

THE LGBT VOICE SINCE 1978

DECEMBER 2013

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# QVEGAS

**2013  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW**

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DISHIN' THE T**

**TOP 10 WTF? MOMENTS  
IN GAY VEGAS**

**DERRICK BARRY AS...**

**BRITNEY**

**HAKKASAN**  
**EATING OUT IN  
THE CAGES**

**NYE Lineup**  
**Frenchie Davis**  
**@Revo Sunday**

**DJ Scotty**  
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**Dr. Jerry Cade examines the  
ACA and the impact it will  
have on the LGBT community**



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# 24 QSTYLE: *WERQ!*

Photo by Ivan Avila

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## ON THE COVER

DERRICK BARRY AS BRITNEY SPEARS. Barry has performed all around the world, bringing his show to many countries.

Photography by  
Nick San Pedro

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## a note from our Editor

2013 has been yet another explosive year in LGBT history. It seems like yesterday we were celebrating the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. A year has passed but not without leaps and bounds towards equality. Of the 16 states recognizing same-sex marriage, eight were won this year. With the overturning of Prop 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act we have much more to celebrate. As we look back over the year, let's remember we have a long journey ahead of ourselves so we must carry this moment into the new year because same-sex marriage is not recognized in 33 states to date.

I hope you enjoy this month's Qstyle featuring the fierce and lovely Derrick Barry as much as I have. Happy New Year Vegas...and thanks for all your support of the magazine this past year, good fortune and health to all our readers for 2014.

Wherever you decide to party this New Year's, with Frenchie Davis @Revolution Lounge, or banding in the new year with DJ Scotty @Mansion EEscape, be sure to download the latest QVegas iPhone App to take advantage of VIP services and to have access to *QVegas Magazine* anywhere, anytime. See you "Out" on New Year's Eve.

**Janise "Noah" Henderson**

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

### I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in *QVegas* or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? I want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to [Editor@QVegas.com](mailto: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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# 2 STEPS FORWARD...

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

## NBA PLAYER COMES OUT

Jason Collins, the 34-year-old center who ended this season with the Washington Wizards, came out as gay in an essay to Sports Illustrated becoming the first American male athlete in a major sport to do so. He wrote in the piece, "If I had my way, someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand." Collins has played in the NBA for 12 seasons for teams including the Minnesota Timberwolves and Boston Celtics. He is now a free agent hoping to continue his basketball career. ■

# 8

## MARRIAGE EQUALITY WINS

**Maryland** (January 1, 2013)

**California** (June 28, 2013)

**Delaware** (July 1, 2013)

**Minnesota** (August 1, 2013)

**Rhode Island** (August 1, 2013)

**New Jersey** (October 21, 2013)

**Hawaii** (December 2, 2013)

**Illinois** (January 1, 2014)

## Trans-Friendly California

The California Assembly passed two bills designed to extend equality to the state's transgender population. The first bill would require all schools to support transgender students by allowing them to participate in gender-specific activities and athletics, and utilize school facilities such as bathrooms and locker rooms, according to their gender identity. The second bill, "Provides transgender people with a simple, inexpensive and private process for changing their names and documents to be consistent with their gender identity," said bill cosponsor Assemblymember Toni Atkins. Both bills must still pass the state Senate. ■



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# 238 MURDERS

According to Transgender Europe's Transgender Murder Project, 238 trans people were murdered worldwide in 2013. And these are just a fraction of the real number of deaths, because so many go unreported. ■

## REST IN PEACE KENNY KERR

This year Las Vegas lost one of its most well known gay pioneers and female impersonators, Kenny Kerr. Kenny left this earth at the age of 60, and will forever be remembered for his magnificent Cher and Barbra Streisand impersonations as well as his comedic personality. ■

## DON'T SAY GAY BILL

You may remember last year that Dennis Shepard, Matthew's father, had taken a trip to Tennessee while the State Legislature was discussing a 'Don't Say Gay' bill that would have barred elementary school teachers from discussing anything that had to do with homosexuality. The bill is back this year with an even more insidious addition that teachers and counselors would be required to out LGBT students to their parents. ■

## HALLMARK TAKES OUT THE GAY

Controversy strikes in the gay community when Hallmark opted to replace the word "gay" with "fun" in the traditional lyrics of "Deck The Halls." A spokeswoman for Hallmark said the line was intentionally changed to prevent misinterpretation by holiday shoppers. ■



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

## QVegas 2.0

QVegas Digital Edition  
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# THAT'S SO Vegas

## Tidbits from The Strip & Beyond

| DECEMBER 2013        | JANUARY 2014         | FEBRUARY 2014        |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| S M T W T F S        | S M T W T F S        | S M T W T F S        |
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| 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 |
| 29 30 31             | 26 27 28 29 30 31    | 23 24 25 26 27 28    |



### SUNDAYS

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

### MONDAYS

- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- Mondays Dark (3rd Monday) @ Body English
- Sin Mondays @ The Garage LV
- Liquor Bust @ Spotlight Lounge
- Pool and Pong @ Club Metro LV

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

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

### SATURDAYS

- SNAPI Saturdays @ Charlie's LV
- What A Drag @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- CumUnion @ Hawk's Gym

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2013

Frenchie Davis @ REVO Sundays

Revolution Lounge (inside Mirage Hotel & Casino)

Grammy Nominated star of Broadway & The Voice Frenchie Davis is coming to REVO Sundays NYE weekend for a LIVE performance. Frenchie is currently working on a new dance single and has a new cabaret show she is launching called the "French & Kat show. The REVO Sundays NYE bash will be held at Revolution Lounge, on Sunday, December 29, with a \$30 admission. For information on how to get on the VIP list for discounted admission, download the QVegas App or visit QVegas.com

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013

AFAN Holiday Mingle & Jingle

Fashion Show Runway @ 6 PM

An event of merriment and exclusive holiday offers await you at Fashion Show Holiday Mingle & Jingle Shopping Bash. The Holiday Mingle & Jingle is produced by Fashion Show Mall and Luxury Magazine. For the past 4 years AFAN (Aid For AIDS of Nevada) has been honored to be a part of the event held at Fashion Show Mall. It is a shopping bash featuring a runway show, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and fabulous shopping incentives for all who attend. Advanced tickets are \$25 per person, and \$30 per person at the door. You can purchase tickets by calling (702) 383-8095, or online at afanlv.org. All proceeds from tickets sold benefit the AFAN organization.

## DECEMBER 3-7 2013

### Imperial Royal Sovereign Court Coronation

The Palms Hotel & Casino

The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire Inc. is one of Southern Nevada's largest non-profit organizations, going on 17 years of service to the community. Over those years, "The Court" has proudly distributed over \$400,000 back to several local charities. They also raise money throughout the year with their largest event, "Coronation," which is being held at The Palms Hotel & Casino this year. The Coronation "Membership Thank You Banquet" will be held on Tuesday, December 3, from 6-9 PM at The LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada. "Mr. Nude Las Vegas" is on Thursday, December 5, from 8-10 at The Onyx Theater, located in the Commercial Center. The weekend starts off with the "Out of Town Show" on Friday, December 6th, from 7-10 PM in The Palms Grand Ballroom, and the Grand event, "Coronation 16," will also be held Saturday, December 7 in The Palms Grand Ballroom.

## DECEMBER 14-22, 2013

### The Nutcracker: The Magic Continues

The magic continues this December with The Nutcracker. From the moment the curtain rises, find out just how thrilling a tradition can be as you are transported to a world of magic and wonder. The first production of its kind built for the Reynolds Hall stage features grand sets, costumes and the choreography of Artistic Director James Canfield.

This larger than life production returns this winter in its second year with added elements. This is the centerpiece of the holiday season and the perfect experience for your family, group or as a gift to loved ones. Ticket prices range from \$52-

\$178. For more information call 702.749.2012, or visit [thesmithcenter.com](http://thesmithcenter.com)

## DECEMBER 27-31, 2013

### Britney Spears: Pieces of Me

Fri, Sat & Mon 9pm; Tue 10pm  
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

For more than 15 years, Britney Spears has topped the music charts. Now she lands in Vegas and showcases her signature style and energy in her highly-anticipated Las Vegas show, "Britney: Piece of Me" at Planet Hollywood. Britney performs her infectious radio hits and fan favorites, along with tracks from her eighth studio album. Fans of Britney's music videos will enjoy seeing the star bring back her most popular, iconic looks on stage. Celebrating the pop star's massive success, "Britney: Piece of Me" couples a high-energy concert with a pulsating, nightclub feel. Planet Hollywood's venue houses the world's largest indoor projection theater and offers an explosive, theatrical experience. Show goers will relive their favorite Britney moments. For more information call (702)785-5555

## DECEMBER 16

### Mondays Dark With Mark Shunock

Following the hugely successful first event in November, Mark Shunock, who plays Lonny the narrator in the hit musical "Rock Of Ages," has chosen AFAN as the recipient of all proceeds from the December "Mondays Dark" charity event. The event will take place Monday, December 16 at 9 PM at Body English Nightclub & Afterhours at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Shunock will gather an eclectic cast of guests including stars from Hollywood, the Strip, musical acts, athletes and celebrity chefs for 90 minutes of chat, entertainment - and a lot of laughs. "Mondays

Dark" will partner with a different Las Vegas-based charity to raise \$10,000 per month, with an estimated grand total of more \$120,000 over the next twelve months between ticket sales and silent auction items. The framework of the evening is modeled after a talk show format with topics, musical guests and very "off the cuff" moments. For the inaugural event, some of the guests included three-time Emmy nominee, Dot-Marie Jones (who plays Coach Bieste on the hit series GLEE), as well as Travis Cloer from JERSEY BOYS, Paul Shortino and the Cast of ROCK OF AGES, among others.

Tickets range from \$20- \$50 and can be purchased by visiting [www.MondaysDark.com](http://www.MondaysDark.com) and are limited to 200 tickets per event. VIP table reservations and bottle service are available for up to six people per booth by calling 702-485-1262. "Mondays Dark" will occur every third Monday night of the month at Body English inside the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at 9 PM. Guests for the December 16TH event will be announced shortly. Follow us on Twitter @Mondays\_Dark. To donate silent auction items please call (702) 485-1262.



Glee star Dot-Marie Jones with Mark Shunock at the premiere Mondays Dark event in November. (Photo by Arlene Richie)



# What day are you getting infected?

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |



New HIV Infections in Clark County by Month

In the past 12 months there have been 421 new HIV and AIDS infections in Clark County.

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

The Center  
Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)  
Community Outreach Medical Center  
Golden Rainbow  
Nevada AIDS Hotline  
RAGE  
Saint Therese Center  
The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence  
So. Nev. Health District (SNHD)

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# NYE

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# HAKKASAN

[ by Michael Barbieri ]  
[www.myvegasobsession.com](http://www.myvegasobsession.com)

**T**hrilling! That's the first word that leaps to mind in attempting to describe the food at Hakkasan Las Vegas Restaurant, a new restaurant/nightlife complex at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino. I haven't been this excited about a restaurant in a very long time! Hakkasan Las Vegas Restaurant is one of several in a group of fine-dining establishments around the world. With locations in London, Miami, Abu Dhabi, Mumbai, Dubai, New York, San Francisco and Beverly Hills, the Las Vegas locale is the first and only to incorporate nightlife into the Hakkasan experience. Five-levels and 80,000-square-feet include the restaurant/bar, Private Dining Room, the more intimate Ling Ling Lounge, the Ling Ling Club, a high-energy Main Room that features many of the world's best known DJ's, The Pavilion, an area that mimics the outdoor feel of an Asian garden with life-like foliage and a two-story water feature, and the Mezzanine, the fifth-level, which provides an

area for guests who desire a more private, VIP environment while still having access to the energy of the dance floor. Tonight, however, was all about the food! I arrived early, awed by the grandiose slate wall that marks the entrance to the complex. I waited at the bar and ordered their signature cocktail, The Hakka, a smooth, not too sweet mixture of Belvedere vodka, Masumi Okuden junmai sake, coconut, passionfruit, and lychee juice. The bar was bathed in blue light (Hakkasan's signature color) and hidden projectors cast a moving pattern of rippling waves across the upper wall. I felt far from the craziness of the Las Vegas Strip. My friend arrived shortly and we were whisked away to our table.

The restaurant itself is unique in that the 20,000-square-feet of dining space, is broken up into smaller, more intimate areas known as "The Cages" by panels made of dark-stained, latticed wood and carved white marble. Tiny candle holders, resembling white clay pots are strategically placed throughout,

and more deep blue light washes through the passageways. These latticed corridors of various "Cages" form an intricate wooden maze, which creates an aura of mystery and romance, at once soothing and seductive!

We were offered a special tasting menu showcasing Michelin-starred Chef Ho Chee Boon's modern Cantonese fare. We added a few items from the regular menu, and soon, the food began arriving and the magic began!

We started with the "Small Eats." First, the Crispy Duck Salad with pomelo, pomegranate, micro-greens and crispy lotus root. The lightly crisped duck was served with a hoisin sauce and had just a touch of fattiness, lending it a robust flavor. Mixed together, the ingredients created a harmonious salad where the duck was the true star. We sampled the Seared Scallop with Fresh Mango and Chili Sauce - a bright summery dish, with the plump, tasty scallops accented



Hakka Steamed Dim Sum Platter

Photo by Anthony Mair

by the sweetness of the mango and the subtle heat of the chili. The sauce was wonderfully well-balanced, allowing the freshness of the scallops to shine. The Crispy Quail with Chinese Five-Spice was a real standout, with the flavors of garlic, chili, lily bulb and of course the five-spice enhancing, but never masking the natural nuttiness of the quail. Finally, we had The Hakka Steamed Dim Sum Platter - delicately flavored Scallop Shumai with tobiko, smoothly textured Black Pepper Duck Dumplings in a pumpkin wrapper with morel mushrooms, which had a nice kick of heat at the end, the Perch Dumplings with cuttlefish and edamame provided a nice yet delicate bite, and the Har Gau - prawn dumplings with bamboo shoots; a perfect classic dim sum dumpling. Simple and delicious.

Next came the “Mains”. Mongolian-Style Beef Tenderloin with Poblano peppers and coarse ground black pepper - a deceptively simple dish with the poblanos imparting a wonderful smokiness to the light, but intensely flavorful sauce which complemented the beef rather than overpower it. The Spicy Prawns swam in a glorious, yet restrained curry sauce, with lily bulbs and a touch of coconut milk. I wanted to pick up the bowl and drink the sauce, but decided against it. We also tried the Roasted Chilean Seabass with Chinese Honey, one of the most perfectly cooked pieces

of fish I’ve encountered - moist and flaky, the honey provided just the right hint of sweetness to bring out the natural flavor of the fish. By far, my favorite dish of the evening was the Stir-Fry Venison with Spicy Yellow Bean Sauce. Served on a bed of mountain yam and garnished with curry leaf, this venison was melt-in-your-mouth tender and tongue-tinglingly spicy, not tough or gamey as deer can be in less masterful hands. As if this wasn’t enough, there were also side dishes: the excellent Egg Fried Rice - tasty, but in my case unnecessary, and the Stir-fry Lotus Root with Royal

Trumpet Mushrooms in a sweet XO Sauce - the crunchy lotus root playing nicely against the meaty mushrooms.

Desserts were no less fabulous: Coconut Pudding- smooth and delicious, with chunks of fresh caramelized pineapple and a paper thin slice of candied pineapple on top, the PB&J - a decadent, chilled peanut butter parfait atop sour cherry jam, accompanied by banana and passion fruit sorbet, and lastly, the rapturous Strawberries & Champagne - a sort of deconstructed strawberry shortcake for adults, featuring fresh strawberries, tart rhubarb, strawberry sorbet, vanilla panna cotta, and a champagne foam, all resting on a shortbread crumble. The desserts were exceptional in that each one offset their cool, creamy elements with the tang of fresh fruits, creating one last intense pop of flavor at meal’s end!

Chef Ho and his staff are truly masters in the kitchen. The subtlety of the spicing and saucing was remarkable, allowing the primary ingredients of each dish to be the focus, enhancing those natural flavors and taking them to exciting new levels on one’s palate!

Hakkasan Las Vegas Restaurant is more than just a restaurant or nightclub. It’s an experience! So surrender yourself to the seductive atmosphere found behind the magnificent entrance. Experience fine-dining. Experience nightlife. Experience Hakkasan! ■



Crispy Duck Salad

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# Year in Review

[ by Antonia Smith, HRC Las Vegas Communications Co-Chair ]

**As one year ends and another begins, it is quite common to look back and ponder over the events that occurred during those 365 days. Fortunately, 2013 is a year that will be memorialized, not just as 2014 approaches, but even twenty years from now, due to the extraordinary accomplishments made, tireless goals exceeded, and the numerous lives changed.**

The Human Rights Campaign ("HRC") is proud to have been at the forefront of many of these events with its unwavering fight for equality—rallying, phone banking, volunteering, supporting fair-minded candidates, working to obtain equal rights for all, and evoking change, to name a few.

This year a dream became a reality for many—people who have waited 60 years to legally marry the person they love finally got to live this moment. From the amazing progress of marriage equality, to the overturn of DOMA/Proposition 8, this has been an amazing year for our community and our entire nation. Let's take a look.

### **Overturn of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) / Proposition 8:**

The topic of marriage equality has been on the radar for quite some time, however rose to the top of the list in 2013.

Tears of joy were cried across the nation when the news went viral that marriage equality was returned to CA and DOMA was overturned! HRC played a prominent role in spreading the word on marriage equality during the Supreme Court decisions in the Hollingsworth v. Perry case contesting Prop 8, which banned same-sex marriage in the state of California and the Windsor v. U.S. case, which challenged the government's ban on recognizing lesbian and gay marriage. This year, the following states legalized marriage: Hawaii, Illinois, Washington, Maryland, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Delaware and the support was overwhelming as thousands rallied for the cause and social media profile photos were switched to the red HRC symbol

>>> Continued on page 22

# WELCOME OUR TENANTS

## Fashion

702DTLV  
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Bettie Page Intimates  
Boutiqueaholics  
Crazy Legs  
Gaby & Olivia  
Jessica Galindo  
LVCK  
Red Stitch  
Winky Designs

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## Food and Beverage

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The Boozery  
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Pork & Beans

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## Specialty

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for marriage equality! This was a huge and impactful milestone in the journey to equality and is what volunteers banding together to support the election of like-minded officials can do for our nation. However, the journey is not over. There are still over 30 states that do not have marriage equality for their residents—which is why it is important that the 'right' candidates are elected to office.

Marrying the one you love no matter the gender/orientation should be a reality for ALL.

## Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

HRC fought hard to have an inclusive ENDA pass in the U.S. Senate. We are hopeful that the House will bring the bill to a vote.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA") was established to provide workplace support and protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. While some states, including Nevada, currently have laws in place to provide safe working environments, in some states, employers can terminate employees for even the slightest deviation of what they deem to be a 'normal' trait, characteristic, etc. For example, if a woman who identifies as lesbian goes to work in attire viewed as masculine by her co-workers or employer, she could be subject to termination. Losing the financial means to support oneself and one's family is devastating. In November 2013, ENDA was passed to remove such outrageously discriminatory policies from the workplace. HRC had tremendous involvement in securing the deciding vote of Senator Dean Heller; thus passing the law to end workplace discrimination.

## Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SRJ13)

2013 also brought a remarkable change at the local level with the passing of SRJ13 with an Assembly vote of 27 in favor and 14 against. However, in order to get SRJ13 on the 2015 ballot for public vote, it must

pass in the Nevada legislature once more, during the 2015 legislative session. This is why it is of extreme importance to elect fair-minded officials into office—without this passing, Nevada will remain a state that prohibits same-sex marriage, as the current state constitution's language defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. Every vote counts.

## HRC Local Activities

The HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee members and volunteers remained busy, as usual, on the local front as well, having a huge role in the changing of the light bulbs of the iconic "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign in support of Las Vegas PRIDE this year! This is the first time that anything like this has been done in Las Vegas and we were proud to partner with PRIDE during such a historic moment.

The re-lighting of the Las Vegas sign took place on Friday, August 30, 2013. If you missed it, the sign, currently bordered with 89 chasing yellow incandescent bulbs, was changed to the hues of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple to emulate the LGBT rainbow flag, the symbol of diversity for the LGBT community. The lighting change took place for a period of 11 days.

## Acknowledgment

HRC Las Vegas' very own, Ron Quinn (HRC Board of Governor and Steering Committee Co-Chair) was honored at The Center's Honorary as Volunteer of the Year! Ron's hard work and dedication to the fight for equality is visible to all who meet him as he is always willing to go the extra mile.

## Special Thanks

HRC Las Vegas would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors, supporters, allies, and our Las Vegas community. To get involved, find us on Facebook or Twitter by searching HRC Las Vegas or email us at [getinvolved.hrcnv@gmail.com](mailto:getinvolved.hrcnv@gmail.com)

We'll see you in 2014! ■

The HRC-LV Steering Committee is a diverse volunteer group of individuals working each and every day to bring the mission of HRC to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender and straight-supportive people in the Greater LV. Go to [lasvegas.hrc.org](http://lasvegas.hrc.org).



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# How will the Affordable Care Act Affect the LGBT Community?

[by Jerry Cade, MD, MBA, Medical Director, Nevada Health CO-OP]

**Note:** The names in all three stories here are changed, and the stories are used with patients' permissions.

A few months ago, I admitted to University Medical Center's HIV Inpatient Unit a very nice, young man named Ricardo Rios. Ricardo had two part-time jobs because he could not find full-time work. Unfortunately, and typically, he did not qualify for insurance at either job.

Ricardo knew he was HIV antibody positive and wanted to be on therapy, but could not afford it. Because of his two part-time jobs, Ricardo did not qualify for Medicaid, Clark County Social Services, Ryan White, or any other kind of social assistance.

Ricardo tried to buy an individual health insurance plan but his HIV status was excluded as a pre-existing condition. Ricardo thought about quitting his two part-time jobs so that he might get social assistance, but he wanted to work. He continued to look for a full-time job hoping that he might qualify for insurance with full-time employment.

Ricardo had a CD4 cell count of 5 and an HIV viral load of 720,000. He had bilateral infiltrates on his chest x-ray consistent with pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (PCP). Fortunately, Ricardo responded well to traditional therapy for PCP. But while we started treatment for his HIV while in the hospital, we were unsure how Ricardo would be able to afford these medications after discharge.

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), starting in 2014, Ricardo will be able to obtain comprehensive health insurance. One of the key aspects of the ACA is that insurers are prohibited

from excluding a pre-existing condition.

I recently visited a good friend of mine, Chérie Richardson, in her community's County Hospital. Chérie is a post-operative, male-to-female transgender woman. Chérie has also been unable to obtain health insurance, although she has tried on multiple occasions. She arrived at the emergency room with a lesion that was getting worse and a fever of 104. Chérie had a difficult to treat staphylococcal infection. Antibiotics alone were not enough. After four weeks in the hospital, Chérie went home to continue her care as an outpatient. She now had a hospital bill of over \$100,000 and still needed 6 to 12 weeks of outpatient care to ensure that her wound healed properly.

Chérie would love to have a job. She is willing to do almost anything for which she is qualified. She doesn't have a degree because she spent much of her late teens and 20s trying to figure out how to obtain the operation that she needed to become the person that she believed she had always been. She was diagnosed with gender identity disorder in her late teens, and there was no doubt about the diagnosis.

There were a few times in Chérie's past when she had a full-time job and health insurance. However, anything related to her gender identity disorder (GID) was considered a pre-existing condition; and, therefore, was not covered by her insurance. (Gender identity disorder (GID) is the older

term - with the release of the DSM-5 in May of this year (2013), the appropriate diagnosis is now gender dysphoria.)

Since the ACA precludes insurers from discriminating on the basis of pre-existing conditions, Chérie would not be denied coverage for transition-related healthcare activities if this happened in 2014. In addition, insurance companies who offer coverage through the Marketplace are specifically prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Unfortunately, the ACA is not perfect nor complete. Although Chérie could not be denied medical care for transition-related activities, insurance companies are still allowed to make the decision about whether or not something is "medically-necessary" or cosmetic. Theoretically, an insurance company could pay for gender reassignment surgery but deny electrolysis because it is considered cosmetic for transgendered women.

There is one more friend, Linda, whom I visited while she was in the hospital during the past couple of years. Linda was working when she was initially diagnosed with her stage IV breast cancer. Linda was hormone-receptor positive, so her treatment included chemotherapy as well as hormonal therapy. Under the circumstances, Linda did relatively well. Linda tried to go back to work, but she simply was unable to do so. The fatigue, nausea, and pain kept her from being able to concentrate on her job, which required

attention to details. Her small business employer did not have disability insurance, and she was ultimately terminated, still in the midst of a lifetime's worth of treatment for her cancer. Linda and her partner could not afford COBRA. Unfortunately, her partner's employer did not recognize same-sex relationships, so Linda was not able to obtain insurance through her partner's insurance plan. And the social programs where Linda sought additional help did not recognize same-sex relationships, so her partner's income disqualified her from the usual safety net social programs that would ordinarily have helped in this case.

How well the ACA is going to cover Linda's and her partner's situation is yet to be determined. Some have argued that the proscription against discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Marketplace plans means that insurers would have to cover same-sex domestic partners. Of course, in states where there is marriage equality this probably will not be a problem. The problem is going to be stickier in the states where same-sex relationships are not recognized.

Other provisions of the ACA that are potentially beneficial for members of the LGBT community include:

In many states, including Nevada, Medicaid has been expanded to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). A study by the Center for American Progress found 1 in 3 LGBT people are uninsured, and 41% qualify for Medicaid. Mental health services are now a part of the essential benefits that must be offered by qualified insurance plans.

There are no longer lifetime limits on coverage, and people with serious health care costs like cancer patients cannot have their premiums increased due to their health condition.

Recovery services, i.e. treatment for alcohol and drug dependency are also included as part of the essential benefits that qualified insurance plans must offer.

The Department of Health and Human Services is expanding their own database on health disparities to include those issues that might be associated with sexual orientation and gender identity. One of the challenges with addressing the healthcare needs of LGBT individuals has been the

lack of hard data on the health care disparities that might exist in the LGBT community. In 2012, for the first time in history, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sibelius, mandated that federal healthcare data include information about the LGBT community.

Although not specific to the LGBT community, preventive care services are also a mandated benefit for qualified insurance plans. This provision, combined with the fact that a person cannot be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, will hopefully make it more likely that an individual who thinks that he or she might be HIV antibody positive or request that examination from his or her doctor, or that a woman who is concerned about the possibility of breast cancer will be able to get a mammogram.

The ACA is a beginning! Much more needs to be done to ensure that LGBT Americans have equal access to health care and to healthcare benefits; however, beginning in 2014, there should be a marked improvement in the access to health care for LGBT Americans. ■



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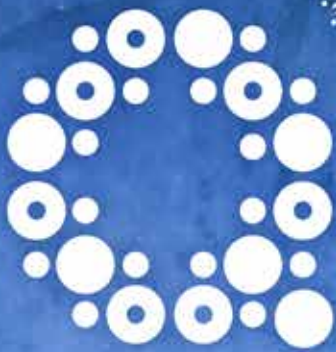
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# QVolution

## QVolution Youth Holiday Party December 19th from 6-8pm

Youth from across the valley celebrate the holiday season and the end of the year at QVolution's Holiday Party. LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 13-24, are welcome to attend.

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# DA BIG 10 OF 2013!

The 10 Biggest Moments in VeGays that took us from  
YASSSS! to WHAT DA PHAQ?!

## 1. Massive Shut Down

- A gay downtown scene was a far-fetched idea in itself, add to that the most notorious gay in Vegas and you get an embarrassing tabloid-tastic scandal for da books!

## 2. VeGays Lose Their Freedom!

If anyone knows how to throw a party like no otha its our fav Mexi Eduardo Cordova! Freedom Sundays at Marquee Nightclub was without a doubt one of the most impressive gay nights to take place in VeGays nightlife history but unfortunately da cake was taken away!

## 3. Go-Go Gone Bynes!

Hell has no fury like a ~~woman~~ molly-ed out gay go-go scorned! In Bynes defense da go-go dancer took cray cray to a whole 'nutha level after being denied the right to shake his money maker!

## 4. The Affair Nightclub!

A short-lived *Affair* it was! Much like a summer fling it was over before most even got a chance to remember its name!

## 5. Mutha-F\*\*\*IN Matinee!

In VeGays X-Mas falls in May and takes form as a Big-Ass-Weekend-Long-Miley-Music-Video-On-Steriods-But-With-A-Lot-Less-Clothes-And-A-Lot-More-Cray type party!

## 6. Hi Utopia! Bye Utopia!

Utopia at House Nightclub was one of our favorite new gay nights but unfortunately it came and left faster than a weekday Grindr hook-up! We'll miss you gurlie!

## 7. Da Tragedy of Bar Rescue!

- "I want a drink bitch! I'm thirsty!" It was the most painful thing VeGays had seen on TV since Liz & Dick!

## 8. Buffalo Bar Finally Retires

Well at least leather daddies and co. still have Fun Hog! Aside from a self-proclaimed longest running headliner..... it was the oldest bitch in town and it was about time she called it quits!

## 9. The Biggest Britney Let Down In Like Ever!

For those that participated in the "Biggest Announcement in Vegas History" Work Bitch has an entirely different meaning. Post-BRITratumatic Stress Disorder is very real and you would have it too if you were taken to the middle of the desert at 2 AM and be forced to free labor all while suffering severe sleep deprivation for the sake of a false promise that you would get the chance of glancing at even a single blonde Britney-extension in person. Fingers crossed the show itself won't be an even bigger let down.

## 10. MiSTERScANDAL.COM

That's Mz. Scandal if ya nasty! We may still be da new gurl but we're already pleasantly over-whelmed with the amount of suga & shade we've received from so many! Get ready y'all cause we have yet to show our true Miley side! ;-)



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# SCOTTY BANGS IN NEW YEAR

DJ Scotty Thomson Spins 'All In'  
at Mansion This New Years

[ by Bill Ready ]

Photo by Project Publicity

The only thing sexier than DJ Scotty Thomson are his cutting edge beats. Born and raised in NYC, the blonde bombshell managed to carve a niche in the DJ world at an early age by stripping to his briefs while spinning his beats behind the booth. If you got, flaunt it. Scotty's exhibitionism - and his superior beats, of course - helped him to become one of the most sought after party DJs on the festival scene today.

Scotty rings in the New Year with a bang (and a boom) at Mansion on December 31.

**Q: It's been a while since you played Vegas.**

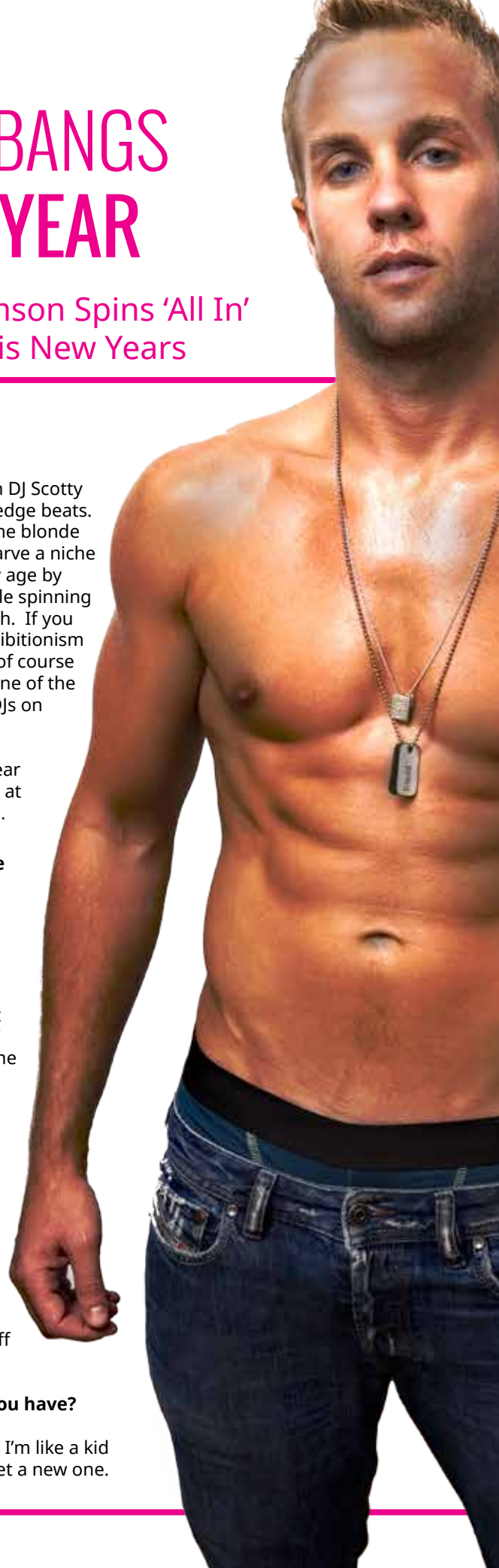
**DJ Scotty:** Almost a year! I can't wait to return. Every time I play Vegas, it's a different scene. I love it because I can experiment my tracks with a crowd of guys who haven't heard me play before.

**Q: What have you been doing in the last year?**

**S:** I just finished my audio engineering degree, which was eye opening. It was a great experience but I'm happy I'm done so I can focus again on my DJ career, release quality music and show off some of my new jocks.

**Q: How many jocks do you have?**

**S:** I have dozens of them. I'm like a kid at a candy store when I get a new one.



**Q: Were you always a jock, Scotty?**

**S:** I did lots of sports growing up including soccer, track and field, alpine ski racing and racing sailboats. In college I was named an "All-American" which is the highest honor for college sailing.

**Q: When did you start building muscle?**

**S:** When I was about twenty.

**Q: How has your outlook on life changed since then?**

**S:** It's funny you ask that because I have to say my whole outlook on life changed just this year. The old thing my mama used to say about treating people the way I want to be treated really rings true to me these days.

**Q: Do you have a favorite memory from 2013?**

**S:** DJ'ing in India was amazing. I'll never forget roaming the streets of Mumbai alone, discovering the vibrancy and spirituality of the Indian people.

**Q: Best dance song of 2013?**

**S:** Blurred Lines.

**Q: What is one thing you will not repeat in 2014?**

**S:** I will never try to renovate my apartment on my own again. Big mistake!

**Q: What artist should we look out for in 2014?**

**S:** There are so many I can't begin to tell you. Except, I have started working for a startup, an online record label called "Every Song Has a Chance". Our goal is to find new and undiscovered artists solely by their music popularity and not by the decision of a big record exec or a television-judging panel. We already have tons of amazing artists well on their way to scoring a record deal.

**Q: Do you have a new year's resolution?**

**S:** I resolve to help more budding artists launch their careers. A lot of people helped me on my journey. I'd like to do the same for the next generation of talent.

**Q: Are you single and ready to mingle in 2014?**  
You bet!

Scotty Thomson spins NYE at Style @ Mansion Escape, Tuesday, December 31.  
Visit [ScottyT.com](http://ScottyT.com). For tickets, download the QVegas App or visit [QVegas.com](http://QVegas.com).

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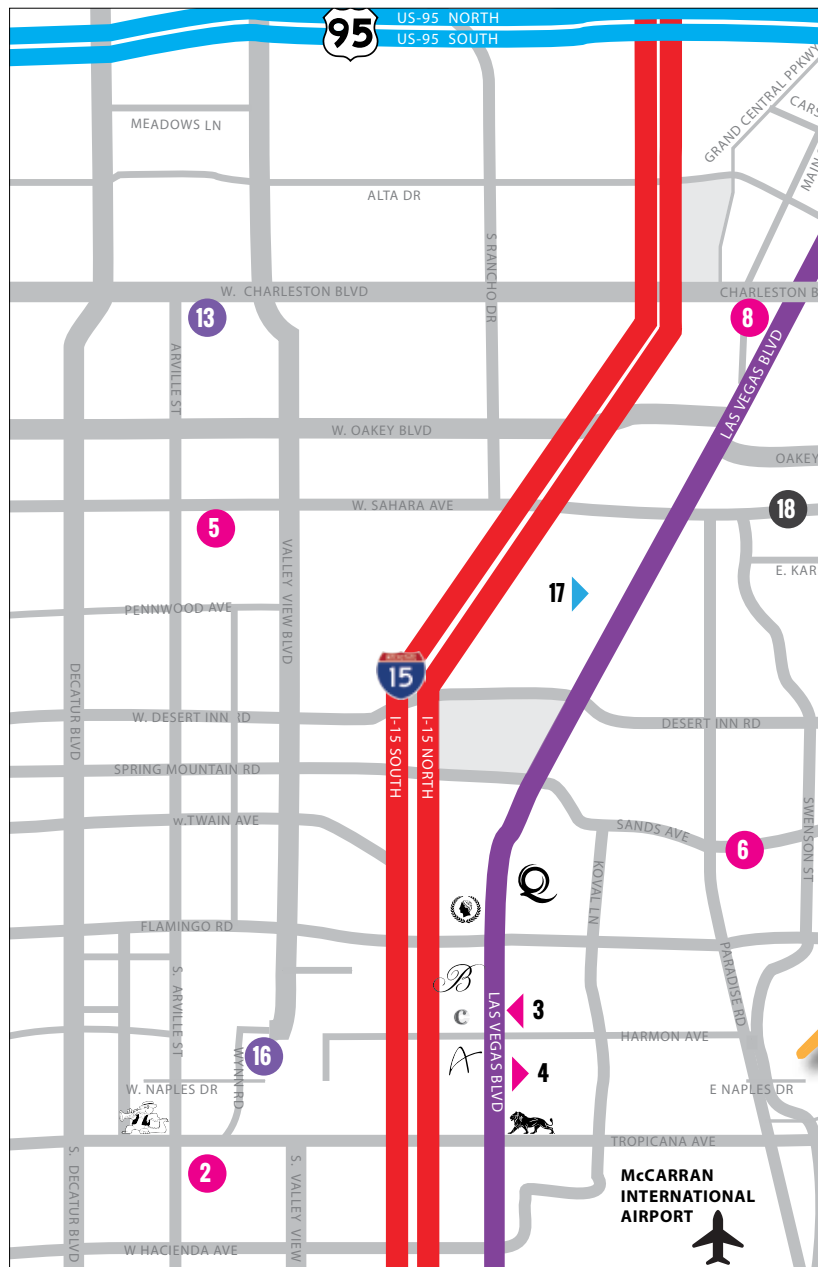
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- 11 **8 1/2 Ultra Lounge & Piranha Nightclub**  
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*See our Display Ad on Page 45*
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- 16 **Share Nightclub**  
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## GAY HOTEL

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## HOROSCOPES



### SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

Others' well-intentioned advice causes indecision on what actions to take this month Sagittarius. As you open to suggestion realize too, that pleasing others in decision-making takes you away from your soul's intended path. Quiet the mind and center yourself to hear your soul's messages this month.



### CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

Become self-aware of what unresolved emotional experiences lie inside of you this month Capricorn. Each person that triggers unpleasant feelings in you is only a karmic mirror to help you identify what painful experiences still remain emotionally unresolved today. While most shoot the messenger, the wise appreciate the call to look within to resolve past similar emotional experiences this month.



### AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

What goes up must come down at some point. Whether in relationships or finances, the ups and downs are karmic lessons designed to shake you off from associating happiness with attachment. A spiritual lesson is granted this month if you choose to see it. You are not your circumstances nor, what you have or don't. Accept all outcomes this month to "feel" your soul's freedom to create the life you desire.



### PISCES

February 19 - March 20

A call to review the past year brings greater rewards than compulsively moving forward. You chose to incarnate into this lifetime to experience all of life's contrasts including those of a new vs past you. In what ways have you and haven't you, become more of the person you once dreamt about? How have even your dreams changed? What are your next needed actions?



### ARIES

March 21 - April 19

Safety in numbers offers feelings of safety and protection, but prevents an altruistic soul from achieving its dreams. Choose new independent activities to rekindle your spirit of why you are here and what passions your soul wishes to express this month Aries. Roll the dice this month, the odds are in your favor.



### TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Cherishing fond memories this month Taurus brings the double-edged sword of feeling good while failing to create an even brighter future memory. Instead of focusing on the photos of a past trip or relationship, envision the photos of a future one to gain the emotional momentum to plan it.



### GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Change your perspectives to engage your true spirit this month Gemini. As you've fretted over your finances for months, you've failed to recognize that you "always" had what you needed. Take your mind off what worries you. Gain clarity of what is, and what is not, truly important on your journey this month.



### CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Become aware of your addictions of all types this month Cancer. Such addictions were like a temporary life-jacket once used to simply help us stay afloat in times of troubled waters. However, if clung to for too long after the storm has long passed, they prevent us from "letting go" in order to swim to more meaningful waters in life.



### LEO

July 23 - August 22

A call to question your views on aging occurs this month Leo. Is it truly the lost sexual interest from total strangers that which you long for today? Or, is it your own unresolved fears on aging that keep you from socializing in the way that makes you happy? The youthful suit that once helped you come out, has been replaced with a more valuable deeper self-awareness that you are no longer as clueless on achieving happiness. Maturity and defined values draw calm, confidence, and turn ons from others this month.



### VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

Lazy days ahead are a welcomed reward to your recent accomplishments this month Virgo. Enjoy unplanned time with whomever crosses your path. Let subtle messages from each daily environment bring you needed peace and harmony. Enjoy the beauty that the present moment brings to you each day this month.



### LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

Helpful alliances in business are to be further nurtured this month Libra. Do not react passionately to any changes at hand. It is more important to sew the seeds of good karma knowing your good deeds will come back when needed.



### SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

Every person and experience has both good and bad occurring at the exact same time. Demonizing any person from your past or declaring them a saint, has kept you in internal emotional conflict and therefore, unable to move on. Choose to see them as they factually were: both good and bad - to free yourself to experience the power of forgiveness this month Scorpio.

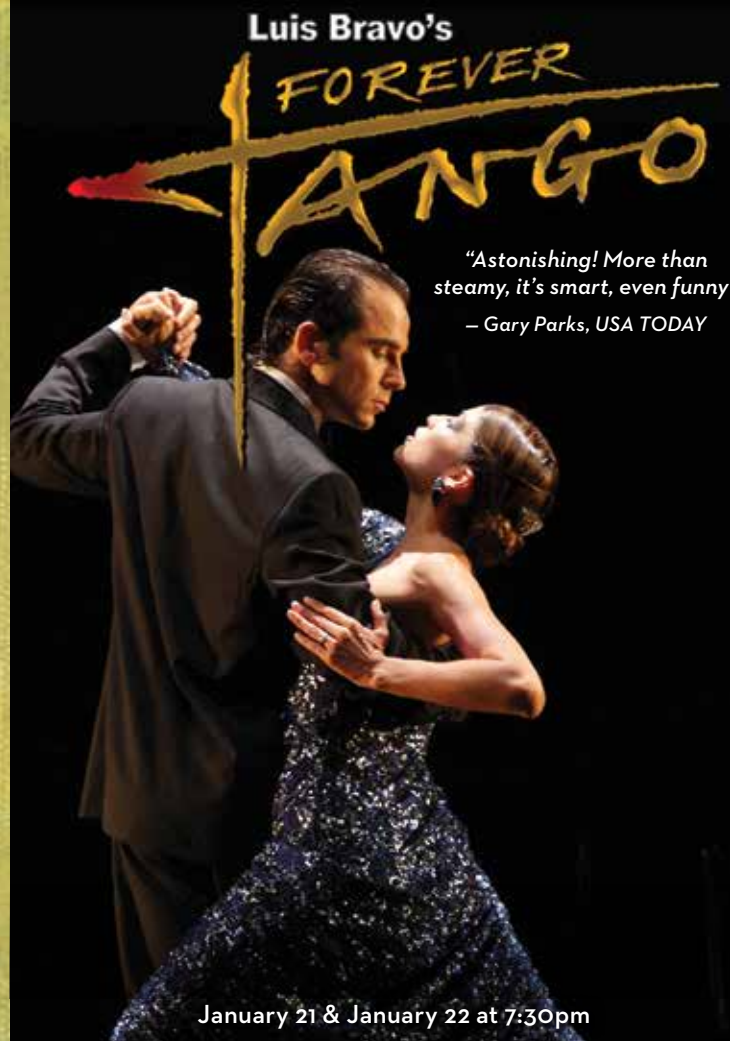
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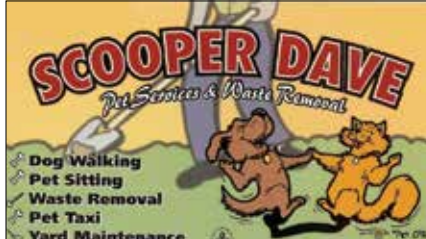
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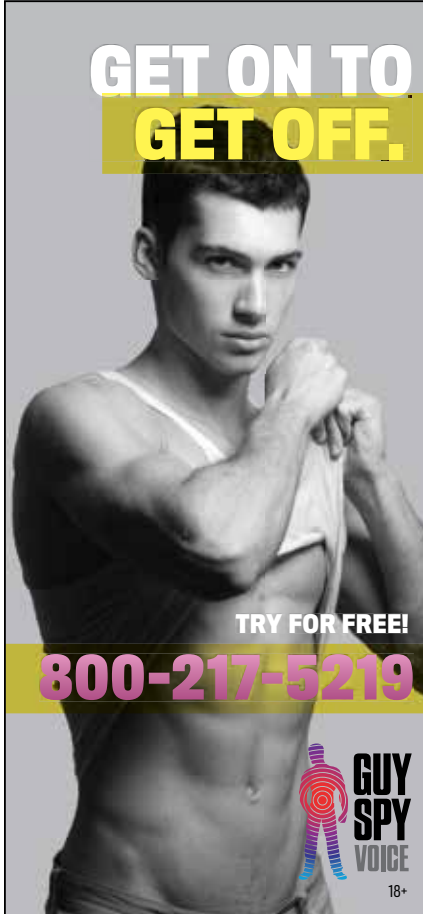


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## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014

**For four days, Las Vegas is going to be the epicenter of the LGBT business equality movement.**

[ by Russ White ]

A year ago I found myself in Washington D.C. for my first National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) National Dinner. Dina Proto and I had just completed the paperwork to spin off QVegas Business Alliance as a separate non-profit organization and submitted our application to become the NGLCC local Las Vegas affiliate chamber. I never would have imagined how that weekend would change the face of the Las Vegas LGBT business community. Meeting Sam McClure, Director of Affiliate Relations and External Affairs for NGLCC was at the top of my agenda.

We spent several hours together, getting to know each other and understanding each other's goals. Las Vegas had been without an NGLCC affiliated local chamber for several years and I was determined to bring the NGLCC, and the economic equality movement, back to town. That weekend we planned the next step: bringing the NGLCC Road Show to Vegas.

It wasn't easy. Sam recalls, "We were everywhere. We were in Kansas City, Tucson, Denver, LA, San Francisco, San Diego, Atlanta, Detroit, Nashville, Michigan, Boston, Hartford, Anchorage, Cleveland. We were traveling and getting in front of as many audiences as possible, spreading the word about the powerful things happening inside this movement for economic equality. It's incredibly exciting to be in the places where our stakeholders live and work."

Despite the challenging schedule the Las Vegas Roadshow was held in

April, hosted by QBA's first Corporate Sponsor, MGM Resorts International. Sam spoke to an audience of LGBT and ally business professionals who came to learn more about NGLCC, supplier diversity and the LGBT Business Enterprise certification (LGBTBE) and how to take their business to the next level.

"We get rooms full of business owners that really want to know how to navigate this new world of opportunities that the NGLCC and our local affiliate chambers are leveraging for them," said McClure. "They want to know what a supply chain opportunity looks like and how to access those opportunities."

For some businesses, the advantages of supplier diversity are clear. For others, McClure suggests that a different vantage point will reveal the advantages of certification.

"Smaller businesses are starting to understand that if larger businesses in their area are getting these huge growth opportunities, they are going to need vendors, too," explained McClure. "When one business really grows they have to reach out to other businesses to support their growth and this creates even more opportunities."

Consumer serving businesses also benefit from this powerful movement. Becoming a member of your NGLCC local affiliate chamber along side larger businesses that are on a strong growth trajectory surrounds these local businesses with their ideal customers and great advisors. The strength of the NGLCC "national / local partnership model" provides great

building blocks for a strong local LGBT chamber of commerce.

At the QBA monthly luncheon in October, the board of directors announced a name change and new brand to closer align with NGLCC and the economic equality movement. Now the Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada, the organization has expanded its scope to serve not just Las Vegas, but all of the Silver State.

"Everyone who joins the Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada gets the NGLCC—and all our programs and services—as a bonus. All because this smart board of directors has chosen this strategic affiliation and partnership," said McClure. "Now GLCCNV is a local portal of opportunity to businesses looking for resources and opportunities that are going to fuel the growth of their businesses."

Looking ahead to 2014, NGLCC will be hosting the annual NGLCC National Business & Leadership Conference at Caesars Palace from July 29 to August 1. As the host Chamber of Commerce, GLCCNV will welcome the LGBT economic equality movement to Las Vegas.

"Make this conference a touch-point in your 2014 strategy to grow your business," advises McClure. "For four days, Las Vegas is going to be the epicenter of the LGBT business equality movement. If you live in this area you're going to have the perfect access; we're going to bring the most valuable and strategic contacts right to your door." ■

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

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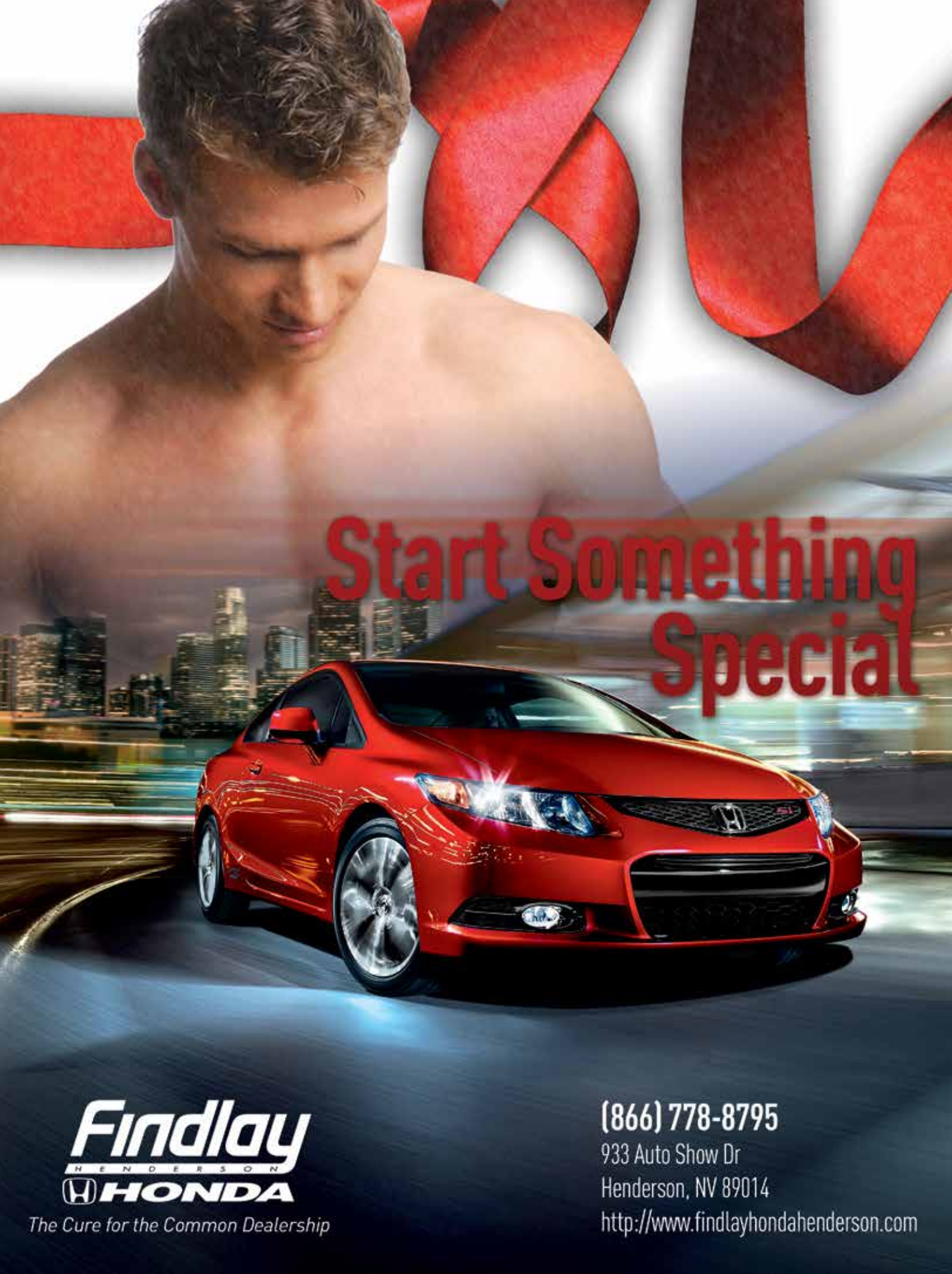
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