

# Reno loses its Grand Dame

There were shock waves created not by an earthquake or tsunami but by the passing of another Reno LGBT icon, The Empress Jack-E (Jack Beelinger) on May 8.

Tributes began to appear all over Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and alike. It caught so many friends and acquaintances off-guard.

Jack-E, his drag persona, came to Reno in a show called Frisco Follies - Grand Illusion, at Harrah's, in the late 1970's. The late Empress II Rusty (Richard Wells) got her involved in the young Reno Court and convinced him to go to Fresno with her.

That trip started her in instilling community and charity into everyone she would meet. She was a force to be reckoned with. For Jack-E, drag became about entertaining and helping those in need.

Jack-E also met her future significant other on that trip to Fresno, Larry Mastropiero.

Jack-E was first elected Empress of the then Comstock Empire, Silver Dollar Court in 1980. In 1985, She and her partner Larry Mastropiero were elected the tenth Empress and Empress. In 1990 she was elected Empress XV. Jack made history, when she along with four others and her husband, were elected the XXXVII reign in 2012. Jack-E was the Queen Mother of Nevada as proclaimed by the Queen Mother of the Americas Nicole the Great. She had been an Heir Apparent under Empress

Jose, the widow Norton, who founded and created the International Court System.

Jack-E could raise funds for charity. He established the annual AIDS Benefit Gala in 1990. He produced the annual Closet Ball, where one goes from the sex they were born to the opposite sex in just one hour.

Jack-E produced many shows which raised money. If there was a need, Jack was the one you went to for guidance and help to make the event successful.

If you had \$50 in your pocket at one of her fund raisers she would always figure a way to make sure when you left that pocket was empty. Jack was a major contributor to the Silver Dollar Court having helped raise over \$2 million for local charities prior to her passing, one dollar at a time.

Jack-E was born in the Philadelphia area. She called Reno home for over 45 years. Jack-E was 79 at the time of her passing born on October 19, 1943.

Jack-E was well known and well respected on the Court circuit, an organization of some 70 local chapters, who raise funds for various charities. She and her husband created the Edwards-Mastropiero Clan. Joan-E and Mike Murrell of Vancouver, Buster Box of Edmonton, Stephanie Fox of Portland, Dennis Sutton of Reno and Dixon Chang of Los Angeles are Edwards-Mastropiero sons and daughters.

Jack-E was a sought after Mistress of Ceremonies at Coronations across the United States. Portland was an event she never tried to miss. Only once in recent years did she due to illness.

Jack-E was involved in an auto accident in November 2022 and was moving about with a walker at home or a wheelchair when out and about. Her last public appearance was at Closet Ball the end of March.

A Grand Fund Raiser is being planned in Portland, Oregon on October 6 by the Edwards-Mastropiero children.

Reno is planning a final tribute and fund raiser in August.

With both events still in planning stages, details will be available soon.



Nevada's only four time elected Empress, Jack-E

## Reno sets Coronation XLVIII

The Silver Dollar Court Inc. Nevada oldest LGBT philanthropic and social organization is looking to crown its XLVIII Head of State at its annual Coronation Ball June 7-11.

Empress Shania Taint was elected the 47th Empress of the organization to lead its fund raising activities and represent Reno out of town in June 2022 at what was billed Coronation XLVI and should have been XLVII.

During the year she has traveled far and wide representing the Court of Nevada, except the counties of Lincoln, Nye and Clark, and the Eastern Sierra Territories. She has been raising funds for the two chosen charities for this year, OUR Center and ACCEPT.

Her reign comes to an end with gala weekend of activities honoring her accomplishments during the year and passing the torch to continuing the tra-

dition to the XLVIII reign.

Celebration events begin with the In-town Awards, BBQ and Show on Wednesday, June 7 at Carls the Saloon. BBQ starts at 6:30 and is free.

Thursday is the Monarch's Reception at OUR Center starting a 6 pm. This event is free.

Friday sees the Out of Town Show at the 5 Star Saloon. Tickets are \$20. Door is at 8 pm. Immediately following is the annual San Francisco Party at Carls.

Saturday is the Big Event, Coronation XLVIII at Virginia Street Brewhouse starting at 5:59 pm. Tickets are \$45.

Sunday sees Victory Brunch at the Virginia Street Brewhouse with a buffet brunch. Tickets are \$35. Door is 11 am.

The final event is the Las Vegas Dam Water Party at Carls immediately following Brunch.

## Drag Queen Story Time set for 2023



Ginger Devine reads at Drag Queen Story Time

Drag Queen Story Hour made quite a bit of local news in late February when the Washoe County Board of Commissioners heard 2 1/2 hours of public comment against the event hosted by the Washoe County Library System. The Library will host three sessions this year beginning with one June 15 at the downtown library from 10 am to 2 pm.

Locally, the attack on the female impersonator entertainers has been from the Nevada Patriots group headed by Washoe County Republican Chair Bruce Parks. Those at the Commission meeting waving American flags were older. A group known for continuing the practice of hate, because they are not well informed. and is a group where hate lives.

The Reno Gazette Journal described a drag queen as men dressed in exaggerated stereotypical feminine clothes and make-up. Local drag queens have expressed concern over the description as they simply are entertainers creating an illusion.

Besides the June 15 Story Time, the library will host a second one June 17 at the North Valleys Library and July 15 at the Sparks Library.

Adults are not allowed unless accompanied by a child. No child can attend alone. Library staff is present at the event where an entertainer simply reads to children.

## From one Pride in 1997 to 7 in 2023

Today, Northern Nevada has seven different and unique celebrations of Pride, stretching from Reno to Gerlach, East to Winnemucca and Elko, south to Carson City and up to Lake Tahoe.

Many say Pride Month is June and that is only because of the Stonewall riots in 1969 creating the need for the LGBTQ community to be more visible. Pride isn't a month, it is celebrated every single day.

Gerlach, a rural town in northern Washoe County of 23 residents, 100+ miles from Reno, hosted its second annual event this past May 20. Lake Tahoe Pride is more of a social group with activities. This year at South Lake Tahoe there is a rainbow crosswalk and several events are planned. Those events can be found on their Facebook page.

The local Grand Daddy of Pride celebrations is Northern Nevada Pride Festival and Community Pride Parade in Reno. July 22 is the date for this year's



The South Lake Tahoe, CA Pride crosswalk

event in Downtown Reno and Wingfield Park along the Truckee River. This is the major fund raiser for the local LGBTQ Community Center, OUR Center.

Northern Nevada Pride starts off with a parade down historic Virginia Street (Reno's Main Street) and winds its way over to Wingfield Park in the heart of the Truckee River for six hours of rainbow celebration.

Pride is a celebration for all to come and just be themselves.

Sassabration is Carson City's Pride event held at the Sassafras Restaurant on Old Carson Springs Rd. This years event is set for September 16.

## What does the word Coronation mean?

Coronation means the crowning or ascension of a person to a throne as in crowning a King/Queen or Emperor/Empress.

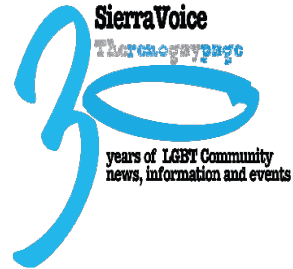
The Silver Dollar Court (SDC) will be possibly crowning its XLVIII elected monarch on Saturday June 10, So it is Coronation

XLVIII.

It is being called Coronation XLVII which was in 2022 when the present reigning Empress was crown. The past two years, the Silver Dollar Court has been off a year. That was caused by the pandemic when no Corona-

tion XLV was held.

The change throws off the established history as the SDC, which will celebrate the start of its 50th year in 2025 when it should be the crowning its 50th reign.



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