

# connections

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE

VOLUME 11 | ISSUE 7

MARCH 2004

## **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.*

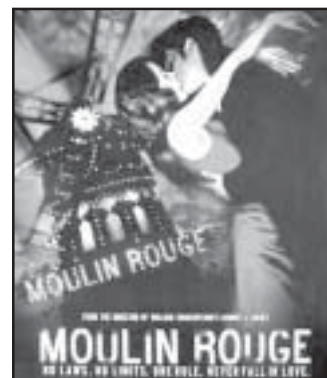
## **Purpose & Objectives:**

- 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.



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[www.ccaafresno.org](http://www.ccaafresno.org)

## "I DO'S" HEARD AROUND THE WORLD!



## Letter to the SF County Clerk

Nancy Alfaro  
San Francisco County Clerk

Dear Ms. Alfaro,

Upon taking the Oath of Office, becoming the **Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco**, I swore to uphold the Constitution of the State of California.

Article I, Section 7, subdivision [a] of the California Constitution provides that "[a] person may not be . . . **denied equal protection of the laws.**" The California courts have interpreted the equal protection clause of the California Constitution to apply to lesbians and gay men and have suggested that laws that treat homosexuals differently from heterosexuals are suspect. The California courts have also stated that discrimination against gay men and lesbians is invidious. The California courts have held that gender discrimination is suspect and invidious as well. The Supreme Courts in other states have held that equal protection provisions in their state constitutions prohibit discrimination against gay men and lesbians with respect to the rights and obligations flowing from marriage. It is my belief that these decisions are persuasive and that the California Constitution similarly prohibits such discrimination.

Pursuant to my sworn duty to uphold the California Constitution, including specifically its equal protection clause, **I request that you determine what changes should be made to the forms and documents used to apply for and issue marriage licenses in order to provide marriage licenses on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to gender or sexual orientation.**

Respectfully,

**Mayor Gavin Newsom**

## NEW DATE: Moulin Rouge Dance Party!

**Friday,  
April 2nd; 7 PM  
Jon Jon's, Fresno**

Join CCA and IDC members and friends for a fun-filled evening of entertainment.

Enjoy entertainment from Imperial Dove Court de Fresno's Empress 30 Heaven Nicole and Emperor 30 Johnny O, followed by dancing.

Please see more details inside. Get your tickets today!

**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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## Please Welcome New and Re-Newing Members of CCA

**Student**

Anonymous [2]

**Single**

Anonymous [3]

Alan Jacobson  
Laney Baltazar  
Lisa Amundsen  
Adrian Green

**Household**

Emily Burnias and Household  
Stephen Curtis and Scott Fusi

**President's Circle**

Cynthia Gonzalez

**CORRECTION**

Due to a typing error, "Jimmer" Helen James and Joy Lang were incorrectly listed in the February issue. Please accept my apologies.

*Ron Wilson, Membership Chair*

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## Reconciliation Weekend Celebration

**March 12-14, 2004**

**Wesley United Methodist Church, Fresno**

In 1984, Wesley United Methodist Church began welcoming and including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people into the life of the church. The Reconciliation Weekend Celebration marks the 20th anniversary of this milestone.

Information: 224-1947; online @ <http://wesleyfresno.org/>.

## "Footlight Frenzy"

**March 19-21 and 26-28, 2004**

**Roosevelt School of the Arts, Fresno**

**Directed by Fred Bologna**

In a desperate attempt to save their bankrupt School of Unusual Children, an inexperienced PTA mount an ambitious benefit play. The audience gets to watch the fun backstage!

Details: 253-5323/253-5285.

## GSA Network: "Expression, Not Suppression"

**March 20, 2004**

**PACE Academy, Manchester Mall, Fresno**

A conference for LGBTQI and Straight Ally youth. Details: 453-9040/229-7222.



## Same-Sex Marriage a Progressive Step

By Thomas Gaffery

Originally Published in "The Collegian" at Fresno State on February 2, 2004.

Article, graphic and photograph used by permission.

Special thanks to Thomas Gaffery [Columnist] and Wesley Tibbs [Opinion Editor].

My boyfriend and I sat down to enjoy dinner and watch President Bush's State of the Union Address. During the speech, we learned that Bush hates us because we are gay. Bush then indicated that he will fight to stop the movement for same-sex marriage and would like to be remembered in history as a president who recommended the Constitutional Amendment process as a way to limit the rights of Americans. Polls following the State of the Union Address show that a majority of Americans oppose amending the Constitution.

Bush's speech echoed the words of his right-wing Christian financiers and not the opinions of most Americans. Polls show that many Americans favor gay marriage. Bush speaks of the importance of protecting the religious "sanctity" of marriage—obviously only respecting the separation of church and state when it is convenient for his agenda.

Same-sex couples do not want a government-mandated religious marriage ceremony—we want the same legal protections as heterosexual married couples. Gay couples encounter difficulties in many everyday legal matters: hospital visitations, child custody and numerous other issues. The General Accounting Office reports more than 1,000 specific rights are denied to same-sex couples. Same-sex couples are denied basic rights such as filing a joint tax return and collecting social security survivor benefits. Same-sex couples may not apply for benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The actions of Bush and his cohorts do not only hurt gay couples, but also their families. The 2000 census data reports that more than one million children are being raised by same sex couples. Bush's actions hurt these children in numerous socioeconomic and psychological ways. Same-sex parents must fight numerous expensive legal hurdles

in order to obtain joint adoptions.

Unlike heterosexual parents, same-sex parents are compelled to carry numerous legal documents with them at all time to prove their adoptive status. The president has chosen to present same-sex couples in a negative light, while in the process, leaving children of same-sex couples caught in the middle of his tirade of hate.

These horrendous inequalities could change with the legalization of gay marriage.

Since marriage laws are not in place, basic rights are often arbitrarily disregarded by governmental institutions. Partners are often denied hospital visitation rights—a particularly cruel policy in a time of emotional distress.

Each year, numerous cases are reported of gross neglect by police officers in cases of same-sex domestic violence. Often, police officers make no arrest and contend the

incident was "mutual combat," in other situations. Both partners are arrested and then locked in the same holding cell where the physical and emotional abuse will continue unchecked while in police custody.

Canada and many European nations have already legalized same-sex marriage. Data collected from these nations disprove many of the accusations made by the radical right.

Legalizing same-sex marriage does not encourage homosexuality and does not lead to more homosexuals—it simply allows people to lead their lives as they see fit. America is the next frontier for the legalization of same-sex marriage. It is our civic duty to select and lobby politicians who will further extend the civil right of marriage to all Americans.



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## CCA Events & Meetings

### March:

- 1 - CCA Board Meeting

### April:

- 2 - CCA/IDC:  
MOULIN ROUGE DANCE PARTY!  
Jon Jon's, Fresno  
Details: 265-7117  
Online @ [www.ccafresno.org](http://www.ccafresno.org)
- 5 - CCA Board Meeting

## Community Events

### March:

- 1 - "In the Life"  
Valley Public Television  
KVPT Channel 18
- 5- 6- Rogue Festival Performance:  
"Lost & Found on the 99"  
Club Fred, Fresno  
Online @ [www.roguefestival.com](http://www.roguefestival.com)
- 13 - "Lost & Found on the 99" [See above]
- 12-14- Wesley United Methodist Church:  
Reconciliation Weekend Celebration  
Featuring Dr. Jan Everhart  
Details: 224-1941  
Online @ <http://wesleyfresno.org/>
- 19 - "It's a Queer Thang"  
KFCF 88.1 FM
- 19 - Fresno REEL Pride: "Camp"  
Tower Theatre, Fresno  
Details: 488-6562  
Online @ [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com)
- 20 - GSA Network Conference:  
"Expression, Not Suppression!"  
Pace Academy, Manchester Mall  
Details: 453-9040/229-7222
- 20 - Fresno County Health Department:  
Health Fair for LGBT Awareness Week  
North Tower Circle, Fresno  
Details: 445-3434
- 23 - CCPN: Cultural Competency Workshop  
The Radisson Hotel, Fresno  
Details: 486-2216

### April:

- 5 - "In the Life"  
Valley Public Television  
KVPT Channel 18
- 10 - IDC: Barn Dance  
D&D Ranch, Madera
- 16 - "It's a Queer Thang"  
KFCF 88.1 FM
- 21 - USP at Fresno State: Day of Silence  
Details: 278-2078/278-2741



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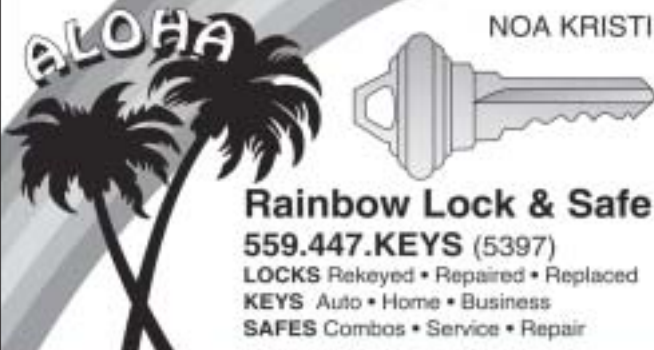
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**REEL Hot. REEL Pride.***"In the Life"*

Monday, March 1st  
KVPT Channel 18  
@ 11:00 PM

*"In the Life" is a national television series in a newsmagazine format that reports on gay and lesbian issues and culture.*

*"In the Life" is America's only nationally televised gay and lesbian cultural newsmagazine dedicated to chronicle the history and contemporary experiences of the gay and lesbian community.*

*"In the Life" is broadcast on some 130 public television stations nationwide, including all of the top 20 viewer markets, reaching more than one million viewers per episode.*

*"In the Life" airs locally on Valley Public Television, KVPT Channel 18 the first Monday of every month.*

*"In the Life's" local broadcast is co-sponsored by the Central California Alliance.*

Details:  
[www.inthelifetv.org](http://www.inthelifetv.org)  
[www.kvpt.org](http://www.kvpt.org)



## Fresno REEL Pride Presents

**"CAMP"**

**Friday, March 19, 2004**  
**Tower Theatre, Fresno**

The most talented kids in the country are at Camp Ovation. Based on an actual summer camp for young actors, singers and dancers, "Camp" is the dramatic, hilarious and show-stopping story of a group of extraordinary kids growing up and discovering who they really are.

Back at home, the kids of Camp Ovation are the outcasts and misfits who everyone picks on. Michael [Robin De Jesus] is beat-up when he tries to attend his junior prom in drag. Ellen [Joanna Chilcoat] is so unpopular she has to beg her brother to take her to her junior prom.

But once these kids are on the bus, singing Sondheim songs, they have arrived in Oz - at least for the next two months. As the hard work begins on putting together a new show every two weeks, the drama isn't only on stage. Relationships are formed, talent is tested, and hearts are broken.

Vlad [Daniel Letterle], much to everyone's surprise, seems to be a red-blooded, all-American straight guy in a sea of musical theatre freaks and geeks. The bombshell Jill [Alana Allen] makes a beeline for his attention, but is the insecure Ellen more his speed? Then there's the lovely Dee [Sasha Allen], who is out to prove she's not destined for a life of fag-hagdom. Vlad is a complicated character who isn't sure what he wants in life, but finds out at Camp Ovation.

As the kids work frantically under the pressure of putting together ambitious productions, their fragile egos are entrusted to guest director Bert Hanley [Don Dixon]. Bert had a Broadway smash ten years ago, but now has fallen on hard times and become a cynical alcoholic. Through the kids' passion and commitment, his talent and spirit is revived.

In the best tradition of "Fame," the kids of Camp Ovation have an irrepressible spirit that is uplifting and contagious to anyone within earshot. Crammed full of production numbers and real life moments, "Camp" is a comedic call for acceptance in a world where normal is no longer the norm.

Tickets and additional details: 488-6562. Online @ [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com).



## How to Obtain a Marriage License in San Francisco

**As of February 23, 2004, couples seeking to obtain a marriage license will need to make an appointment with the Office of the County Clerk at [415] 554-4952.**

- Address:

San Francisco County Clerk, City Hall, Suite 168  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4678

- Phone: [415] 554-4950

- Processing hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To obtain a public marriage license within the state of California, applicants need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Be age 18 or older; or, if an applicant is younger than 18, submit written consent of a parent or legal guardian along with permission from a Juvenile Court Judge.
- Both applicants must be present
- A witness needs to be present
- Show legal picture I.D. card [Examples: passport, driver's license, naturalization form, resident alien cards, military I.D. which must contain full legal name. If the legal picture I.D. card does not contain the full legal name, the applicant must also present a certified copy of birth certificate or a social security card, showing the full legal name.]
- If applicant has been previously married, you will need to know the exact date of when your marriage was finalized. If your marriage was finalized within 90 days, verification of papers [certified copy of divorce, annulment, or death record] is required.
- Pay \$82.00 cash, local pre-printed check or money order only [price subject to change]. The cost of a ceremony performed by the County Clerk's Office is an additional \$62.
- In order for a marriage to be completed, a ceremony must be performed by one of the following: Any judge or retired judge of the state of California; Commissioner of Civil Marriages or retired Commissioner of Civil Marriages; Commissioner or retired Assistant Commissioner of a Court of Record or Justice Court in California; any judge or magistrate of the U.S. or any priest, minister or rabbi of any religious denomination of the age of 18 or over. A marriage may also be solemnized by a judge or magistrate of the U.S. who has resigned from office. A legislator or constitutional officer of this state or a member of congress who represents a district within California, while that person holds office.

- For more information, visit the Web site of the Office of the San Francisco County Clerk: [www.ci.sf.ca.us/site/countyclerk\\_index.asp](http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/site/countyclerk_index.asp)



Photos from [www.sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com)



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[As of 2/23/04. Office of the County Clerk, City and County of San Francisco]

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## Margaret Cho Supports Same-Sex Marriage Rally in Sacramento

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