- 14 Snick's Place, 1402 S 3rd St, 577-3648
- CC Spotlight Lounge, 957 E. Sahara Ave, 696-0202

DINING AND FOOD

- 16 The Coffee Bean/Tea Leaf, 4550 S Maryland Pkwy, 876-6629
- 17 Freakin' Frog, 4700 S Maryland Pkwy, 597-9702
- 18 It's A Grind Coffee House, 8470 W Desert Inn Rd, 360-4232
- 19 Odoba Mexican Grill, 5045 W Tropicana Ave, 871-7022
- 20 The Cupcakery, 7175 W Lake Mead Blvd, 835-0060
- 21 The Cupcakery, 9680 S Eastern Ave, 207-2253
- 22 Keva Juice, 605 Mall Ring Cir, 898-2844
- 23 Java Detour, 6087 S Pecos Rd, 450-0025
- 2 Mundo, 495 S. Grand Central Pkwy, 270-4400
- 26 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 8380 W. Sahara, 731-6030
- 27 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 4147 S. Maryland, 731-6030
- 28 Paymons Mediterranean Café, 107 E. Charleston, 272-0020
- FL Tuscany Pizza (inside FreeZone), 610 E. Naples, 222-4444
- 24 Whole Foods, 6689 Las Vegas Blvd S, 589-7711
- 25 Whole Foods, 8855 W Charleston Blvd, 254-8655
- 92 Yolies Brazilian Steakhouse, 3900 Paradise, Ste. 2, 794-0700

ACCOMMODATIONS

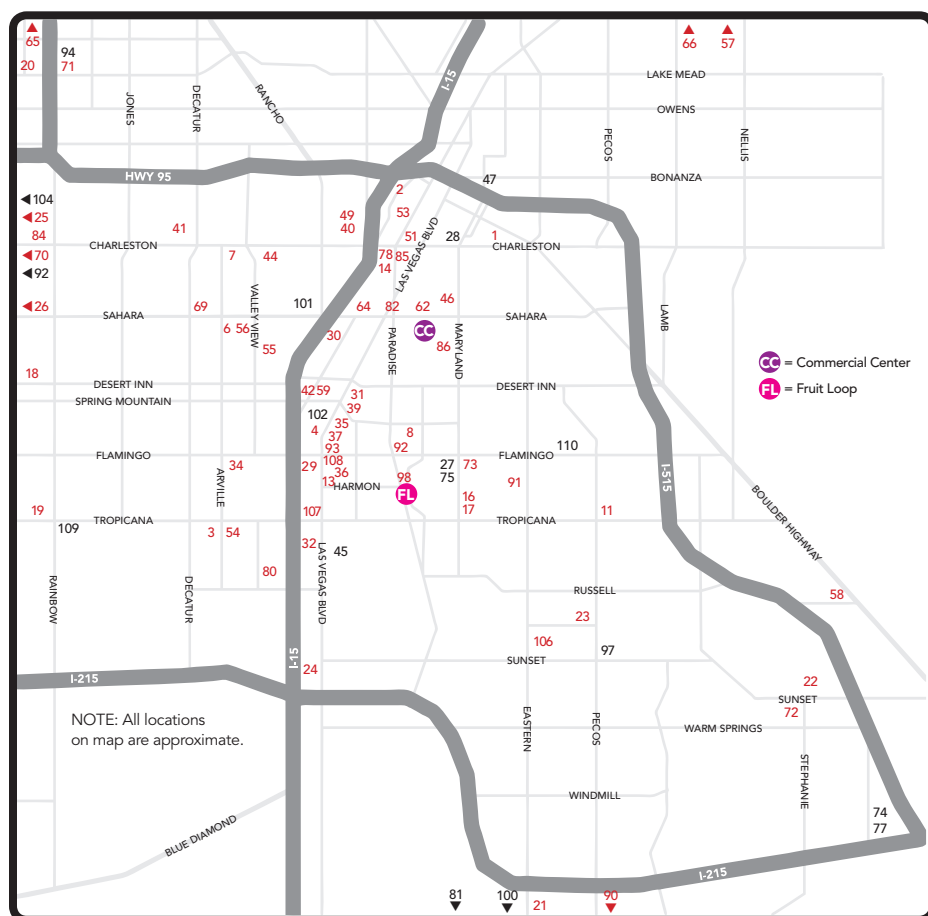
- 29 Bellagio Hotel Concierge, 3600 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 30 Blue Moon Resort, 2651 Westwood Dr., 361-9099
- 31 Encore Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd S.
- 32 Luxor Hotel Concierge, 3900 Las Vegas Blvd S,
- 4 Mandalay Bay Hotel Concierge, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 34 Palms Hotel & Casino Concierge, 4321 W Flamingo Rd
- 35 Palazzo Resort Concierge, 3325 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 36 Paris Hotel & Casino Concierge, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 37 Venetian Resort Concierge, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd S
- 39 Wynn Las Vegas Concierge, 3131 Las Vegas Blvd, 770-1571

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- 41 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S Brush St, 229-6383
- 42 Erotic Heritage Museum, 3275 S Industrial Rd, 369-6442
- CC GLBT Center, 953 E Sahara Ave Ste B31, 733-9800
- 44 Golden Rainbow, 3233 W Charleston Blvd, 384-2899
- 45 Imago Dei Sunday Mass, 55 E Reno, 354-2294
- 46 Metro. Comm. Church, 1140 Almond Tree Lane, 369-4380
- 47 NALA, 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, 382-6252
- CC Onyx Theatre, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 732-7225
- 49 Southern NV Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, 759-0702
- 51 The Arts Factory, 107 E Charleston Blvd, 676-1111
- 40 Wellness Center, 701 Shadow Lane, 383-2691

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- 55 Adult World, 3781 Meade Avenue, 579-9735
- 56 Bare Essentials, 4029 W Sahara Ave, 247-4711
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SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Annual New Moon in your sign on the 5th sends romantic feelings into orbit. The 6th-12th looks best for a long overdue getaway and for winning a small jackpot. Keep to yourself on the 19th to avoid conflicts. Xmas eve looks cozy and warm, but the 26th and 27th prove to be non stop socializing. Stay close to home on the 31st.



CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Financial aspects ease up somewhat after the 10th. Have that dental work completed before the 19th. Full Moon on the 21st ignites the holiday season with a major surprise visit. That's quite a spread you'll be putting out on the 25th. Planning to feed the neighborhood? You'll be dressed to the "nines" for that New Year's gala.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

The month gets off to a somewhat chaotic start, but shall calm down by the 6th. Have that gift shopping done by the 15th to keep your nerves and sanity in check. Full Moon aspect on the 21st really puts you in a cheerful frame of mind. Let someone else do the driving on the 26th. The year ends with an extended/passionate mid-night kiss.



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Much of last month's confusion should be gone by the 3rd. Lunar aspects on the 7th make you want to hibernate. Xmas bash on the 18th proves to be a total delight. Due to a cash shortage, seek out bargains when shopping (there are tons out there). Good news arrives by mail on the 23rd.



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

December won't as much of an endurance test as last month was. People will tend to be more cooperative and fewer delays await you. Finalize holiday travel plans by the 8th. The 17th looks hottest for a romantic interlude. Hold onto that wallet/purse tightly on the 20th. Go to the New Year's invite that's closest to where you live.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Up until the 16th, you'll be traveling around (mostly for business) quite a bit. After that, things calm down and you get to enjoy the fruits of all that hard work. The nicest being celebrating a very special first Xmas with that fairly new sweetie. You won't even need champagne, though lots will be on hand. We suggest much candle light.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

What a charge up lies ahead for you, Gemmy. Places to go, things to do and so many people to visit. Throw in that Full Moon in your sign on the 21st and you'll be the most popular sign in town. Of course some invites need to be turned down (we don't want to burn the candle at both ends). A late but lovely gift is delivered on the 28th.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

It'll be nose to the grindstone and business as usual up til the 19th. Then you can let that inner child come out to play and party (and decorate). We suggest catering that Xmas eve bash. There simply won't be time to prep at your quality control levels. Extend an olive branch to a sibling who's been a pain in the butt.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Old saying: There's no rest for the weary. In your case that also includes the extra busy and super popular. It takes a lot of work to be that admired (and that fabulous bod shows all the effort). A hot encounter on the 11th could lead to something more. Dress your most colorful (as always) on the 17th, 24th and 31st. So many parties and so little time. What's a Leo to do?



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Bonuses come to you all month long. Some shall be in unusual packages, but they'll still add to all that holiday delight. New Moon on the 5th could stress you out more than usual. Avoid any potential conflicts that day. That new roommate seems to be working out quite well. Good for you. Beware of a hot ex with hidden motives.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

It's time to ease out of that self imposed cocoon. It was necessary for a while, but you're all regrouped and it's time to move on. Make some calls to let friends know you're still among the living. And a new wardrobe wouldn't hurt. Ask a Leo bud to help pick out some snappy threads. Xmas day proves to be an absolute joy.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

There's much to celebrate this month, not the least of which is that long anticipated financial rebound. It comes just in time to spread some holiday cheer. As usual, your good deeds shall be done in secret. Decline a party invite on the 15th (it has a bad vibe). But the 18th invite should be leapt at. New Year's Eve finds the two of you cozy and warm.

REV. BILL'S DECEMBER PREDICTIONS I fear the volcanic eruptions in Indonesia shall affect global weather patterns for the next two years. Film critics awards begin this month. Expect *The Social Network*, *Black Swan*, *King's Speech*, *127 Hours* and *True Grit* to lead the pack.



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Dating over the holidays

Your holidays will differ depending on what your relationship status is during this magical time of the year. Are you happily partnered, unhappily together, or single like me?

If you are “happily partnered,” this can be one of the most blissful times of the year for you and your partner. Exchanging gifts, attending holiday parties, sharing family experiences, maybe a romantic holiday trip — all are things that can be a wonderful experience for a couple to do together.

If you are in a “not-so-happy situation,” do you stay together over the holidays or let it go before all of the hoopla? Everyone’s situation is different and needs to be evaluated as such. My best advice, though, is to give yourself the holiday gift of selfishness and do what is best for *you*!

Most people think that being single over the holidays can be depressing and stressful; to that, I say Bah Humbug!

If you are single, this is the best time to write that Jolly Old St. Nick and tell him exactly what you want under your tree come Christmas Morning. Taking my own advice, I sat down with my best friend, Derek (we are not together) Washington, to discuss the same question you should ask: What kind of guy do you want Santa to bring this Christmas?

As you know, most guys think of the physical first. So, we started our conversation discussing the physical attributes that attract us to a guy. If you know me, I want Santa to know I prefer a dark-skinned, ethnic man. If possible, he needs to be taller than me and on the beefier side. My friend Derek prefers an L.A. face with Oakland booty and must be “beer height.” What is beer height? You know, he should be able to wrap his beer around the guy’s shoulders and drink without removing his arm.

Next, we compared notes about non-

physical characteristics. Where I am looking for someone who makes me laugh, a guy who is honest and spontaneous, my friend Derek likes someone who shows blind devotion to him, has his own place that Derek probably won’t ever visit, and someone who knows that if he were to visit Derek’s criblet, he should be gone before *The View* starts. Why? Because no one comes between Derek and Joy Behar!

Are you seeing the differences between two friends? Are you thinking about your own list?

Here is another qualifier: Where would you want to go on a first date? Well, my friend Derek *loves* Fremont Street. His potential mate must love Mermaids for the foot-long hot dogs and 99¢ fried Twinkies. Me, I like a little more sophistication. Maybe a coffee date or cocktails followed by dinner at a nice place like Mundo. By the way, Derek loves Snick’s for grime, cheap drinks and the best jukebox in town. Me, I’m a Fun Hog kind of guy.

OK, you asked Santa for a guy who enjoys a quiet date night at home. Must like to cuddle up on the sofa with a cocktail, the fireplace going and a good movie in the DVD Player — romantic comedies preferred. Santa better send Derek a guy who likes cooking anything bacon-wrapped on the grill and

then watching a good black and white on TCM or that other channel that shows movies that blow things up or have talking animals.

These are a few of the things we will ask Kris Kringle for this Holiday Season. If you are single, take a look at these suggestions, add more and/or make up some of our own. The main thing: have fun making your list, know what you want and be ready for him to arrive.

After all, you should never underestimate the power of an elf. ■



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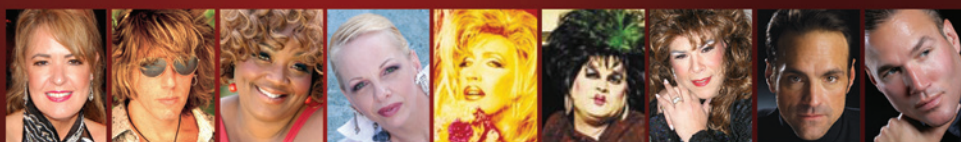
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