

DESERT

OCTOBER 2013

Outlook

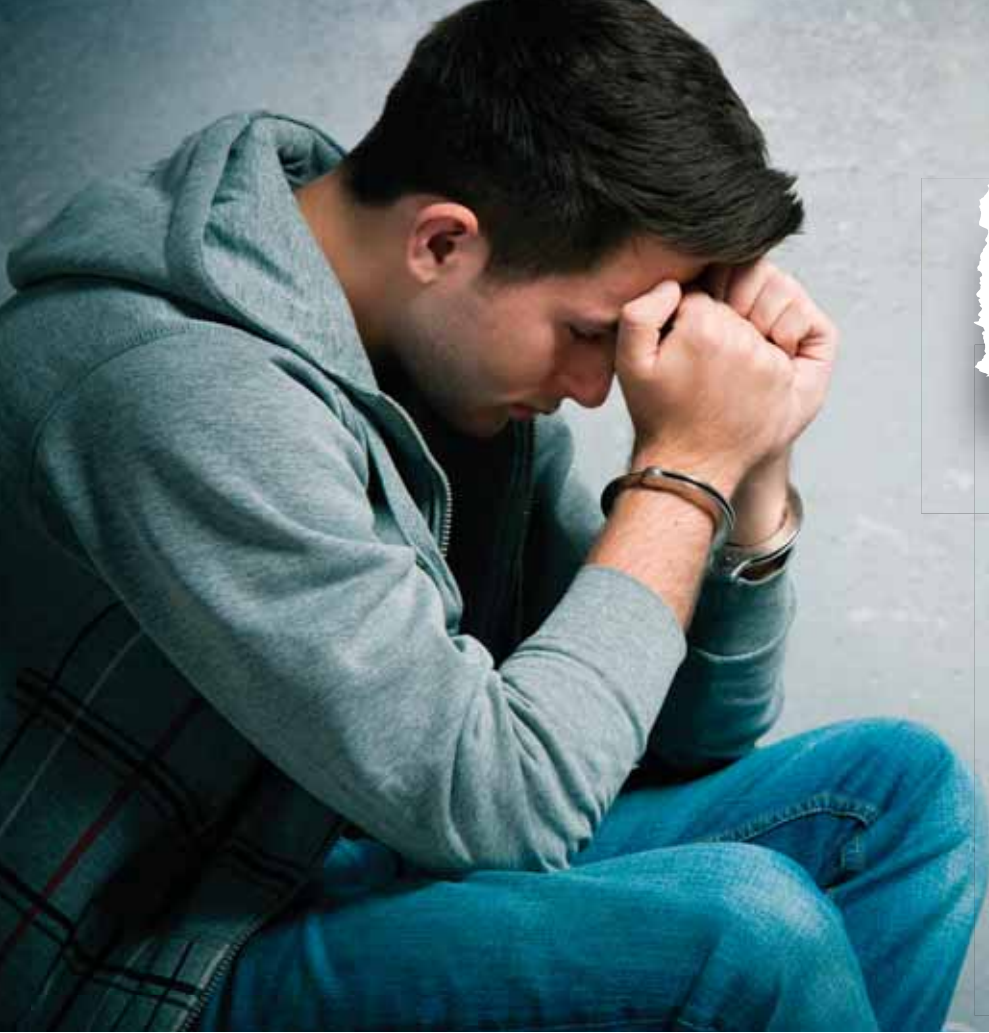
PALM SPRINGS PRIDE

YOUNG, LGBT & FINDING
THEIR WAY IN THE DESERT



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AMANDA KYLE WILLIAMS,
ALEX NEWELL OF "GLEE,"

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 Fri, November 15, 8pm



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Sat, November 16, 8pm



An Evening with James Van Praagh

Messages from the
 Spirit World
 Sun, November 17, 7pm



Photo Credit: Stu Rosner

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

Keith Lockhart, conductor
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The Ten Tenors

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Patti LuPone

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Photo Credit: Alma Thomson

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The Comprehensive Cancer Center
at Desert Regional Medical Center

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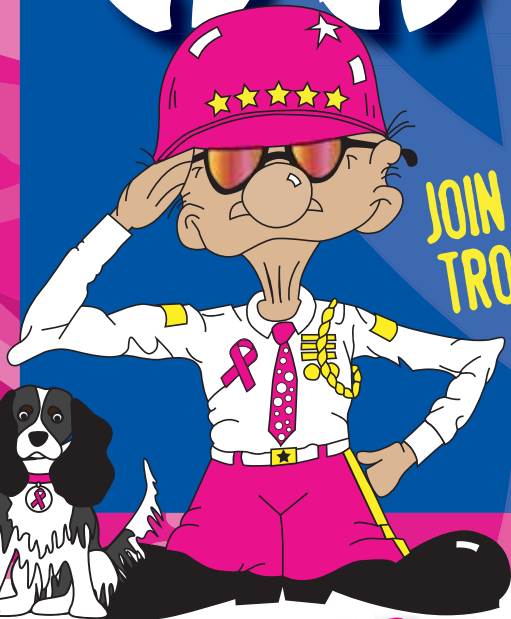
- 76** Got everything you need as the season approaches? Check out these products and services.

COOLING FOR A CURE



General Air Conditioning salutes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROB LEBOW



Young, gay and proud in Palm Springs

“What have you done today to make you feel proud?”

That line from the popular gay Pride anthem, “Proud” by Heather Small, could not be more appropriate for our 2013 Pride issue. You’ll find on the following pages numerous examples of Palm Springs residents and visitors who’ve done plenty in support of LGBT Americans. Their accomplishments are impressive by many standards — from novelist Katherine V. Forrest’s efforts to ensure that LGBT stories are recorded and shared, to Ginny Foat’s tireless years of community service and support of women’s and LGBT equality, to photographer Tom Bianchi’s transformative portraits of love and intimacy among gay men. They all will receive lifetime achievement awards for what they’ve done

during this year’s Greater Palm Springs Pride Honors on Oct. 4. Read their stories, starting on page 30.

The list of others whose deeds have garnered recognition by Palm Springs Pride includes pioneers such as Carol and Mike Balasa, co-presidents of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays; volunteers Michael Green and Stephen Boyd; and various community leaders (page 36). And don’t forget the go-getters selected to marshal the Pride parade on Nov. 3 (page 40) or share their talent from stages and tents during the weekend festival (page 44). Their actions and generosity evoke pride in just about everyone who benefits from them.

But Pride isn’t only a result of what we do in life. It’s also about simply being who you are as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and being proud of that. Gaining that self-acceptance is often the toughest hurdle to clear. No one is more mindful of that than young LGBT people.

Our cover story looks at LGBT residents who are 35 and younger — yes, they live in the Coachella Valley. With Palm Springs’ well-known reputation as a desirable retirement and resort destination, it’s easy to assume that only *gray gays* call the desert home. But many of the young people featured in the cover collage grew up in the desert or willingly moved here. On page 24, they discuss what it’s really like trying to establish a career, date and socialize, and proudly embrace who they are in a valley where they sometimes feel apart from the larger LGBT community.

Gay softball players know a few things about feeling apart. After years of feeling uncomfortable participating on primarily straight teams, they’ve gotten behind their own softball league in Palm Springs. And the shift they’ve seen is remarkable and encouraging; straight men now want to play on gay teams (page 64).

Also in this issue, we present men’s fall fashions at the exquisite Chateau de Versailles in France, tasty treats for Pride weekend, and recommendations of what to see this season at community theaters.

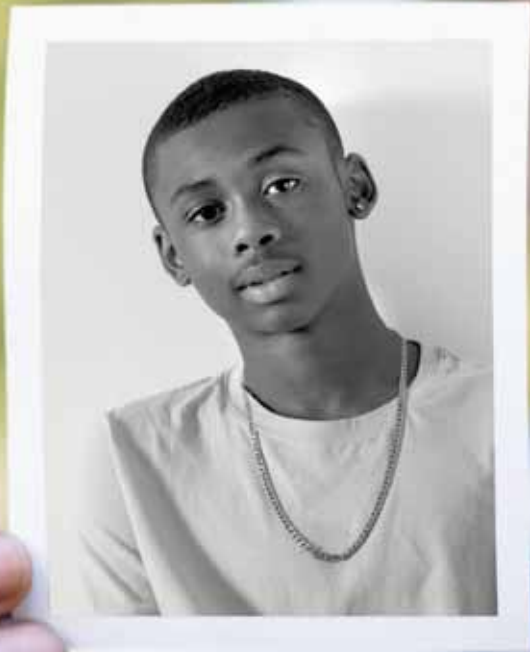
For a weekly update of things to do in Palm Springs, sign up for the free Desert Outlook Weekend newsletter at www.mydesert.com/newsletters.

Happy Pride.

Will Dean,

Editor

will.dean@thedesertsun.com



*“Back then, who knew
it could get better?”*

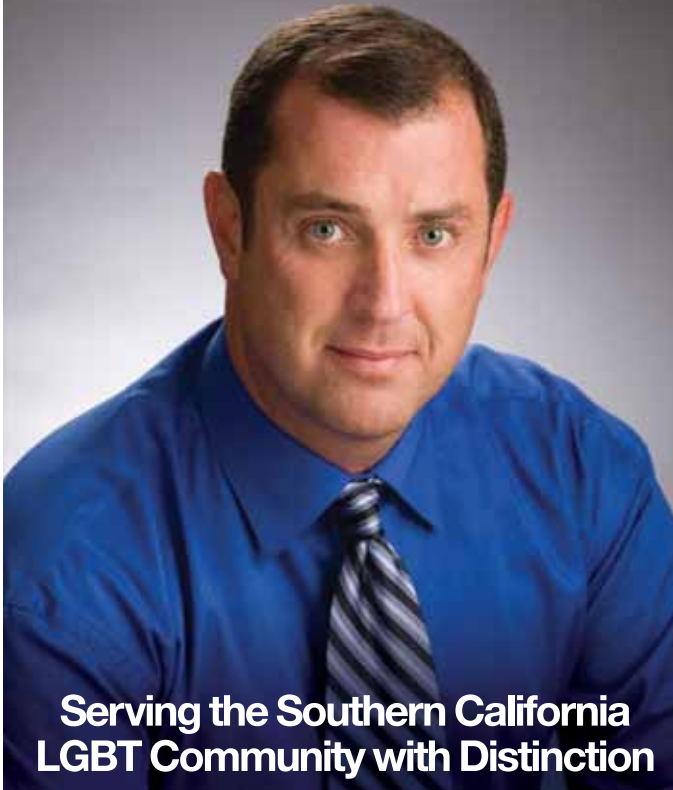
It can be hard to be young, but thanks to great organizations like GLSEN, the It Gets Better Project, Point Foundation, Teach For America, and The Trevor Project, we're all working together to bring help and hope to all young people. Let's keep making it better.

Learn more about Wells Fargo's commitment to the LGBT community at wellsfargo.com/itgetsbetter.

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ON THE COVER

The collage featuring young LGBT residents of the Coachella Valley was composed of photos by Rob Lebow and Desert Outlook submissions and file images.

I'm charting my own future.



Mitch, D.A.P. client

D.A.P. treats and supports the whole person

High-quality, primary and HIV-specialty medical care through our Wells Fargo Health Center is only the beginning of what our clients find at Desert AIDS Project. Our case managers facilitate our holistic approach to care with a broad array of services, including our HIV-specialty dental clinic, food and housing support, home care, Eastern medicine alternatives, in-house lab services and pharmacy, mental health and substance abuse programs, a full-service community center offering a computer lab, wellness programs, health education, and so much more.

All under one roof

Thanks to your generous support, Desert AIDS Project has been saving lives for 30 years.

Please continue to help by donating at desertAIDSproject.org, joining one of our annual giving programs, or by saving the date for one of our upcoming fundraising events.

26th Desert AIDS Walk | October 19, 2013

Dancing with the Desert Stars | November 22, 2013

SPARKLE! All-Star Holiday Concert | December 11, 2013

20th Annual Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards Gala | February 8, 2014

Celebrity Doodles | April 5, 2014

Dining Out for Life | April 24, 2014



760.323.2118

desertAIDSproject.org

your partner in pride



Amanda Kyle Williams says she finally hit her stride with her female investigator book series. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The write time

Author **Amanda Kyle Williams** participates in two Palm Springs literary events

AMANDA KYLE WILLIAMS KNOWS her way around a crime scene.

To prepare for her thriller novel series, the Atlanta, Georgia-based author studied homicide investigation and criminal profiling, and worked with forensics and other law enforcement officials. Perhaps it's her dedication to authenticity that prompted reviewers to praise her first two efforts in the crime-fiction genre.

"Williams handles crime scene procedures with assurance, uses forthright language to portray a frightful killer and isn't above

injecting a bit of Southern humor into a grim situation," a reviewer for The New York Times Book Review wrote about "The Stranger You Seek," published in 2011.

"There is simply not a single weakness in Williams' writing. Not a one," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer wrote about her second novel in the series, "Stranger in the Room," in 2012.

The third, but not final, book is set to be published in early 2014. "Don't Talk to Strangers" continues the adventures of Keye Street, a female private investigator with a

compelling family life. She was adopted from China and raised by white, Southern parents in Georgia — as was Williams' beloved niece, the inspiration for the character.

Williams, who wrote spy novels for a small press before starting the recent series with Random House, will be in Palm Springs in October to discuss her work. She has a lecture planned for 4:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Palm Springs Public Library. She also will appear as a "special guest star" Oct. 9-13 the Left Coast Lesbian Conference, co-sponsored by Sapphire Books and The LGBT Community Center of the Desert.

She recently spoke with Desert Outlook about her love of crime fiction and coming to writing and reading later in life.

HOW DID YOUR LOVE FOR LITERARY THRILLERS COME ABOUT? DID YOU READ THEM GROWING UP?

Actually I didn't grow up reading at all. I'm dyslexic. I wasn't diagnosed until I was 22. I didn't read my first book until I was 23 years old.

Television and movies were my literature growing up. It's come to serve me well. You learn to hear the rhythm of language. That's worked for me in creating realistic dialogue.

I wrote my first book for Naiad (Press) when I was 28. When I started reading and I discovered fiction — and I'm still a very slow reader — I really fell hard for spy novels and crime fiction. Just the idea that people read for pleasure was astonishing to someone who's been at war with words.

I IMAGINE THE FOCUS ON TV AND MOVIES HELPED YOU BECOME A MORE VISUAL WRITER.

I visualize whole scenes as I write them. I definitely see the movie playing in my head.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FANS. DO YOU HAVE MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN READING YOUR WORK?

More and more men are reading thrillers by women, which I think is great. At one time I saw a T-shirt that said, "Real men read women." It's been a challenge to get the male audience and get the attention from male reviewers.

When I do events, I think there are probably more women there. I do get these wonderful letters from people who like to read. Quite a few of them are from men.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE NEW BOOK IN THE KEYE STREET SERIES?

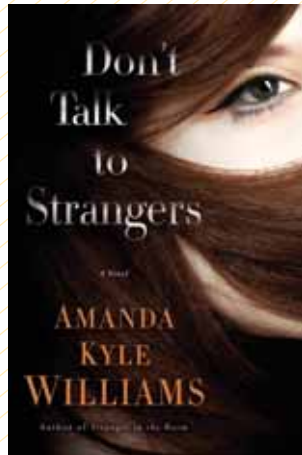
IF YOU GO

**AUTHOR LECTURE
FEATURING AMANDA
KYLE WILLIAMS**

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Oct. 12
WHERE: Palm Springs Public Library, 300 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: (760) 322-READ, palmspringslibrary.org

**LEFT COAST LESBIAN
CONFERENCE**

WHEN: Various times Oct. 9-13
WHERE: Multiple Palm Springs venues
ADMISSION: \$185 per person, \$250 per couple. Special pricing is available for women who are members



of The LGBT Community Center of the Desert. Go to thecenterps.org for details. **INFO:** Register at sapphirebooks.com

It's funny with a series; you want to develop your character. The first book was a race to the finish. The second book is kind of a bridge book for me. I like to give a little more in each book, as far as getting to know the character. This book is different, too. Something really surprising at the end happens regarding family and my main characters. I can't reveal what it is.

The first two books were very much Atlanta books. My character lives in Atlanta where I live. I pulled her out of the big city this time. I put her in central Georgia in a small town.

ARE THERE OTHER WOMEN WRITING CRIME FICTION YOU'RE READING AND ENJOYING?

I don't have a lot of time to read, but I listen to a ton of audios. I'm still a Patricia Cornwell fan. I've stuck with her.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THE ISOLATED NATURE OF WRITING? DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE?

It is a very solitary existence, to be honest. This is what is really different for me in writing in the mainstream and writing with a big publisher like Random House. Really you're just in a little room with a computer by yourself all day. Then, with Random House, I'm sort of hurled out into the world for publicity. It's kind of a shock. But I've had to learn how to meet people and talk to them, and I've really come to enjoy it. I think since I've been writing and meeting a lot of readers, I've met the smartest people. People who read are smart and funny.

ARE THERE OTHER GENRES OF WRITING YOU WANT TO EXPLORE?

This is it for me. I'm 56 years old now. I just finally hit the right series at the right time, and hit my stride as a writer. I'm going to stick with this and do my best to make it work. ||

Interviewed by Will Dean. Submitted photos

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming Just Fabulous Events



Saturday, October 26, 2-4pm
Book Signing & Reception with TYSON WRENSCH
"Until Someone Gets Hurt – A True Story"
Meet the co-author of this true story about the murder of Palm Springs Socialite Clifford Lambert.

Friday, November 1, 5-8pm

Book Signing & Reception with TOM BIANCHI
"fire island pines – polaroids 1975-1983"
Limited Edition Photographs will also be available for purchase.



**Saturday & Sunday, November 2 & 3
Palm Springs Pride**

Special Author Signings at Our Booth!

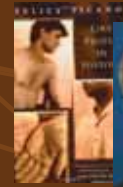
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PALM SPRINGS

Bobbie belts it out

Singer Bobbie Eakes performs at 8 p.m. Nov. 8 in "Turn the Page." Internationally known for her acting roles in the daytime dramas "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "All My Children," Eakes also has appeared in films and recorded country and jazz music. Her 2005 album, "Something Beautiful," debuted at No.21 on Billboard's Smooth Jazz chart. Tickets are \$35-\$55 and available at ReactionShows.com.

Info: (760) 322-3554

CATHEDRAL CITY

Mexican holiday aids charity

Coachella Valley residents are invited on Nov. 2 to Desert Memorial Park, a cemetery, to celebrate Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. In addition to remembering loved ones who have died, organizers hope the Mexican holiday presents an opportunity to build community support and to raise funds for a program that feeds poor and homeless residents.

Co-sponsored by Palm Springs Cemetery District and Well in the Desert, the free event takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes mariachi music, Ballet Folklorico, and face-painting and crafts for children. The cemetery is at 31-705 Da Vall Drive, Cathedral City.

Info: (760) 327-8577

PALM SPRINGS

Drama and comedy wed

Witness the bliss and challenges before, during and after "I dos" are exchanged, in "Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays." Featuring Robert Julian, Charles Herrera, Mona Caywood and other local actors, it will be staged at 8 p.m. Nov. 1 and 2 at the Annenberg Theater in the Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Drive. It's presented in association with Greater Palm Springs Pride. Tickets are \$29-\$39 and available at psmuseum.org.

Info: (760) 325-4490



PALM SPRINGS

A scary good time

Get your fright on during the 11th annual Arenas Road Halloween Costume Contest. Hundreds of Palm Springs residents and visitors are expected on Oct. 31 to fill the block of Arenas between Indian Canyon Drive and

Calle Encilia, decked out in their most frightening, freaky-glam, creative looks. More than \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded to contestants. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with host Bella da Ball and entertainers, followed by the contest at 8 p.m. Admission is free, and spectators are welcome. Info: (760) 333-8304

ANAHEIM

Disney goes red

Thousands of Disneyland visitors will see red Oct. 4-6, all in the name of having fun. That's when the theme park hosts its annual Gay Days for LGBT visitors, who traditionally wear red shirts. In addition to rides, there will be a variety of events such as a group photo, dance for LGBT youth, and storytelling by drag personality Miss Coco Peru. For tickets and info: gaydaysanaheim.com

PALM SPRINGS

Fashionistas rock hotel

The new Hard Rock Hotel in downtown Palm Springs is exactly the sort of place where you

might expect to see guests wearing the chicest, coolest, cutting-edge fashions. On Oct. 25-27, Anthony Franco of Los Angeles and other fashion designers will show their latest collections there during the inaugural Palm Springs Fashion Weekend. The event is being put on by Troupe Productions, which plans to donate \$2,500 to Desert AIDS Project. Tickets: \$200.

Info: palmsspringsfashionweekend.com



»Continued on PAGE 16



CELEB TWEETS

◀ **Graham Norton**

@grahnort

"Geeeeeenius! I wonder if it bites the gays? Kiev Man Finds Dog That Looks Like Putin | News | The Moscow Times"

Christopher Rice

@chrisricewriter

"There is nothing five or six

crepes and a couple jars of Nutella and some 'erotic fiction' and some alone time won't fix."

Rosie O'Donnell

@Rosie

"Shopping with mish n baby 'u having fun with mom n grandma' said the store clerk."

Q. Allan Brocka

@allanbrocka

"I kind of feel sorry for the spy who has to listen to my phone calls. I can barely listen to them."

Ellen DeGeneres

@TheEllenShow

"It's that time of year when I have to make an incredibly difficult decision

that affects millions of lives. What should I be for Halloween?"

Wilson Cruz

@wcruz73

"I admit it, it's during weeks like this one that I seriously consider sleeping at a stranger's house just because he has air conditioning."

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After



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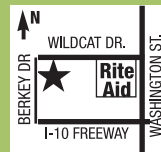
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Is yellow the new orange?

Reconsidering Palm Springs' interior design palette **BY STEPHEN COLLINS**

In recent years we've all seen the revival of, and passion for, midcentury modernism. Palm Springs is, without a shadow of a doubt, one of the world's epicenters of this style and period.

With its desert modern style, along with the classics of midcentury design and architecture (as laid down by the true masters of modernism, Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier — all present here in spirit) and a dash of the Atomic Age thrown in for good measure, Palm Springs embodies it all and is a valuable source of the era and movement.

However, what is interesting is how colors find their way into a style. The contemporary world and the trends we adopt add to and, on occasion, alter the original. That's not always a bad thing.

Personally I have seen enough of the baby blue, lime green, chartreuse

and orange. And while I acknowledge that great work has been carried out in saving and remodeling many of the city's Alexander homes, and the works of many prominent architects, I'm not sure that the stark white and an accent wall/chimney in pale blue or green are true to the original way people lived in these homes.

More clashing color and texture were used. More carpeting was used. There were more layers. The homes were both glam and comfortable; they were less stark and museum-like. They were friendlier in many ways.

Designer Kelly Wearstler used strong yellow at the Viceroy (pictured above), as Jonathan Adler did at The Parker. In spite of the use of this wonderful color in what might arguably be the two most glamorous resorts in town, I have seen little of this strong yellow in action elsewhere.

Yellow is a color people

are often fearful of using; they think it will invade. Some say it is the color of madness.

But yellow has a happy element that makes it so endearing. In Palm Springs, where light is so strong, so Technicolor, strong colors are more appropriate. Yellow is less urbane and most definitely resort. Personally, I have never understood why people use blue in the desert; the stronger blues are too hot and attract and absorb heat, while the pale blues just fade out. The same can be said of the paler greens.

Look for vibrant yellows, chocolate browns and avocado green (the inside of an avocado) to be the next colors making a resurgence. Strong colors generally are going to be more popular. ■

Stephen Collins is an interior designer, furniture acquisition consultant and host of Bravo's "Property Envy."

PALM SPRINGS

Jump-start Modernism Week

Fans of Modernism Week don't have to wait until February to immerse themselves in all things midcentury modern. A fall kick-off is planned for Oct. 11-14 with architectural bus, bike and walking tours, cocktail parties, modernism yard sale and more. Event prices vary from free to \$100, and tickets are available at modernismweek.com.

PALM SPRINGS

Dine under the stars

The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum hosts on Oct. 12 its annual Dinner in the Canyons. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, then continue at 6:30 with dinner, entertainment and a live auction in Andreas Canyon, the ancient home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. MATOU, a collaboration of six Native American and Maori performers, will provide the entertainment. Tickets are \$300 and available at (760) 833-8167. Proceeds benefit the museum. ■

Staff Reports

What's your APptitude?



Got a secret you just can't contain any longer? Whisper it into cyberspace.

WHISPER, an app for anonymously sharing secrets via smartphone and electronic tablet, is one of the most popular social-networking apps on the market. It has more than 1 million users, who share more than 800,000 secrets daily, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Confessions that are whispered through text and photos range from observations and opinions to jokes, doubts, challenges and coming-out stories. Whispers can be browsed by category such as "nearby." Though anonymous, users must be 17 and older.

The app is free and available at the Apple store, but its direct-messaging feature costs \$5.99 per month. The message recipient doesn't have to pay.

Staff Report

IDEAS WE LOVE

from Palm Springs residents doing cool things

Retro gay TV

If you're a history buff or simply want to know more about LGBT trailblazers, Melinda Tremaglio has video footage from the frontlines. From 1986-1990, she hosted in West Hollywood a 30-minute television show that featured the celebrities, issues and gay rights movement of that era. She has 104 30-minute shows and eight one-hour documentaries that originally aired on Public Access channel 10. John Waters, Divine, former L.A. mayor Tom Bradley, Tom Selleck, all of "The Golden Girls," and the early years during the AIDS epidemic were among the prominent features of what Tremaglio deems "Yesterday TV."

She plans to create a website and digitize the archival footage to preserve it and make it available for public consumption, which she says is going to cost about \$150,000. See a sample of "Yesterday TV" on YouTube. To learn more, email Tremaglio at bentproductions@gmail.com.

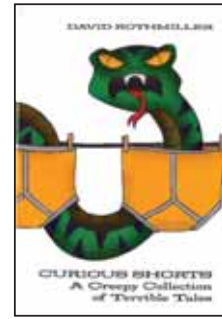
Women wielding power

Stacy Codikow plans to make a movie in Palm Springs. A producer and entertainment industry pro for 20 years, the founder of Power Up Films is a self-described "gay woman" who believes in passing along what she's learned. Power Up is a nonprofit organization that mentors lesbians, gay men and

others in filmmaking and raising the funds to do so. It's produced three feature films and 12 shorts that have been screened at Sundance and other festivals. Her most recent film, "Girltrash: All Night Long," will be released as a DVD in 2014, and she's raising \$200,000 to film "Die Angelo Die" next year in Palm Springs. The latter is about a straight couple who meets a mysterious woman after moving from L.A. to Palm Springs to get away from the city and write a script. Learn more at powerupfilms.org.

Scary tween years

Just in time for Halloween, writer David Rothmiller of Palm Springs has published a collection of spooky stories for tweens and teens. He describes the tales as having a moral, a twist and plenty of scatological humor for the Harry Potter crowd. Rothmiller wrote the



first nine stories over several years for his niece and nephew, until one day his husband,

author LD Thompson, told him he had a book in the making. "So, I completed four more [stories] to make a scary 13," Rothmiller says. Though written with an age range in mind, Rothmiller expects it will also appeal to adults in tune with their darker side. "Curious Shorts: A Creepy Collection of Terrible Tales" is published by LULU Press and available through Amazon.com, Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook. ||

Staff Reports

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Desert playbill

NEW THEATER SEASON
SPOTLIGHTS DIVAS,
DADDIES AND PUPPETS

BY WILL DEAN

The curtain parts and a gaggle of flesh and felt residents awakens the neighborhood with a humorous, musical account of life's disappointments and challenges. On another stage, a veteran Southern actress prepares for the ultimate face-off with Meryl Streep at the Oscars. And, a proud father makes a startlingly bizarre announcement about his toddler's "true" identity that will alter their family life forever.

These are just some of the stories that Palm Springs and Coachella Valley audiences will see presented during the next several months. Community theater companies have planned a new season of diverse comedies, dramas and musicals, all of which occasionally end up in one show. Many have a gay twist or character that may surprise you.

Here are Desert Outlook's recommendations for what are expected to be entertaining nights at the theater through spring 2014.

COACHELLA VALLEY REPERTORY THEATER
"Master Class" BY TERENCE MCNALLY

Everyone from Elton John to Miley Cyrus to the local Starbucks barista is referred to as a "diva" these days. So, if you think the word is misused and abused, you will find solace in this production. At its center is Maria Callas, arguably the greatest diva — meaning talented female opera singer — of all time. Marina Re stars as Callas when she taught master classes at Lincoln Center toward the end of her career. She interacts with students who please and disappoint her, and recounts her incredible, personal and professional life experiences.

The show opens Oct. 23, launching the Coachella Valley Repertory Theater's fourth season. It's the first of three Terrence McNally plays the company will stage through early spring at The Atrium, 69-930 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. For ticket prices and info on the full season: cvrep.org



Coyote StageWorks' "The Andrews Brothers" brings music, comedy and a bit of nostalgia to the stage in January.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

COYOTE STAGEWORKS

"The Andrews Brothers" BY ROGER BEAN

"The show must go on" gets a fun and madcap spin in this musical production featuring more than 25 songs by the Andrews Sisters. When the famous trio doesn't come through with performing at a USO show, three earnest stagehands step up to save the day. Mistaken identities and swinging tunes follow.

"It's all music from World War II from the Andrews Sisters, kind of turned on its ear," says Chuck Yates, founding artistic director of Coyote StageWorks. "It really takes you down memory lane, but there is enough silly, subversive humor that really makes it a fresh thing."

With a five-piece orchestra, the show will be the company's largest production to date, Yates adds. It opens Jan. 24 at the Annenberg Theater inside the Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs. For all productions and ticket info: coyotestageworks.org

DESERT ROSE PLAYHOUSE

"The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told" BY PAUL RUDNICK

The Garden of Eden and Creation Story get a fabulous do-over in this daring comedy that gives two gay couples the task of inventing civilization. Adam and Steve with Jane and Mabel experience many biblical stories, such as cruising on Noah's Ark, becoming enslaved to an Egyptian pharaoh, and meeting up at The Nativity.

Expect to laugh as this production by the Coachella Valley's LGBT theater explores themes of love, faith, family and the meaning of life. It's staged Nov. 15 through Dec. 22 in the Desert Rose Playhouse at The Commissary, 69-620 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. For tickets and info: desertroseplayhouse.org

»Continued on PAGE 20



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»Continued from PAGE 19

**DEZART PERFORMS
"Exquisite Potential"**

BY STEPHEN KAPLAN

Anyone who's ever been to a Little League game or watched "Toddlers & Tiaras" knows some parents can be absurdly competitive braggarts about their kids. But the father in this play takes it to a whole 'nother level when he publicly announces that his 3-year-old son is the Messiah. In addition to prompting plenty of laughs, the story also spotlights the pressure and expectations people place on themselves, their children and other family members.

When Michael Shaw first read the script, he was compelled to bring it to the stage as Dezart Performs' artistic director and an actor. He'll star in the production. "These words are so rich and so brilliantly constructed," Shaw says of the script.

Playwright Stephen Kaplan, who's gay, is expected to attend opening night Nov. 22, says Anita Roark, public relations director for the theater. It will be staged at the Palm Springs Woman's Club, 314 S. Cahuilla Road, Palm Springs. For the season lineup and tickets: dezartperforms.com

Adult puppets are prominently featured in "Avenue Q" at Palm Canyon Theatre in November. SUBMITTED PHOTO



**PALM CANYON THEATRE
"Avenue Q"**

BY JEFF MARX, ROBERT LOPEZ AND JEFF WHITTY

To say that life in one's 20s and 30s can be challenging may be the understatement of the century. This smart musical production captures the angst, sexual energy and humor of those days to full effect. It features provocative puppets and people grappling with self-esteem, career frustration, relationships and myriad other issues as they enter the real world.

Premiering in 2002, the Tony Award-winning "Avenue Q" produced many memorable songs such as "It Sucks to Be Me," "If You Were Gay" and "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist."

It offers the youthfulness, edginess and comedic wit that Nick Edwards of Palm Canyon

Theatre says appeals to the company, as it branches out to "bring some modern flair to Palm Springs."

The show opens Nov. 8 at 538 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. For tickets and this season's lineup: palmcanyontheatre.org

**SCRIPT2STAGE2SCREEN
"The Sudden Glide"**

BY DAVID A. CRESPI

Actress Yvonne Allaway finds herself in a bit of tizzy when she's nominated for an Academy Award for the fifth time and Meryl Streep is in the same category. She eventually makes her way to the ceremony, with her son's boyfriend behind the steering wheel and the treacherous aid of alcohol and cocaine.

Alden West, an actress who championed the play for Script2Stage2Screen (though she's not appearing in it), says it offers something for just about every disposition. "Everyone knows about movie stars," she says. "It's humorous, there's some drama in it, and it's a little bit understated."

It plays Oct. 4 and 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72-425 Via Vail, Cathedral City. For tickets and other show info: script2stage2screen.com ||

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DOMA and Proposition 8

THE CONTINUED CONVERSATION: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

BY JIM CASEY

It has been interesting to watch the speed with which the government agencies have made their decisions regarding benefit eligibility. As we discussed last month, the benefit decisions were hinging on the key factor of whether the agencies would recognize a same-sex marriage based on “the State of Celebration” or “State of Residence”. As we recently learned, a major decision was announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that same-sex couples legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages, will be treated as married for federal tax purposes. This is the case, regardless of whether the couple is in a jurisdiction that does not recognize same-sex marriage. This broad ruling will help to create uniformity, clarity, and equality for same sex couples, no matter where they live.

Here are a few things you should know about the U.S. Treasury and IRS Ruling:

- It ensures that same sex couples will be treated as a married couple for all federal tax purposes, including income, gift and estate taxes.
- Any legal same-sex marriage entered into in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. Territory or a foreign country will be covered.
- Applies to all federal tax provisions where marriage is a factor, including: filing status, personal & dependency exemptions, deductions, employee benefits.

“Marriage equality from the U.S. Treasury and IRS.”



- Legally married same sex couples must select “married filing jointly or “married filing separately” filing status.
- Couples in legal same sex marriages, including those who were married in California in 2008, have the option to file original or amended returns for federal tax purposes for one or more years, as long as they are within the statute of limitations. The statute of limitations is generally three years, so couples can file for a refund claim for 2010, 2011, and 2012, if they choose.
- This does NOT apply to domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other similar State recognized unions.

With all of these changes, updates, and decisions, confusion is bound to happen, which highlights the importance of consulting with your team of professionals before making any tax, financial, or legal decisions. With such a broad ruling by the U.S. Treasury and IRS, same sex couples are granted an additional level of security and equality – knowing that their state of residence won’t define how the IRS treats them.

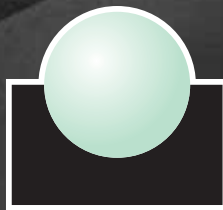
The financial professionals at Integrated Wealth Management are here to help you navigate through these decisions, and we look forward to working with you in the future. We are pleased to offer the readers of *Desert Outlook* a complimentary financial consultation with one of our financial advisors. Contact Erin Scott at 760-969-7113 or Erin@IWMgmt.com to schedule your appointment today.

Jim Casey is the President & CEO of Integrated Wealth Management, a firm that specializes in same-sex financial and retirement planning. The firm has offices in Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Marina Del Rey, and Orange County and represents hundreds of individuals, businesses, and nonprofits. www.IWMgmt.com; 866-888-6563 ext 113

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GENERATION Y emerges

They're here and 'queer' — get used to it

BY WILL DEAN | PHOTOS BY ROB LEBOW

EVERY COMMUNITY HAS ITS LORE, THE OFT-REPEATED STATEMENTS residents make during casual conversation about its origins and changing demographics. In Palm Springs, you're likely to hear at a party, business meeting or coffee chat something along the lines of *Palm Springs is getting younger*. This, of course, is unquantifiable, as there's no one standing at the borders checking ages. But it's fun to think about.

For many of the established LGBT residents who retired to Palm Springs, an infusion of LGBT youth has some appeal. Someone has to carry on and improve upon the city's reputation as a vibrant resort community and destination.

While mainly anecdotal at this point, there are definitely young LGBT people in Palm Springs and the desert cities. They're born here, grow up here, or feel compelled to move here for all the reasons people start over anywhere. And they seem to be more visible, out and about socially, in school or working.

Desert Outlook recently gathered a group of Generation Y residents — born between 1980 and 2000 — to discuss the reality, perks and challenges of being young and LGBT in the desert. Many were invited; 11 showed up. Here are some of their insights.

It all begins with how they see (and what they call) themselves.

IDENTITY

"Queer" has long been a term used by gay men, lesbians and anyone else who felt outside of mainstream society to self-identify — often in urban, progressive areas in the early 1970s as the gay rights movement was finding its voice. That single word came to represent the different expressions of sexual identity, among what's now commonly referred to as the LGBT community, and re-enforce that sense of community and political force to oppressors.

»Continued on PAGE 26

Timothy Grott (left), Jennifer Lim and Lyric Kesteloot, shown here displaying their pride in the Palm Springs desert, are among the young LGBT residents who've chosen to make their homes in the Coachella Valley.



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PRIDE

COVER STORY

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For many more gays of that era and after, it's a word they have a difficult time accepting. It was, and still is, considered a gay slur — an insult hurled at them with malice and contempt on playgrounds.

But the younger generation of non-straight people is reclaiming it. "Today, more and more people are coming out 'queer,'" according to the website for PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The resurgence of "queer" as affirming can also be found in the Coachella Valley.

Of those participating in the group discussion, they were equally divided between identifying as queer and using more traditional terms like "gay" and "lesbian." If they had lived in larger communities, they were accustomed to hearing "queer." Amanda Reichert, 28, says she never heard it used growing up in Southern California.

Alexis Ortega, 26, who grew up and came out in Palm Springs, was introduced to the queer culture as a student at Stanford University upstate. It's how she prefers to be identified.

"Queer has more to it than just gay," she says. "You have a different consciousness. If you believe sexuality is fluid and you really don't like boxes [other labels], it's a radical way of thinking."

Lyric Kesteloot, 25, says her generation's taking back the word "queer" is not unlike the people who've reclaimed as a LGBT symbol of strength the upside-down pink triangle the Nazis used to label and denigrate gays during the Holocaust.

"It's a way of life," adds Timothy Grott, 30, who also prefers "queer."

Bisexuality is another way of identifying and living that the group was comfortable with. For Pablo Gutierrez, 20, Vince Talavera, 18, and Jose Beltran, 24, it was the first step out of the closet. Beltran and Gutierrez say they thought it would be easier for people to accept bisexuality than homosexuality.

"For the longest time, I was dating girls because everyone would say 'You're gay,'" Beltran says. "It was said in such a negative way."

Gutierrez came out as gay about a year after he revealed he was bisexual.

"I had only boyfriends," Talavera says about his foray into bisexuality. "It didn't last long."

Reichert, however, considers herself to be a bisexual woman. She very much enjoys the company of women romantically and as friends, but is open to dating men. One of her favorite weekly activities is going to Sunday brunch with a group of lesbian friends. She enjoys the camaraderie, as well as the fact that the primarily straight restaurant patrons sitting around them see that regular part of their lives.

CULTURE

The group raised some concerns about LGBT culture and how it's perceived. Many say they don't relate to much of what they've seen or heard about, even during Pride events.

For Gutierrez, the common perceptions about drug use and the "bondage culture" among LGBTs scared him as he was coming out. "That's not who I want to be," he adds. "I was afraid I was going to be sucked into that."

Regarding Pride festivities, they'd like to see a more balanced representation. Annie Flores, 30, says it's mainly considered just a big party among people she knows. Beltran recalls being overwhelmed by the intensity and sexual component the first time he attended Pride. He and the others say it's time for a change.

»Continued on PAGE 28

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Lyric Kesteloot, 25, (left) and her girlfriend, Jennifer Lim, 26, are enjoying life in the desert.



»Continued from PAGE 26

While Reichert understands there was a need when Pride celebrations were started to be more “in your face because we want you to know we’re here, now we can take it down a few notches.”

It’s already beginning to happen, Kesteloot says. She believes recent Palm Springs Pride events are more of a reflection of the advances LGBT people have gained in marriage and other rights. She also points as an example of the changing culture to Hollywood, which has a stronger LGBT presence than ever before.

What remains to be changed is how women and transgender people are seen in the community.

“Men are so much more valued and appreciated by so many different businesses out here,” says Delfina Zarate. “We have so many bars in Palm Springs, but not one [exclusively] for women.”

Hayden Mills, a 28-year-old transgender woman who recently biked across the Midwest with her former girlfriend, says more education about transgender issues is needed.

“A lot of times in Palm Springs when I go to a gay club, they think I’m a drag queen,” she says. Mills says transgenderism is less of an issue in other countries like Canada than it is in the states.

One of the things the group is excited about living in the Coachella Valley is its growing appeal to their generation. Though still anecdotal, they also say young LGBT visitors are coming to the desert.

“I feel like we attract more LGBT youth than any other city in the U.S.,” Kesteloot says. “We don’t need to do anything. They’re going to come.” ■



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IN HIS NEW PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK, “Fire Island Pines: Polaroids 1975-1983,” Tom Bianchi captures what many agree was the birth of American gay male culture.

Starting in the early 1970s when he was a young attorney working and living in Manhattan, Bianchi was among thousands of gay men who would escape during summer weekends to Fire Island. He had seen a photo of a beautiful man on the island in a physique magazine while growing up in Chicago. The image fueled his dreams, and he eventually moved to New York to be close to this seasonal community.

A 32-mile barrier island off the south shore of Long Island, N.Y., Fire Island encompasses The Pines — a mile of boardwalks connecting about 600 homes that became a haven for gay men. Many of these men led closeted lives on the mainland, but they could be themselves during their weekend getaways — hosting and attending themed parties, dancing all night at nightclubs, playing and relaxing on the beach, losing their inhibitions through drug use, and having sex whenever and wherever they wanted it. (The popular hookup site was known as the Meat Rack.)

Mainly, they were emerging artists and professionals falling in and out of love, bonding as friends, and making connections.

“These are the formative years of gay culture in the world,” Bianchi says. “It’s historically significant. You had the giants of every creative field hanging out on the beach: Calvin Klein, composer Jerry Herman, Tommy Tune, top models, photographers, artists. And there was the start of minimalism in interior design.”

For Bianchi, it was an incubator that allowed him to discover his voice as a photographer. In the mid-’70s, he took an SX-70 Polaroid camera he’d been given to the island and began taking photos of the architecture, landscape and his friends. Initially he was shy about candidly photographing the men and their activities, concerned they could be identified as gay and possibly suffer the consequences back home. But on more than one occasion — including an invitation by a stud he had a crush on to make “dirty pictures” with him — he was encouraged to use his access to The Pines to honestly depict what he saw and experienced there.

Bianchi would snap 30 to 40 photos per weekend, then review them on Monday morning with his straight male colleague in the city. His intention was always to make a twofold political statement, he says.

“I didn’t want [any] boy like me not to know this world existed, and I didn’t want

the straight world to be afraid of us,” Bianchi explains. “I wanted them to say, ‘Oh, these are our children, our brothers.’”

It’s that sort of activism through art that has earned Bianchi a lifetime achievement award which will be presented to him on Oct. 4 by Greater Palm Springs Pride.

Shortly after he started shooting the Polaroids, Bianchi had the idea for a book. He made several attempts to get it published, including a meeting with provocateur Andy Warhol, who loved the idea. However, most people he pitched the idea to thought it would be too expensive to reproduce a book of Polaroids. He had no choice but to sit on the images.

Meanwhile, as Bianchi fans know, he went on to become one of the most prolific photographers of gay male erotica. He published 20 books—including “On the Couch,” “Deep Sex” and “Men I’ve Loved”—which are staples in the libraries and on the coffee tables of gay men. And this year, after the advent of technology accommodated affordably reproducing Polaroid images, “Fire Island Pines: Polaroids 1975-1983” was finally published. Bianchi’s first book became his 21st.

The response has been significant and favorable. Bianchi was interviewed by both The New York Times and Wall Street Journal. The book also debuted as No. 1 among Amazon’s photography and art books, he says.

Beautifully composed and edited by Ben Smales, Bianchi’s life partner, the book provides a glimpse at the artist Bianchi would become and what he says is a “comprehensive record” of a pre-AIDS paradise. It’s all there on 210 pages — the buff naked beauty, affection and intimacy among gay men that Bianchi mastered in subsequent books.

Still, “Fire Island Pines” rises above any romanticized version of a bygone era. In the text introducing the book, Bianchi reminds readers that his subjects were real people. Sometimes insecure, they started the gym craze and re-sculpted their bodies to fulfill one another’s sexual fantasies. Rejected by an often ugly world, they surrounded themselves with beautiful design and art. Ravaged by an unrelenting disease, they bequeathed to



Activism through art

BY WILL DEAN



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him and the other survivors insurmountable gratitude for life.

And it’s with gratitude, Bianchi hopes, gay men today will view the gay pioneers of The Pines. He remains thankful for the experiences and all he learned during those years.

“I’ve always treated my work as a diary,” he says. “That’s what I learned at Fire Island. Live your life as a work of art. The power of the work is that this is a genuine love letter to you. I show you the first glimpses of gay Pride as a lifestyle, not just people marching down the street.” ■

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The ultimate

LGBT

pen pal BY MICHAEL NAVA

KATHERINE V. FORREST IS AN ICONIC FIGURE in LGBT literature, a cultural activist and a profoundly decent human being.

Palm Springs' avid readers may know her as the author of 15 novels, including the acclaimed Kate Delafield mystery series that began with the publication of "Amateur City" in 1984 and will conclude with the forthcoming publication of the ninth book in the series, "High Desert." Her protagonist, Kate Delafield, a Vietnam veteran and closeted homicide detective with the Los Angeles Police Department, is among the most complex characters in all of LGBT literature. The Delafield novels are notable for their superb plotting, gritty realism and their political sensibility. Delafield may be closeted but she is genuinely a queer hero.

Forrest's other notable series is the science-fiction trilogy, "Daughters of the Coral Dawn," "Daughters of the Amber Moon" and "Daughters of the Emerald Dusk," which has earned a rabid cult following among gay and lesbian readers. Her 1983 novel, "Curious Wine," is a classic of lesbian literature. One reviewer called it "The ultimate lesbian love novel," and some of its readers have credited her book with changing their lives. In addition to her own work, she has edited a number of books including "Lesbian Pulp Fiction," which is among the most significant work about lesbian literature from the 1950s through the 1960s.

For her work, Forrest has been awarded virtually every honor the LGBT literary community bestows on its writers, among them four Lambda Literary Awards, the Bill Whitehead Award for lifetime achievement in LGBT literature, the Trailblazer Award from the Golden Crown Literary Society and

the Pioneer Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation. This month, she'll be honored by the Greater Palm Springs Pride Committee with one of three lifetime achievement awards. The recognition will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Hyatt Palm Springs.

Forrest is also a friend of mine. We met 20 years ago in Los Angeles where we both were living at the time. We were members of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Writers Circle, a literary fellowship created by Betty Berzon that brought together notable gay and lesbian writers of that era including Paul Monette, Eloise Klein Healy (currently L.A.'s poet laureate), Malcolm Boyd, Bernard Cooper, and Terry Wolverton. We met at Berzon's house to share our work-in-progress. It was during those meetings that I came to appreciate two qualities in Forrest rarely found among some writers: kindness and generosity.

These qualities reveal themselves in how she approaches the work of other writers. Forrest is an incredibly astute editor. I am only one of many writers who have benefitted from her close and careful readings of their work. Her comments, while always on point, are also encouraging and constructive. This is true of Forrest as a teacher as well. When she and I co-taught a creative writing course, she treated our students and their work with the same respect she would have shown a published colleague. It's no wonder a number of our students went on to become published writers.

Her kindness and generosity also led her to take on an important community task: rescuing the Lambda Literary Foundation. Founded in 1987, the foundation is one of the most important LGBT literary organizations



in the U.S., tasked with nurturing, celebrating and preserving LGBT literature. Currently, the foundation is a dynamic organization that publishes an online literary magazine, gives out the Lambda Literary Awards annually, sponsors the nation's only writers retreat for emerging LGBT writers, and brings LGBT writers into public schools. But when Forrest joined the foundation's board in 2003, it was on the verge of collapse. As president of the board, she raised money, recruited new board members and a new executive director, and oversaw the straightening out of the foundation's tangled finances and nonprofit status. Her tireless commitment to the foundation helped bring it back from the brink. The LGBT community owes Forrest a tremendous debt of gratitude for her significant part in preserving this invaluable cultural resource.

She now lives in Cathedral City with her wife, Jo Hercus, a marriage and family therapist.

I once asked a wise old mentor of mine what he believed was the purpose of life. "Oh," he said, "that's easy. Love and service." I know of few people whose lives have exemplified this purpose more than my colleague and my dearest friend, Katherine V. Forrest. ■

Michael Nava is the author of seven mysteries featuring gay Latino criminal defense lawyer Henry Rios. His new novel, "The City of Palaces," a work of historical fiction set in Mexico between 1895 and 1912, will be published in the spring by the University of Wisconsin Press. Nava divides his time between San Francisco and Palm Springs. michaelnavawriter.com



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A voice for community

BY SHANN CARR

GINNY FOAT'S MIDDLE NAME should be *Committee*.

The powerhouse — with the tiny Italian lady look — is often seen around the city wielding a shovel at groundbreaking ceremonies, slicing new-business ribbons with oversized scissors, and kissing puppies and kittens at any fundraiser that supports her “pet project,” the Palm Springs Animal Shelter.

This month, Foat will be honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Greater Palm Springs Pride Committee, and rightfully so. She's spent her lifetime as a high-level activist fighting for good, championing women, stepping up for the gay and gray communities and, for some time now, being a part of the political solution on the Palm Springs City Council. She seeks re-election in November.

When asked to do this interview, Foat said, “What is left to say about me? Everybody has said everything. I even wrote an autobiography.” So, we decided to focus

on some of the passions behind her public service.

We met in the shelter's puppy socializing room with a litter of three Chihuahuas squealing and wiggling for our attention. Foat was going directly to a committee meeting after our interview, so she was a little overdressed for a kennel.

Foat says her life is at a wonderful place now. Five years ago, after 20 years together, she and her life partner, Pam Genevrino, became legally wed, reaping the benefits of years of personal activism for equal access to things like marriage. They had a simple but lovely ceremony at home with eight friends, and were married by their good friend, Mayor Steve Pougnet.

Growing up in a conservative, Catholic, Italian home, Foat was raised to believe that the most important thing she could ever do was to marry, preferably someone Italian. After three attempts at marriage to men,

she finally hit the jackpot with Genevrino. Not only had Foat found true love, she'd snagged herself an Italian, too. The Italian just happened to be a woman.

The couple met at a political meeting, which was held in a famous lesbian producer's shower. (You'll have to ask her for the whole story next time you see her at the unveiling of a star on Palm Canyon Drive.)

“We connected on so many levels that I felt like I'd known her for a long time,” Foat says about her relationship with Genevrino. “There is an ethnic bond. In Italian families you grow up in particular ways — the mannerisms, the things you say.

“My mother was a little Italian lady who didn't understand what lesbian meant, but she never made up a spare room when I came home with partners. She didn't ask me about it. It just was.”

On any given day you'll find Foat at a committee meeting speaking out for women, children, families, help for people with AIDS, the homeless, sustainability, health care, seniors, LGBT residents, businesses and more.

Today, as she reflects on what makes her proud, she reaches down without a thought to her pristine business suit and places a grubby puppy on her lap. “This puppy and this shelter make me proud and sad at the same time,” she says. “I had the misfortune to see the old animal shelter. It was an embarrassment to the city, but there was no money for it. Somehow, with a rag-tag board and the Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter, and my fellow City Council members, we shamed people into helping us build this new facility.

“But, because we are an open-door shelter, people are dropping their animals here from far and wide, leaving us with too many to accommodate,” Foat says. She then gently jostles the pup on her lap and continues, “How can you think about these tiny puppies spending another hour here? My dog Madison is a rescue from this shelter and she sleeps on my bed with me every night. How could I ever do without her?”

“I can go to committee meetings until I'm blue in the face. This is a community issue and we need our citizens to step up to the plate and contribute, volunteer, spay and neuter, and adopt. Palm Springs has [been known] to handle so many challenges with a cohesive community spirit, and I know we'll come together to make these animals' dreams come true too. We have to do the right thing.” ■

Shann Carr is a comedian and writer who lives in Palm Springs.



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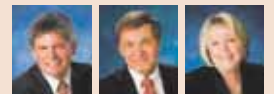
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The HONOREES

EVERY FALL IN PALM SPRINGS, A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS is selected from the desert and beyond for special recognition by the Greater Palm Springs Pride Board. They are the recipients of gay Pride honors.

Past recipients have been trailblazers and dedicated public servants whose contributions ranged from starting an LGBT church to preserving SM/leather/fetish history to advancing women's and civil rights.

Just who makes it on to the list of Pride honorees begins with residents.

"Each year, we start in February or March, we open the nomination process and invite the community to send us nominations of individuals that they feel are worthy of recognition," says Ron deHarte, Greater Palm Springs Pride president.

The nominations are narrowed down during the first six months of the year, and the board determines the final list.

"The goal is to always recognize individuals who may have made an impact in the community, but also to reach out and have the honorees be representative of the community," deHarte says. "I'm very pleased this year."

The 2013 honorees are among Pride's most diverse awardees, including committed straight allies and highlighting business owners and a social media maverick. They'll be recognized Oct. 4 during an awards ceremony at the Hyatt Palm Springs. They are:

Receiving Pride's 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award this year are photographer Tom Bianchi (story on page 30), author Katherine V. Forrest (page 32), and city leader Ginny Foat (page 34).

LAMBDA LEGAL

SPIRIT OF STONEWALL ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Changing the law is an integral part of acquiring civil rights for any historically marginalized group. When it comes to LGBT rights, Lambda Legal has been fighting the longest of any legal organization. Founded in 1973, it won some of the first legal cases on

behalf of lesbian and gay parents, couples and singles in the U.S.

A landmark victory came in 1983. The court sided with Lambda in the *People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.*, establishing that it's illegal to discriminate against people who have HIV under disability laws. That was followed in the 1990s by historic wins that held schools responsible for harassment and violence against LGBT students (*Nabozny v. Podlesny*) and supported the existence of gay-straight student alliances in schools (*Colin v. Orange Unified School District*).

In 2003, Lambda Legal played a pivotal role in decriminalizing sexual conduct among consenting LGBT adults. It persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn state sodomy laws in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

And earlier this year, Lambda Legal helped a transgender man secure transition-related health care, and joined other organizations in successfully challenging Proposition 8 and Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act.

SHANN CARR

SPIRIT OF STONEWALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



One of comedian Shann Carr's gifts is to make you think as well as laugh. When she isn't entertaining gay audiences on cruise ships and venues across the U.S., she's in the Coachella Valley spotlighting causes that

benefit animals and her neighbors.

Carr is a vocal advocate for fostering animals, taking in one herself and helping to launch the Palm Springs Animal Shelter's Lend a Paw program.

She's also served as a mentor for a student in the arts program at Palm Springs High School and in other capacities for community organizations. In September, she resumed her role as associate programmer for Cinema Diverse, watching about 100 films and helping to select features and shorts for the Palm Springs' gay and lesbian film festival.

Carr has spent much of her 30-year career writing, producing and performing gay comedy. She would like to someday create in the valley a studio/resort complex that would nurture LGBT talent primarily in film and television.

CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY

SPIRIT OF STONEWALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



A luxury brand designer and businessman, Christopher Kennedy finds inspiration in Palm Springs for much of his creative output. His furnishings and accessories have come to exemplify for many the Palm Springs lifestyle.

Since moving to the desert in 2004 and establishing his design firm, Kennedy has been equally creative in giving back. He's contributed furniture and other products to charitable social events such as the Children's Discovery Museum Home Tour, and raised funds for Desert AIDS Project, AIDS Assistance Program, Equality California, Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter, Saving All Pets and Sober in the Sun.

He also makes time to support students. He volunteers with the Professional Advisory

Council for Drury University, helping students chart their career paths, and with the local chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers, which raises scholarship funds for Palm Springs area students.

Kennedy is a member of the Architectural & Design Council of the Palm Springs Art Museum

STEPHEN BOYD & MICHAEL GREEN

SPIRIT OF STONEWALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



This married couple supports the greater Palm Springs community in myriad ways, jointly and individually. They own and operate the Triangle Inn in Palm Springs, a boutique hotel. Though retired from the corporate world, they frequently use their marketing and advertising experience as volunteers.

Stephen Boyd is an animal advocate who's served on the Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter Board for eight years. He's now vice president, and uses his photography and design skills for animal causes and other charities.



Michael C. Green serves in many capacities: Desert Gay Tourism Guild president, Palm Springs Hospital Association Board member, and Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism committee member, to name a few. In his work with the Palm Springs Cultural Center, he's

instrumental in bringing to the valley weekly farmers markets, the Cinema Diverse gay and lesbian film festival, American Documentary Film Festival, and many other annual events.

GAIL CHRISTIAN & LUCY DEBARDELABEN

SPIRIT OF PRIDE AWARD

This honor recognizes those who enhance the quality of life by raising awareness, promoting diversity and celebrating the talent of the LGBT community. Few, if any, do it better than life partners Gail Christian and Lucy Debardeleben.

For about 10 years, the ladies have hosted in Palm Springs a variety of events for women who love women. One of their most popular has been Dinah in Color for women of color during The Dinah weekend each year. Earlier this year, they took their promotional prowess to the next level, launching the Palm Springs Women's Jazz Festival. The April weekend of events featured more than 30 renowned female jazz artists, from Grammy winner Terri Lyne Carrington to Tia Fuller from Beyonce's band.

When not planning LGBT celebrations, Debardeleben works as an accountant. Christian is a retired television news correspondent.

»Continued on PAGE 38

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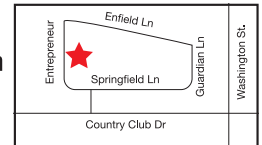
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»Continued from PAGE 37

CAROL & MIKE BALASA

FRIEND OF PRIDE AWARD



Shortly after their daughter came out in 1992, Carol and Mike Balasa wasted no time in learning all they could about the challenges of LGBT people and guiding other parents in doing so. They've been involved with Parents Families

and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) for 20 years. For the past 10 years, they served as co-presidents of the Palm Springs/Desert Communities chapter of PFLAG.

Their advocacy extends to other events and organizations, such as marching in Pride parades and, until this year, contributing to the Palm Springs Police LGBT Outreach Committee.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Palm Springs Pride Honors

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m. Oct. 4

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Suites, 285 N. Palm Canyon

Drive, Palm Springs

TICKETS: \$25 general admission

INFO: pspride.org

KATY & SAM WILKERSON

SPECIAL GUEST AWARD

This mother and son duo will be recognized for enriching LGBT lives through arts and culture. Earlier this year, the short film they made about the Palm Springs High School Band's participation in the Pride parade was screened during ShortFest. They then went on to win a commercial-making contest for The LGBT Community Center of the Desert.

Katy and Sam Wilkerson exemplify what it means to embrace community and contribute to every aspect of it. ||

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THE GRAND MARSHALS

WHEN THE ANNUAL GREATER PALM SPRINGS PRIDE PARADE steps off Nov. 3 from Baristo Road, spectators lining the sidewalks along Palm Canyon Drive can expect to see much of what they've come to enjoy about the procession. Rainbow-colored floats and characters will sail by, school bands will enthusiastically perform and groove in-synch, and scantily-clad muscle boys will gyrate to a driving beat. And as with every year, there may be a few unexpected entries.

The parade entries that elicit the loudest applause each year vary, but the grand marshals are often among them. Six marshals, who will be recognized at 6 p.m. Oct. 4 during the Palm Springs Pride Honors at the Hyatt, have been chosen to participate this year. You will recognize many of them — either by their names or faces or both.

ROSS MATHEWS

CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHAL



The E! Network star isn't shy about declaring his love for Palm Springs. When he launched "Hello Ross," his first talk show as a host,

in September, he was sure to include a little "Palm Springs chic" in the set decoration. Prior to that, Mathews and his life partner, Salvador Camarena of Indio, brought greater national attention to the resort desert city. They appeared on HGTV to search for a home in Palm Springs.

Now ensconced in their desert getaway, they're frequently out and about in the community and lending their support to local events. For instance, both have served as judges at Desert AIDS Project's "Dancing with

the Desert Stars."

When he isn't in Palm Springs, Mathews can be seen on his own show, reporting on E!'s red-carpet events, or appearing as a correspondent on colleague Chelsea Handler's show. Earlier this year, he published his memoir, which includes an afterword written by Handler and an introduction by actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

MELANIE JONES & ELLEN ZIMMERMAN

COMMUNITY GRAND MARSHALS



When these ladies moved to the desert, each brought a trunk full of community service and organization experiences.

Jones fondly recalls marching in her first gay Pride parade in 1980 in San Francisco. It set her on the path to become a leader in the LGBT community. She became an activist early on, and has volunteered with numerous conversation groups and organizations.

Zimmerman's volunteerism runs the gamut from representing the gay and lesbian voice in general organizations to participating in LGBT-specific events. She has volunteered with the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, served in the Rotary Club, and contributed her support to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center's AIDS Ride, Desert Senior Samaritans, Palm Springs Opera Guild, Coachella Valley Symphony and more. The



IF YOU GO

WHAT: Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade

WHEN: 10 a.m. Nov. 3

WHERE: Palm Canyon Drive, between Baristo and Tamarisk roads in Palm Springs

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: pspride.org

native New Yorker has lived in California for more than 50 years.

Zimmerman and Jones also own and manage LSpot Palm Springs, an online newsletter for women. It provides information on lesbian friendly events, groups, clubs and businesses.

JOE JERVIS

NATIONAL GRAND MARSHAL



"Joe.My.God." is widely considered to be one of the most read LGBT political blogs in the U.S. Created by Joe Jervis, the blog provides a platform for exposing hypocrisy in politics and anti-gay bigotry — as Jervis did in 2010

when he traced the source of an anti-gay post to the offices of Republican Senator Saxby Chambliss.

The social media advocate also uses the blog to spotlight LGBT youth, queer culture and gay rights, and he has received numerous awards for his efforts. Former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom recognized Jervis with the LGBT Anti-Violence Project Courage



The Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade proceeds down Palm Canyon Drive in 2012. FILE PHOTO

Award and his own day in 2009. Instinct Magazine named Jervis “Man of the Year” that same year.

In 2010, his fundraising and advocacy for New York City’s homeless LGBT youth brought him the Ali Forney Center’s Advocate of the Year Award. That was followed with a Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Award in 2011 and others.

MARK JONES & BRIAN VATCHER

COMMUNITY GRAND MARSHALS



These friends and business partners — principals in Brighthaus Marketing — must’ve invested in some sort of cloning device, because they seem to be everywhere in Palm Springs. You’ll find them each week co-hosting the popular Tuesday Nite Social Club, a gathering of

gay men at a local restaurant, bar or other venue. The club provides an opportunity for long-term and new residents to socialize and get to know one another.

You may also see the dynamic duo volunteering their support and talents to established events, such as Desert AIDS Project’s Dining Out for Life, Desert AIDS Walk or Midsummer Dance Party. And they’re among the first to fully get behind a new idea. Both men were instrumental in spearheading the relocation of Seward Johnson’s “Forever Marilyn” sculpture from Chicago to Palm Springs, after Windy City residents Jerry Sanfilippo and Spyros Petros inquired about it.

In recent years, Jones has put his stamp on a new holiday tradition. He co-produces “Sparkle: An All-Star Holiday Concert” as a fundraiser for residents affected by HIV/AIDS. Vatcher and he also sit on the host committee for numerous charitable events, including The Center’s Red Dress Party. ||



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BY WILL DEAN

ALEX NEWELL ISN'T YOUR TYPICAL YOUNG, EMERGING TV STAR.

At 21, he's at the center of groundbreaking American entertainment, inhabiting one of the most original characters on the small screen.

He stars on "Glee" as Wade Adams, a male-to-female transgender teen who expresses his true identity as the appropriately named Unique. It's a role that allows Newell to bring issues of gender identity and expression to the masses and to display his powerhouse voice each week.

On Nov. 2, he'll unleash that voice — a tenor that escalates from a tender caress to rafter-shaking within seconds — before the Greater Palm Springs Pride audience. He's performing at 9:30 p.m. at the Arenas Road Block Party, and says to expect a "fun and exciting" performance.

Newell, who grew up in Lynn, Mass., recently spoke with Desert Outlook about what makes him most proud, the dream role he'd fight for, and his comforting maternal tendencies.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW YOU COULD SING?

I was 2, and it was one of those things that was really fun for me. My mom always tells me the story of when we were at the state fair in Massachusetts. I literally ran away from her and got on the stage, and I was singing a church song because that's the only song I knew.

WHO PLANTED THE SEED THAT YOU SHOULD PERFORM PROFESSIONALLY?

I don't know when that happened. It kind of just fell into place naturally.

HOW DO YOU SELF-IDENTIFY IN TERMS OF GENDER EXPRESSION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

It's always strange. I've always identified as male, as a gay male. It's kind of one of those things that people want to hear a different answer.

REALLY? DO YOU THINK IT'S BECAUSE THEY IDENTIFY WITH YOUR CHARACTER AND WANT YOU TO BE LIKE UNIQUE/WADE?

I think that's probably it.

DID YOU HAVE MUCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF THE UNIQUE/WADE CHARACTER?

I kind of was involved because of "The Glee Project." That's where [Ryan Murphy] saw me as a character.

Singer and actor
Alex Newell.
GETTY IMAGES

The Entertainers

PRIDE CELEBRATIONS WON'T BE LIMITED this year to the festival grounds off Baristo Road in central Palm Springs. The entertainment is also expected to spill onto the streets of downtown. In addition to a block party planned for Arenas Road, there will be live entertainment at what has become one of the community's popular gathering places.

That's right, the stomping ground of "Forever Marilyn"—the 26-foot sculpture at Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way—will also be the site of block parties and performances Nov. 1-3.

To get people on their feet at all of the locations, organizers have come up with a roster of performers that includes some of the hottest young entertainers in the business. For example, ever heard of Steve Grand? If not, you probably don't watch YouTube much, or tune in to CNN or "Good Morning America."

STEVE GRAND

The heartthrob with the model good looks seems to have burst onto iTunes from nowhere, and suddenly he was country music's hottest new discovery. The openly gay singer-songwriter established an enthusiastic following pretty quickly online. His "All-American Boy" same-sex love song skyrocketed and now has more than 2 million hits on YouTube, while "Stay" is approaching 400,000 hits.

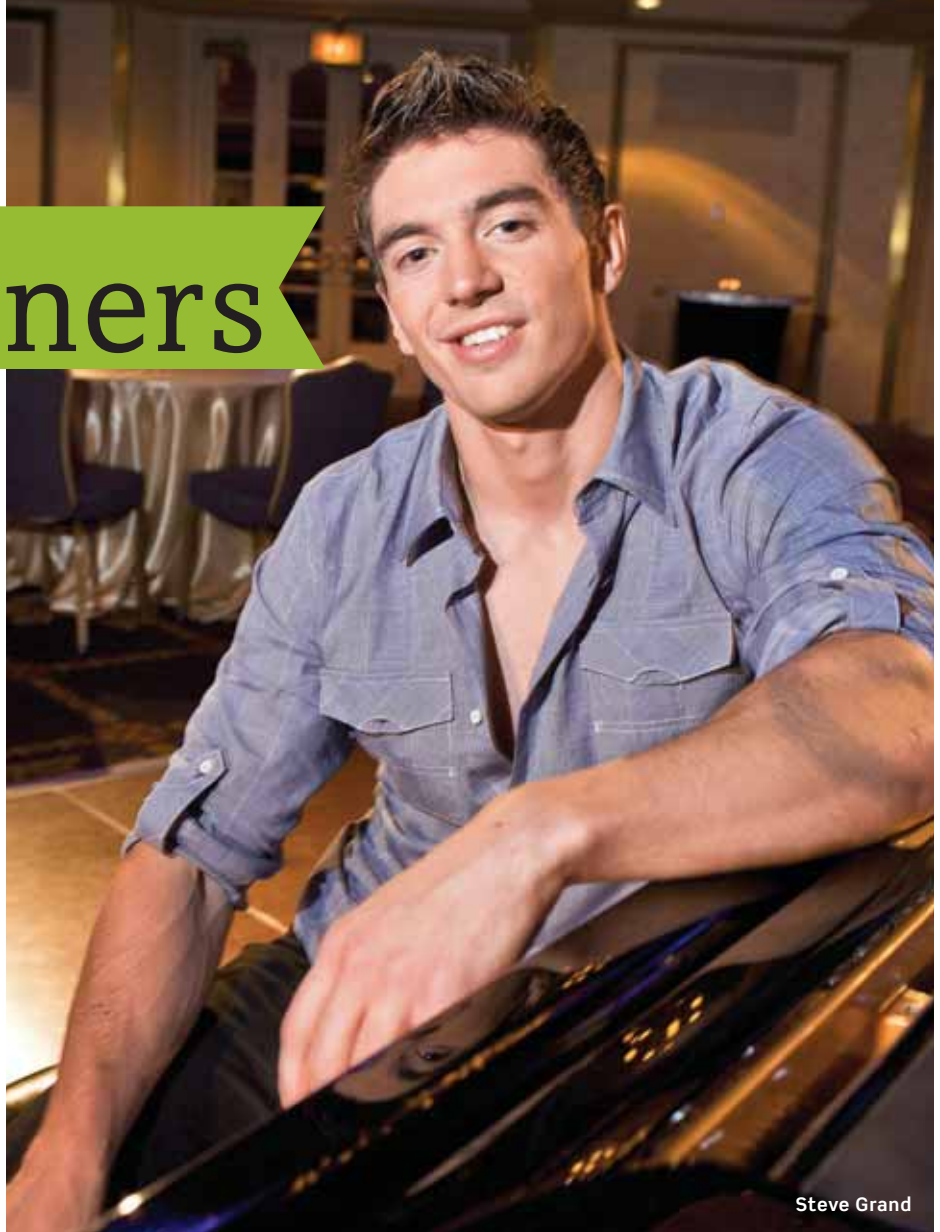
More than a pretty face with a good voice, the Illinois native has shared the highs and lows of his story with newfound fans. He tearfully discussed his past conversion therapy experience on "Good Morning America." But don't expect tears when he takes the Pride stage.

He's scheduled to perform at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 2 at the block party at "Forever Marilyn" park, at the corner of Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way in Palm Springs.

Donations will be accepted upon admission.

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

They're your friends, neighbors and partners, and they want to serenade you. The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus will sing during the Equality Concert on Nov. 1 at "Forever Marilyn" Park. It's been described as a sort of rally, with LGBT blogger Joe Jervis — the Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade's



Steve Grand

national grand marshal — going on first at 6:30 p.m. The chorus is scheduled to take the stage at 6:50 p.m.

Donations will be accepted.

THE CLIKS

What would Pride in the desert be without strong representation for some rockin' snowbirds?

The Clinks, a Canadian rock band, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 2 during the "Forever Marilyn" block party. Compared to David Bowie and the White Strips, The Clinks is fronted by Lucas Silveira, who self-identifies as a transgender man.

Donations will be accepted.

Y-LOVE

As an African-American, Jewish, gay hip-hop artist, Y-Love is the embodiment of multicultural pride. The Los Angeles-based performer describes his mission through his Twitter profile as: "world changer, Jewish gay

MC making positive hiphop. Soc. media dev-activist. My goal - to positively impact as many lives as possible. Period. #p2."

See the video for his new track, "Famous," at thisisylove.com. See him perform live at 4 p.m. Nov. 3 on the U.S. Bank Stage at the festival grounds, Palm Springs Stadium, 1901 E. Baristo Road. Festival admission is \$15.

BIG TOP CABARET

If you're new to Palm Springs or visiting during Pride festivities, you may want to slip under the big top to sample the musical talents of the performers who keep many loyal patrons frequenting the Coachella Valley's bars and nightclubs.

Hosted by Bella da Ball and presented by American Express, the cabaret and drag performances begin at noon Nov. 2 and 3 at the festival. The list of performers includes Jerome Elliot, Eve Holmes, Doug Graham,

»Continued on PAGE 46

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Please read timely and topical legal and tax issues impacting the same sex community. Visit www.sangerlaw.com and click on the Palm Springs Same-Sex Tax Issues Blog.

»Continued from PAGE 44

Sassy Ross, Bijou, Jersey Shore and many more. The final act goes on at about 4:30 p.m. both days.

The Big Top will be at the Palm Springs Stadium, 1901 E. Baristo Road. Festival admission is \$15.

MEITAL DOHAN

Hollywood's latest quadruple threat hails from Israel. The actress, comedian, singer and playwright has 25 acting credits, including the recurring role of Yael Hoffman on Showtime's "Weeds" series, according to imdb.com.

And Meital Dohan's music credentials are equally impressive. She's performed at Jeffrey Sanker's White Party a couple of times, most recently this year. Every gay icon in the making knows that performing at the Palm Springs circuit party is practically a requirement. Jennifer Lopez did it, so did Lady Gaga.

Dohan has been a busy woman. She recently returned to the states from an international tour.

She will perform at 9:05 p.m. Nov. 2 at the



Meital Dohan

Arenas Road Block Party, on Arenas Road between Indian Canyon Drive and Calle Encilia in Palm Springs.

Donations will be accepted.

OTHER PRIDE ENTERTAINERS

Alex Newell (see story on page 42), Berlin featuring Terri Nunn, Hi Fashion, Ninja Betty and the Nunchix, Max Leon, DJ Corey D and more. Check out the full schedule of entertainment events at pspride.org. All performance times are subject to change. Block party attendees must be 21 and older.

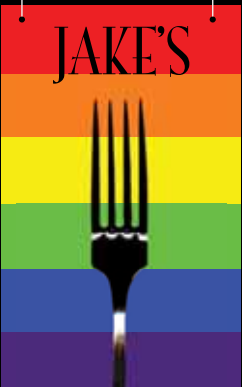
AUTHORS' VILLAGE

Between music sets, make your way over to the festival tent with all the books. The annual Authors' Village, put on by Q Trading, is a mini bookstore sheltering several LGBT authors who attend to meet their fans, and sell and sign books. This year's line-up includes the E! Network TV host Ross Mathews, a part-time Palm Springs resident who recently published his memoir, "Man Up! Tales of My Delusional Self-Confidence" on Nov. 3. Authors Michael Nava and his friend, Katherine V. Forrest (see her story on page 32), a 2013 Pride lifetime achievement award winner, also will attend Nov. 3.

Some other published writers scheduled to make a weekend appearance are Alex Ironrod, leather fetishist and author of "Leather Days," and Alan Chin, who penned the science-fiction book, "The Plain of Bitter Honey."

The Authors' Village is on festival grounds, Palm Springs Stadium, 1901 E. Baristo Road. Festival admission is \$15.



Staff Reports



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Steven Lerman, Financial Advisor

The Supreme Court's recent rulings in the *Windsor v. United States* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* cases have created a dynamic new environment in which LGBT couples plan their financial futures. Further, the LGBT community continues to face a patchwork of evolving state laws which require more careful planning and greater consideration of different legal and life scenarios. It makes sense for same-sex couples to begin thinking today about how this new "planning landscape" may affect them individually. Now more than ever, it's important to have these conversations with a team of professional advisors who are well-versed in the matters unique to same-sex couples.

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Steven Lerman is one of the first financial advisors in the nation to earn this accreditation to better serve his LGBT clients in the Coachella Valley. Steven directly provides ongoing guidance to affluent clients on retirement, investment and income planning strategies. For tax and legal matters, Steven works directly with his clients' own tax and legal professionals, as Wells Fargo Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice.



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Pride party

Entertain weekend guests with these tasty, easy-to-make recipes

BY BRYAN VAN GORDER

WE CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER way to celebrate Pride than to gather our friends before (or after) the parade and fuel them up with an amazing meal. To help us plan this year's menu, we asked some of our favorite local chefs and restaurateurs to offer up a delightful, easy-to-prepare dish (or, in one case, libation) sure to get our Pride plans off to the perfect start.



ROASTED BEET + QUINOA SALAD, WILD ARUGULA, LOCAL CITRUS, RICOTTA SALATA

RECIPE FROM WORKSHOP KITCHEN + BAR | CHEF/OWNER MICHAEL BECKMAN | SERVES 8

- 4 golden beets
- 4 red beets
- 1/2 lb. quinoa
- 2 lbs. wild arugula
- 2 lemons
- 1 ruby grapefruit
- 1 bunch of Italian parsley
- 4 oz. ricotta salata
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

► Rinse the beets clean, wrap individually in foil and bake for 60 minutes or until tender when pierced with knife. For a short cut on these at home, Trader Joe's carries some decent freshly

cooked beets. Allow to cool, and peel back the skins under running water or with a clean kitchen towel — beware of beet stains. When cooled, slice in half once, then slice in thin, even, medium segments.

► Simmer on medium heat the quinoa — 2 parts water to 1 part quinoa with a pinch of salt — until the little tails come out and are tender. Transfer to a sheet tray and allow to cool.

► We're going to make supremes with the fresh grapefruit and lemons. Cut off a thin layer from the top and bottom of each, then slice the peel away along

the sides, so we're left with just the "meat." Slicing from the outer part moving toward the center, between each segment, remove just the "meat" of each segment, leaving the fibrous part behind. Do this over a bowl so you don't lose any of that great juice. As you finish each lemon or grapefruit, squeeze the remaining juice and reserve. It's OK to mix the juices.

► Rinse dry and finely chop the parsley. Take a peeler and start peeling away shavings of the ricotta salata and reserve.

► All of this can be done up to 24 hours in advance. When ready to

assemble, toss the beets, quinoa, wild arugula, citrus supremes, parsley, salt and black pepper to taste in a mixing bowl. To taste, add 1 part of the citrus juice you reserved to 2 parts extra virgin olive oil. Present in your favorite bowls and top with the ricotta salata. ||

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FRENCH BAKED EGGS WITH PANCETTA, GRUYERE AND CHIVES

RECIPE FROM CRAVE | OWNER DAVY AKER | SERVES 6

- 12 large eggs
 - 3 tbsp. of butter, divided
 - 6 tbsp. of heavy cream
 - 9 oz. Gruyere cheese, grated
 - 12 oz. pancetta, baked crisp and crumbled
 - 6 tsp. chopped fresh chives
- Gray sea salt and freshly ground pepper

► Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place 6 mini cast iron skillets or gratin dishes on a baking sheet. Place the butter and 1 tablespoon of heavy cream in each dish. Put them in the oven until the butter is melted and bubbly. Remove from the oven and carefully crack two

eggs into each dish — make sure not to break the yolks. Top with the grated Gruyere cheese, salt and pepper. Place back in the oven and bake until egg whites are firm, yolks are soft, and the cheese is golden — roughly 8 to 9 minutes. Sprinkle the top with crumbled pancetta and fresh chopped chives. Serve with a warm baguette. ■

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»Continued on PAGE 50

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PRIDE PARTY

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RECIPE FROM CHEEKY'S
CHEF/OWNER TARA LAZAR
SERVES 6

TOMATILLO SAUCE

- 2 lbs. tomatillos, peeled and halved
- 2 large yellow onions, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 2 tbsp. salt
- Pinch of black pepper
- 1/2 cup of water

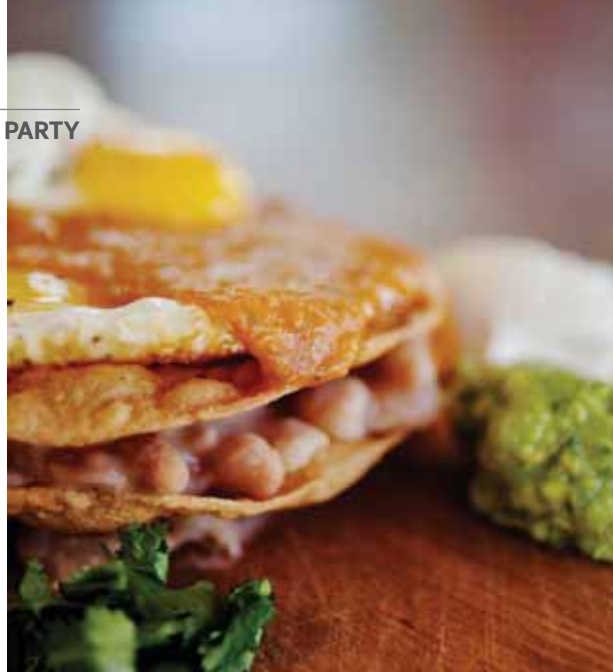
► Place peeled tomatillo, onion, cilantro, garlic and water in a large pot to cook. Let simmer for 20 to 25 minutes until all tomatillos have broken down, stirring occasionally if needed to shift the uncooked tomatillo down to the bottom.

► Carefully take the hot tomatillo sauce and puree in a blender in batches until smooth. Add salt and pepper, adjust to taste.

TORTILLA CHIPS

- 20 corn tortillas (approx.)
- 1 cup corn oil

► Cut corn tortillas into wedges or strips at least 1 inch but not over 2 inches. Fry in oil and dry on paper



towel. Alternatively, you can bake the tortilla chips with a light coating of oil on a baking sheet and cook at 350 degrees until brown, about 10-12 minutes.

► Assemble or keep it separate.

► Mix the warm tomatillo sauce and the corn chips so the sauce starts to soften the chips. Add queso fresco, cilantro, avocado, red onion, green onion, sour cream, beans or our homemade chorizo (recipe follows).

HOMEMADE CHORIZO

- 1 1/2 cup pork shoulder, ground
- 5 dried New Mexico chiles, rehydrated and ground
- 1 tbsp. cayenne
- 2 tbsp. cumin
- 1 tbsp. white vinegar
- 1 tbsp. salt

► Soak chiles in 1 cup of water for 10 minutes or more. Add both the peppers and the liquid into a food processor to create a paste. Mix in cayenne, cumin, vinegar and salt into the chile paste. Mix the paste into the pork. Let sit for half an hour. (If desired, test a small piece of chorizo by cooking in a frying pan and, if necessary, adjusting for taste.

► To cook, fry the chorizo in a frying pan, breaking up the bits until it is crumbly. If you'd like to be indulgent, add the chorizo and the oil to the tomatillo sauce and combine with the chips. ||

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RECIPE FROM THE CRAZY COCONUT
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- 1.5 oz. Grey Goose vodka
- 1 oz. St. Germaine liqueur
- 1.5 oz. pineapple juice
- 2 oz. coconut water
- Splash of soda
- Orange wedge
- Lime wedge

► Pour all ingredients over

ice into a shaker. Squeeze in orange and lime wedges. Shake. Pour into a tumbler filled with ice. Garnish with an orange wedge. ||

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»Continued on PAGE 52



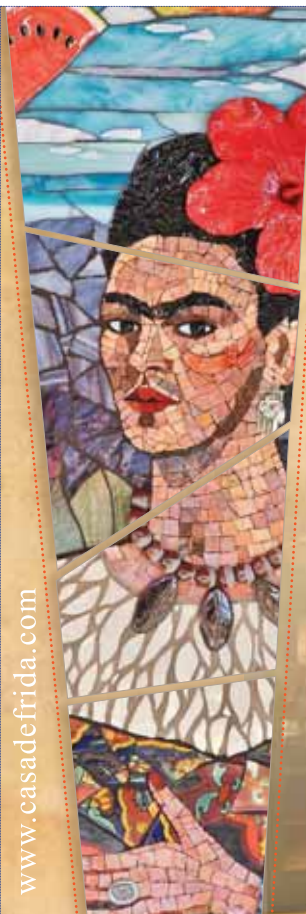
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RECIPE FROM TINTO | CHEF JOSE GARCES
EXCERPTED FROM "THE LATIN ROAD HOME"
(LAKE ISLE PRESS, 2012)
SERVES 8

- 1 large egg
- 1 tbsp. cold water
- 2 (12 by 12-inch) sheets frozen puff pastry
- 1/4 lb. guava paste (about 1/2 cup)
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 2 tbsp. Turbinado sugar

► Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Beat together the egg and water to make a wash.
► Unfold the puff pastry onto a large cutting board or other work surface and use a sharp knife or pizza cutter to cut each sheet into four 6- by 6-inch squares. Brush each square lightly with some of the egg wash. Spoon equal parts (about 1 tbsp. each) of guava paste and cream cheese onto the pastry squares, just off center. Fold each square



over corner to corner, forming a triangle, and seal by pressing the edges together. (If at any point the puff pastry gets too soft, put back into the freezer for 10 minutes.) Crimp the edges of the pastries with a fork; brush the tops with the remaining egg wash and sprinkle with the sugar. Arrange the pasteles on the baking sheets and chill them in the freezer for 30 minutes.

► While the pasteles are chilling, pre-heat the oven at 400° F.

► Bake the pasteles, rotating the sheets once, until golden and puffed, about 15 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. ||

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COACHELLA VALLEY**Cancer Society seeks LGBTs**

Coachella Valley residents will have five opportunities in November to participate in the American Cancer Society's nationwide Cancer Prevention Study-3. The goal of the long-term, generational study is to better understand the environmental, genetic and lifestyle factors that cause and prevent cancer.

Organizers would like to have 500 desert participants, a significant portion of which identify as LGBT.

"The LGBT community is hit hard by cancer, and we need to find out why," says Beckie Moore-Flati of the American Cancer Society in Riverside.

Gay men and lesbians who have never been diagnosed with cancer and are between the ages of 30 and 65 are asked to enroll in the study on one of the following dates:

■ **1-5 p.m. Nov. 12**

at Eisenhower Medical Center,
39000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage

■ **9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 15**

at Eisenhower Medical Center

■ **9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 16**

at Desert AIDS Project,
1695 N. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs

■ **11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Nov. 19**

at Desert Regional Medical Center,
1150 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

■ **9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 22**

at Desert Regional Medical Center

"All of us in the desert know someone who has been touched by cancer," says Russ Russell, volunteer chairman of the American Cancer Society's Desert Palms Leadership Council. "This is our chance to personally take action. And this is the easiest volunteer job you will ever have."

The study is a two-part process, completed in 45 to 60 minutes on a computer at home or elsewhere and another 30 minutes in person. Anyone interested in participating can sign up for an appointment at cps3palmsprings.org. For more info, call (888) 604-5888.

PALM SPRINGS**HRC celebrates progress**

Jim Burba and Bob Hayes will host the 14th Annual Human Rights Campaign Palm Springs Garden Party on Nov. 2 at their home, the former estate of renowned songwriter Johnny Mercer. Starting at 2 p.m., the party will feature a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and a hosted bar, and remarks from local and celebrity honorees. Tickets are \$75 for general admission and \$50 for Federal Club members. They're available at hrc.org/psgardenparty. The estate is at 282 W. Camino Carmelita, Palm Springs.

PALM SPRINGS**Gay congressman honored**

U.S. Rep. Mark Takano of Riverside, the first openly gay man of color elected to Congress, will be honored Oct. 12 with the leadership award at the annual Palm Springs Equality Awards.



Mark Takano

Hosted by actor Leslie Jordan, the Equality California event gets under way with a reception and silent auction at 6 p.m., and continues with dinner and award presentations at 7 p.m. at the Riviera Resort and Spa, 1600 N. Indian Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.

Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Palm Desert, will attend as a special guest, and singers Kimberly Caldwell and Bobbie Eakes will perform. Tickets are \$175-\$250 and available at eqca.org or (310) 266-0502.

PALM SPRINGS**Church marks 75 years**

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert, long considered to be one of Palm Springs' most welcoming churches for LGBT residents, celebrates 75 years of service on Oct. 12.

The kick-off dinner gets under way at 5 p.m. with a three-course buffet prepared by Sherman's Deli & Bakery and a cash bar at Temple Isaiah, 332 W. Alejo Road, Palm Springs. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. Info: stpaulsps.org

Transportation is available for those who need it by calling (760) 320-7488.

U.S.A.**Baptists restrict chaplains**

A Southern Baptist policy letter prohibits the denomination's military chaplains from performing many of their duties. The policy bars active-duty chaplains from participating in weddings, counseling sessions, and retreats for same-sex couples, according to the Associated Press.

The mandate follows the U.S. Department of Defense's recent recognition of same-sex marriage and extension of benefits to gay spouses.

Of the 2,884 active-duty military chaplains, 439 are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. About 268 of the 2,375 chaplains in the reserves are also affiliated.

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Ranz Wienert

From **Tropicale** to **The Copa Room**, he's expanding the desert nightlife menu

BY WILL DEAN
PHOTO BY LANI GARFIELD

WALK INTO THE TROPICALE RESTAURANT and Coral Seas Lounge in Palm Springs on any given night and you'll likely see a quietly intent, frequently smiling, handsome man working the room.

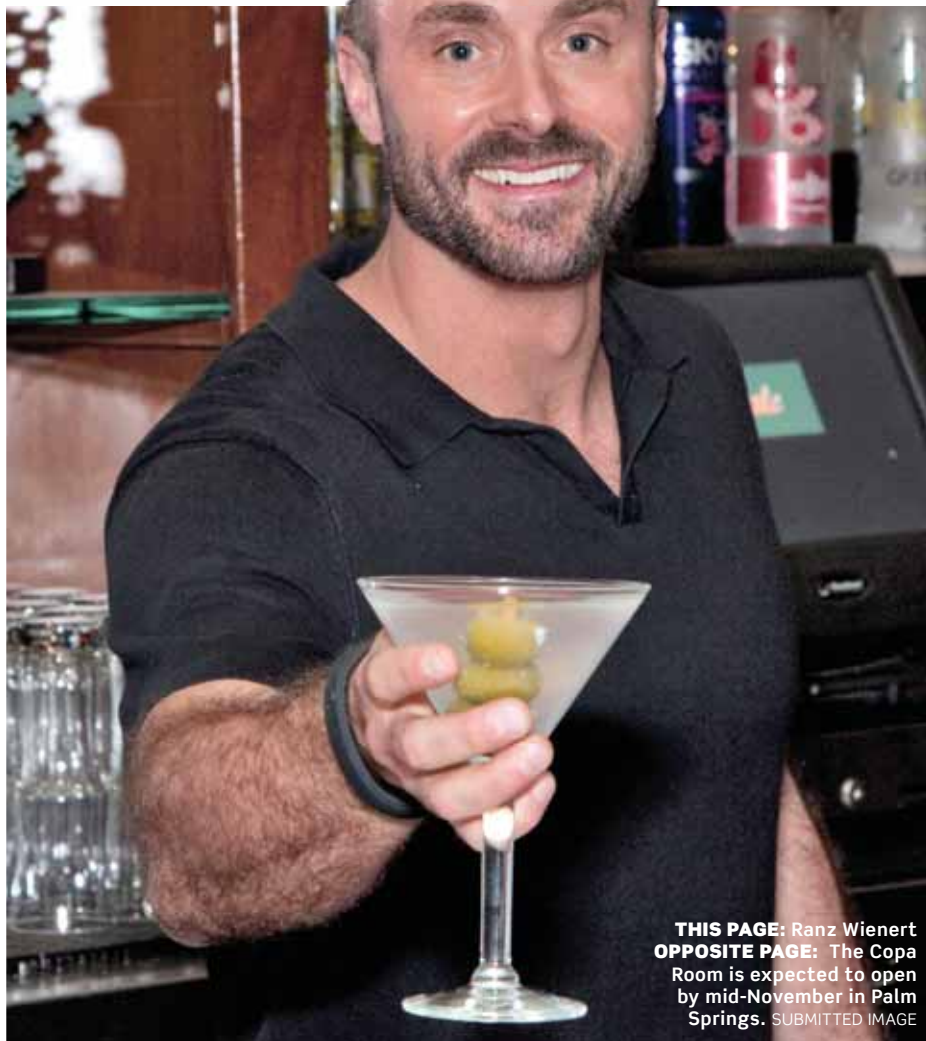
If he isn't behind the host station to greet patrons at the door, he's perusing the dining room or providing guidance behind the bar to ensure everyone's needs are satisfied. He's Ranz Wienert, the face of Tropicale, who just also happens to be the co-owner in charge of the floor and bar areas. He opened the restaurant six years ago with fellow owners Tony Di Lembo and Rob Kuenzi. Di Lembo is executive chef, while Kuenzi handles everyday maintenance and the design aesthetic.

With its Palm Springs sophistication and Miami vibe, the restaurant has come to symbolize for many a new direction in the desert city's nightlife. Its loyal customers are both gay and straight, residents and visitors, singles and families, and that's how the owners like it.

In a few weeks, the threesome plans to open next-door to Tropicale a new nightclub lounge that they hope will appeal to a broad swath of residents and visitors.

"We're shooting to open in late October, but realistically it's looking like mid-November," Wienert says.

Consisting of more than 4,000 square feet the public can access, The Copa Room was designed to complement the coral-hued restaurant's look. Its exterior will be green, with the business sign and interior space incorporating blue, red and purple. Once inside, customers shouldn't have any problem getting served or seeing a show. A huge U-shaped bar with about 50 stools and seven stations for bartenders will dominate the main room. At one end of the bar will be a stage with a DJ booth and a dance floor off to the



THIS PAGE: Ranz Wienert
OPPOSITE PAGE: The Copa Room is expected to open by mid-November in Palm Springs. SUBMITTED IMAGE

side. A VIP section known as the Green Room, where bottle service will be available, sits at the other end of the bar.

And there's an actual "green room" in the back, where singers, comedians and other entertainers can relax or get ready before they perform. The owners are courting acts from L.A. and locally.

There will also be tables and other seating in the main room and a patio area, perhaps in an effort to repeat the popularity of Tropicale's outdoor lounge under the olive trees.

Though food will not be prepared at The Copa Room, Wienert says it will be brought over from Tropicale. He expects there will be a great deal of a cross-promotion and traffic to and from the two businesses, but The Copa Room will be a decidedly different type of establishment.

"We have wanted to open a nightclub lounge for a long time," Wienert says. "We will put a heavy emphasis on the live music and the shows."

What a difference the years have made for Wienert, who recalls being "very scared" when he and the partners decided to open Tropicale. He had worked primarily in bartending and catering in L.A.—for Wolfgang Puck, Patina, Pete's Café & Bar, Atlas Supper Club, the Kodak Theatre — and was comfortable doing that. In fact, he worked long days as a bartender well into the year and a half it took to plan and construct the restaurant.

Though Wienert and his partners didn't build Tropicale from the ground up, it was a major overhaul to transform a shell of an auto body shop into a chic restaurant. At the time, what is now the lobby area didn't have a ceiling or roof over it and the back wall was largely an open space vehicles were driven through to be repaired.

"The three of us did everything ourselves — all the building, most of the painting, 100 percent of the bar construction," Wienert says.

Somewhat daunted by developing a business in a community where no one knew him and

PALM SPRINGS PERSONIFIED

his partners, Wienert forged on. He knew that he didn't want to work for anyone else. It's a sentiment he shared with Di Lembo after they met at World Gym and became life partners. The business partnership seemed a logical step, considering Di Lembo had also been in the restaurant business. The idea gelled when their friend Rob Kuenzi's architectural and design know-how was added to the mix.

"Tropicale is much bigger than we thought it would be," Wienert says. "We have overshot our expectations," he adds, citing the addition of high-top tables, a piano and the outdoor lounge to meet demand.

But there was a time when Wienert thought he might become a paving contractor like his father. His mother was a university professor and his stepfather a lawyer. Even after studying finance and marketing at UCLA, Wienert was unsure what life had in store for him. He ended up working in a cubicle for the Hard Rock brand, but realized after about a year that it wasn't for him.

What he knew for sure was that he had inherited his grandparents' love of travel. He set out for South America for a few

months with a boyfriend. The relationship ended along the way, but Wienert explored every South American country except French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname. He started backpacking in Santiago, Chile, taught a little English in Colombia, and fell in love with Brazil. About 18 months later, he was back in the states and seeking employment in the food and beverage industry.

A job with a friend at Morongo Casino Resort and Spa re-introduced him to the Coachella Valley, where he'd visited during college. To reduce the driving to and from L.A., he bought a condo in Palm Springs. It eventually became his primary residence, and he never really looked back. He estimates he's returned to L.A. four times in the eight years he's lived in the desert. With its warmth and acceptance, Palm Springs feels more like home.

Growing up in tiny Newport, Ore., Wienert knew he was gay from an early age. The first 18 years of his life were marred by intense



bullying in school. He recalls the worst of it occurred in the sixth grade, when he cried nearly every day.

"Luckily, I had pretty sisters and they stood up for me," he says. "It also helped I was a good athlete. I swam competitively. As I got older, [the bullying] got less and less."

Despite the bullying experience, or perhaps in part because of it, he's developed a deep sense of compassion for others. He recently forgave two of his former bullies who found him through Facebook and apologized, he says.

He's now focused on the present and open to what's next. He plans to continue at Tropicale, get The Copa Room established, and hopefully someday open another restaurant in Palm Springs.

"We'd love to do something in the [re-imagined] fashion mall," he says. ■

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Out of the KING'S CLOSET

STORY AND PHOTOS BY J. EVERETTE PERRY

WHEN CONSIDERING FASHION PURCHASES THIS FALL, incorporate a bit of royal fantasy. Imagine you're a member of a modern-day king's court at the Palace of Versailles in France. The look is regal and flirty with individual flair — but not too flashy — as seen at the fashion shows in Paris and New York.

Classic patterns and stately designs, discreetly twisted with gender-reversing details such as fitted graphic trousers, bellowing scoop necks and peplum sweaters, went prancing down runways for fall. The collections mixed the sophisticated and flamboyant by disguising strong visuals with layering techniques and monochromatic colors.

Jil Sander and Stella McCartney revolutionized jackets in houndstooth, pinstripes and other classic prints with subtle touches, such as oversized buttons and denim on denim inlay. Rebels like Rag and Bone distinguished themselves with laser-printed denim and handspun silky pima long sleeves.



However, the prize for the must-have item of the season goes to the timeless and versatile leather ankle boots. They polish up an outfit without being polished themselves; in fact the more lived-in they look, the better.

Designers from Phillip Lim to Ralph Lauren pronounced winter white (an all-white outfit) as another must-have look for the season, conjuring a “matchy matchy” monochromatic vibe that could work with any color. Everything doesn't have to be black and white. Allow jewel tones to seep into your fall wardrobe — sapphire blue or emerald green are the “in” colors and there's a hue of both to match every skin tone. Remember, whether royal in blue or classic in black, the understated is always the statement.

THIS PAGE, TOP:

MONOCHROMATIC LOOK

- Galliano deconstructed jacket
- Blue long-sleeved Burberry shirt
- ASOS print jeans

BOTTOM:

YSL scoop neck

Paris chez Gropy med.



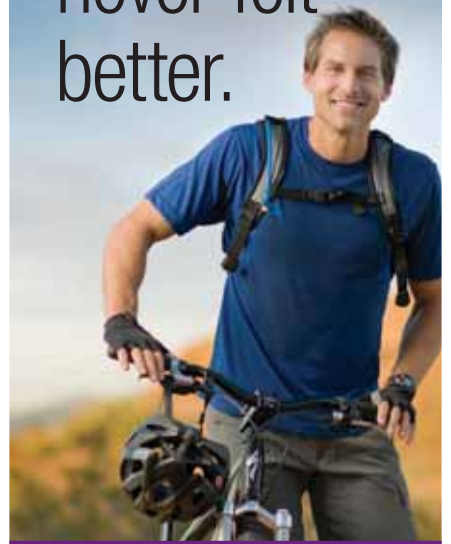
LEFT:
 Yves Saint Laurent
 cashmere peplum
 sweater
ABOVE:
 Lips & Teeth Tank top by
 Palm Springs designer
 AnthonyCioffiDesign.com
BELOW:
 ■ H&M shirts

■ Zara pants
 ■ Boots by Bunker &
 AllSaints
LOCATION: Chateau de
 Versailles, France
MODELS: Valentino Moro
 (curtsey) & Gael Pendola
 (lip shirt)



» Continued on PAGE 60

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HOT COLORS:

- Emerald green
- Sapphire blue
- Arctic white
- Slate grey

FALL 2013 FASHION WEEK TIPS:

- Invest in a unique jacket
- Matchy-matchy monochromatic outfits are hot
- One stellar all-white outfit
- Leather ankle boots
- Lightweight long-sleeved shirts
- Strong graphic T-shirts for layering
- Oversized buttons
- Scoop necks
- Peplum "skirt" trend
- Denim on denim
- Tight black jeans
- Classic patterns

LEFT

- Zara black leather pants
- Nine Way long-sleeved T-shirt

RIGHT

Boots, from left to right, AllSaints & Bunker

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When Mr. May falls for Mr. December

Gay couples with a significant age gap can thrive

YOUNGER/OLDER COUPLES IN GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITIES have a long, rich, and romantic history. The bond between two individuals whose ages differ by at least 10 years is referred to as an intergenerational relationship. Some describe this sort of affair as a May-December romance, because one individual is at the spring of his life and the other has begun to receive winter's light dusting of snow.

Though these partnerships are not unique to homosexual couples, they represent a profound pattern in traditional gay and lesbian mating styles. If an individual is primarily sexually attracted to partners of a particular

age range, the sexual orientation is referred to as *chronophilia*.

WHY THE AGE GAP?

There are a variety of reasons people might date outside of their generational cohort. While there are people who enter these relationships for a mix of love and lust, there are also those who enter these unions for practical motives such as financial stability, social connections, and professional guidance. One common theme is that of a mentor and mentee, as in the relationship of American anthropologists Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead. Though there was a 25-year age



**WINSTON WILDE
& NINA RUEDAS**

gap, Benedict was able to evolve her relationship with Mead from professor to lover, then lifelong colleague.

Other intergenerational relationships are actively pursued for erotic qualities.

American playwright Tennessee Williams had an active sex life with his younger partner, Frank Merlo. According to legend, Merlo was once asked by Jack Warner (of Warner Brothers), "And what do you do?" Merlo responded, "I sleep with Mr. Williams." When author Rita Mae Brown brought home to mother her new lover, tennis star Martina Navratilova, Mae's mother said, "Honey, have a child, don't marry one."

HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF COMPLEMENTARY COUPLES

A beautiful quality of intergenerational

couples is that the partners can complement each other, rather than be a source of competition. British-American writer Christopher Isherwood and native Californian painter Don Bachardy had a 33-year relationship despite their 31-year age difference. Bachardy once explained that what made their relationship work was an absence of competition. It was assumed that the older Isherwood had the money, the connections, the entree to social circles, and it was Bachardy who kept Isherwood happy and out of depression.

Although American poet Walt Whitman may have been a role model and educator to his companion, Peter Doyle, Doyle was able to contribute to the relationship by introducing Whitman to the newer generation's gay culture in New York City. Their 28-year age difference didn't interfere with their ability to instantly fall in love.

Junior partners can also be a wonderful source of rejuvenated energy for senior partners, as with American poet Sara Teasdale and American writer Margaret Conklin. The shy and introverted Teasdale was originally

known for her tragic love poems; however, her poetry took a positive shift upon meeting Conklin. Throughout their relationship, the two found ways to love and care for each other despite a 19-year age difference.

CURRENT TIMES

Intergenerational love continues to play an active role in the queer relationship scene. Prime examples of today's well-known intergenerational couples include TV host Ellen DeGeneres and her wife of five years, actress Portia de Rossi (15-year gap); singer Elton John and filmmaker David Furnish (15-year gap); and Episcopal priest Malcolm Boyd and writer Mark Thompson (30-year gap). Social organizations, like Prime Timers Worldwide, exist to serve older gay men and their admirers. Dating and hook-up websites are also available to pair older and younger companions. Popular sites among gay men in Palm Springs tend to be DaddyHunt.com and SilverDaddies.com, which provides a "meeting place for mature men and other men (both daddies and younger), who are interested in keeping their daddy happy

and/or sexually satisfied." Similar sites, usually more focused on relationships and establishing love, also exist for lesbians like LesbianCougarDating.com.

SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Love doesn't have to look any one particular way. Don't give in to social pressures and question your intergenerational love based on cultural standards that portray age-gap romances as taboo. Documented examples of intergenerational queer couples go as far back as Socrates and his pupil, Alcibiades. Give yourself permission to love and remember that there are several perks to participating in an intergenerational relationship. Accept yourself and your attractions. Remember, while 18 is the minimum age in California, there is no maximum. ||

Winston Wilde (Marriage & Family Therapist, MFC39060) Nina Grace Ruedas (Marriage & Family Therapist Registered Intern, IMF67572) Desert Center for Sexuality Awareness (760) 773-3463 desertsexcenter.com

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A league of our own

BY MATTHEW LINK



TOP: Starting with four teams and about 30 players, the Palm Springs Gay Softball League now boasts 15 teams with nearly 200 players. **ABOVE:** A player with the Palm Springs Gay Softball League gets in position. Many women are a part of the league, which recently welcomed its first all-female team. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

WHEN THE RIGHT-WING WALL STREET JOURNAL wanted to highlight the alleged lesbianism of President Obama’s Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan, all they had to do was splash their front page with an old photo of her playing one sport in particular: softball.

“It’s clearly an allusion to her being gay. It’s just too easy a punch line,” says Cathy Renna, a former spokeswoman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

But head down to Demuth Park at 3 p.m. on any given Sunday this autumn when the Palm Springs Gay Softball League is playing, and the sport’s dirty little secret quickly reveals itself: It’s not the cliché of fields of lesbians. In fact, the majority of players on the softball teams are usually men. Another secret? A lot of those men are straight.

The fact that heterosexual men are all over a thing that has “Gay” emblazoned on it is a testament to LGBT softball’s respected reputation in the sports world. Because if anyone knows about sports being played well, it’s straight men for sure. We are so good they are now proud to be included on a gay team — to the point where gay men and lesbians (perhaps remembering the sissy or tomboy labels hurled at them by straights in school) can even feel outnumbered.

In 2010, three bisexual men sued the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (the organization founded in 1977 to oversee LGBT softball leagues) when their gay softball team made it to the finals of the Gay Softball World Series — but these three team members were disqualified for being “non-gay.” The players (all men of color) were allegedly told by the alliance: “This is the Gay World Series, not the Bisexual World Series.”

If that wasn’t a strange enough twist on sexual orientation in the sporting world, it was the National Center for Lesbian Rights that represented the men in their successful lawsuit. In 2011, the alliance clarified its policy to include bisexual and transgender players — and now the meshing of the gay/straight/bi team members seems to actually be a plus. In fact, there’s a “gay softball team” in San Francisco made up of 11 straight men and four gay. The team’s queer pitcher is filming a documentary about the healing social bonding he’s experienced between gay men and straight men thanks to — you guessed it — softball.

Places like San Francisco have enjoyed a huge head start in establishing a gay softball culture. That city was one of the first to have a gay league, and the San Francisco Badland team won the very first Gay Softball World Series in 1977. In contrast, Palm

Springs got in late to the game: The local gay softball league only recently formed in 2005, thanks to the efforts of its founding fathers Tommie Douglas and Jim Hurst. The Palm Springs Gay Softball League launched with just four teams and about 50 players, but has mushroomed at warp speed into its current 15 teams with nearly 200 players — both male and female, and gay and straight (and whatever).

“There was a lot of discussion recently about implementing strict limits on the number of straight players,” says Vicky Harrison, board member with the Palm Springs Gay Softball League. “But we decided inclusivity was best as well as the community outreach and education element. For instance, on my team we have two straight guys who, if not necessarily homophobic initially, were at least somewhat uncomfortable, and are now honorary gays. I think that’s a very important aspect.”

Harrison says although the league is roughly 80 percent male, it has its first all-female team this year. “Since we have divisions and even teams within divisions that are stronger or weaker, I don’t think gender is a big issue in

terms of inexperienced players. There are probably more guys new to the sport than girls.” The average age of the league’s players reflects the demographics of the community — some in their 60s, many in their 50s, as well as some younger. The league takes anyone who wants to play regardless of experience or skill level (“A” being the strongest, “D” being more beginner), and no one is turned away. The LGBT Community Center of the Desert recently started its own softball team, Desert Heat, and joined the gay league.

“About five years ago, I moved to Palm Springs from L.A. where I had played on women’s softball teams,” Harrison says. “I had stopped playing coed because guys can bring way too much testosterone and ego on to the field and I couldn’t deal with it any more. I don’t know if gay guys are different, but I haven’t seen much if any of that in our league.” What Harrison hears again and again echoed in the league is the genuine use of the word family. “It’s a place where we can totally be ourselves with no fear or shame or embarrassment. And more than any other league or team I’ve played with, we really hang out with each other. We barbecue

and drink beer at the fields after our games, while watching our other teams play and cheering them on. We really are all family and it’s been terrific.”

Perhaps it’s this true camaraderie that comes with a small town that has helped propel the Palm Springs Gay Softball League forward during its short lifespan. Just this last August, little Palm Springs elbowed its way alongside much bigger cities into the 2013 Gay Softball World Series in Washington, D.C. The local Hunter’s Rounders 2.0 team qualified as one of just nine teams to make it all the way to the top-tier division playoffs (the first time the Palm Springs league has done so). Alas, the Houston Force team won the World Series title. But no other city our size has made it so far so fast in the world of gay softball. No wonder straights want to join our team — so to speak.

Stepping back and taking a bird’s-eye view of the enormity of how LGBT softball has developed, Palm Springs’ recent World Series feat is even more astounding. Across the United States and Canada, more than 800 gay

»Continued on PAGE 66

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»Continued from PAGE 65

softball teams in 45 leagues are now members of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. Even with the global popularity of soccer (better known to the world as “football”), the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association numbers just over 80 teams, a mere tenth of the number of gay softball teams now in existence.

Even with its surprisingly large gay male following, the sport of softball is still a favorite with lesbians. After all, it was women who squarely put the sport on the map. (And that’s

not including Ms. Kagan’s involvement.)

The first women’s softball world championships were in 1965 — before a men’s championship even existed. Softball was invented in 1887 in Chicago — about 50 years after baseball as we know it took hold in America. Softball was meant to be a lesser game played indoors. It was tagged with names like “kitten ball,” “ladies’ baseball,” “lemon ball,” “mush ball,” “pumpkin ball,” and other demeaning diminutives. It was one of the few sports at the time that were “appropriate” for women to play. The softball was then almost six inches bigger than a baseball, the gloves were oversized, the pitching mound about 15 feet closer to the batter, and the innings only seven instead of baseball’s nine (most of which still holds true today). But the main difference between baseball and softball is that the pitcher throws the softball in a more ladylike underhand fashion (lest the spectators catch glimpse of unshaven lady armpits, one guesses).

But unlike soccer, which can never seem to move past its elementary school roots in the U.S., softball has in the 21st century matured

into a respected and serious sport. In 1996, women’s softball was even selected to be included in the Summer Olympics.

But what really sets gay softball apart from any other sport is, well, that gay pizzazz. Our women don’t duck and cover when a ball flies at their head — they catch it without breaking a nail, or a sweat. Our men are not afraid to dress up as psycho cheerleaders and scream at their fellow players from the sidelines. When Palm Springs hosts the West Coast’s only C and D division softball tournament this Thanksgiving weekend, it’s been named (what else?) The Turkey Shootout. Visiting players will be put up in the rainbow-colored Saguaro hotel, where the gourmet tapas never end. Our LGBT sports aren’t there to make a profit, but to raise funds for AIDS charities.

Above all, queer style means we know how to name our softball teams — you think a straight team could conjure up The Sin City Strippers, The L.A. Dirtbags, The Long Beach Queen Marys, or The Phoenix Grizzlies of OZ? C’mon. There’s a reason we LGBTers were put here on Earth.

For more about the league, go to psgsl.org. ||

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The Desert Rose Playhouse presents this gay mystery set in Los Angeles and the New Orleans French Quarter. Tickets: \$25-\$28. The theater is at The Commissary, 69620 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage. Info: (760) 202-3000, DesertRosePlayhouse.org

SLUMBER PARTY

OCT. 4-5 (7 P.M. FRIDAY TO 11:30 A.M. SATURDAY)

The third annual Sleep in for the Cure, a breast cancer-awareness benefit for the Susan G. Komen Inland Empire, is a two-day party consisting of Frenchy's Slumber Party/Sleepover and Pink Ladies Fashion Show, including a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres. Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa, 44400 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells. Tickets: \$40-\$100. Info: (760) 424-8701 or KomenIE.org



**TRAM ROAD WARM-UP
OCT. 5 (7 A.M.)**

Get ready for the Tram Road Challenge 6K on Oct. 26 at this free warm-up event in La Quinta brought to you by the Boys & Girls Club. Subsequent walks are planned for 7 a.m. Oct. 12 in Cathedral City and 9 a.m. Oct. 20 in Palm Springs. For the full schedule and route information, go to MakeADifferenceDay.MyDesert.com/event-schedule

'FUNK, RHYTHM & SOUL'

OCT. 5 (7 P.M.)

Celebrate the release of Gina Carey's "Funk Rhythm & Soul" CD at this party at Woody's Burgers, 317 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. Info: (760) 230-0188

COMEDIAN DANIEL TOSH

OCT. 5 (8 P.M.)

The funny man performs at The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. Tickets: \$65-\$75. Info: (760) 321-2000, HotWaterCasino.com/theshow

JOEY ENGLISH PERFORMS

OCT. 6 (2-5 P.M.)

The JazzTime Band will perform with guest singer Joey English at Vicky's of Santa Fe, 45100 Club Drive, Indian Wells. Admission: \$10. Info: (760) 345-9770, VickysOfSantaFe.com

DESIGN WITH FLOWERS

OCT. 9 (5:30 P.M.)

Learn to Create Artistic Designs, a lecture on how to get creative using indigenous desert flora and found objects that highlight the beauty of the local area, will be presented at The Living Desert, 47900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Free admission. Info: (760) 320-3252, deserthorticulturalsociety.org

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DATEBOOK

CALENDAR

PATH TO HAPPINESS

OCT. 10 (7-8:30 P.M.)

"Clearing the Path to Happiness," a lecture and meditation session, will take place at the Dharmachakra Buddhist Center, 1445 N. Sunrise Way, #104, Palm Springs. Admission: \$10. Info: (800) 988-3396 or MeditationInPalmSprings.org

MODERNISM WEEK KICK-OFF

OCT. 11-14 (VARIOUS TIMES)

Check out the desert's midcentury modern architecture during weekend tours, parties and other events during this fall season Palm Springs Modernism Week kick-off at various Palm Springs area venues. Prices vary. Tickets and info: (760) 537-0455, modernismweek.com

CHILI COOK-OFF

OCT. 11-13 (11 A.M. - 6 P.M.)

The 47th Annual World's Championship Chili Cook-off features vendors, food trucks and live music at the Spa Resort Casino, 401 E. Amado Road, Palm Springs. Tickets are available online at WorldsChampionshipChili.com. Other info: (888) 999-1995

THE MUSIC OF SCHUBERT

OCT. 12 (7 P.M.)

The Steinway Society of Riverside County and Coachella Valley Repertory present "Schubertiade," a celebration of the music of Franz Schubert, at The Atrium, 69930 Highway 111, Suite 116, Rancho Mirage. Tickets: \$25. Info: (760) 296-2966, CVRep.org

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SHERYL CROW IN CONCERT

OCT. 12 (8 P.M.)

Sheryl Crow, who skyrocketed to fame as a singer/songwriter with "All I Wanna Do," performs at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio. Tickets: \$49-\$99. Info: (800) 827-2946, FantasySpringsResort.com

EQUALITY AWARDS

OCT. 12 (6 P.M.)

Kimberly Caldwell and Bobbie Eakes perform during the annual Palm Springs Equality Awards, honoring U.S. Rep. Mark Takano of Riverside, at the Riviera Resort and Spa, 1600 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. Tickets: \$175-\$250. Info: (310) 266-0502, eqca.org

ANGEL PROGRAM PARTY

OCT. 13 (6-8 P.M.)

The Jeannette Rockefeller Angel Program Kickoff Party with Maxine Nightingale benefits the AIDS Assistance Program. While no admission fee is required, attendance implies an intention to participate in the Angel Program. RSVP is required. It takes place at a Las Palmas estate in Palm Springs. For details: (760) 325-8481, aidsassistance.org

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'THE WOLF MAN'

OCT. 16 (7:30 P.M.)

Classic Horror Nights features the 1941 film, "The Wolf Man," at Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Road, Palm Springs. Tickets: \$7-\$9. Info: (760) 325-6565, CamelotTheatres.com

MOVING ON

OCT. 17 (7-8:30 P.M.)

"Forgiving and Forgetting," a lecture and meditation session, will take place at the Dharmachakra Buddhist Center, 1445 N. Sunrise Way, #104, Palm Springs. Admission: \$10. Info: (800) 988-3396, MeditationInPalmSprings.org

JUDY BLUME & THE CARPENTERS

OCT. 18-20 (8 P.M. FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2 P.M. SUNDAY)

"Are You There God? It's Me, Karen Carpenter" is a musical that's been described as a mash-up of Judy Blume's classic book "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" and the music of The Carpenters. Margaret grows up, singing "Close to You," "We've Only Just Begun" and other classic pop tunes, in this show at Palm Canyon Theatre, 538 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. Tickets: \$25. Info: (760) 323-5123, PalmCanyonTheatre.org

HYPNOSIS GONE AMOK

OCT. 18-26 (7 P.M. FRIDAYS & SATURDAY)

A trip to the theater changes a meek bank clerk's life as he undergoes hypnosis and leaves without being woken up in "Will Any Gentleman?", a production of College of the Desert at Theatre Too, 43500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert. Tickets: \$13-\$15. Info: (760) 773-2565, TicketLeap.com



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DATEBOOK

CALENDAR

ANCIENT LIFE

OCT. 18 (7 P.M.)

A lecture titled "Paleontology of the Pinto Basin of Joshua Tree National Park" takes place at Black Rock Canyon Campground Visitor Center, 9800 Black Rock Canyon, Yucca Valley. Free admission. Info: (760) 367-5535, JoshuaTree.org

OKTOBERFEST PALM SPRINGS

OCT. 19 (NOON - 6 P.M.)

Celebrate Oktoberfest with food, beer, wine and live entertainment at Spa Resort Casino, 401 E. Amado Road, Palm Springs. Attendees must be 21 and older. Admission: \$15-\$20. Info: (888) 999-1995, OktoberfestPalmSprings.com



En Vogue

WOMEN OF SOUL

OCT. 19 (8 P.M.)

This concert features popular R&B female singers of the past, such as En Vogue, LISA LISA, Evelyn "Champagne" King and JoJo at Spotlight 29 Casino, 46200 Harrison Place, Coachella. Tickets: \$25-\$45. Info: (760) 775-5566, Spotlight29.com

'GERSHWIN AND FRIENDS'

OCT. 20 (3 P.M.)

George Gershwin was one of the most prolific and popular American composers of all time, spanning classical and pop genres. Hear his story and his music performed by Jeffrey Siegel at the McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring, Palm Desert. Presented by the theater and College of the Desert, tickets are \$5-\$15. Info: (760) 340-2787, McCallumTheatre.com

'PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'

OCT. 23 (7:30 P.M.)

Classic Horror Nights features the 1943 film, "The Phantom of the Opera," at Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Road, Palm Springs. Tickets: \$7-\$9. Info: (760) 325-6565, CamelotTheatres.com

MEDITATING ON DESIRE

OCT. 24 (7-8:30 P.M.)

The Dharmachakra Buddhist Center presents a lecture and meditation, "Putting Desire to Good Use," at 1445 N. Sunrise Way, #104, Palm Springs. Admission: \$10. Info: (800) 988-3396, MeditationInPalmSprings.org

'PATRIOT RIDE'

OCT. 25-26 (NOON-8 P.M. FRIDAY, 6 A.M. - 5 P.M. SATURDAY)

This Tour de Palm Springs event, "Patriot Ride of Our Heroes," is a charity bicycle ride and expo benefiting local fire, police and military services. Participants can ride from 5 to 100 miles or walk 2.5 to 5 miles. It starts at the La Quinta Community Center Park, 77865 Avenida Montezuma, La Quinta. Admission: \$10-\$65. Info: (760) 674-4700, PatriotRideForOurHeroes.com



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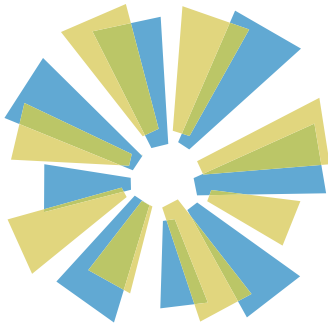
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'FRIDA: THE MUSICAL'**OCT. 25 (8 P.M.)**

Performed entirely in Spanish with a cast of 30 actors, this biographical musical hones in on the life of painter Frida Kahlo at the McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring, Palm Desert. Tickets: \$29-\$79. Info: (760) 340-2787, McCallumTheatre.com

COMEDIAN LEWIS BLACK**OCT. 25 (9 P.M.)**

The author, playwright and comedian takes The Show stage at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. Tickets: \$50-\$100. Info: (760) 321-2000, HotWaterCasino.com/theshow

CASUAL CONCOURS V**OCT. 26 (10 A.M. - 3 P.M.)**

Great Autos of Yesteryear returns with a charitable car show and other events benefiting Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter. It takes place at Desert Princess Country Club, 28555 Landau Blvd., Cathedral City. Admission: \$10. Info: (310) 694-8452, GreatAutos.org

TRAM ROAD CHALLENGE**OCT. 26 (7 A.M.)**

Runners and walkers from around the world will climb 2,000 vertical feet spanning just over 3.7 miles in this annual 6K race. All finishers receive a customized medal. The starting point is the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at 1 Tramway Road, Palm Springs. Entry fees: \$35-\$40. Breakfast and T-shirt included. Register at kleinclarksports.com.

CABARET & BROADWAY**OCT. 27 (2:30 P.M.)**

Sing along during Jim Borax's California Cabaret & Broadway performance at Temple Isaiah, 332 W. Alejo Road, Palm Springs. Tickets: \$30. Info: (760) 844-7305, CaliforniaCabaret.com

COMEDIAN WANDA SYKES**NOV. 1 (9 P.M.)**

The openly gay actress brings her stand-up comedy act to The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. Tickets: \$35-\$65. Info: (760) 321-2000, HotWaterCasino.com/theshow

ITALIAN FESTIVAL**NOV. 2-3 (11 A.M. - 5 P.M. SATURDAY, 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. SUNDAY)**

Partake of Italian food, music, entertainment, wine, raffles, contests, vendors and a family fun zone at Desert Arc's third annual Italian Festival, Whitewater Park, 71560 San Jacinto Drive, Rancho Mirage. General admission: \$5. Free admission for children under the age of 10.

HRC GARDEN PARTY**NOV. 2 (2-5 P.M.)**

The 14th annual event features hors d'oeuvres and a hosted bar, as well as celebrity and local speeches. Tickets: \$75 for general admission, \$50 for Federal Club members. It takes place at the former Johnny Mercer Estate, 282 Camino Carmelita, Palm Springs. Info: (760) 333-7845, HRC.org/psgardenparty

THE MOODY BLUES**NOV. 2 (8 P.M.)**

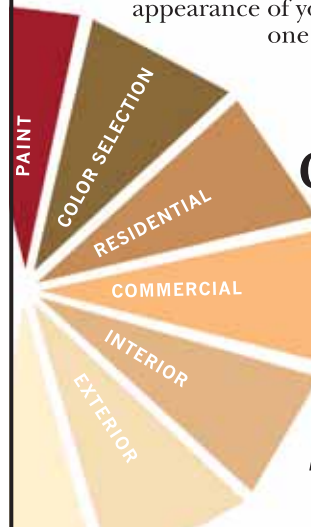
The English rock band performs in concert at The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. Tickets: \$55-\$100. Info: (760) 321-2000, HotWaterCasino.com/theshow

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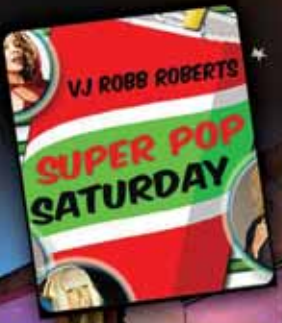
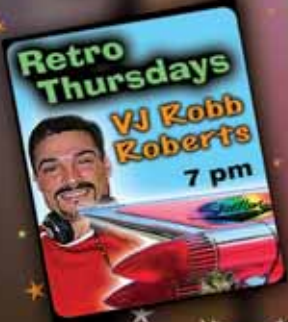
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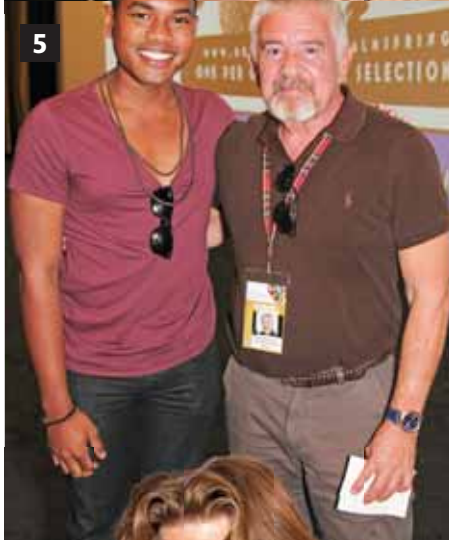
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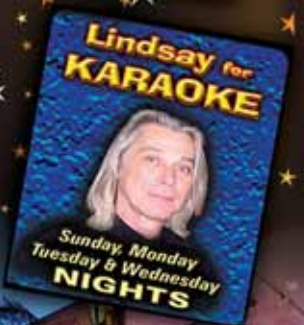
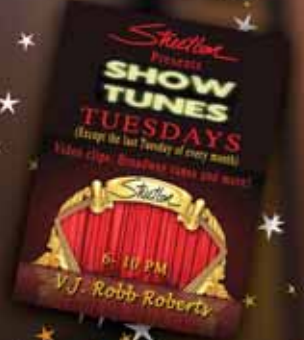
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It's quite possible you know Mapa as one of Hollywood's openly gay (still rare) entertainers. In 2008, he married his partner, Jamison Hebert. Two years later, they adopted a son.

This month, Mapa will bring his standup comedy skills and support for the LGBT community to Palm Springs. He will emcee

the Center Stage gala, The LGBT Community Center of The Desert's biggest annual benefit. Located at 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, The Center is the only LGBT community center serving the Coachella Valley.

Center Stage recognizes individuals and organizations whose efforts make a difference in the lives of LGBT people. This year's honorees are **Martin Massiello**, Eisenhower Medical Center's executive vice president and chief operating officer, and **Willie Rhine** and his partner, **Albert Gonzalez**, both of LULU California Bistro. Massiello will receive the Humanitarian of the Year Award. Rhine and Gonzalez are recipients of the Community Volunteers of the Year Award.

Singer Frenchie Davis of Broadway, "The Voice" and "American Idol" will provide the evening's entertainment.

The benefit gets under way at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Palm Springs Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs. Tickets are \$85 for The Center members, \$100 for nonmembers, and are available at thecenterps.org.

Staff Report. Submitted photo.



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