

Coronation XLI GAME OF THORNES themed June 15-19

It will be 54 whirlwind weeks since the XL Empress of the Silver Dollar Court was crowned to lead the fund raising efforts and be the face of the oldest GLBT organization in the State of Nevada. The thrill ride experience will come to an end the week of June 14-19, as Empress Hope Jewel Halston ends her year long reign at Coronation XLI in the Convention

Center at Harrah's Reno Hotel/Casino theme GAME OF THRONES - A NIGHT IN QUEEN'S LANDING. "It is all about having fun and raising money for those in need," Empress Hope said. "At Investitures, last July, those in attendance selected the charities for the reign. They were Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation and Nevada Youth Em-

powerment Program (NYEP)."

Fund raising has been very successful for the Silver Dollar Court this year. Hosting events like *Hookers on 4th*, *Bingos*, *Selling Valentine's at the bars*, *Summers End BBQ and Ducal Ball - Winter is Coming*. The court also has its annual events: *The Annual AIDS Benefit*, *The All Community Christmas Food Drive*, *Closet Ball*, *The Monarch's Show and Bingo*. Funds will be distributed to the two charities at end of the year disbursement after Coronation expenses have all been settled.

The Court, as most people know the organization locally, is a 501c3 non-profit locally operated social and philanthropic group affiliated with the International Court System founded by Empress I Jose Sarria, The Widow Norton. The Empress Jose last visited the Biggest Little City in June 2006 before her death in Au-



Empress XL Hope Jewel Halston

gust 2013. The Court System started in San Francisco in 1965 as a way to bring all segments of the GLBTQA community together to have fun, meet people and raise funds for those in need.

Reno's court, was once the only court in Nevada until 1998 when its daughter, the Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire (Las Vegas) was created, has raised over \$2 million dollars during its 40-year history for various charities. The Court also created "Gay" Rodeo in 1976 at the Washoe County Fairgrounds as a fundraiser for Senior Citizens Thanksgiving meals.

Coronation concludes with the announcement of the newly elected Emperor and Empress who will take

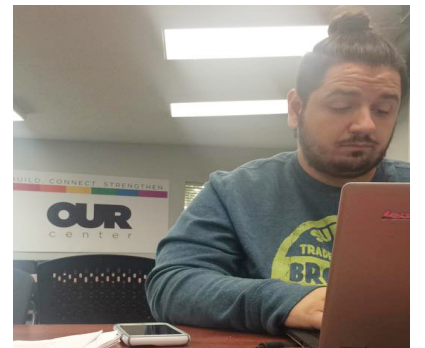
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From zero to... OUR Center Activity Ladden

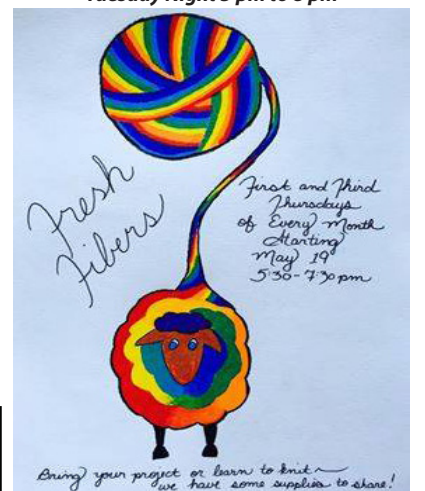
"I am grateful every day..." Meredith Tanzer said in a Facebook posting expressing her feelings about OUR Center, the just a six week old GLBTQA Community Center in western Nevada. "And it would not have really happened without our past board members, but especially Todd Eikelberger and Jeromy Manke."

That is just the tip of the iceberg as in its first month nearly 500 people have "dropped" by the center to get a look at what is available to the

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Holler at a Scholar during the school year Tuesday Night 5 pm to 8 pm



Fresh Fibers twice a month the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month 5:30 - 7:30 pm



First Homeowner Q and A at the Center for those possibly buying a home

First Sisterly grants awarded

Reno's Biggest Little Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, The House of Charity, handed out their first "Sisterly" Community Grant Awards at the Patio on May 29 to five grassroots non-profit organizations.

The Sisters raise funds all year placing them in their grant fund. Non-profits can apply for a grant from the Sisters in May. The process is simple, fill out the application and write a 1 to 3 page letter telling the Sisters how the money will be spent to further the cause of the organization's mission statement. All funds the Sisters grant must remain in northern Nevada.

In their first year eight organizations applied for the Community grant. A committee of Sisters made the final decision on awardees based on the letters submitted with their grant application.

Sister PaPa Bubble, current president and founding Abbess of the House, presented the awards totaling \$1,750 to: Northern Nevada Pride; Camp TLC Nevada, Inc.; Disability Resources; A male chorus and Nevada LGBT Archives. All recipients were present and thanked the Sisters for what the grant would do for their organization.

Northern Nevada Pride will be using their grant funds to put on the all-volunteer community pride event, which is self-funding. This is the first grant they received. Camp TLC Nevada is a 20-year-old organization that brings kids with disabilities the opportunity to be like other kids and attend camp in the summer. Funds will be used to allow those less fortunate to attend. Disability Resources helps those citizens with disabilities to achieve a better life. The chorus is planning to use the grant funds to purchase polo shirts with their logo embroidered on them for better visibility in the community. Nevada LGBT Archives is a new organization dedicated to preserving the GLBT

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National Park Service Heritage Initiative

Reno has potential National GLBT Landmark



The Stonewall Inn in New York City is on the National Register of Historical Places

Stonewall Inn, the site of the infamous Stonewall Riots in June 1969, credited as the birthplace of the modern GLBTQ civil rights movement, was recently designated a Place of National Historical significance and made a National Landmark through the National Parks Services Heritage Initiative. The Initiative was designed to locate places of national historical significance for the underserved communities like African-American, Latin, GLBT and other minorities in an effort to represent the history of all Americans. The process began in June 2014 designed to take about 18

months.

Nevada has a place of national historical importance to the GLBT community. The Livestock Events Center (formerly The Washoe County Fairgrounds) the site of the first ever in the world Gay Rodeo on October 1976. The Silver Dollar Court created the event through its Emperor and Empress, Phil Ragsdale and Keith Ann. I. It was Ragsdale's idea as a different kind of fundraiser. The rodeo created the first GLBT Rodeo Association, the Comstock Gay Rodeo Association, which produced the event from 1977 to 1984, at its height



The logo of the Comstock Gay Rodeo Association depicted a broken down horse which came from the stock the Silver Dollar Court could obtain for the first rodeo in 1976.



The site of the National Reno Gay Rodeo held at the fair grounds on North Wells Ave.

more than 10,000 people attended the Reno National Gay Rodeo. With the end of the Reno Gay Rodeo, the IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association) was created in 1985. Today IGRA hosts 10 rodeos and World Finals through its 19 Associations. The site current is non on any register.

Through the Heritage initiative, which is a cloud-sourced project, scholars, experts and citizens are brought together to compile a list of potential places with a historic GLBT

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They were called The Drag Olympics, but this year it shall be **Drag Wars** on Friday night July 22 before Northern Nevada Pride the following day.

The Wars, feature drag queens and drag kings, campy or serious, in a series of activities that have those in attendance laughing as the competition heats up. Ultimately the goal is the claim the title as Drag War King of Drag War Queen.

Details of this year's event are still being worked out according to event coordinators Meredith Tanzer and Jillian Helget.

In 2015, the event was hosted by Pop FM's AJ, Sean Savoy, Auntie Drag and Nicole LaDream. Contestants included Lola Von Tess, Lily Montessor, Enya Schwartz, Anya Neeze, Xavier Saxxx, Tay Keeyla Chaser, Pittstophor, Mo Saxton, Jerome, Elysia A and Jeorne in-the-house-better-watch-your-mouth.

June 10, 2016
 Reno, Nevada
 Peavine Mountain Media
 The local GLBT news and information source for northern Nevada and the eastern Sierra



therenogaypage is published as a community service by Peavine Mountain Media, a division of Qmunity, a State of Nevada Domestic Non-profit organization. Issues of the newspaper are published on an irregular basis depending on the activity in the GLBTQA community and the need to disseminate information. **therenogaypage** can be reached at renogaypage@gmail.com.

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THEY'RE COMING BACK!



OUR Center active place



P-FLAG Reno/Sparks Chapter now meets monthly at the Center

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GLBT community and over a dozen groups, meetings and activities are making OUR Center a busy bustling place.

One would think the center would be working out all the kinks many newly created ventures face, but NOT OUR Center. It is the local GLBT Community Center working full steam ahead creating programs and events for the community. At the Center you can find:

- H.O.M.I.E.S.
- Fresh Fibers
- Out and Sober
- P-Flag Reno/Sparks
- Senior Coffee, Conversation
- Saturday Yoga
- Safe Zone Workshop
- League of Gender Inclusive Citizens
- LoLReno Potluck

- Movie Night
 - Lesbian Literature and History Discussion Group
 - Coloring and Conversation
 - Big Beautiful and Broke Clothing Swap
 - R.I.S.E Free Market
 - GBLQA Teen drop in area
- All Center programs are free or very low cost.

All these programs have sprung up since the center opened. A calendar of activities and Center events has been published and is available at the Center or online on their website (ourcenterreno.org) and Facebook (OUR Center) page according to Ms. Tanzer, who is the Center's Program administrator at present, as the Center grows rapidly to meet a missing need in the western Nevada GLBTQA com-



Movie Night at the Center the first Friday of each month at 7 pm

munity.

"So many of you know in Reno we opened an LGBTQ center," Ms. Tanzer said in the Facebook posting. "We are ALL volunteers. It was a monumental effort and the hours contributed by many people could not be counted... One of the groups we've been running for 3 weeks with increased attendance every week caught the attention on an LGBTQ advocate in Ohio! They are going to try and replicate our group for the benefit of their community. It makes me so happy."

Ms. Tanzer said the inquiry came from a small town in Ohio asking about the *Out and Sober* AA group the Center was hosting. They told Ms. Tanzer they felt the program OUR Center operated would be of great benefit to their

community. This shows the power of social media, which is one of the

main forms of information dissemination for OUR Center.



Lesbian literature and history discussion group

Reno's historic place

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significance. The Park Service is planning to release its GLBT theme study report, possibly this month, which will include a list of potential places meeting criteria which makes them of importance to the GLBT community discovered and researched in the theme studies that were commissioned.

The Park Service's GLBT Heritage Initiative website (www.nps.gov/heritageinitiatives/LGBThistory/places.htm) lists known sites of important but not necessary nominated to be landmarks or on the national register. There is a process to complete in order for that to happen. The list does not include locales from the theme studies.

It was reported on the queerestplaces blog in June of 2014 by Paul Martin, who attended a meeting in Washington DC on the GLBT Heritage Initiative that "Two immediate goals of the LGBT initiative over the next 18 months are to increase the number of LGBT site listings on the National Register of Historic Places and to nominate sites for the more rigorous National Historic Landmarks program, or to amend current designations.

The confab of scholars was a call to all of us to dig in and contribute. LGBT people don't just live in New York City and San Francisco - we are, literally, everywhere and always have been. The NPS is looking for public input and comments on the initiative, which you can give by heading over to the dedicated website for this project or emailing lgbthistory@nps.gov." The Park Service closed public comment on June 9, 2016.

According to Megan Springate, Prime Consultant on the GLBT Heritage Initiative for the National Park Service, the process for nominating a locale comes from the community and is handled

through State Offices of Preservation and The National Park Service.

"The Theme study is designed to give people and idea of what's out there for possible nominations and give them a chance to nominate locales that might not have been included in the summary," Ms. Springate told [therenogaypage](#) in an email.

When the study is released there is a section on Reno authored by local scholar of note Jeff Auer, who with his husband, Nicholas Martin-Kearney, founded the Nevada LGBT Archives. Auer is just one of a group of people who prepared theme studies on various locales across the country where potentially there are places of GLBT historical interest.

"We hope that communities across the country find the theme study a useful tool for them to find, research, and nominate properties important to their communities!" Ms. Springate told [therenogaypage](#).

To be on the National Registry of Historical Places or a National Landmark, a place needs to have a significance nationally not just locally, if it is a local historical place it could be on the State Landmarks or Historical Places list.

Places currently listed on the crowd sourced map of the National Park Service in Nevada are the Washoe County Fairgrounds (for the Gay Rodeo), Stockmen's Arena in Fallon (site of the court battle in 1988 that cancelled the IGRA Finals Rodeo as Reno attempted to bring back Gay Rodeo), Rhyolite, NV (last site of three sites Fred Shoemaker tried to establish his gay community project Stonewall Park and Aid for AIDS community clinic in Las Vegas, started in 1990 to assist those who were infected and provide care.

Is Reno the Queerest Little City in the World, find out June 29

The Queerest Little City in the World is the topic of local GLBT scholar Jeff Auer's theme study done for the National Parks Service heritage initiative segment on the gay community. On Wednesday June 29 at independent bookstore Sundance Books (121 California Avenue, Reno) Auer will talk about historical points of interest in the Biggest Little City starting at 6:30 pm.

Auer's piece of the theme study concentrates on western Nevada locales deemed to have historical significance to the GLBT community. His study which will be included in a yet to be released Heritage Initiative, will provide a list of potential places for local State Preservation offices and the National Park Service to potentially look at as historic sites.

Auer's lecture is open to the public and free of charge.

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history in the Silver State before it fades away as those who fought the battles (early 20th century to 1993) are fading in numbers.

This was the first grant awarding done by the Sisters. According to Sister PaPa, they had no idea what to expect from the application process. The local House was extremely pleased by the result..

The Sisters also held a fundraiser recently at Carl's and raised \$300 for AIDS Lifecyclist Cary Yamamoto who will make the San Francisco to Los Angeles ride, June 5-11. During the Red Ribbon campaign the Sisters sold ribbons with the proceeds going to The Silver Dollar Court's annual AIDS Benefit



The All-Community Food Drive annual feeds 70+ families by the Court from page 1

over the duties of fundraising and being the face of the organization, in and out of town, This year there is a single candidate for Emperor XLI, David White.

The Board of Trustees, the organization's governing body, is also elected in June with the winners announced at Victory Brunch. Candidates for the Board of Trustees are: Steve Daugherty aka Glammer, Robert "Bubbles" Douglas, Cody Koch aka Hope Jewel Halston and James Timmons aka Savannah Jewel Halston.

Candidates for Emperor and for the Board are running on a Yes/No vote. Voting has a new location at OUR Center (1745 So. Wells Ave.) June 14 from 11 am to 7 pm.

The schedule of Events for Coronation Week is:

- Tuesday June 14
- Voting Day 11am-7pm
- OUR Center

Reno Coronation

Wednesday June 15
In Town BBQ and Awards
The Patio 6 pm

Thursday June 16
The Fireball Party
Cadillac Lounge 10pm

Friday, June 17
Hospitality 1pm to 4 pm
Harrah's Hobby Horse Room

Out-Of-Town Show \$10
Harrah's Convention Center
8pm

San Francisco Party
Carls The Saloon immediately
after the Out of town Show

Saturday June 18
Hospitality 11 am to 3 pm
Harrah's Hobby Horse Room
Protocol Noon to 2 pm

Coronation Ball XLI \$40
Harrah's Convention Center
door 5pm Ball 5:59 pm

Victory Party
5 Star Saloon Wristband
required obtained at Coronation

Sunday, June 19
Victory Brunch \$30
Bill Harrah Room Harrah's
10:30 am

Las Vegas DamWater Party
The Patio immediately
following Victory Brunch

Events not indicated with a ticket price are free. All events the public is invited to attend. Coronation is the largest fundraiser for the year of the organization.

Sisterly grants

Nevada H.O.P.E.S.. The Easter eggs benefit the Grant Fund. The group also hosts Sisterly Bingo. Gong Karaoke, and their newest event, the Red Dress Ball.

Next up for the Reno Sisters will be attending the Silver Dollar Court's Coronation June 18. Their next fundraiser will be the Pride Brunch, an official event for Northern Nevada Pride on Sunday July 24 at 11am being served at the Patio (must be 21+ to attend). Brunch is \$10 and will benefit the Sisters General and Grant Funds.

The annual meeting of the organizations is schedule for June 22 at OUR Center (1745 So Wells) starting at 6 pm