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DECEMBER 2014



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The Ally Issue

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THE ALLY ISSUE DECEMBER 2014

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ON THE COVER

Nick Ayler
Melody Sweets *Absinthe*
Penny Pibbits *Absinthe*
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Editor's Note



The warm weather is officially over but that doesn't stop thousands from celebrating their holidays in Las Vegas with all that it has to offer. I'm looking forward to traveling up to Mt. Charleston to check out the snow while enjoying some hot chocolate.

QVegas wraps up the year with the December Ally Issue. For the first time we are dedicating an entire issue to those who stand with us for equality. We thank them for using their positions to move the community forward. As of print there are 35 states that have marriage equality. Those wins depended on those allies who petitioned, wrote letters, and secured marriage equality for all couples.

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



Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind?

Do you have something to say about an article in *QVegas* or any topic of interest to our readers?

Do you have an idea for a future story?

QVEGAS

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

DISNEY CHANNEL FINALLY DEBUTS A SAME SEX COUPLE

"Disney Channel's "Good Luck Charlie" broke new ground on Sunday with the inclusion of a lesbian couple, the cable network's first openly gay characters in a series.

In the episode "Down a Tree," Amy and Bob Duncan set up a play date for their daughter Charlie and one of her new friends, Taylor — who just happens to have two moms."

MAJOR TRANS* VICTORY IN MAINE

In an historic first, a state high court ruled yesterday that a male-to-female transgender student who was accepted by school staff and students as a girl could not be barred from using the girls' bathroom at school.

Jennifer Levi of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), which brought the lawsuit on behalf of the girl and her parents, called the decision in Doe v. Clenchy a "huge breakthrough" for transgender young people.

GLAD also noted that the decision marks "the first time a state court has ruled that transgender students must be allowed to use the bathrooms that match who they are."

MACKLEMORE AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY STEAL THE SHOW AT THE GRAMMY'S

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis basked in the limelight of the Grammys's 2014 defining performance at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. Music's biggest night was grand to the duo who secured Grammy's in four categories, including a sweep of the major rap categories and a best new artist, while also recognizing them as the fore figures leading to what many may consider as one of the most historic moments in the show's history.

As the Staples Center turned into



a techno ministry, Macklemore delivered "Same Love," the pair's gay rights anthem. Along with out singer Mary Lambert and a snippet performance by, Madonna, the song's lyrics spoke of ignorance, lack of rights, same-sex marriage and how they, the performers, supported it. As the song lyrics were coming to an end, Queen Latifah officiated the marriage of 33 couples, all ready to exchange vows. These couples were the most diverse — gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, credo — and all were married live and in solidarity in front of America's largest mass media platform.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY ARRIVES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

At the stroke of midnight in late March thousands of gay and lesbian couples in England and Wales tied the knot while marriage equality became the law of the land, becoming the 16th country to win marriage equality.

HRC BOARD MEMBER NAMED "WORKING MOTHER OF THE YEAR"

HRC Board of Directors' member Meghan Stabler was named "Working Mother of the Year" by *Working Mother* magazine.

Stabler, the first transgender woman to be named Working Mother of the Year, is an accomplished business executive and LGBT rights activist. She currently serves as an advisor of IT Business Operations at CA Technologies.

For over a decade, Stabler has boldly shared her story, spoken out against discrimination and smoothed the path toward equality and acceptance for transgender people everywhere. She has traveled and worked across the country fighting for LGBT equality. She has testified for non-discrimination ordinances in at least three states, taken part in HRC's "On the Road to Equality" bus tour and has been an advocate for HRC's Welcoming Schools program.

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NIGERIA'S ANTI-GAY LAW

A ban on gay marriage and gay clubs with penalties of up to 14 years jail was signed into law by Nigeria's president last week, according to disclosures made in Abuja on Monday. It follows similar legislation recently adopted by parliament in Uganda. Nigerian presidential spokesman Reuben Abati said Monday Goodluck Jonathan had signed the bill. The news agency Associated Press said it had obtained a copy dated Tuesday, January 7.Immediate condemnation came from US Secretary of State Kerry, who said the new law "dangerously restricts freedom of assembly ... and expression for all Nigerians."

NEVADA AG'S CHOICE WORDS

Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (D) has an onslaught of backlash headed her way after a brief she filed on Tuesday linked same-sex marriage to bigamy and incest. The brief, responding to the Lambda Legal-filed case Sevick v. Sandoval which is challenging Nevada's 2002 ban on gay marriage, stands in vehement opposition to repealing the ban, reportedly "on the basis that it reflects the will of the people." Masto believes that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals need not apply heightened scrutiny to this case as "There exists neither fundamental right, nor suspect or quasi- suspect class, justifying a different standard of review." A controversial perspective, to be sure, but not nearly as much as the direct links she draws among gay marriage, incest, and bigamy.

RUSSIA IMPLEMENTS ANTI-LGBT INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION BAN

Russia officially implemented a law preventing international same-sex couples from adopting Russian children. Additionally the law prevents any unmarried individuals in countries that allow the marriage of same-sex couples from adopting children from Russia. The edict was the official implementation of a law passed in July 2013 that adds an amendment to Russian adoption regulations. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, issued the decree.

PROTESTER: THANK YOUR MOM FOR NOT BEING GAY"

While millions were celebrating with loved ones or fondly remembering mothers who had passed away, a scene shocked onlookers. One anti-LGBTQ protester, Christine Weick, an author from Michigan, chose to spend the day of happiness standing at a busy intersection in Grandville, MI with a sign reading,



"Thank your mom today for not being gay." The demonstration attracted the attention of passing cars, many of which honked in support of the message on Weick's sign. Soon an NBC affiliate was filming on the scene, during which an angry passerby threw a slushy at Weick.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FIRE GAY SCOUTMASTER

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, is calling on the Boy Scouts of America to end its longstanding discriminatory ban on gay adults in Scouting after BSA leaders revoked the membership of an openly gay Scoutmaster in Washington state when he came out in an NBC News profile.

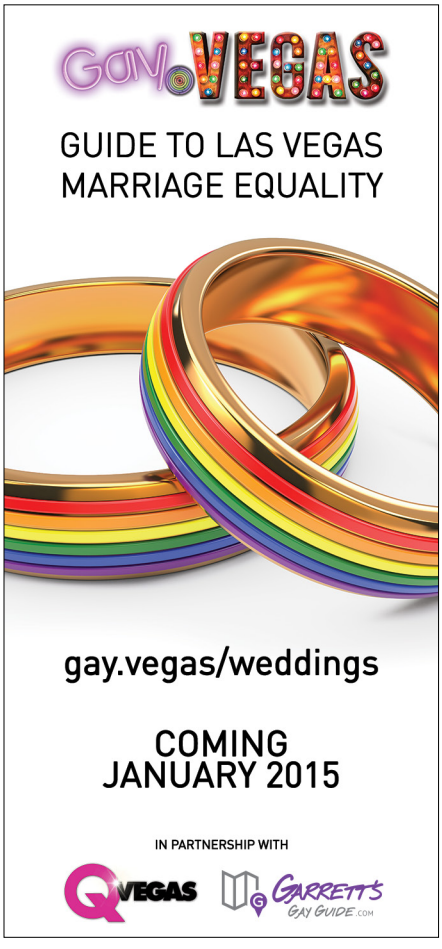
According to news reports, Geoff McGrath, 49, leader of Troop 98 in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood, is believed to be the first gay adult to have his membership in the Boy Scouts of America revoked since last May's controversial vote to allow gay youth—but not adults—to participate in one of the country's most popular youth organizations.

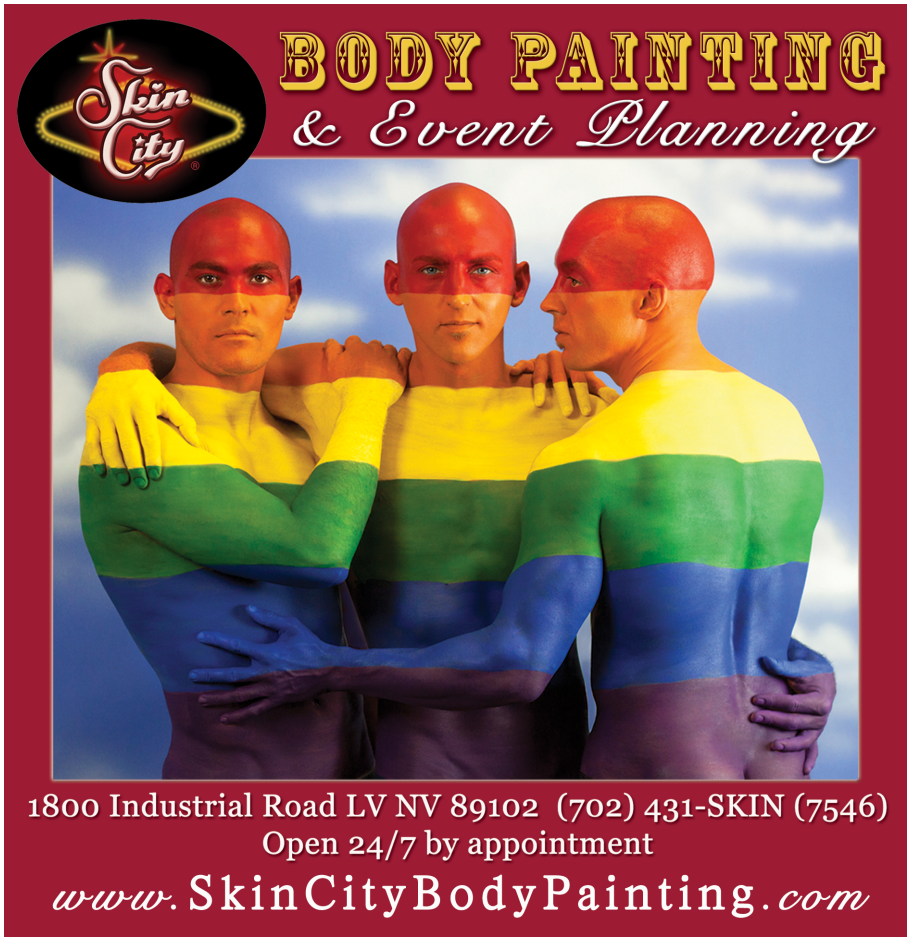
Gay Killing Game

Following a backlash, Google has removed a game from the Android store that advocated killing gay men for sport. The game, called Ass Hunter, was downloaded more than 10,000 before it was taken down, according to several news reports published Monday. Ass Hunter has reportedly been available online for several years, but it was recently added to Google's lineup of mobile apps. Its description read: "Legendary game, where you are hunter and your mission is to kill gays as much as you can or escape between them to the next level. Gays may be hidden in bushes and unexpectedly catch you. Remember! When they catch you they will do with you whatever they want."

1 STEP ...BACK

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





We've Got Your Back

HIVcare.org

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TIGHT N' WHITE TUESDAYS

PARTY IN YOUR UNDWEAR

FOR 2 FOR 1 DRINKS 9 PM - 1 AM

WICKED WEDNESDAYS

AMERICAN HORROR STORY

VIEWING PARTY 9PM - 10PM

HOSTED BY KEYSKA DIVA

LADIES NIGHT 9PM - 1AM

(2 FOR 1 DRINKS FOR LADIES)

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December 2014

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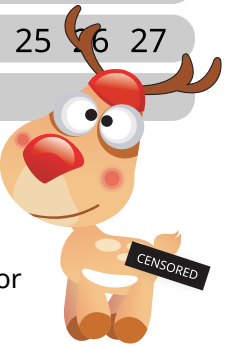
28	29	30	31			





DECEMBER 1 at The Center

5:30pm Reception
6:15pm Welcome & Introductions
6:30pm Panel Discussion
7:15pm Question & Answer
7:30pm Inspirational Service
8:00pm Candlelight Vigil
9:00pm "The Normal Heart"

thecenterlv.org



DECEMBER 3

The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada inaugural holiday bash will be held at the historic Hartland Mansion from 6 to 9 p.m. VIP ticket holders enjoy a tour of the North Wing led by Larry Hart. Valet service will be available.



Pia Zadora is back at Pia's Place inside Piero's! 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays Dec 5 and 6; Dec 12 and 13; Dec 19 and 20 – and a special New Year's Eve show! No cover. 2 Drink Minimum.



DECEMBER 7

RevoSundays shows it cares with the return of the AFAN toy drive for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone who brings an unwrapped toy receives free entry and open bar from 10-11 pm and a free drink ticket after 11 pm. Hosted by Rupaul's Drag Race India Ferrah, with music by DJ Morning Star. Come make a difference in a kid's holidays at REVOLUTION.

www.gay.vegas/RevoSundays



DECEMBER 10

Join Bears las Vegas for a Yankee Swap Gift Exchange and Great Food and we'll also take a few minutes to recognize outstanding members of our organization who've gone above and beyond this year to help us. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than $15 and something for the Pot Luck dinner. Post what you're bringing on this wall!

DECEMBER 16

Join the Sin Sity Sisters and Gay. Vegas at Charlie's for their first Adult Toy Drive at 9pm

www.gay.vegas/SinSitySisters



DECEMBER 26 & 27

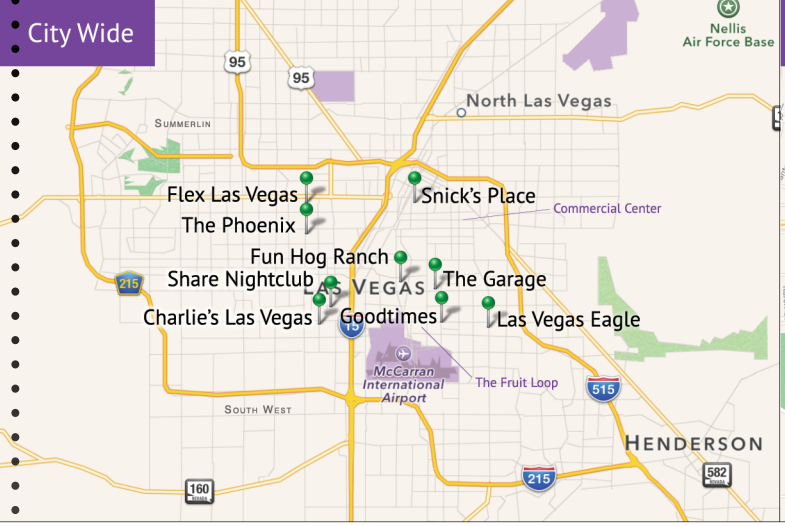
Lisa Lampanelli returns to Las Vegas for an encore performance at The Venetian. Get special **Dinner and a Show for 2 Packages** for only $100

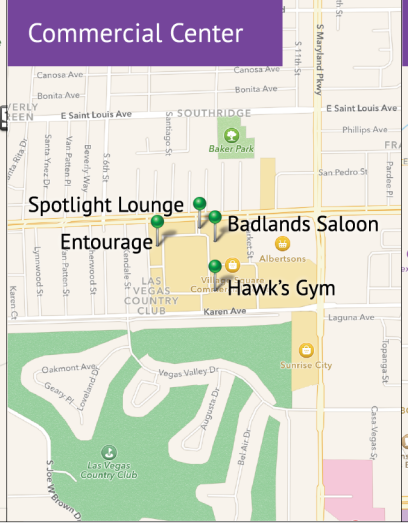
www.gay.vegas/store



DECEMBER 31

This New Year's Eve, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas will bring Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga together on the mophie stage at The Chelsea. The extraordinary evening will highlight the music from their just released #1 album, 'Cheek To Cheek'.







Garrett's Gay Guide.com

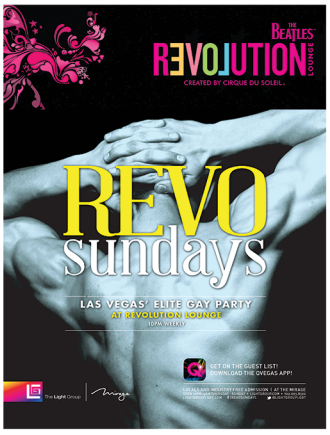
Garrett's Gay Guide fits right in your pocket! Just tear out, fold in half length-wise, and fan-fold to create a handy pocket-sized guide to Gay Las Vegas.



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

REVO sundays

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



Social Tuesdays

Social Tuesdays
Every Tuesday 7-10PM
SocialTuesdays.com

1st Tuesday
Local Gay Bar

2nd Tuesday
Light Group LGBT

3rd / 4th / 5th Tuesday
Wildcard Locations

Sundays

Brunch
- DW Bistro
- John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group

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

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

REVO sundays

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

Visit gay.vegas/revosundays

Mondays

Day
- Happy Hour 11am-7pm at The Garage

Evening
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park (weather permitting)

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

MONDAYS DARK WITH MARK SHUNOCK

Vegas Performers Support Local Charities Every Month at Hard Rock Hotel

Tuesdays

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

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

SOCIAL TUESDAYS

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

Sign Up for Weekly Announcements at gay.vegas/socialtuesdays

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Evening
- 3rd Thursday

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

Fridays

Day
- 2-for-1 drinks at Goodtimes

Night
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- Phired Up Fridays at The Phoenix
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Fabulously Funny Fridays with Jimmy Emerson at Badlands Saloon
- Pia Zadora at Piero's

Saturdays

Day
- Weekly Pool Tournament at The Phoenix

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

GayVEGAS

Stay up to date at www.gay.vegas

GARRETT'S GAY GUIDE .COM



JACKCOLTON.COM

Nightlife is a staple in Las Vegas. From mega-nightclubs to lounges, no on can escape the lure of Vegas nightlife, celebrity DJ's and popping bottles with over-the-top parades of flashing lights and confetti cannons. VIP hosts are your gateway beyond the velvet rope, and no on knows VIP hosting in Vegas like Jackcolton.com.

More and more often, the Vegas straight clubs are attracting LGBT party-goers. As LGBT equality hits the mainstream, the nightlife crowds and clubs are more accepting of gay culture.

Recognizing the value of the LGBT consumer in nightlife, Jackcolton.com has partnered with Gay.Vegas to provide VIP services across Las Vegas.

"We are very excited about our new partnership and what Jackcolton.com can offer the LGBT community. We've come to find that the LGBT makes up a large percentage of nightlife target demographic that visits Las Vegas, 21-34," said Kalika Moquin, Partner at Jackcolton.com. "With a finger on the pulse to what is relevant in dance music and nightlife today, we think there is a lot of opportunity for creative ideas and events to come to life, and looking forward to a long lasting relationship with Jackcolton.com and the LGBT community moving into the future," added Moquin.

"The goal of Jackcolton.com is pretty simple," said Anthony Nuzzo , CEO of Jack Colton, Inc. "Provide the information that we would want to know if the shoe were on the other foot, and help setup the conversations, access and ability to purchase the necessary tickets and products to make a Las Vegas trip as perfectly outrageous as our visitors want to have."

Since 2006, Vegas has seen buildings blown up and mega resorts go up, as well as the creation of the Mega Club supported by Mega DJ's. No longer is Vegas just a gambling destination. Las Vegas is for everyone, and everyone deserves VIP Service.

"I would like to announce with PRIDE Jackcolton.com Inc's partnership with Gay.Vegas and the entire LGBT community. We will be adding a specific page to the site as a Forum's Section for discussion. We are honored to be partnering to create the Guide to Las Vegas for the LGBT community and assist with setting up all you want to do in Vegas VIP Style."

With such an exciting partnership on the horizon, we're thrilled to see what awaits the nightlife scene in the coming year with Jackcolton.com as our Gay.Vegas Nightlife ally.

Book your next VIP nightlife experience at jackcolton.com/lgbt or www.gay.vegas/jackcolton



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SATURDAYS

ez 2 stop



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All testing is confidential

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SNHD
Southern Nevada Health District

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facebook.com/ez2stop
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CHRISTMAS
Services

The holidays can be joyous and stressful time for many, especially in the LGBTQIA community. It is my hope that our community will search out those houses of worship where they will be welcomed and embraced for the fabulous creation we are. We live in a city that is alive with faith... so many churches that are Open and Affirming. At Northwest Community United Church of Christ, we look at this night as a new beginning for all people. Through the wonderful story of Jesus' birth, all people can find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our Christmas Eve service will include a great deal of music, a special children's moment, candlelight communion and a short Christmas message. Our Minister of Music and Worship is the multi-talented Robby Wingfield of the band Empire Records. Robby has some exciting things planned that will warm your heart and transport you to a time where the wonder of Christmas can become alive again. I encourage everyone, believers, skeptics and non-believers to connect with love this Christmas Eve. You might see old friends, make new ones and maybe... just maybe hear the angels sing a special song of love for you.

Rev. Greg Davis
Pastor, Northwest Community United Church of Christ

Northwest Community Church, United Church of Christ
Communion/Carols/Candlelight
Rev. Greg Davis, Pastor
6:30 pm
101 S. Rancho
(on the campus of First Christian Church)

Indigo Valley Church
Char Morgan, Pastor
7 pm
3975 South Durango, Suite 105

MCC
Rev. Wanda Floyd, Pastor
10 pm to 12 am
1140 Almond Tree Lane

First Congregational Church of Las Vegas and Las Vegas United Church of Christ
Rev. Dave Pomeroy, Pastor
6:30 pm Joint Service
1200 N Eastern Ave

Christ Church
Rev. J. Barry Vaughn, Rector
Family Service
5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Hispanic Service: 7:00
2000 S. Maryland Pkwy

Community Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Mark Wickstrom, Pastor
10:00 am
3 pm, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00
3720 E. Tropicana Ave



Ayler

In 2009, Nick Ayler's provocative cover shoot for DNA magazine launched his career into the gay scene. Though a little more risqué than he expected, Nick's rock hard abs and killer pecs have many a gay man wishing this McDreamy DJ played for our team.

But model, actor, and DJ, Ayler has always been a true ally to the gay community. Playing clubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, Nick's passion for the LGBT community runs deep.

"I've been able to observe the most significant amount of change. Never has equality been accepted in such a broad way and it keep progressing at such a rapid rate," said Ayler. "I'm dumbfounded by segregation. A person is a person. A heart is a heart."

Ayler's love for music allows him to breach barriers. "I want everyone to come together under one roof and under one sound. The sound is more than what we listen to, it's something we feel. It moves us in so many directions. It lets me evoke an emotion of out someone."

Nick's work has connected him to so many facets of the LGBT community. From the fashion, photography, and music of the East and West coasts, to the politics of DC, he sees the big picture and moving pieces of progress. "It's like seeing how a chessboard works. Each piece has to move ever so carefully. Everything is done for boasting a better name for the community."

This year, Ayler partnered with NGLCC and performed at the national dinner in Washington, DC. "It wasn't the formal affair I thought. I was thinking wedding," he recalls of the venue. "We threw formal 1/2 way out the window and brought casual in when we opened the absinthe bar."

Looking into 2015, Nick's career is focusing in a new direction. With a new studio in Palm Springs and a re-branding that drops "DJ Nick" in favor of just "Ayler," his plan to produce his own label is already in motion, and soon fans will be amazed with a new level of production. Las Vegas and Miami are the epicenters of music in the US. "I'm tired of the gay market getting second best. There's a market here and it needs to be recognized. So next year, I'll be bringing my own lighting to where I spin."

Ayler has rooted himself in the Las Vegas nightlife scene and he loves every minute of it. And judging by the turnout where he plays, we love him, too.

Read more online:
www.gay.vegas/ayler

EATING OUT @ NOODLES



[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Now that I travel to Las Vegas every couple of months or so, I have developed a little food ritual. Every time I go to Vegas, my first and last meal is at the same restaurant. Noodles!

Noodles is tucked away at one side of the Bellagio casino, across from where many of the other restaurants are located. It's a Pan-Asian restaurant, featuring dishes from a variety of Asian countries. Chinese, Japanese, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and Thai are all represented. Executive Chef Patrick Lee has put together a wide assortment of dishes, and the ones I've tried have all been, as he describes them "yummy"!

The decor is very clean and simple; white marble floors, inlaid with golden Asian symbols, cherry wood tables - several of them large, family-sized tables with low benches, and wall hangings made of dried grasses. The most noticeable element of the decor, is the large, backlit wall, stacked with shelves full of glass jars containing many different kinds of...what else? Noodles! There is also a big counter at the back which can accommodate anyone who's eating alone, or at most with one other person. If you arrive and find a huge line of people waiting to be seated - which does happen - ask if you can have a seat at the counter. You might just be able to jump the line!

With so many cultures from which to choose, Noodles' menu is fairly extensive, offering appetizers, noodle soups, old time Chinese favorites, and more. So far, I've tried the wonderful Shiu Mai - tiny little shrimp dumplings, steamed to perfection, and delicious with soy sauce and a touch of the super-spicy Chinese mustard. I'm also partial to the Pot Stickers, with a biting ponzu vinegar on the side, and the Malaysian Roti Prata - a kind of lightly fried flatbread that's served with a delicious curried dipping sauce. The Hot and Spicy Cucumber is one of my favorites, with the cool of the cucumber standing up nicely against a sauce made with vinegar and spicy chili flakes, and the Satay Chicken is a satisfying bite with the beautifully grilled chunks of chicken and the excellent traditional spicy peanut sauce!



The Main Courses are equally varied, allowing diners to sample an array of foods from various cultures. I've had the Pho - a traditional Vietnamese seafood-filled soup, the aromatic Barbecue Rice with Pork - succulent and perfect, and their Pad Thai - a Thai dish overflowing with flat noodles, vegetables, a choice of beef, chicken or shrimp, and lots of Thai basil. I've tried Pad Thai at many different restaurants and I can safely say that Noodles has the best I've ever tasted!

Noodles also serves Congee - something of a mystery to us Westerners. Congee is a pressure cooked rice porridge, usually combined with different proteins and often referred to as Chinese comfort food. I was eager to try it and my server was kind enough just to bring me a small bowl of it. While the flavor is very subtle, I can see how it could be excellent with, say, seafood or chicken. I must say that even on its own, I quite enjoyed it.

Speaking of odd foods, Noodles' popular weekend Dim Sum Service features that oddest of foods - the chicken foot! Most Westerners cringe and turn up their noses, but I dove right in! What I found is that chicken feet are delicious! Granted there's not much meat - it's mostly tiny bones and cartilage, but they're braised to perfection and the sauce is killer. Next time you have the chance...don't fear the chicken foot!

SO...what's my food ritual? On my first and last night in Vegas, I grab a seat at Noodles and order the exact same thing; the Spicy Thai Shrimp Noodle Soup. This is their take on a traditional Tom Yum soup. It's filled with perfectly cooked noodles, mushrooms, five gorgeous shrimp - also cooked exactly right, lemongrass, cilantro, scallions, lime juice, and lots and lots of SPICE!! This soup will definitely clear your sinuses! I always say that I know it's a good batch, if my nose starts running.

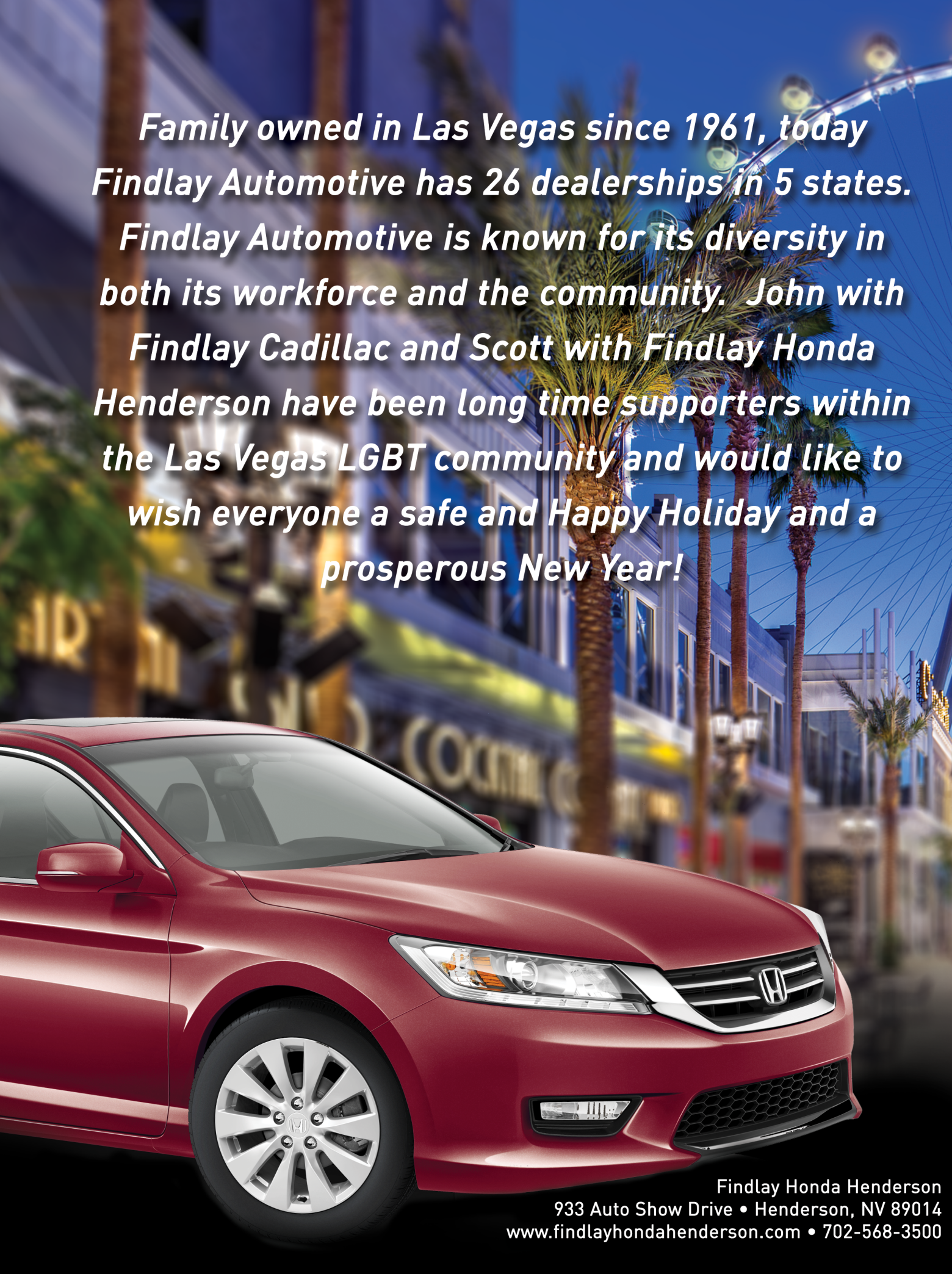
Seriously...I love this soup so much, that I've started calling it "Magic Soup". It's sort of my take on the "Jewish penicillin" nickname for chicken soup. I kind of feel like the Magic Soup from Noodles could cure just about anything that's wrong with you. I've told people that Magic Soup makes me do the "Happy Dance". As it turns out, I took a friend of mine to Noodles and she challenged me to get up and actually DO the Happy Dance for her. I did.

Anyway, back to the food! I've only tried one of their desserts, but I really love it. It's the Mango Pudding, which is served with a bit of fresh milk in the bowl, as well - a great way to cool down after the spicy soup!

The staff is friendly and attentive. They can often get swamped by the large crowds that descend, but I've never had to wait very long for service or for my food.

I find their prices to be quite reasonable, particularly for Las Vegas, and they're open daily till 2 AM! I love this, because I sometimes like to eat dinner late and with all the good restaurants closing at about 10:30 PM most nights, this gives me an option other than the casino coffee shops.

If you're a fan of Asian foods, like me, give Noodles a try. You might just do the Happy Dance, too!!


Family owned in Las Vegas since 1961, today Findlay Automotive has 26 dealerships in 5 states. Findlay Automotive is known for its diversity in both its workforce and the community. John with Findlay Cadillac and Scott with Findlay Honda Henderson have been long time supporters within the Las Vegas LGBT community and would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year!
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Shane O Neal

Shane O'Neal runs SONStudios, a photography studio in Las Vegas and is a renowned photographer. Each year Shane donates his time and talents to the Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence annual Red Dress event. Shane also hosted our cover shoot in his amazing photo and provided the photos for our fabulous ally cover.

Kristen Schaefer

Pride. Beauty. Selflessness. Energy. Strength. Loyalty.
These are just a few words that describe my engagement with the LGBT community. Never have I had so much fun, felt more alive or felt like it was ok to be me with any other community. I am proud to support all of my pals in the LGBT community and will to the end of my days!

Thank for all the love you all share!!

Ally Peeps



Penny Pibbets

The gays are so important to any community. They're always great to have in an audience because they have the best sense of humor. They laugh and cheer and they're never afraid to be who they are. They're always honest when you ask them if something looks good or not. Having a gay friend is like having a fairy God mother: They come when you call them, all they need to do is snap and they can rustle an outfit together from scratch and they always bring a shitload of glitter with them wherever they go.



Linda Quackenboss

Linda started working with the LGBTQ community in earnest when she "met some wonderful gay couples in her church and got to know them." She also met many great people at work in architectural and interior design photography. Linda donates her time to many LGBTQ events, including HRC and the Center, and is available for same-sex weddings and commitment ceremonies.

Latoya Holman

You can't think of allies in Vegas and not think of Latoya Holman. She is simply one of the best-known faces of the Las Vegas LGBTQ Ally Community, period. Her work for years with R&R Partners and the anti-bullying program Flip the Script made her a go-to for helping young people stay safe and have their message be heard. Latoya is a member of the Las Vegas Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Steering Committee, and has worked tirelessly over the years to make Nevada the Marriage Equality state it is today. Through speaking, event hosting, and even sharing her amazing musical talents as a singer, Latoya has broadened awareness and acceptance of diversity and love. Latoya owns and runs Blowout Dollhouse in Downtown Las Vegas' Container Park, selling some of the valley's most amazing jewelry. If you see Latoya, and you will find her everywhere that activism is needed, thank her for her dedication.



Lisa Hammond

The woman who brings us RevoSundays week after week and year after year does so with tireless dedication. As the director of Light Group LGBT Marketing, Lisa has been a shining star among the bright lights of Las Vegas. The consummate fashionista, she's always one to try to out drag a drag queen. Yet she also rolls up her sleeves and volunteers throughout the year at community events.





Melody Sweets

Who can resist the green fairy of Absinthe. The sexy and sensual Melody Sweets captivates our eye, ears, and hearts. Anyone who sparkles this much has to be an ally.

FINDLAY AUTO GROUP

Partners in the Community

[by Russ White]

Over 53 years ago Pete Findlay opened his first dealership in Las Vegas on Fremont Street. Pete Findlay Oldsmobile established what is now one of the largest family-owned and operated automobile dealership groups in the nation. A household name throughout the Las Vegas Valley today, Findlay has over 1,100 employees at 28 dealerships in 5 states.

Instead of an autocratic organization, this distributed governance also regulates corporate philanthropy. Each General Manager decides which charitable organizations their store supports each year. Giving extends to larger national organizations like The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, The American Heart Association and the Human Rights Campaign right down to little league teams and High School marching bands.

Community is important to Findlay, and so are their employees as evidenced several longtime workers that have been employed by Findlay for over four decades. One of the reasons employees love Findlay is the sense of family they have among colleagues. With over a thousand employees, one would think that it would be easy to get lost in the crowd. But each Findlay dealership is operated by the General Manager and has its own unique personality.

This philosophy creates a sense of closeness and camaraderie that could be lost in larger companies. Even company barbecues and holiday parties stay within the store realm. This creates longevity throughout the company.

Longevity resonates with two of Findlay's General Managers. Scott Ramer, General Manager at Findlay Honda Henderson has been with Findlay since 1998 and John Saksa, General Manager at Findlay Cadillac and Findlay Fiat has been with Findlay since 2000. What's of particular interest is Scott and John have been a couple for over 20 years and as business leaders have fostered diversity and LGBTQ inclusion throughout Findlay.

The couple has not always lived in Las Vegas but met in Phoenix. Scott, working for a Pontiac dealer at the time in Phoenix. Decided he wanted a new Chevy Pick-up so off he went down to the local Chevy dealer. While sitting with the sales person she ask who referred him and Scott answered that he had seen her ad



Scott Ramer, General Manager at Findlay Honday
John Saksa, General Manager at Findlay Cadillac & Findlay Fiat

Photo by Linda Q Photography

in the local gay magazine. The sales person said she had just the thing for him and introduced him to John which was the Finance manager at the Chevy dealer at the time. It was love at first sight and Scott and John have been together since that day. Scott says he went in to buy a pickup truck and ended up with a husband, but in the end did get his pickup truck.

John moved to Vegas in 1997 first as he was hired by Chassion BMW as their Finance Director and Scott shortly after was hired by Findlay Toyota as their Parts & Service Director. In 2000 John joined Findlay Oldsmobile/Saab as Finance Director. Both have never had to hide their sexuality at work and have been out at work from day one. Neither sought after their General Manager roles, both were approached by the CFO and Mr. Findlay and promoted from within to run their dealerships.

The couple lives in a rural area of Henderson with a little over an acre. On their property are 6 desert tortoises, a 160 pound African Sulcata tortoise named Goliath, a large Koi pond with over 90 koi, 50 water turtles and a ton of wild life because of Johns soft heart he has to feed them all. And we can't forget the rulers inside the house, Sam and Leo the cats.

The couple also likes their classic and muscle cars, 13 of them to be exact. Last summer they built a 2,200 square foot garage on their property complete with lifts and a shop that would rival most dealership service departments and yes, they work on their own cars to!

Six years ago, John and Scott were celebrating Scott's birthday in Provincetown. On the day before they were to return to Las Vegas, they woke up and decided to get married. Same-sex marriage was legal in Massachusetts, and the state had just lifted a residency ban.

When they arrived to file their marriage license, they were told there was a 3 day waiting period and would have to petition the court for a waiver. The court is in Martha's Vineyard so they hail a cab. Up pulls a psychedelic cab driven by a big hair drag queen. After filling out the paperwork for the waiver the court clerk says the judge was in session and can sign off when he's done. About 10 minutes later the clerk notifies them that because they have a cab waiting the judge is halting the current trial to sign off for them.

So the clerk escorts Scott and John into what they thought was the judge's chambers but no, it was into the court room, up to the Judges podium in front of the jury, attorneys, person on trial and a court room full of people.

Both about to turn and run the other way the Judge ask how long have you been together. Scott answers 15 years and the Judge says, if you've been together that long you must know what you're doing and grants the waiver. The courtroom bursts into cheers, including the jurors and the person on trial. They hopped back into the cab, returned to Provincetown, and were married that day.

This is a relationship that Findlay has not only acknowledged but has supported for many years. That support continues to benefit the local Las Vegas LGBTQ community. Over the years their dealerships have sponsored organizations including Pride, The Center, Golden Rainbow, AFAN, and HRC and in 2014 Findlay began offering domestic partner insurance benefits to their employees.

Large corporations are held accountable to diversity and equality standards that smaller businesses are often unaware of. MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment, Wynn Resorts, The Cosmopolitan and NV Energy all score 100% on the HRC Corporate Equality Index, a survey that measures corporate policies and benefits. No such report exists for smaller businesses, so when you see companies like Findlay proactively adapt their policies, benefits and marketing messages that's a true sign that they advocate for the LGBTQ employee and consumer base. And isn't that what being an ally is all about?



Tis The Season



by Rev. Wanda Floyd
MCC Las Vegas, Interim Pastor

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is my favorite Christmas story.

The story tells us about a character, the Grinch, who hates Christmas and his cave overlooks a village which takes Christmas seriously. The villagers annoy the Grinch with their Christmas carols, decorations and Christmas spirit. He devises a plan to ruin Christmas for the entire village. The Grinch believes if he steals the Christmas presents from the villagers, he will spoil Christmas for them. He sets out, takes all their gifts.

We have a lot in common with the villagers from the story. We spend enormous amount of time, energy, and money on presents. We even make it a point to get gifts for people we do not like or care for, but buy them because it is the right thing to do. We give gifts to all of our co-workers because it would look strange if we only gave certain people gifts. We also buy expensive gifts for people who do not appreciate them often over extending our finances. Then, January and February come around and we get the bill…we spend all year paying something off we really did not want to purchase in the first place.

Back to the story, on Christmas morning, the villagers get up…assemble in a circle…hold hands and sing a Christmas song in their language. From above the village, on the mountain, the Grinch listens intently. Then the Grinch's heart begins glowing and growing until he has a moment of reality and understands Christmas is not about material gifts. The Grinch finally sees Christmas is about love, understanding, forgiveness, family and so much more. He realizes he was wrong and brings all the gifts back to the town. The villagers, instead of turning their backs on him, embrace him and make him one of their own.

What a wonderful story! My favorite part is when the Grinch realizes Christmas is about love, understanding, forgiveness and family - not about Santa Claus or gifts.

For those of us who are believers…we have to remember the "reason for the season". Yes, we give and receive gifts but the reality is we celebrate the birth of Christ during this time. That is the "reason for the season" and I believe we can all benefit from knowing the real reason behind Christmas. The Grinch got it…Christmas is about so much more than giving and receiving gifts – it is about giving and receiving the gift of Christ. ■

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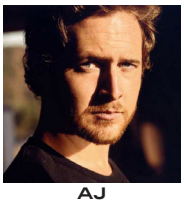

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CSI: NY



BLAKE LEWIS
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TJ LAVIN
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ROBIN LEACH
LAS VEGAS SUN



REHAN CHOUDHRY
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL



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CHUMLEE
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TECH VEGAS

You know what Vegas is known for. Casinos, hotels, buffets, entertainment, Elvis weddings. What many overlook is the robust technology center. Las Vegas is an especially exciting place in January for technology enthusiasts, innovators and entrepreneurs. With the Consumer Electronics Show accumulating 160,000 plus technology focused individuals and the exhibiting companies showing off the best and finest of their new gadgets, mobile devices, curved displays, and the "Internet of Things", when you combine this with the NamesCon Domain Name Industry Event, all eyes are on Vegas for announcements about the latest technology and Internet innovation.

The founders of the conference love Las Vegas because of the capacity and facilities for the conference. "When you stack up all the other "pluses" – entertainment, shopping, fine dining, nightlife, buzz, glimmer, and all the great accessibility of Vegas as an international destination – there really was no other place on earth to hold the conference," Jothan Frakes recalls of the decision to locate the conference in Las Vegas.

The Internet has recently undergone a radical transformation in the form of new top level domains that work exactly like .COM does, but are often more specific and deliberate or hold keywords that help potential visitors enjoy more context to the web sites they reach.

The change is immense with over 1,000 new extensions joining the web from .AAA to .ZONE. You might have noticed .VEGAS as part of the Website Address above for the NamesCon Conference. Vegas was one of only 4 cities in the US that applied to get a new dot. .BOSTON, .MIAMI, and .NYC are joined by .VEGAS on the web.

WHY DOT VEGAS

The conference URL is clear and is easy to give out over radio advertisements or telephone discussions, "Namescon.vegas is a conversation starter, and we really don't get hit with a question about what city the event occurs in. People's faces light up when we say Vegas at the end of the domain, too, like mentioning candy to a young child, " Frakes added.

Since starting the conference, the organizers learned so much about how attractive Las Vegas and Nevada are for commerce. "We've learned just how strong the local startup scene is, and the commitment of the business development of the city of Las Vegas towards making the city an attractive place to start a new technology business," said Frakes.

THE TECHNOLOGY TRIFECTA

Early January is an amazing time for technology in Las Vegas. The Consumer Electronics Show runs from 6-9, followed by NamesCon 11-14, and then the Affiliate Summit West on the 18-20th. Brands that are marketing at CES can stay the weekend and learn about how these new domain names can hold opportunities (or discover the methods of creative disruption they enable) at NamesCon, and then turn up the affiliate marketing a week later at ASW.

ALL ABOUT DOMAIN NAMES

NamesCon is all about domain names, and the innovation in the domain name space. Nearly half of the top global brands like FOX, BMW, Google, Microsoft, and Cisco (just to name a few) now have a new Top Level Domain (TLD). There are also new alternatives to .COM for people to obtain specific and meaningful presences within, like .NINJA, .TRADE, .PARTY, or .BLACK (just to name a few at random).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DOMAIN NAMES

These new domain names have arrived with a lot of attention

NAMESCON.VEGAS

NamesCon 2015 will be held January 11-14 at The New Tropicana Las Vegas.

Register at http://NamesCon.vegas with Promo Code "gaydotvegas" for special rates.

given to ensuring intellectual property rights are respected. Many new mechanisms have been added so that rights holders have ample advance opportunity and availability to domain names within their intellectual property rights.

NamesCon is delighted to have the president of the International Trademark Association, Mr. J.Scott Evans as one of the keynote speakers at the event, who will talk about the INTA and domain names.

THE VALUE OF DOMAIN NAMES

In addition to the new domain names, there are existing .COM domain names that have their values skyrocketing like Manhattan real estate prices. There will be an auction at NamesCon which will have premium .COM domain names offered alongside some amazing premium new domain names.

TECHNOLOGY, BUILDING, STARTING, RUNNING

There will be sessions about the new domains, where you can meet some of them and learn about how they are different than .COM, sessions about developing out a domain name or portfolio of domain names, how to buy or sell domain names and understand their value, and more.

Meet the friendly people from these new dots, or GoDaddy and other registrars, hosting companies, and startups, and come away from the conference with a black belt in conversational domain names.

Whether you are a dot-com mogul or a small to medium business, whatever your nexus with technology or Internet use, the changes to the Internet that come from the new domains are important to know about, and find opportunity to benefit you. The conference is inexpensive to attend, very accessible, and gathers the Domain Name Industry under one roof – so you may just meet that perfect connection.

We hope to see you in January at the NamesCon conference.

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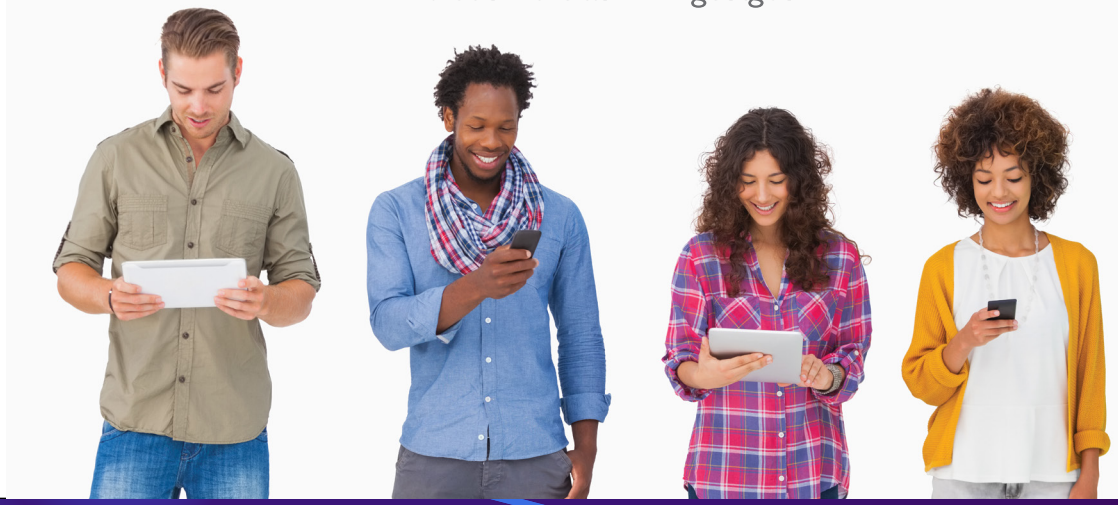

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Linda Q Photography
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Medical Clinic
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huntridgefamilyclinic.org

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As we move into 2015, QVegas is pleased to announce that we've lowered our print advertising rates. We want QVegas to be accessible to all businesses serving the LGBTQ market across the Southwest. Whether your business is in Las Vegas and you want to reach locals or tourists, or your business is outside Vegas in our distribution markets, QVegas now has rates that make it affordable in Vegas and out of Vegas.

With a print distribution of 20,000 copies per month, QVegas is the second largest LGBTQ publication in the Southwest and has the largest physical distribution footprint with a presence in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Orange County, West Hollywood, Palm Springs, San Diego, San Francisco, and Phoenix. Plus your ads are seen online in our Social Media edition on Facebook and in our iPhone® app.

QVegas is gay-owned and operated in Las Vegas, Nevada and partners with Gay.Vegas for digital media marketing.

For rate and other information visit www.gay.vegas/qvegas/advertising.



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PIA ZADORA [by Russ White]


Photo: Brian Brown

Golden Globe winner, Grammy nominee, ShowWest winner, accomplished singer, film and Broadway star all describe Pia Zadora. Performing since the age of six, for those who have seen her in concert, what comes to mind first, and describes this multi-talented performer is simply this: Pia Zadora is the complete entertainer.

As a performer, Pia has always had ties to the gay community. "I started on broadway when I was a child. I was surround by gay people. They became my life. The hairdressers, the makeup artists, the choreographers. I just felt comfortable. They were my peeps. I grew up that way," recalls Zadora.

On the progress of LGBT rights, Pia says "people are becoming much more liberated. It's much less of a struggle because the stigma that surrounded the community is fading. Now the acceptance is more out there. It's become a norm. People are celebrating the freedom of choice. They are able to choose who they want to be with. Now it's just a matter of establishing the laws and government structure to support equality."

When asked what shaped her early attitude toward the gay community, Zadora said it was her start with Tallulah Bankhead. "She said 'Don't ever let anyone mess with you. Be you own person. Everyone needs to be who they are inside.'"

Pia lives in Las Vegas and performs every Friday and Saturday night at Piero's Italian Cuisine.

With no cover and a 2-drink minimum, this Classic Vegas venue provides for one of the best cabaret shows in town,

MARK SHUNOCK [by Garrett Pattiani]

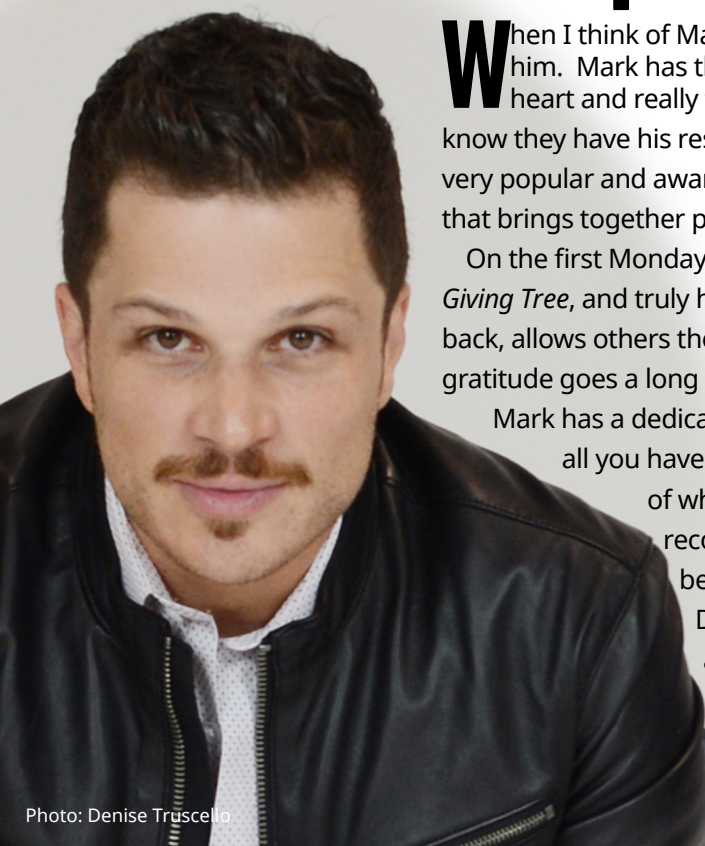
Photo: Denise Truscello

When I think of Mark Shunock so many words come to mind on how to describe him. Mark has the ability to make anyone feel special. Mark has the biggest heart and really takes the time to let anyone, including the LGBT community know they have his respect. Mark is a star in Rock of Ages and is the creator of the very popular and award winning monthly charity benefit Mondays Dark, an event that brings together performers to raise money for local Charities.

On the first Mondays Dark, Mark read his favorite book to the audience, *The Giving Tree*, and truly has made that story a living reality. He takes the time to give back, allows others the ability to do the same, and never forgets that inclusion and gratitude goes a long way.

Mark has a dedication to encouraging others to live life to the fullest, to give it all you have. He is an ally to everyone he meets, a remarkable example of what it means to be a good human being and deserves this recognition as a person that has changed so many lives for the better. Make sure to get your tickets to the December Mondays Dark as he celebrates 1 year. 24 charities will benefit and will be a first time that they will all be under the same roof! Thank you Mark for being an ally and a friend to our community and the world.

Raffle Prizes All Night

December 16
9PM at Charlies

Live & Silent Auction

The Sin Sity Sisters ADULT Toy Drive



Santa Comes Once a Year... But You Shouldn't Have To!

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YEAR IN REVIEW / YEAR IN PREVIEW

[by Russ White]

History will record 2014 as the year that marriage equality hit the mainstream. But even as gay marriage sweeps across the US, the ripple effect will be felt in numerous way. Until protection is afforded across all 50 states, couples will struggle for true equality.

Right now we bask in the glory of our wins, but with gay marriage comes gay divorce. If you cross state lines to get married, as many will do in Las Vegas, what happens when you get back to your home state and life leads your relationship to divorce? If your state doesn't recognize your marriage, then there is no legal recognition for divorce.

Gay marriage also mobilized Conservatives, ousting Democrats from Congress. As the country enters what by all accounts will be two excruciatingly unproductive years in Washington, we must continue to encourage our political allies to stand strong.

We saw promient men and women come out of the closet. Michael Sam, Ellen Page, and Tim Cook captured headlines with their coming out stories.

This year saw local LGBTQ businesses open and close. Longtime businesses like The Buffalo, Krave, Club Metro, Escape Lounge, and Blue Moon Resort closed their doors. Others opened in existing and new spots including Quadz, Liaison, Phoenix, and Equalibrium.

Sin City Q Socials were reborn this year as Social Tuesays. The popular weeknight social gathering explores different bars and restaurants all over Las Vegas.

Local non-profits saw a change of leadership. New executive directors were installed at The Center, Golden Rainbow, and PRIDE.

HIV/AIDS continues to plague our city. As of the end of September, Clark County HIV infection rates were up 8% from the previous year.

As we move into 2015, QVegas, along with our partnerships with Gay.Vegas and Garrett's Gay Guide have a busy year ahead of us. This month, Gay.Vegas announced a partnership with jackcolton.com that will bridge the LGBTQ community with Vegas nightlife.

Gay.Vegas continues to grow in popularity. Since its launch in August 2014, new web traffic to Gay.Vegas has increased an average of 114% per month. Now with QVegas Magazine's digital edition hosted on Gay.Vegas, rich search optimization from our original content will further boost the site's popularity.

With marriage at the forefront of the community, Gay.Vegas, QVegas and Garrett's Gay Guide are partering to produce the first "Las Vegas Guide to Marriage Equality" in 2015. This quarterly publication and website will provide couples looking to hold their wedding in Las Vegas a guide to goods and services from local providers.

This year QVegas enters its 37th year serving the LGBTQ community. Renamed QVegas in 2004, the publication is part of a lineage of magazines dating back to 1978. In 2015, readers will see even more community-generated content. I strongly believe in exposing the nacient talent in people, and what better way to reveal those talents than to offer people an outlet for their creativity. Many of our writers, photographers, models, makeup artists over the past year contributed their talents to bring QVegas to our readers.

Thank you to our readers, our followers, and our advertisers. We wish you happy holidays and a prosperous New Years.


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Garrett's Gay Guide.com

Garrett Pattiani
garrett@gay.vegas

December 2014

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



DECEMBER 1 at The Center

5:30pm Reception
6:15pm Welcome & Introductions
6:30pm Panel Discussion
7:15pm Question & Answer
7:30pm Inspirational Service
8:00pm Candlelight Vigil
9:00pm "The Normal Heart"

thecenterlv.org



DECEMBER 3

The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada inaugural holiday bash will be held at the historic Hartland Mansion from 6 to 9 p.m. VIP ticket holders enjoy a tour of the North Wing led by Larry Hart. Valet service will be available.



Pia Zadora is back at Pia's Place inside Piero's! 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays Dec 5 and 6; Dec 12 and 13; Dec 19 and 20 – and a special New Year's Eve show! No cover. 2 Drink Minimum.



DECEMBER 7

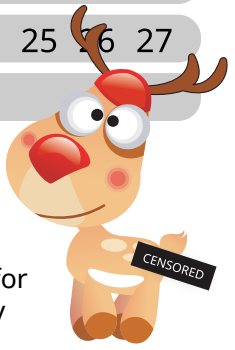
RevoSundays shows it cares with the return of the AFAN toy drive for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone who brings an unwrapped toy receives free entry and open bar from 10-11 pm and a free drink ticket after 11 pm. Hosted by Rupaul's Drag Race India Ferrah, with music by DJ Morning Star. Come make a difference in a kid's holidays at REVOLUTION.

www.gay.vegas/RevoSundays



DECEMBER 10

Join Bears las Vegas for a Yankee Swap Gift Exchange and Great Food and we'll also take a few minutes to recognize outstanding members of our organization who've gone above and beyond this year to help us. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than $15 and something for the Pot Luck dinner. Post what you're bringing on this wall!



DECEMBER 16

Join the Sin Sity Sisters and Gay. Vegas at Charlie's for their first Adult Toy Drive at 9pm

www.gay.vegas/SinSitySisters



DECEMBER 26 & 27

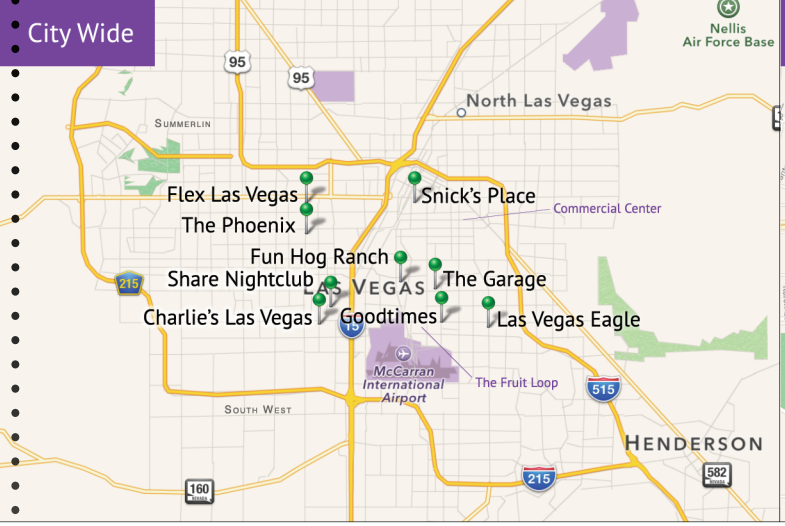
Lisa Lampanelli returns to Las Vegas for an encore performance at The Venetian. Get special **Dinner and a Show for 2 Packages** for only $100

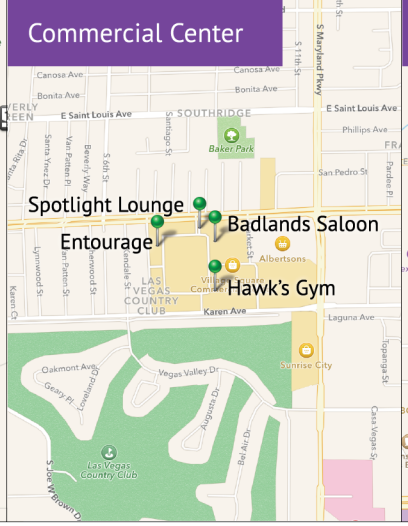
www.gay.vegas/store



DECEMBER 31

This New Year's Eve, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas will bring Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga together on the mophie stage at The Chelsea. The extraordinary evening will highlight the music from their just released #1 album, 'Cheek To Cheek'.







Garrett's Gay Guide.com

Garrett's Gay Guide fits right in your pocket! Just tear out, fold in half length-wise, and fan-fold to create a handy pocket-sized guide to Gay Las Vegas.



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

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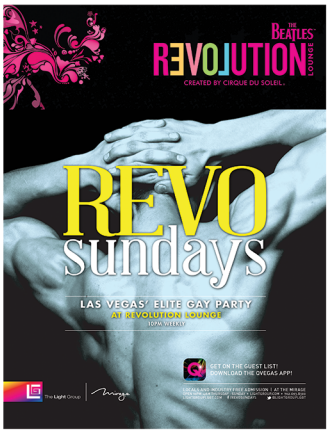

Social Tuesdays

Social Tuesdays
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SocialTuesdays.com

1st Tuesday
Local Gay Bar

2nd Tuesday
Light Group LGBT

3rd / 4th / 5th Tuesday
Wildcard Locations





Sundays

Brunch
- DW Bistro
- John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group

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

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

REVO sundays

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

Visit gay.vegas/revosundays

Mondays

Day
- Happy Hour 11am-7pm at The Garage

Evening
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park (weather permitting)

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

MONDAYS DARK WITH MARK SHUNOCK

Vegas Performers Support Local Charities Every Month at Hard Rock Hotel

Tuesdays

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

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

SOCIAL TUESDAYS

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

Sign Up for Weekly Announcements at gay.vegas/socialtuesdays

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Evening
- 3rd Thursday

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

Fridays

Day
- 2-for-1 drinks at Goodtimes

Night
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- Phired Up Fridays at The Phoenix
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Fabulously Funny Fridays with Jimmy Emerson at Badlands Saloon
- Pia Zadora at Piero's

Saturdays

Day
- Weekly Pool Tournament at The Phoenix

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

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DECEMBER 2014



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THE ALLY ISSUE DECEMBER 2014

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Editor's Note



The warm weather is officially over but that doesn't stop thousands from celebrating their holidays in Las Vegas with all that it has to offer. I'm looking forward to traveling up to Mt. Charleston to check out the snow while enjoying some hot chocolate.

QVegas wraps up the year with the December Ally Issue. For the first time we are dedicating an entire issue to those who stand with us for equality. We thank them for using their positions to move the community forward. As of print there are 35 states that have marriage equality. Those wins depended on those allies who petitioned, wrote letters, and secured marriage equality for all couples.

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



Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind?

Do you have something to say about an article in *QVegas* or any topic of interest to our readers?

Do you have an idea for a future story?

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

DISNEY CHANNEL FINALLY DEBUTS A SAME SEX COUPLE

"Disney Channel's "Good Luck Charlie" broke new ground on Sunday with the inclusion of a lesbian couple, the cable network's first openly gay characters in a series.

In the episode "Down a Tree," Amy and Bob Duncan set up a play date for their daughter Charlie and one of her new friends, Taylor — who just happens to have two moms."

MAJOR TRANS* VICTORY IN MAINE

In an historic first, a state high court ruled yesterday that a male-to-female transgender student who was accepted by school staff and students as a girl could not be barred from using the girls' bathroom at school.

Jennifer Levi of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), which brought the lawsuit on behalf of the girl and her parents, called the decision in Doe v. Clenchy a "huge breakthrough" for transgender young people.

GLAD also noted that the decision marks "the first time a state court has ruled that transgender students must be allowed to use the bathrooms that match who they are."

MACKLEMORE AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY STEAL THE SHOW AT THE GRAMMY'S

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis basked in the limelight of the Grammys's 2014 defining performance at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. Music's biggest night was grand to the duo who secured Grammy's in four categories, including a sweep of the major rap categories and a best new artist, while also recognizing them as the fore figures leading to what many may consider as one of the most historic moments in the show's history.

As the Staples Center turned into



a techno ministry, Macklemore delivered "Same Love," the pair's gay rights anthem. Along with out singer Mary Lambert and a snippet performance by, Madonna, the song's lyrics spoke of ignorance, lack of rights, same-sex marriage and how they, the performers, supported it. As the song lyrics were coming to an end, Queen Latifah officiated the marriage of 33 couples, all ready to exchange vows. These couples were the most diverse — gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, credo — and all were married live and in solidarity in front of America's largest mass media platform.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY ARRIVES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

At the stroke of midnight in late March thousands of gay and lesbian couples in England and Wales tied the knot while marriage equality became the law of the land, becoming the 16th country to win marriage equality.

HRC BOARD MEMBER NAMED "WORKING MOTHER OF THE YEAR"

HRC Board of Directors' member Meghan Stabler was named "Working Mother of the Year" by *Working Mother* magazine.

Stabler, the first transgender woman to be named Working Mother of the Year, is an accomplished business executive and LGBT rights activist. She currently serves as an advisor of IT Business Operations at CA Technologies.

For over a decade, Stabler has boldly shared her story, spoken out against discrimination and smoothed the path toward equality and acceptance for transgender people everywhere. She has traveled and worked across the country fighting for LGBT equality. She has testified for non-discrimination ordinances in at least three states, taken part in HRC's "On the Road to Equality" bus tour and has been an advocate for HRC's Welcoming Schools program.

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Limit 2 pkgs. at this price. Your 4 free burgers will be included to each shipping address that includes The Favorite Gift 49377. Limit of 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Burgers per in-store purchase and/or per shipment. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. Expires 12/31/14. ©2014 OCG | 411B120 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

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NIGERIA'S ANTI-GAY LAW

A ban on gay marriage and gay clubs with penalties of up to 14 years jail was signed into law by Nigeria's president last week, according to disclosures made in Abuja on Monday. It follows similar legislation recently adopted by parliament in Uganda. Nigerian presidential spokesman Reuben Abati said Monday Goodluck Jonathan had signed the bill. The news agency Associated Press said it had obtained a copy dated Tuesday, January 7.Immediate condemnation came from US Secretary of State Kerry, who said the new law "dangerously restricts freedom of assembly ... and expression for all Nigerians."

NEVADA AG'S CHOICE WORDS

Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (D) has an onslaught of backlash headed her way after a brief she filed on Tuesday linked same-sex marriage to bigamy and incest. The brief, responding to the Lambda Legal-filed case Sevick v. Sandoval which is challenging Nevada's 2002 ban on gay marriage, stands in vehement opposition to repealing the ban, reportedly "on the basis that it reflects the will of the people." Masto believes that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals need not apply heightened scrutiny to this case as "There exists neither fundamental right, nor suspect or quasi- suspect class, justifying a different standard of review." A controversial perspective, to be sure, but not nearly as much as the direct links she draws among gay marriage, incest, and bigamy.

RUSSIA IMPLEMENTS ANTI-LGBT INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION BAN

Russia officially implemented a law preventing international same-sex couples from adopting Russian children. Additionally the law prevents any unmarried individuals in countries that allow the marriage of same-sex couples from adopting children from Russia. The edict was the official implementation of a law passed in July 2013 that adds an amendment to Russian adoption regulations. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, issued the decree.

PROTESTER: THANK YOUR MOM FOR NOT BEING GAY"

While millions were celebrating with loved ones or fondly remembering mothers who had passed away, a scene shocked onlookers. One anti-LGBTQ protester, Christine Weick, an author from Michigan, chose to spend the day of happiness standing at a busy intersection in Grandville, MI with a sign reading,



"Thank your mom today for not being gay." The demonstration attracted the attention of passing cars, many of which honked in support of the message on Weick's sign. Soon an NBC affiliate was filming on the scene, during which an angry passerby threw a slushy at Weick.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FIRE GAY SCOUTMASTER

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, is calling on the Boy Scouts of America to end its longstanding discriminatory ban on gay adults in Scouting after BSA leaders revoked the membership of an openly gay Scoutmaster in Washington state when he came out in an NBC News profile.

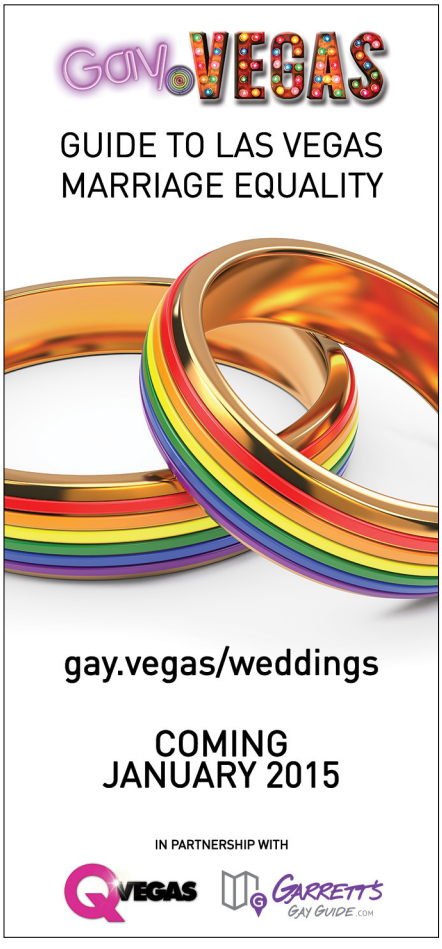
According to news reports, Geoff McGrath, 49, leader of Troop 98 in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood, is believed to be the first gay adult to have his membership in the Boy Scouts of America revoked since last May's controversial vote to allow gay youth—but not adults—to participate in one of the country's most popular youth organizations.

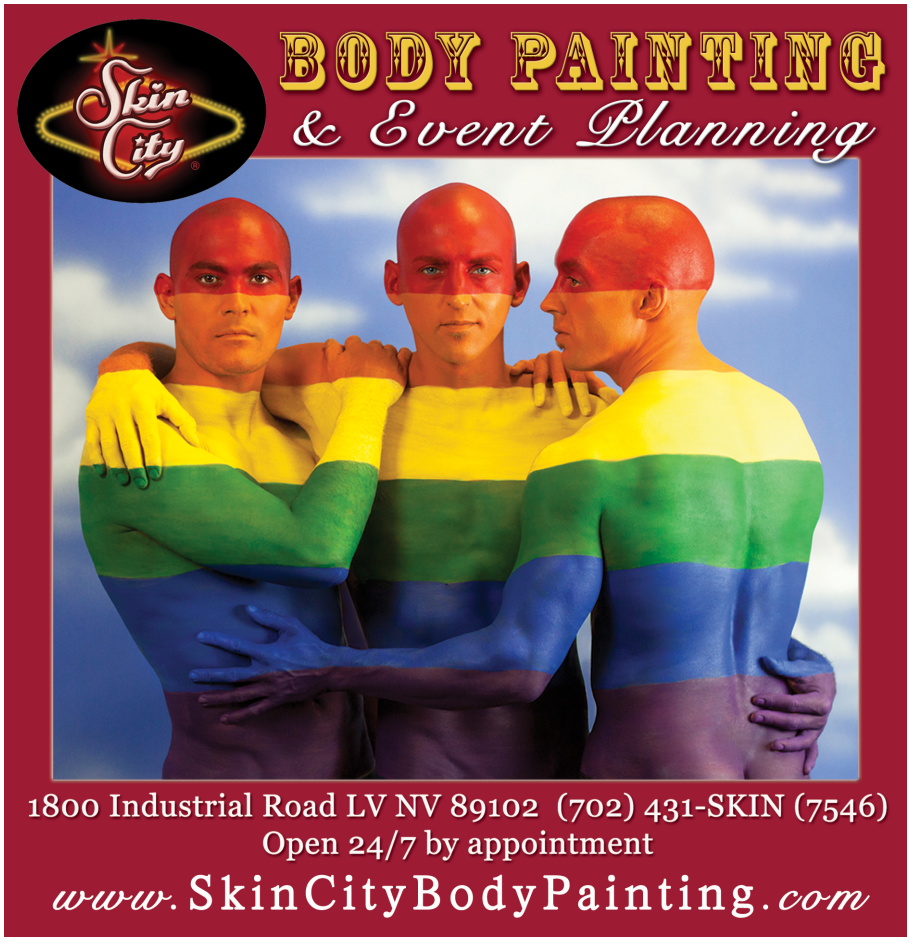
Gay Killing Game

Following a backlash, Google has removed a game from the Android store that advocated killing gay men for sport. The game, called Ass Hunter, was downloaded more than 10,000 before it was taken down, according to several news reports published Monday. Ass Hunter has reportedly been available online for several years, but it was recently added to Google's lineup of mobile apps. Its description read: "Legendary game, where you are hunter and your mission is to kill gays as much as you can or escape between them to the next level. Gays may be hidden in bushes and unexpectedly catch you. Remember! When they catch you they will do with you whatever they want."

1 STEP ...BACK

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





We've Got Your Back

HIVcare.org

1815 E. Lake Mead, Ste 113
N. Las Vegas, NV 89030
(702) 639-8110

3201 S. Maryland Pkwy, Ste 218
Las Vegas, NV 89109
(702) 862-8075



AHF

LAS VEGAS'

NEWEST GAY CLUB



BURNER MONDAYS

WEEKLY BURNING MAN GROUP MEETUP

TIGHT N' WHITE TUESDAYS

PARTY IN YOUR UNDWEAR

FOR 2 FOR 1 DRINKS 9 PM - 1 AM

WICKED WEDNESDAYS

AMERICAN HORROR STORY

VIEWING PARTY 9PM - 10PM

HOSTED BY KEYSKA DIVA

LADIES NIGHT 9PM - 1AM

(2 FOR 1 DRINKS FOR LADIES)

THERAPY THURSDAYS

KARAOKE W/ SHIELA DEL MONTE

9 PM - 1 AM

PHIREDUP PHRIDAYS

W/ TYLER CAIDEN 9 PM -1 AM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

BY KEYSKA DIVA @ 11

The Phoenix

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Garrett's Gay Guide.com

Garrett Pattiani
garrett@gay.vegas

December 2014

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



DECEMBER 1 at The Center

5:30pm Reception
6:15pm Welcome & Introductions
6:30pm Panel Discussion
7:15pm Question & Answer
7:30pm Inspirational Service
8:00pm Candlelight Vigil
9:00pm "The Normal Heart"

thecenterlv.org



DECEMBER 3

The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada inaugural holiday bash will be held at the historic Hartland Mansion from 6 to 9 p.m. VIP ticket holders enjoy a tour of the North Wing led by Larry Hart. Valet service will be available.



Pia Zadora is back at Pia's Place inside Piero's! 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays Dec 5 and 6; Dec 12 and 13; Dec 19 and 20 – and a special New Year's Eve show! No cover. 2 Drink Minimum.



DECEMBER 7

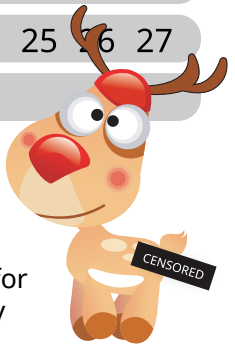
RevoSundays shows it cares with the return of the AFAN toy drive for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone who brings an unwrapped toy receives free entry and open bar from 10-11 pm and a free drink ticket after 11 pm. Hosted by Rupaul's Drag Race India Ferrah, with music by DJ Morning Star. Come make a difference in a kid's holidays at REVOLUTION.

www.gay.vegas/RevoSundays



DECEMBER 10

Join Bears las Vegas for a Yankee Swap Gift Exchange and Great Food and we'll also take a few minutes to recognize outstanding members of our organization who've gone above and beyond this year to help us. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than $15 and something for the Pot Luck dinner. Post what you're bringing on this wall!



DECEMBER 16

Join the Sin Sity Sisters and Gay. Vegas at Charlie's for their first Adult Toy Drive at 9pm

www.gay.vegas/SinSitySisters



DECEMBER 26 & 27

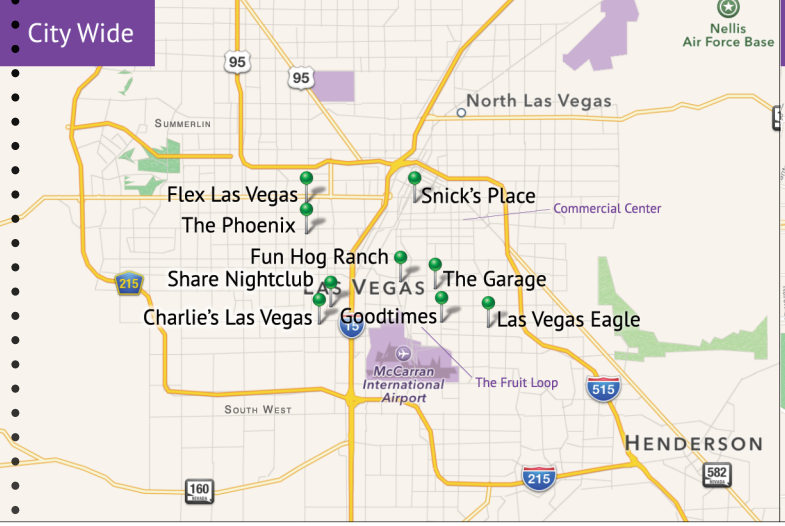
Lisa Lampanelli returns to Las Vegas for an encore performance at The Venetian. Get special **Dinner and a Show for 2 Packages** for only $100

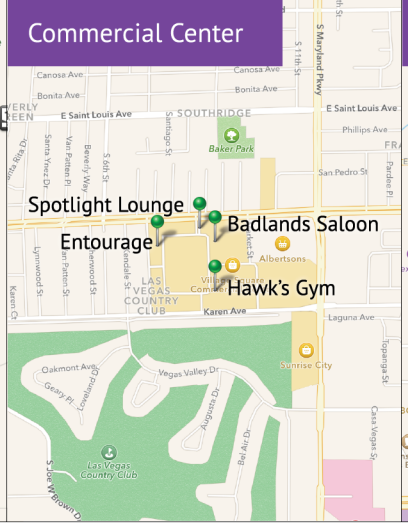
www.gay.vegas/store



DECEMBER 31

This New Year's Eve, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas will bring Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga together on the mophie stage at The Chelsea. The extraordinary evening will highlight the music from their just released #1 album, 'Cheek To Cheek'.







Garrett's Gay Guide.com

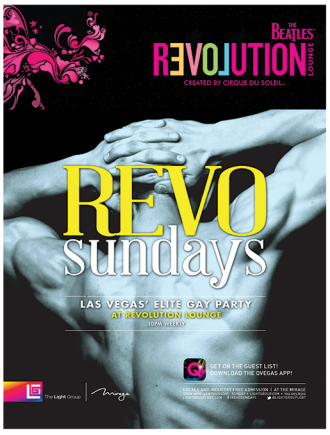
Garrett's Gay Guide fits right in your pocket! Just tear out, fold in half length-wise, and fan-fold to create a handy pocket-sized guide to Gay Las Vegas.



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

REVO sundays

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



Social Tuesdays

Social Tuesdays
Every Tuesday 7-10PM
SocialTuesdays.com

1st Tuesday
Local Gay Bar

2nd Tuesday
Light Group LGBT

3rd / 4th / 5th Tuesday
Wildcard Locations





Sundays

Brunch
- DW Bistro
- John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group

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

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

REVO sundays

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

Visit gay.vegas/revosundays

Mondays

Day
- Happy Hour 11am-7pm at The Garage

Evening
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park (weather permitting)

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

MONDAYS DARK WITH MARK SHUNOCK

Vegas Performers Support Local Charities Every Month at Hard Rock Hotel

Tuesdays

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

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

SOCIAL TUESDAYS

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

Sign Up for Weekly Announcements at gay.vegas/socialtuesdays

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Evening
- 3rd Thursday

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

Fridays

Day
- 2-for-1 drinks at Goodtimes

Night
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- Phired Up Fridays at The Phoenix
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Fabulously Funny Fridays with Jimmy Emerson at Badlands Saloon
- Pia Zadora at Piero's

Saturdays

Day
- Weekly Pool Tournament at The Phoenix

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

GAY.VEGAS

Stay up to date at www.gay.vegas



JACKCOLTON.COM

Nightlife is a staple in Las Vegas. From mega-nightclubs to lounges, no on can escape the lure of Vegas nightlife, celebrity DJ's and popping bottles with over-the-top parades of flashing lights and confetti cannons. VIP hosts are your gateway beyond the velvet rope, and no on knows VIP hosting in Vegas like Jackcolton.com.

More and more often, the Vegas straight clubs are attracting LGBT party-goers. As LGBT equality hits the mainstream, the nightlife crowds and clubs are more accepting of gay culture.

Recognizing the value of the LGBT consumer in nightlife, Jackcolton.com has partnered with Gay.Vegas to provide VIP services across Las Vegas.

"We are very excited about our new partnership and what Jackcolton.com can offer the LGBT community. We've come to find that the LGBT makes up a large percentage of nightlife target demographic that visits Las Vegas, 21-34," said Kalika Moquin, Partner at Jackcolton.com. "With a finger on the pulse to what is relevant in dance music and nightlife today, we think there is a lot of opportunity for creative ideas and events to come to life, and looking forward to a long lasting relationship with Jackcolton.com and the LGBT community moving into the future," added Moquin.

"The goal of Jackcolton.com is pretty simple," said Anthony Nuzzo , CEO of Jack Colton, Inc. "Provide the information that we would want to know if the shoe were on the other foot, and help setup the conversations, access and ability to purchase the necessary tickets and products to make a Las Vegas trip as perfectly outrageous as our visitors want to have."

Since 2006, Vegas has seen buildings blown up and mega resorts go up, as well as the creation of the Mega Club supported by Mega DJ's. No longer is Vegas just a gambling destination. Las Vegas is for everyone, and everyone deserves VIP Service.

"I would like to announce with PRIDE Jackcolton.com Inc's partnership with Gay.Vegas and the entire LGBT community. We will be adding a specific page to the site as a Forum's Section for discussion. We are honored to be partnering to create the Guide to Las Vegas for the LGBT community and assist with setting up all you want to do in Vegas VIP Style."

With such an exciting partnership on the horizon, we're thrilled to see what awaits the nightlife scene in the coming year with Jackcolton.com as our Gay.Vegas Nightlife ally.

Book your next VIP nightlife experience at jackcolton.com/lgbt or www.gay.vegas/jackcolton



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SATURDAYS

ez 2 stop



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10am-3pm
(Excluding Holidays)

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Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada

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All testing is confidential

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702-733-9800

SNHD
Southern Nevada Health District

www.SNHD.info
facebook.com/ez2stop
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CHRISTMAS
Services

The holidays can be joyous and stressful time for many, especially in the LGBTQIA community. It is my hope that our community will search out those houses of worship where they will be welcomed and embraced for the fabulous creation we are. We live in a city that is alive with faith... so many churches that are Open and Affirming. At Northwest Community United Church of Christ, we look at this night as a new beginning for all people. Through the wonderful story of Jesus' birth, all people can find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our Christmas Eve service will include a great deal of music, a special children's moment, candlelight communion and a short Christmas message. Our Minister of Music and Worship is the multi-talented Robby Wingfield of the band Empire Records. Robby has some exciting things planned that will warm your heart and transport you to a time where the wonder of Christmas can become alive again. I encourage everyone, believers, skeptics and non-believers to connect with love this Christmas Eve. You might see old friends, make new ones and maybe... just maybe hear the angels sing a special song of love for you.

Rev. Greg Davis
Pastor, Northwest Community United Church of Christ

Northwest Community Church, United Church of Christ
Communion/Carols/Candlelight
Rev. Greg Davis, Pastor
6:30 pm
101 S. Rancho
(on the campus of First Christian Church)

Indigo Valley Church
Char Morgan, Pastor
7 pm
3975 South Durango, Suite 105

MCC
Rev. Wanda Floyd, Pastor
10 pm to 12 am
1140 Almond Tree Lane

First Congregational Church of Las Vegas and Las Vegas United Church of Christ
Rev. Dave Pomeroy, Pastor
6:30 pm Joint Service
1200 N Eastern Ave

Christ Church
Rev. J. Barry Vaughn, Rector
Family Service
5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Hispanic Service: 7:00
2000 S. Maryland Pkwy

Community Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Mark Wickstrom, Pastor
10:00 am
3 pm, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00
3720 E. Tropicana Ave



Ayler

In 2009, Nick Ayler's provocative cover shoot for DNA magazine launched his career into the gay scene. Though a little more risqué than he expected, Nick's rock hard abs and killer pecs have many a gay man wishing this McDreamy DJ played for our team.

But model, actor, and DJ, Ayler has always been a true ally to the gay community. Playing clubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, Nick's passion for the LGBT community runs deep.

"I've been able to observe the most significant amount of change. Never has equality been accepted in such a broad way and it keep progressing at such a rapid rate," said Ayler. "I'm dumbfounded by segregation. A person is a person. A heart is a heart."

Ayler's love for music allows him to breach barriers. "I want everyone to come together under one roof and under one sound. The sound is more than what we listen to, it's something we feel. It moves us in so many directions. It lets me evoke an emotion of out someone."

Nick's work has connected him to so many facets of the LGBT community. From the fashion, photography, and music of the East and West coasts, to the politics of DC, he sees the big picture and moving pieces of progress. "It's like seeing how a chessboard works. Each piece has to move ever so carefully. Everything is done for boasting a better name for the community."

This year, Ayler partnered with NGLCC and performed at the national dinner in Washington, DC. "It wasn't the formal affair I thought. I was thinking wedding," he recalls of the venue. "We threw formal 1/2 way out the window and brought casual in when we opened the absinthe bar."

Looking into 2015, Nick's career is focusing in a new direction. With a new studio in Palm Springs and a re-branding that drops "DJ Nick" in favor of just "Ayler," his plan to produce his own label is already in motion, and soon fans will be amazed with a new level of production. Las Vegas and Miami are the epicenters of music in the US. "I'm tired of the gay market getting second best. There's a market here and it needs to be recognized. So next year, I'll be bringing my own lighting to where I spin."

Ayler has rooted himself in the Las Vegas nightlife scene and he loves every minute of it. And judging by the turnout where he plays, we love him, too.

Read more online:
www.gay.vegas/ayler

EATING OUT @ NOODLES



[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Now that I travel to Las Vegas every couple of months or so, I have developed a little food ritual. Every time I go to Vegas, my first and last meal is at the same restaurant. Noodles!

Noodles is tucked away at one side of the Bellagio casino, across from where many of the other restaurants are located. It's a Pan-Asian restaurant, featuring dishes from a variety of Asian countries. Chinese, Japanese, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and Thai are all represented. Executive Chef Patrick Lee has put together a wide assortment of dishes, and the ones I've tried have all been, as he describes them "yummy"!

The decor is very clean and simple; white marble floors, inlaid with golden Asian symbols, cherry wood tables - several of them large, family-sized tables with low benches, and wall hangings made of dried grasses. The most noticeable element of the decor, is the large, backlit wall, stacked with shelves full of glass jars containing many different kinds of...what else? Noodles! There is also a big counter at the back which can accommodate anyone who's eating alone, or at most with one other person. If you arrive and find a huge line of people waiting to be seated - which does happen - ask if you can have a seat at the counter. You might just be able to jump the line!

With so many cultures from which to choose, Noodles' menu is fairly extensive, offering appetizers, noodle soups, old time Chinese favorites, and more. So far, I've tried the wonderful Shiu Mai - tiny little shrimp dumplings, steamed to perfection, and delicious with soy sauce and a touch of the super-spicy Chinese mustard. I'm also partial to the Pot Stickers, with a biting ponzu vinegar on the side, and the Malaysian Roti Prata - a kind of lightly fried flatbread that's served with a delicious curried dipping sauce. The Hot and Spicy Cucumber is one of my favorites, with the cool of the cucumber standing up nicely against a sauce made with vinegar and spicy chili flakes, and the Satay Chicken is a satisfying bite with the beautifully grilled chunks of chicken and the excellent traditional spicy peanut sauce!



The Main Courses are equally varied, allowing diners to sample an array of foods from various cultures. I've had the Pho - a traditional Vietnamese seafood-filled soup, the aromatic Barbecue Rice with Pork - succulent and perfect, and their Pad Thai - a Thai dish overflowing with flat noodles, vegetables, a choice of beef, chicken or shrimp, and lots of Thai basil. I've tried Pad Thai at many different restaurants and I can safely say that Noodles has the best I've ever tasted!

Noodles also serves Congee - something of a mystery to us Westerners. Congee is a pressure cooked rice porridge, usually combined with different proteins and often referred to as Chinese comfort food. I was eager to try it and my server was kind enough just to bring me a small bowl of it. While the flavor is very subtle, I can see how it could be excellent with, say, seafood or chicken. I must say that even on its own, I quite enjoyed it.

Speaking of odd foods, Noodles' popular weekend Dim Sum Service features that oddest of foods - the chicken foot! Most Westerners cringe and turn up their noses, but I dove right in! What I found is that chicken feet are delicious! Granted there's not much meat - it's mostly tiny bones and cartilage, but they're braised to perfection and the sauce is killer. Next time you have the chance...don't fear the chicken foot!

SO...what's my food ritual? On my first and last night in Vegas, I grab a seat at Noodles and order the exact same thing; the Spicy Thai Shrimp Noodle Soup. This is their take on a traditional Tom Yum soup. It's filled with perfectly cooked noodles, mushrooms, five gorgeous shrimp - also cooked exactly right, lemongrass, cilantro, scallions, lime juice, and lots and lots of SPICE!! This soup will definitely clear your sinuses! I always say that I know it's a good batch, if my nose starts running.

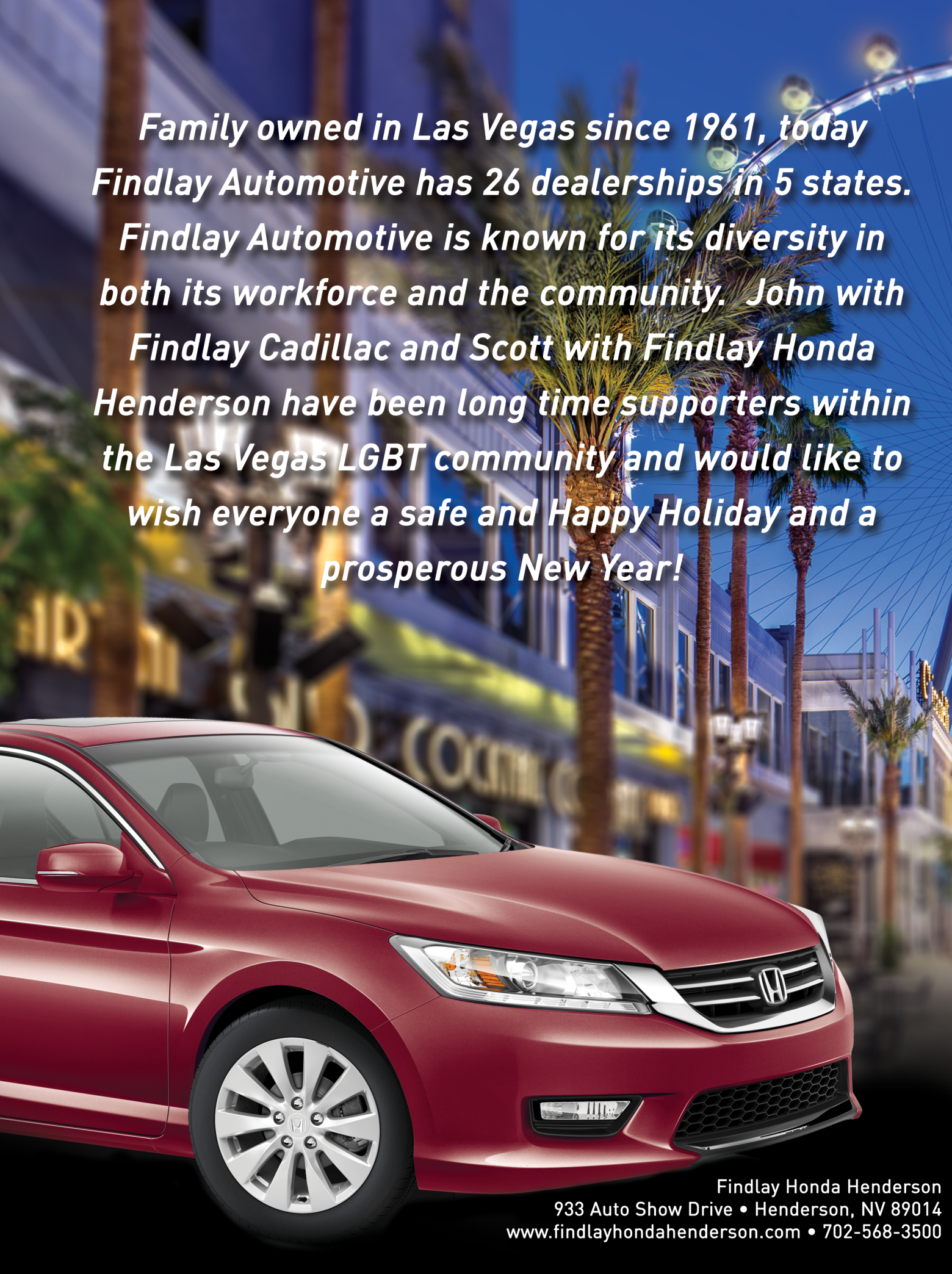
Seriously...I love this soup so much, that I've started calling it "Magic Soup". It's sort of my take on the "Jewish penicillin" nickname for chicken soup. I kind of feel like the Magic Soup from Noodles could cure just about anything that's wrong with you. I've told people that Magic Soup makes me do the "Happy Dance". As it turns out, I took a friend of mine to Noodles and she challenged me to get up and actually DO the Happy Dance for her. I did.

Anyway, back to the food! I've only tried one of their desserts, but I really love it. It's the Mango Pudding, which is served with a bit of fresh milk in the bowl, as well - a great way to cool down after the spicy soup!

The staff is friendly and attentive. They can often get swamped by the large crowds that descend, but I've never had to wait very long for service or for my food.

I find their prices to be quite reasonable, particularly for Las Vegas, and they're open daily till 2 AM! I love this, because I sometimes like to eat dinner late and with all the good restaurants closing at about 10:30 PM most nights, this gives me an option other than the casino coffee shops.

If you're a fan of Asian foods, like me, give Noodles a try. You might just do the Happy Dance, too!!


Family owned in Las Vegas since 1961, today Findlay Automotive has 26 dealerships in 5 states. Findlay Automotive is known for its diversity in both its workforce and the community. John with Findlay Cadillac and Scott with Findlay Honda Henderson have been long time supporters within the Las Vegas LGBT community and would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year!
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Shane O'Neal

Shane O'Neal runs SONStudios, a photography studio in Las Vegas and is a renowned photographer. Each year Shane donates his time and talents to the Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence annual Red Dress event. Shane also hosted our cover shoot in his amazing photo and provided the photos for our fabulous ally cover.

Kristen Schaefer

Pride. Beauty. Selflessness. Energy. Strength. Loyalty.
These are just a few words that describe my engagement with the LGBT community. Never have I had so much fun, felt more alive or felt like it was ok to be me with any other community. I am proud to support all of my pals in the LGBT community and will to the end of my days!

Thank for all the love you all share!!

Ally Peeps



Penny Pibbets

The gays are so important to any community. They're always great to have in an audience because they have the best sense of humor. They laugh and cheer and they're never afraid to be who they are. They're always honest when you ask them if something looks good or not. Having a gay friend is like having a fairy God mother: They come when you call them, all they need to do is snap and they can rustle an outfit together from scratch and they always bring a shitload of glitter with them wherever they go.



Linda Quackenboss

Linda started working with the LGBTQ community in earnest when she "met some wonderful gay couples in her church and got to know them." She also met many great people at work in architectural and interior design photography. Linda donates her time to many LGBTQ events, including HRC and the Center, and is available for same-sex weddings and commitment ceremonies.

Latoya Holman

You can't think of allies in Vegas and not think of Latoya Holman. She is simply one of the best-known faces of the Las Vegas LGBTQ Ally Community, period. Her work for years with R&R Partners and the anti-bullying program Flip the Script made her a go-to for helping young people stay safe and have their message be heard. Latoya is a member of the Las Vegas Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Steering Committee, and has worked tirelessly over the years to make Nevada the Marriage Equality state it is today. Through speaking, event hosting, and even sharing her amazing musical talents as a singer, Latoya has broadened awareness and acceptance of diversity and love. Latoya owns and runs Blowout Dollhouse in Downtown Las Vegas' Container Park, selling some of the valley's most amazing jewelry. If you see Latoya, and you will find her everywhere that activism is needed, thank her for her dedication.



Lisa Hammond

The woman who brings us RevoSundays week after week and year after year does so with tireless dedication. As the director of Light Group LGBT Marketing, Lisa has been a shining star among the bright lights of Las Vegas. The consummate fashionista, she's always one to try to out drag a drag queen. Yet she also rolls up her sleeves and volunteers throughout the year at community events.





Melody Sweets

Who can resist the green fairy of Absinthe. The sexy and sensual Melody Sweets captivates our eye, ears, and hearts. Anyone who sparkles this much has to be an ally.

FINDLAY AUTO GROUP

Partners in the Community

[by Russ White]

Over 53 years ago Pete Findlay opened his first dealership in Las Vegas on Fremont Street. Pete Findlay Oldsmobile established what is now one of the largest family-owned and operated automobile dealership groups in the nation. A household name throughout the Las Vegas Valley today, Findlay has over 1,100 employees at 28 dealerships in 5 states.

Instead of an autocratic organization, this distributed governance also regulates corporate philanthropy. Each General Manager decides which charitable organizations their store supports each year. Giving extends to larger national organizations like The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, The American Heart Association and the Human Rights Campaign right down to little league teams and High School marching bands.

Community is important to Findlay, and so are their employees as evidenced several longtime workers that have been employed by Findlay for over four decades. One of the reasons employees love Findlay is the sense of family they have among colleagues. With over a thousand employees, one would think that it would be easy to get lost in the crowd. But each Findlay dealership is operated by the General Manager and has its own unique personality.

This philosophy creates a sense of closeness and camaraderie that could be lost in larger companies. Even company barbecues and holiday parties stay within the store realm. This creates longevity throughout the company.

Longevity resonates with two of Findlay's General Managers. Scott Ramer, General Manager at Findlay Honda Henderson has been with Findlay since 1998 and John Saksa, General Manager at Findlay Cadillac and Findlay Fiat has been with Findlay since 2000. What's of particular interest is Scott and John have been a couple for over 20 years and as business leaders have fostered diversity and LGBTQ inclusion throughout Findlay.

The couple has not always lived in Las Vegas but met in Phoenix. Scott, working for a Pontiac dealer at the time in Phoenix. Decided he wanted a new Chevy Pick-up so off he went down to the local Chevy dealer. While sitting with the sales person she ask who referred him and Scott answered that he had seen her ad



Scott Ramer, General Manager at Findlay Honday
John Saksa, General Manager at Findlay Cadillac & Findlay Fiat

Photo by Linda Q Photography

in the local gay magazine. The sales person said she had just the thing for him and introduced him to John which was the Finance manager at the Chevy dealer at the time. It was love at first sight and Scott and John have been together since that day. Scott says he went in to buy a pickup truck and ended up with a husband, but in the end did get his pickup truck.

John moved to Vegas in 1997 first as he was hired by Chassion BMW as their Finance Director and Scott shortly after was hired by Findlay Toyota as their Parts & Service Director. In 2000 John joined Findlay Oldsmobile/Saab as Finance Director. Both have never had to hide their sexuality at work and have been out at work from day one. Neither sought after their General Manager roles, both were approached by the CFO and Mr. Findlay and promoted from within to run their dealerships.

The couple lives in a rural area of Henderson with a little over an acre. On their property are 6 desert tortoises, a 160 pound African Sulcata tortoise named Goliath, a large Koi pond with over 90 koi, 50 water turtles and a ton of wild life because of Johns soft heart he has to feed them all. And we can't forget the rulers inside the house, Sam and Leo the cats.

The couple also likes their classic and muscle cars, 13 of them to be exact. Last summer they built a 2,200 square foot garage on their property complete with lifts and a shop that would rival most dealership service departments and yes, they work on their own cars to!

Six years ago, John and Scott were celebrating Scott's birthday in Provincetown. On the day before they were to return to Las Vegas, they woke up and decided to get married. Same-sex marriage was legal in Massachusetts, and the state had just lifted a residency ban.

When they arrived to file their marriage license, they were told there was a 3 day waiting period and would have to petition the court for a waiver. The court is in Martha's Vineyard so they hail a cab. Up pulls a psychedelic cab driven by a big hair drag queen. After filling out the paperwork for the waiver the court clerk says the judge was in session and can sign off when he's done. About 10 minutes later the clerk notifies them that because they have a cab waiting the judge is halting the current trial to sign off for them.

So the clerk escorts Scott and John into what they thought was the judge's chambers but no, it was into the court room, up to the Judges podium in front of the jury, attorneys, person on trial and a court room full of people.

Both about to turn and run the other way the Judge ask how long have you been together. Scott answers 15 years and the Judge says, if you've been together that long you must know what you're doing and grants the waiver. The courtroom bursts into cheers, including the jurors and the person on trial. They hopped back into the cab, returned to Provincetown, and were married that day.

This is a relationship that Findlay has not only acknowledged but has supported for many years. That support continues to benefit the local Las Vegas LGBTQ community. Over the years their dealerships have sponsored organizations including Pride, The Center, Golden Rainbow, AFAN, and HRC and in 2014 Findlay began offering domestic partner insurance benefits to their employees.

Large corporations are held accountable to diversity and equality standards that smaller businesses are often unaware of. MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment, Wynn Resorts, The Cosmopolitan and NV Energy all score 100% on the HRC Corporate Equality Index, a survey that measures corporate policies and benefits. No such report exists for smaller businesses, so when you see companies like Findlay proactively adapt their policies, benefits and marketing messages that's a true sign that they advocate for the LGBTQ employee and consumer base. And isn't that what being an ally is all about?



'Tis The Season



by Rev. Wanda Floyd
MCC Las Vegas, Interim Pastor

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is my favorite Christmas story.

The story tells us about a character, the Grinch, who hates Christmas and his cave overlooks a village which takes Christmas seriously. The villagers annoy the Grinch with their Christmas carols, decorations and Christmas spirit. He devises a plan to ruin Christmas for the entire village. The Grinch believes if he steals the Christmas presents from the villagers, he will spoil Christmas for them. He sets out, takes all their gifts.

We have a lot in common with the villagers from the story. We spend enormous amount of time, energy, and money on presents. We even make it a point to get gifts for people we do not like or care for, but buy them because it is the right thing to do. We give gifts to all of our co-workers because it would look strange if we only gave certain people gifts. We also buy expensive gifts for people who do not appreciate them often over extending our finances. Then, January and February come around and we get the bill...we spend all year paying something off we really did not want to purchase in the first place.

Back to the story, on Christmas morning, the villagers get up...assemble in a circle...hold hands and sing a Christmas song in their language. From above the village, on the mountain, the Grinch listens intently. Then the Grinch's heart begins glowing and growing until he has a moment of reality and understands Christmas is not about material gifts. The Grinch finally sees Christmas is about love, understanding, forgiveness, family and so much more. He realizes he was wrong and brings all the gifts back to the town. The villagers, instead of turning their backs on him, embrace him and make him one of their own.

What a wonderful story! My favorite part is when the Grinch realizes Christmas is about love, understanding, forgiveness and family - not about Santa Claus or gifts.

For those of us who are believers...we have to remember the "reason for the season". Yes, we give and receive gifts but the reality is we celebrate the birth of Christ during this time. That is the "reason for the season" and I believe we can all benefit from knowing the real reason behind Christmas. The Grinch got it...Christmas is about so much more than giving and receiving gifts – it is about giving and receiving the gift of Christ. ■

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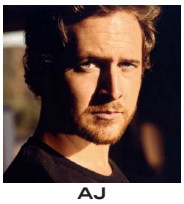

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TECH VEGAS

You know what Vegas is known for. Casinos, hotels, buffets, entertainment, Elvis weddings. What many overlook is the robust technology center. Las Vegas is an especially exciting place in January for technology enthusiasts, innovators and entrepreneurs. With the Consumer Electronics Show accumulating 160,000 plus technology focused individuals and the exhibiting companies showing off the best and finest of their new gadgets, mobile devices, curved displays, and the "Internet of Things", when you combine this with the NamesCon Domain Name Industry Event, all eyes are on Vegas for announcements about the latest technology and Internet innovation.

The founders of the conference love Las Vegas because of the capacity and facilities for the conference. "When you stack up all the other "pluses" – entertainment, shopping, fine dining, nightlife, buzz, glimmer, and all the great accessibility of Vegas as an international destination – there really was no other place on earth to hold the conference," Jothan Frakes recalls of the decision to locate the conference in Las Vegas.

The Internet has recently undergone a radical transformation in the form of new top level domains that work exactly like .COM does, but are often more specific and deliberate or hold keywords that help potential visitors enjoy more context to the web sites they reach.

The change is immense with over 1,000 new extensions joining the web from .AAA to .ZONE. You might have noticed .VEGAS as part of the Website Address above for the NamesCon Conference. Vegas was one of only 4 cities in the US that applied to get a new dot. .BOSTON, .MIAMI, and .NYC are joined by .VEGAS on the web.

WHY DOT VEGAS

The conference URL is clear and is easy to give out over radio advertisements or telephone discussions, "Namescon.vegas is a conversation starter, and we really don't get hit with a question about what city the event occurs in. People's faces light up when we say Vegas at the end of the domain, too, like mentioning candy to a young child, " Frakes added.

Since starting the conference, the organizers learned so much about how attractive Las Vegas and Nevada are for commerce. "We've learned just how strong the local startup scene is, and the commitment of the business development of the city of Las Vegas towards making the city an attractive place to start a new technology business," said Frakes.

THE TECHNOLOGY TRIFECTA

Early January is an amazing time for technology in Las Vegas. The Consumer Electronics Show runs from 6-9, followed by NamesCon 11-14, and then the Affiliate Summit West on the 18-20th. Brands that are marketing at CES can stay the weekend and learn about how these new domain names can hold opportunities (or discover the methods of creative disruption they enable) at NamesCon, and then turn up the affiliate marketing a week later at ASW.

ALL ABOUT DOMAIN NAMES

NamesCon is all about domain names, and the innovation in the domain name space. Nearly half of the top global brands like FOX, BMW, Google, Microsoft, and Cisco (just to name a few) now have a new Top Level Domain (TLD). There are also new alternatives to .COM for people to obtain specific and meaningful presences within, like .NINJA, .TRADE, .PARTY, or .BLACK (just to name a few at random).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DOMAIN NAMES

These new domain names have arrived with a lot of attention

NAMESCON.VEGAS

NamesCon 2015 will be held January 11-14 at The New Tropicana Las Vegas.

Register at http://NamesCon.vegas with Promo Code "gaydotvegas" for special rates.

given to ensuring intellectual property rights are respected. Many new mechanisms have been added so that rights holders have ample advance opportunity and availability to domain names within their intellectual property rights.

NamesCon is delighted to have the president of the International Trademark Association, Mr. J.Scott Evans as one of the keynote speakers at the event, who will talk about the INTA and domain names.

THE VALUE OF DOMAIN NAMES

In addition to the new domain names, there are existing .COM domain names that have their values skyrocketing like Manhattan real estate prices. There will be an auction at NamesCon which will have premium .COM domain names offered alongside some amazing premium new domain names.

TECHNOLOGY, BUILDING, STARTING, RUNNING

There will be sessions about the new domains, where you can meet some of them and learn about how they are different than .COM, sessions about developing out a domain name or portfolio of domain names, how to buy or sell domain names and understand their value, and more.

Meet the friendly people from these new dots, or GoDaddy and other registrars, hosting companies, and startups, and come away from the conference with a black belt in conversational domain names.

Whether you are a dot-com mogul or a small to medium business, whatever your nexus with technology or Internet use, the changes to the Internet that come from the new domains are important to know about, and find opportunity to benefit you. The conference is inexpensive to attend, very accessible, and gathers the Domain Name Industry under one roof – so you may just meet that perfect connection.

We hope to see you in January at the NamesCon conference.

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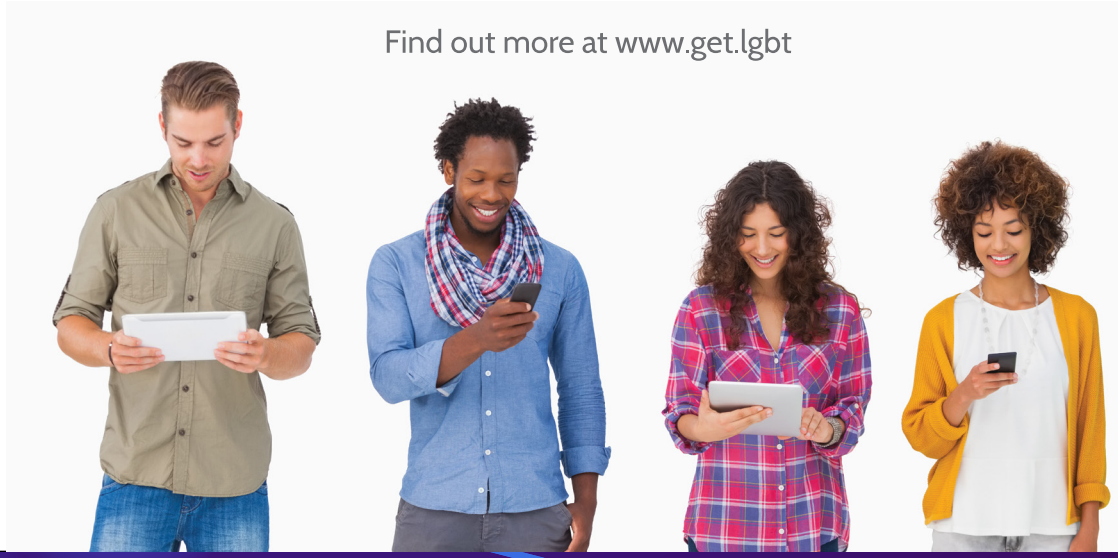

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GAY.VEGAS Hosts Edie and Garrett bring you an all new guide to Gay Las Vegas.

Photos by Edison Graff / The G Scene



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QVegas is gay-owned and operated in Las Vegas, Nevada and partners with Gay.Vegas for digital media marketing.

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PIA ZADORA [by Russ White]


Photo: Brian Brown

Golden Globe winner, Grammy nominee, ShowWest winner, accomplished singer, film and Broadway star all describe Pia Zadora. Performing since the age of six, for those who have seen her in concert, what comes to mind first, and describes this multi-talented performer is simply this: Pia Zadora is the complete entertainer.

As a performer, Pia has always had ties to the gay community. "I started on broadway when I was a child. I was surround by gay people. They became my life. The hairdressers, the makeup artists, the choreographers. I just felt comfortable. They were my peeps. I grew up that way," recalls Zadora.

On the progress of LGBT rights, Pia says "people are becoming much more liberated. It's much less of a struggle because the stigma that surrounded the community is fading. Now the acceptance is more out there. It's become a norm. People are celebrating the freedom of choice. They are able to choose who they want to be with. Now it's just a matter of establishing the laws and government structure to support equality."

When asked what shaped her early attitude toward the gay community, Zadora said it was her start with Tallulah Bankhead. "She said 'Don't ever let anyone mess with you. Be you own person. Everyone needs to be who they are inside.'"

Pia lives in Las Vegas and performs every Friday and Saturday night at Piero's Italian Cuisine.

With no cover and a 2-drink minimum, this Classic Vegas venue provides for one of the best cabaret shows in town,

MARK SHUNOCK [by Garrett Pattiani]

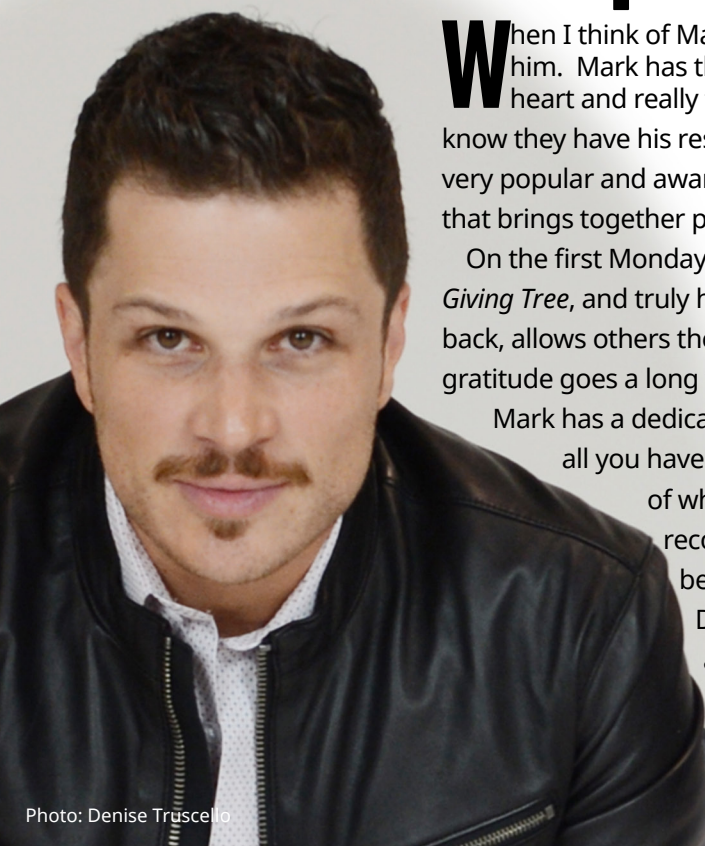
Photo: Denise Truscello

When I think of Mark Shunock so many words come to mind on how to describe him. Mark has the ability to make anyone feel special. Mark has the biggest heart and really takes the time to let anyone, including the LGBT community know they have his respect. Mark is a star in Rock of Ages and is the creator of the very popular and award winning monthly charity benefit Mondays Dark, an event that brings together performers to raise money for local Charities.

On the first Mondays Dark, Mark read his favorite book to the audience, *The Giving Tree*, and truly has made that story a living reality. He takes the time to give back, allows others the ability to do the same, and never forgets that inclusion and gratitude goes a long way.

Mark has a dedication to encouraging others to live life to the fullest, to give it all you have. He is an ally to everyone he meets, a remarkable example of what it means to be a good human being and deserves this recognition as a person that has changed so many lives for the better. Make sure to get your tickets to the December Mondays Dark as he celebrates 1 year. 24 charities will benefit and will be a first time that they will all be under the same roof! Thank you Mark for being an ally and a friend to our community and the world.

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YEAR IN REVIEW / YEAR IN PREVIEW

[by Russ White]

History will record 2014 as the year that marriage equality hit the mainstream. But even as gay marriage sweeps across the US, the ripple effect will be felt in numerous way. Until protection is afforded across all 50 states, couples will struggle for true equality.

Right now we bask in the glory of our wins, but with gay marriage comes gay divorce. If you cross state lines to get married, as many will do in Las Vegas, what happens when you get back to your home state and life leads your relationship to divorce? If your state doesn't recognize your marriage, then there is no legal recognition for divorce.

Gay marriage also mobilized Conservatives, ousting Democrats from Congress. As the country enters what by all accounts will be two excruciatingly unproductive years in Washington, we must continue to encourage our political allies to stand strong.

We saw promient men and women come out of the closet. Michael Sam, Ellen Page, and Tim Cook captured headlines with their coming out stories.

This year saw local LGBTQ businesses open and close. Longtime businesses like The Buffalo, Krave, Club Metro, Escape Lounge, and Blue Moon Resort closed their doors. Others opened in existing and new spots including Quadz, Liaison, Phoenix, and Equalibrium.

Sin City Q Socials were reborn this year as Social Tuesays. The popular weeknight social gathering explores different bars and restaurants all over Las Vegas.

Local non-profits saw a change of leadership. New executive directors were installed at The Center, Golden Rainbow, and PRIDE.

HIV/AIDS continues to plague our city. As of the end of September, Clark County HIV infection rates were up 8% from the previous year.

As we move into 2015, QVegas, along with our partnerships with Gay.Vegas and Garrett's Gay Guide have a busy year ahead of us. This month, Gay.Vegas announced a partnership with jackcolton.com that will bridge the LGBTQ community with Vegas nightlife.

Gay.Vegas continues to grow in popularity. Since its launch in August 2014, new web traffic to Gay.Vegas has increased an average of 114% per month. Now with QVegas Magazine's digital edition hosted on Gay.Vegas, rich search optimization from our original content will further boost the site's popularity.

With marriage at the forefront of the community, Gay.Vegas, QVegas and Garrett's Gay Guide are partering to produce the first "Las Vegas Guide to Marriage Equality" in 2015. This quarterly publication and website will provide couples looking to hold their wedding in Las Vegas a guide to goods and services from local providers.

This year QVegas enters its 37th year serving the LGBTQ community. Renamed QVegas in 2004, the publication is part of a lineage of magazines dating back to 1978. In 2015, readers will see even more community-generated content. I strongly believe in exposing the nacient talent in people, and what better way to reveal those talents than to offer people an outlet for their creativity. Many of our writers, photographers, models, makeup artists over the past year contributed their talents to bring QVegas to our readers.

Thank you to our readers, our followers, and our advertisers. We wish you happy holidays and a prosperous New Years.


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