

# connections

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE

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SEPTEMBER 2003

## **Mission Statement:**

*The Central California Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting positive change, equal rights, social and networking opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people through programs of community service and philanthropy.*

## **Purpose & Objectives:**

- To provide quality social events and educational activities for the lesbian/gay community and to promote the positive images and aspects of lesbian/gay culture throughout Central California.
- To provide a resourceful arena for professional and business networking within the lesbian/gay community.
- To provide and promote programs for community education, for all persons of Central California, which will project positive, healthy and inclusive images of lesbian and gay life.
- To provide a forum for social and political advocacy which shall assure full civil rights, access and equal opportunity.



Central California Alliance  
1 9 9 3 - 2 0 0 3  
Celebrating 10 Years of Pride & Service  
[www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)

## CCA SPONSORS REEL PRIDE!



### **“Laughing Matters”**

**Wednesday September 17 | 8:00 PM  
Fresno REEL Pride International  
Gay & Lesbian Film Festival  
Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts**

For the eighth consecutive year, the Central California Alliance is sponsoring Fresno REEL Pride's Opening Night screening at the International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

This year's selection, "Laughing Matters," is a touching documentary celebrating four courageous lesbian comics, all talented women who have made seriously funny contributions to modern culture.

Kate Clinton, Marga Gomez, Karen Williams and Suzanne Westenhoefer have followed their hearts as performers, forging a path for other queer comedians.

Directors by Andrea Meyerson and Nancy Rosenblum show a behind view of the stage, offering rare glimpses of the personalities, revealing why each woman chose to come out on stage, telling hilarious stories and interesting facts about what it was like to declare her homosexuality before it was fashionable to do so.

They also discuss their upbringing, struggles, and triumphs as openly lesbian entertainers— stories equally deserving of the spotlight.

"Laughing Matters" shares performance footage with unique access to the women and their private thoughts. An expected sell-out, it is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance. For details, call 488-6562 or online @ [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com).

### **OCTOBERFEST**

**CCA'S ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISER!  
Filled with  
Mystery & Horror!  
Saturday, October 18**

CCA presents its annual fundraiser, "OCTOBERFEST- Filled with Mystery and Horror."

An Oktoberfest and Halloween theme will greet guests to a buffet from Hewitts Catering, as well as fun gambling tables. Enjoy the music of "Blackberry Jam," an opportunity drawing and a disc jockey for dancing.

Proceeds benefit CCA's Awards programs such as Fresno REEL Pride, AIDS Programs at Saint Agnes, GSA Network, California Transplant Donor Network, PFLAG and Roosevelt School of the Arts.

Tickets are now on sale. Order online today @ [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org). Call 265-7117 for details.

**About CCA:**

Founded in 1993, the Central California Alliance [CCA] is a Fresno-based community-service organization supported through membership dues, as well as fundraising events. CCA is registered as a 501[c]4 non-profit organization with the IRS.

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*Opinions expressed in "Connections" do not necessarily represent the views of CCA, its Board of Directors, nor its membership.*



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**CCA Welcomes New Board Member: John Hernandez**

New Board Member John Hernandez has been a retail banker for Bank of America for the

past 11 years. He acted as the President of BofA's Diversity Network for Team Bank of America for one year. John's also coordinated BofA's March of Dimes' fundraiser assisting in raising \$30,000 in 2001 and 2002.

A CCA member for one year, he's now working as a realtor at London Properties.

**CCA Still Accepting Board Nomination**

The Central California Alliance is still accepting applications to the Board of Directors. Currently, there is one position available. The only requirement to serve is to be a member in good standing.

If you or someone you know are interested in serving on the Board, please send an e-mail to: [CCAexecutive@yahoo.com](mailto:CCAexecutive@yahoo.com). Details: 265-7117 or online @ [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org).

**CCA Welcomes Five New Members:**

**Student**

New:

Mark Gresko

**Single**

New:

Dianne Baley

Bryan Diaz

**Household**

New:

Anonymous

**Become a Member today! Please see Page 5 of "Connections" for an application! | [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)**



**California Senate Approves Landmark G/L Bill**

The California Senate has passed a landmark bill that extends same-sex domestic partners registered in the state nearly all of the rights granted to married couples.

A version of the same bill already cleared the state Assembly, and Gov. Gray Davis has said he will sign it when it reaches his desk.

Once it becomes law, the bill, known as the Domestic Partners Responsibilities Act of 2003 [AB 205], will put California on par with Vermont as the two states that extend the most rights to same-sex couples. [Vermont established civil unions in 2000.]

According to Equality California, the new rights extended to same-sex couples include child custody and child and spousal support obligations, the right to make funeral arrangements, community property and mutual responsibility for debts.

## CCA BBQ & Swim Party!

The recent BBQ & Swim Party at the home of CCA Member Todd Wolfe was a success! Couples young and old, children, CCA members and guests enjoyed a lazy afternoon of fun in the sun.

Next up for CCA is the annual fundraiser on Saturday, October 18. Get your tickets now! Details: 265-7117 | [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)

[Photos by Ray Fagundes]



## “The Bridge Game”

**Friday, September 19  
Fresno REEL Pride  
Tower Theatre,  
4:30 PM**

CCA Member Rhonie Thompson and David Lowe of North By South Productions directed this film in 2002.

Every week for the past year, four women have been meeting to play bridge where a friend committed suicide.

In honorarium, the women ritualistically take turns venting their trouble before going to an afternoon to play cards.

On this rainy day, tensions rise and emotions flare as the friends discover that their weekly bonding ritual has taken a turn for the worse.

Details: 488-6562 or online @ [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com).



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## CCA Events & Meetings

### September:

- 8 - CCA Board Meeting
- 17 - Fresno REEL Pride: International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival  
Opening Night Screening  
"Laughing Matters"  
Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts  
*Opening Night Screening Sponsored by CCA for the 8th Consecutive Year!*  
Details: 488-6562, [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com)

### October:

- 6 - CCA Board Meeting
- 18 - OCTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER-- Filled with Mystery & Horror  
\$35 CCA Members, \$45 Non-Members  
Costumes optional  
Details: 265-7117, [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)

## Community Events

### September:

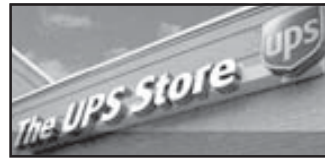
- 5-7 - IDC Kamp-Out: "Moonlight Holdaze"  
Texas Flats Campground  
Details: 251-9589 and 485-5576
- 12 - Fresno Filmworks:  
"Capturing the Freidmans"  
Tower Theatre  
Details: 485-9050,  
[www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org)
- 13 - IDC Ducal Ball: "For the Boys"  
Cynthia Merrill's Dance Studio  
Details: 251-9589 and 485-5576
- 17-21 Fresno REEL Pride: 14th Annual International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival  
Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts  
Details: 488-6562, [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com)

### October:

- 1 - Fresno REEL Pride:  
Awards Night Party  
Fresno Art Museum  
Details: 488-6562, [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com)
- 4 - Community Link: 2nd Annual Fall Garden Tea Tour  
Details: 266-LINK  
[www.communitylinkfresno.org](http://www.communitylinkfresno.org)
- 9 - National Coming Out Day  
United Student Pride at Fresno State  
[www.csufresno.edu/studentorgs/LGBSA](http://www.csufresno.edu/studentorgs/LGBSA)



Stay informed!  
Call **CCA's Hotline**  
for information:  
[559] 265-7117.  
[www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)



## UPS Allows SF Gay Worker's Transfer to Chicago

Within hours after being hit with a G/L discrimination lawsuit in California state court, United Parcel Service [UPS] has announced that a veteran employee will be allowed to transfer from San Francisco to Chicago in order to remain with his partner of 27 years.

Daniel Kline sued UPS with the aid of the Lambda Legal Defense, after being denied a transfer that is routinely granted to employees who must relocate with their spouse.

Kline's partner, Frank Sories, was reassigned to Chicago by United Airlines eight months ago, but UPS officials told Kline he did not qualify for the "Management Initiated Transfer Request" program that allows married staff to follow their husbands or wives to new cities.

Please see [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org) for further details and information.



## Gay couple wins \$1 Million on "Amazing Race"

Gay couple Reichen Lehmkuhl and Chip Arndt took home the \$1 million prize on CBS' "The Amazing Race," but they also shined the spotlight on another race—the civil rights battle for equality.

In the season finale, after hitting four continents and 24 cities and journeying 44,000 miles, the pair from Los Angeles, whom the show's producers referred to as "married," crossed the finish line first in Arizona.

Whether proving it to themselves or to the American public, the couple played up the fact that they didn't win because they were gay; but they took first place as they were serious and strong competitors.

The couple said that they plan to use their money and newfound fame to help enlighten people about the gay and lesbian community and to continue being positive role models for others.