

connections

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 1

JULY 2004

Mission Statement:

The Central California Alliance is a not-for-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.

ANNUAL MEETING THIS MONTH!



Fresno Pride Parade!

Fresno's 14th Annual Pride Parade and Festival was a resounding success again this year attracting two-to-three thousand spectators.

More than 30 contingents had floats in the parade, including CCA, Community Link, GSA Network, PFLAG, Fresno REEL Pride, various churches and local bars. An added treat was the inclusion of a equestrian unit.

The pride and spirit followed to the festival, where hundreds of attendees enjoyed food, beverages and more.

Plans have already begun for next years parade and festival, to be held the first week of June in 2005. To volunteer or for details, please call 486-3464.

CCA's Annual Meeting

All members of CCA are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Monday, July 12 at 7:00 PM at the home of Ron Wilson.

The general membership will hold elections for new board members that evening. The new board will then elect an executive board consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

You may nominate yourself or another CCA member in good standing.

Additionally, a short meeting will be followed by a reception.

Please see Page 2 for specific directions to the meetings.

Please call 265-7117 for details or log online to www.cca.fresno.org.

OK with Same-Sex Marriage?

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger [D-Calif.] has admitted, according to "The Los Angeles Time," that he has no objection to same-sex marriage. The forthright admission came on the same day that the California state Assembly voted 42-27 to oppose a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. The resolution heads to the Senate, and, if passed, it does not require the governor's signature.

In the past, the governor's remarks on the issue have been difficult to interpret.

State legislators who support same-sex marriage are encouraged by Schwarzenegger's view.



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Celebrating 11 Years of Pride & Service
www.cca.fresno.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.

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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

8 New and Re-Newing Members of CCA

Student

Anonymous [1]

Presidents Circle-Single

Bob Morock

Single

Daniel Martin

Kathy Leffel

Rebecca McAlary

Carol Champion

Presidents Circle – Household

Brian Bayless and Chris Saenz

Directions to CCA's ANNUAL MEETING

● **Date and Time:**

Monday, July 12; 7:00 PM

● **Address and Telephone:**

846 E. Fairmont [Southwest corner of Fairmont and Maroa]

Phone: 221-8132

● **From CA-99:**

Exit 99 at Shaw Avenue. Go East approx. 4.5 miles to Maroa.

[Maroa is the 1st stop light after passing Fig Garden Shopping Center]

Turn right [South] on Maroa. Fairmont is the first street on the right [West].

● **From CA-41:**

Exit 41 at Shaw Avenue. Go West approx. 1 mile to Maroa. [Maroa is the first

stop light after crossing Blackstone] Turn left [South] on Maroa. Fairmont is

the first street on the right [West].

● **From Fresno Tower District:**

Located approx. 3 miles from Olive and Van Ness. Go North on Van Ness. Van

Ness becomes Maroa. Fairmont is 1 block South of Shaw. [If you reach Shaw

you've gone too far.]

● **From East Fresno [via Herndon]:**

Go West on Herndon to Maroa. [Maroa is the 1st stoplight after crossing

Blackstone]. Turn left [South] on Maroa. Fairmont is the first street on the

right after crossing Shaw.

● **Please RSVP to 265-7117.**

More Pride Parade Photos!



[Photos by Dan Waterhouse. Photos provided by NEWLINK/Community Link]





Oregon Marriage Ban Makes Ballot

The Defense of Marriage Coalition, a group opposed to same-sex marriage in Oregon has turned in double the number of signatures required to put an anti-gay constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

According to the "Corvallis Gazette-Times," 54 percent of Oregon residents oppose same-sex marriage, but that does not mean that the same percentage would support an amendment to the state Constitution. The voters will be deciding whether to amend the Constitution with the following sentence: "It is the policy of Oregon and its political subdivisions, that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or legally recognized as a marriage."

Oregon voters have defeated anti-gay ballot initiatives in the past, but they have not been faced with a marriage ban. On the other hand, neither have they been faced with a proposed constitutional amendment restricting civil rights.



Mass. Gay Weddings Upheld

Massachusetts will continue offering same-sex marriages after a federal appeals court rejected a lawsuit claiming the state's highest court overstepped its authority when it compelled the state to begin marrying gay and lesbian couples.

The Florida-based Liberty Counsel filed the lawsuit on the behalf of the Catholic Action League and 11 state lawmakers. The suit argued Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court acted against the US Constitution's Guarantee Clause by usurping the power of the Legislature when it ruled that same-sex couples should be able to wed.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the suit, arguing Massachusetts' highest court did not violate the republican form of government called for in the US Constitution.

The ruling noted the only way a state could violate the republican nature of government that the US Constitution calls for would be to establish a monarchy.



Pentagon: "Don't ask, Don't tell"

The Pentagon's new 2003 report showing that the US armed forces dismissed the lowest number of gay and lesbian personnel since 1995 has met criticism by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network [SLDN].

"Why are the discharges going down?" asks C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the SLDN. "[Because] when they need people they keep them. When they don't, they implement their policy of discrimination with greater force."

According to SLDN, the military discharged 787 gays and lesbians last year, a 17 percent decrease from 2002 and a 39 percent decrease from 2001. The time period coincides with the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, gay discharge numbers have dropped every time America has entered a war, from Korea to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf to present conflicts in Iraq.

Details: www.sldn.org



"In the Life"

**The 1st Monday of the Month!
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 at 11:00 PM.

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

Details:
www.inthelife.org.

CCA Events & Meetings

July:

- 12 - Annual Membership Meeting
Home of Ron Wilson, Fresno
Details: 265-7117
www.ccafresno.org

August:

- 2 - "In the Life" @ 11 PM
Valley Public Television, KVPT 18

September:

- 6 - "In the Life" @ 11 PM
Valley Public Television, KVPT 18

Community Events

July:

- 16 - "It's a Queer Thang"
KFCF 88.1 FM
- 17 - Community Link: Queer Volleyball
Quigley Park, Fresno
Details: 486-3464
- 26 - 29 Democratic National Convention
Boston, MA
- 29 - "Monologues de la Vagina"
[Vagina Monologues]
Fresno Art Museum
Details: 442-4221

August:

- 13 - Fresno Filmworks:
"Since Oscar Left"
Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts
www.fresnofilmworks.org
Details: 485-9050
- 20 - "It's a Queer Thang"
KFCF 88.1 FM
- 21 - IDC de Fresno and Madera:
Ducal Ball 31
Fresno County Plaza
Details: 224-2368/237-1502
280-571/233-8006
www.idcfresno.org
- 22 - Community Link: 4th Annual
Bowl-a-Thon
Cedar Lanes, Fresno
Details: 486-3464

September:

- 15 - 19 Fresno REEL Pride: 15th Annual
Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Tower Theatre for the Performing Arts
Details: 488-6562
www.reelpride.com
- 17 - "It's a Queer Thang"
KFCF 88.1 FM



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Stay informed!
Call **CCA's Hotline**
for information:
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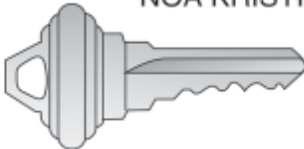
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The Advocate

Top 100 List

America's gay and lesbian newsmagazine, "The Advocate," has selected "The 100 Best Lesbian & Gay Nonfiction Books. They were listed in the June 22, 2004 issue:

#11: "Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendships and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present" by Lillian Faderman.

#71: "Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth Century America" by Lillian Faderman.

#87: "Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul" by Leslie Feinberg.

Faderman, a CCA member and professor at Fresno State, has discussed her books at CCA events. Feinberg has also discussed her books at a CCA event.

Congratulations to all those selected!

"Monologues de la Vagina"

["Vagina Monologues"]

July 29 - August 14

2233 N. 1st St
 Fresno

Details: 441-4221

PERFORMED IN SPANISH



"De-Lovely"

A musical portrait of gay, American composer and lyricist Cole Porter [Kevin Kline] in which the musician looks back on his life as if it was one of his spectacular stage shows, with the people and events of his life becoming the actors and action onstage. Through elaborate production numbers Porter's elegant, excessive past comes to light— including his deeply complicated relationship with his wife and muse, Linda Lee [Ashley Judd].

Features outstanding musical performances by Cole Porter ["You're The Top"], Robbie Williams [It's De-Lovely], Elvis Costello ["Let's Misbehave"], Alanis Morissette [Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love], Sheryl Crow ["Begin the Beguine"], Diana Krall ["Just One of Those Things"], Natalie Cole ["Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye"] and many more.

Noticeably missing from the movie's lineup, however, is the popular "My Heart Belongs To Daddy," written in 1938 for the musical "Leave It To Me."

Perhaps MGM didn't want to push the envelope too far to include this Porter classic: "So I want to warn you laddie/Though I know that you're perfectly swell/That my heart belongs to Daddy/Cause my Daddy, he treats me so well."

[Rated: PG-13]



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