

connections

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE

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NOVEMBER 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.

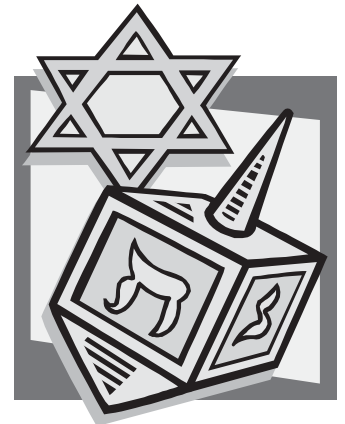
OKTOBERFEST PHOTOS!



Robin McGehee holds her son, Sebastian, who enjoys his first CCA event.



Bryan Clark and his partner, Brian Isbell flash smiles for the camera.



Oktoberfest Fundraiser Proves to be Festive and Fun!

Central California Alliance held its fundraiser, Oktoberfest last month which proved to be festive and fun for CCA members and guests.

Attendees enjoyed gaming tables, the music of "Blackberry Jam," dancing, silent action, as well as a buffet dinner by Hewitt's Catering.

This year's fundraising efforts will support Valley Public Television's "In the Life" programming and Fresno REEL Pride's International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

In the past decade, CCA members have donated more than \$50,000 to community non-profit projects. Supporting CCA directly support other organizations throughout Central California.

Holiday Party

**Saturday,
December 13th,
7-10 PM**

Join CCA members and friends at the annual Holiday Party to be held on Saturday, December 14th from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in the evening at the El Adobe Clubhouse in Fresno.

Please see the enclosed flyer for location and additional information.

Details also online @ www.ccafresno.org .



Central California Alliance
1 9 9 3 - 2 0 0 3
Celebrating 10 Years of Pride & Service
www.ccafresno.org

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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Photos from Oktoberfest!



Helen Garcia with her partner.



John Beacham and Dennis Potts pose for the camera.



Julie Porter, Barb Bray, Ellis Vance and Robin Greiner enjoy a good time.



"Blackberry Jam" entertains the crowd.

[Photographs by Ray Fugendes]



Lee Halkias [in disguise] and Brian Ross welcome guests to Oktoberfest.



Cheryl Mason and her partner, Jennifer Post pose with Cheryl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mason.



United Student Pride at Fresno State Sponsors Three Events for WORLD AIDS DAY


World AIDS Day, December 1st, is set aside to honor those who have died and those who battle with the HIV/AIDS every day.

Events at Fresno State, sponsored by United Student Pride, include a rally and candlelight vigil, as well as a public viewing of selected panels from The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a poignant memorial, a powerful tool for prevention education and the largest ongoing community arts project in the world. Each of the more than 44,000 colorful panels in the Quilt memorializes the life of a person lost to AIDS.

As the epidemic claims more lives, the Quilt continues to grow and to reach more communities with its messages of remembrance, awareness and hope.

Additional details on Page 4 of CONNECTIONS. Also, @ www.csufresno.edu/StudentOrgs/usp



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Celebrating 10 Years of Pride & Service
Sponsoring Fresno REEL Pride Since 1997

membership

pride
caring | unity
diversity | networking
equality | accessibility
education | opportunity
community | resources
friendship | service

Become a member!
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CCA Events & Meetings

December:

- 1 - CCA Board Meeting
- 1 - "In the Life"
Valley Public Television
KVPT Channel 18
Sponsored by CCA
- 13 - CCA HOLIDAY PARTY
Adobe Clubhouse, Fresno

January 2004:

- 5 - "In the Life"
Valley Public Television
KVPT Channel 18
Sponsored by CCA
- 6 - CCA Board Meeting
- 27 - CCA TALENT NIGHT
Roger Rocka's Music Hall
Tower District, Fresno

Community Events

November:

- 14 - Fresno Filmworks:
"Painted Fire"
Tower Theater
Details: 485-9050 or 221-0755
- 15 - IDC: Pre-Thanksgiving with Friends & Family, plus Golden Dove Awards
Las Palmas Hall, Fresno
Details: 222-9336/251-9589
- 21 - "It's a Queer Thang," 5-6 PM
with Jeff Robinson
KFCF 88.1 FM

December:

- 1 - USP: World AIDS Day
Rally, 10 AM-2 PM
Free Speech Area, Fresno State
- 2 - USP: World AIDS Day
Candelight Vigil, 6-9 PM
Peace Garden, Fresno State
- 3 - USP: World AIDS Day
Public viewing of panels from The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt,
9 AM - 9 PM
Satellite Student Union, Fresno State
- 19 - "It's a Queer Thang," 5-6 PM
with Jeff Robinson
KFCF 88.1 FM



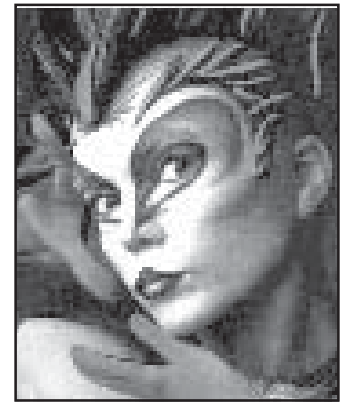
Robinson is first gay Episcopal bishop

The U.S. Episcopal Church took the historic step of consecrating the denomination's first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson, last month, prompting divisive reactions in many parts of the world.

Before a congregation of about 4,000 people standing in a University of New Hampshire sports arena, some 45 bishops laid their hands on Robinson, while the head of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Frank Griswold, prayed: "Father, make Gene a bishop in your church."

Robinson's partner of 15 years, Mark Andrew, also presented him with the traditional headdress of bishops, a gold miter.

Filled with emotion, Robinson told the New Hampshire congregation: "You cannot imagine what an honor it is for you to have called me."



Protests re: Cirque du Soleil for HIV bias

Organized protests at Cirque du Soleil shows are drawing attention to charges that the performance troupe discriminates against people with HIV.

The actions stem from a federal complaint filed in July of 2003 on behalf of Matthew Cusick, a gymnast who was fired from Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas-based show "Mystere" because he has HIV.

He was supposed to join the cast this past spring and Cirque du Soleil's doctors had cleared him to perform.

Additionally, several San Francisco groups will come together for a larger demonstration at "Alegria," Cirque du Soleil's touring production, on Saturday, November 20th.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC] is also investigating the Cusick complaint.



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