

Celebration of Gay Life, Music & Culture in New Orleans Every Labor Day Weekend Since 1972!

Southern Decadence

TM/TN/SM

**SD
XLV**



PRESENTING
SPONSORS



Labor Day Weekend

Wednesday-Monday • Aug. 31-Sept. 5

45th Anniversary/2016

Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII

Tony Leggio, Felicia Phillips, Jeffrey Palmquist & Derek Penton-Robicheaux

NEW ORLEANS 2016

OFFICIAL WEBSITE • HOTELS • OFFICIAL EVENTS

Official Southern Decadence Sponsors:



Cafe Lafitte in Exile, New Orleans Tourism
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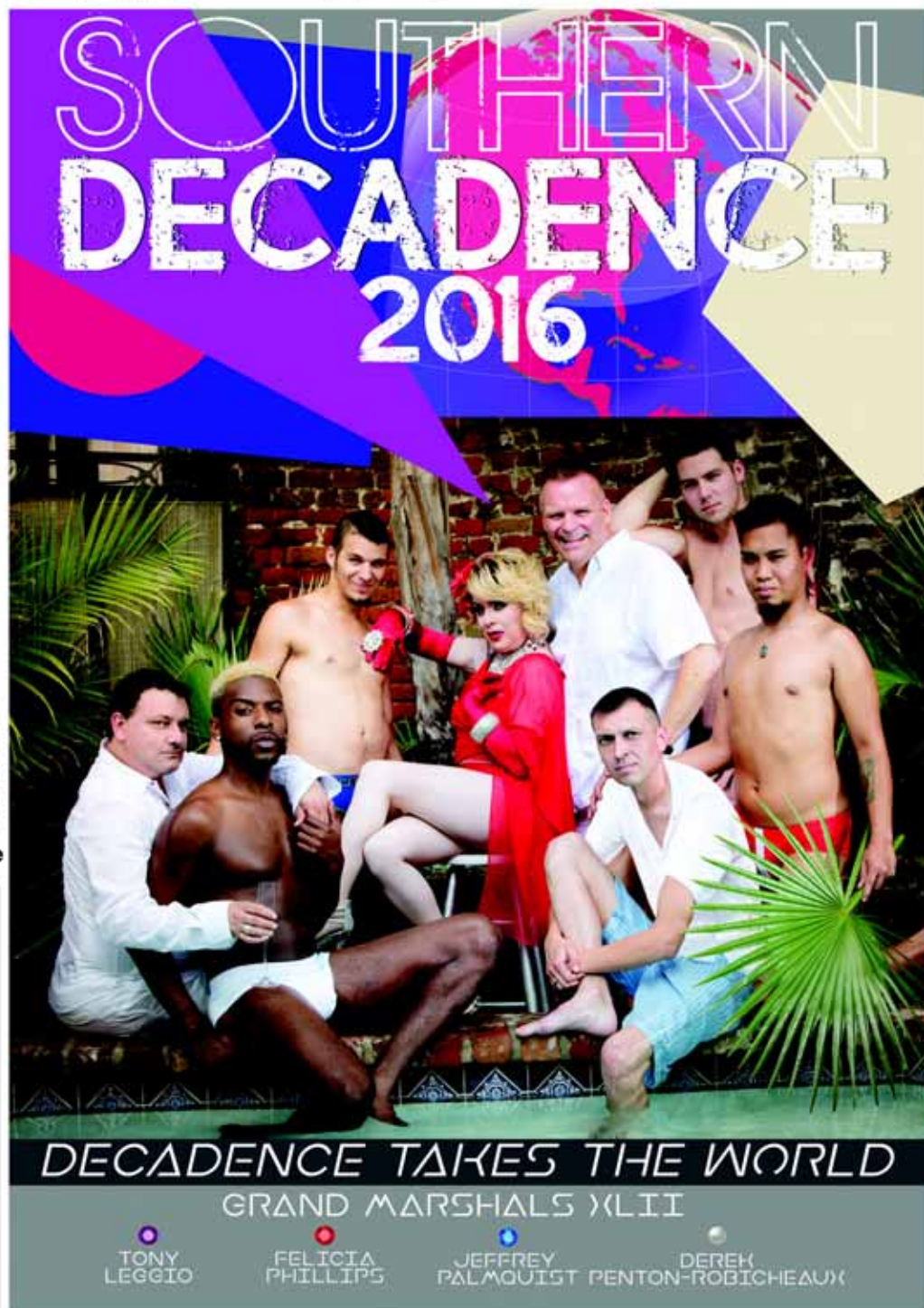
Events/Fundraisers

FRIDAY, June 10th...

7pm, Southern Decadence Dinner & A Show with dinner at 7pm & show at 9pm benefiting Southern Decadence 2016, \$10 donation @ Official Home of Southern Decadence: Golden Lantern

WEDNESDAY, June 15th...

6:30-9:30pm, Cocktails & Queer History:
A Southern Decadence Fundraiser begins with a Southern Decadence Grand Marshals reception at the home of SDGM XLII Jeffrey Palmquist. After cocktails, local historian Frank Perez will conduct his internationally famous New Orleans LGBT+ History Walking Tour. This fascinating stroll around the French Quarter will end back at SDGM XLII Palmquist's Bourbon Street home, where hors d'ouvres and more cocktails will be served. Space is limited and the cost is \$75.00. Tickets may be purchased from Jeffrey Palmquist, Frank Perez, or Crescent City Tour Booking Agency @ 638 St. Ann.



OFFICIAL THEME: Decadence Takes The World

OFFICIAL COLORS: Amethyst, Ruby, Sapphire, Pearl

OFFICIAL CHARITIES: NOAGE (New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders) & **ARNO** (Animal Rescue New Orleans)

OFFICIAL SONG: "Break Free" by Ariana Grande, Remix by DJ of the Year JRB

SouthernDecadence.COM

Facebook.com/SouthernDecadenceNOLA



BE PROUD



Vanessa Carr Band
LIVE MUSIC
SAT 7:30 - 9:30pm
SUN 3:00 - 5:00pm



Our Brand New Show
The Dollhouse Revue FRI 10:00 - 11:30pm
hosted by the incredible
Nicole Lynn Foxx



Divas "R" Us
FEMALE IMPERSONATORS
SAT 10:00 - 11:30pm



SUNDAY SOCIAL JUBILEE
WITH REBA DOUGLAS
SUN 5:00 - 7:00pm

with DJ Bradley Latham
"Mr. Golden Lantern 2016"



Get your Pride on this month with hot shows, cool drinks, and sexy new friends at The Golden Lantern



Dinner & a Show
FRI JUNE 10 7:00pm
Fundraiser for Southern Decadence - \$10 Buffet with a Drag show at 9:00PM

The Official Home of Southern Decadence.

THE GOLDEN LANTERN

1239 Royal St. New Orleans • facebook.com/GoldenLanternBar
HAPPY HOUR 8AM - 8PM DAILY NEVER A COVER AT THE GOLDEN LANTERN

the "official" dish ...from 4

several of the past grand marshals in honor of the BR Pride anniversary.

Admission for Baton Rouge Pride is free to anyone who wants to celebrate thanks to sponsors like Red Stripe (\$10,000) donors AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Cox Communications, as well as a host of other sponsors at various levels. Among them at the Orange Stripe (\$2,500) donors Capital City Alliance, Lamar, Tom Merrill and Rick Cain, Metropolitan Community Church of Baton Rouge, Tyler & Possa and Visit Baton Rouge.

"We always say you can bring everyone from your kids to your grandmother, and we mean that again this year. Everyone who attends should have a great time," Merrill said. "So bring your friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone else who would like celebrate with us. After all, what's better than a free party accompanied by a giant community resource fair and so much more?" For more details, including complete details on the schedule, an advance look at the program and a full list of supporters of the event, visit www.BRPride.org. To volunteer to help with planning or to find out ways your group or organization can become involved, visit that site or email BRPride@bellsouth.net.

Longue Vue Hosts Inaugural Family Equality Day June 12

Longue Vue House and Gardens is excited to announce its first Family Equality Day celebrating the LGBT parenting and family community in New Orleans. Held in partnership with New Orleans Pride, Communify, Forum for Equality and Higher Power NOLA, guests are encouraged to bring a picnic basket, blanket and have lunch in the gardens at Longue Vue.

On-site activities include a bounce house, crafting and insect discovery for children, while adults can mingle with other parents, learn about educational offerings at Longue Vue and speak with representatives from organizations providing resources to the LGBT community.

Complimentary snowballs will be provided. Free with online RSVP at www.longuevue.com.

The event will be held on Sunday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Edna Lanieri at 504.293.4724 or visit Longue Vue online at www.longuevue.com.

Founded by philanthropists Edith and Edgar Stern, Longue Vue is a multifaceted historic estate featuring a world-class house museum and eight acres of stunning gardens that include an interactive Discovery Garden for children. This National Historic Landmark serves as one of New Orleans' premier education and cultural resources. Longue Vue is open seven days a week to the public for tours of the home and gardens, special events and programs. Visit www.longuevue.com for more information.

2016 Gay Appreciation Awards Voting Online ONLY June 7-13

The 29th annual Gay Appreciation Awards voting is set for Tuesday, June 7 through Monday, June 13 online only at www.AmbushMag.com/GAA.

Only one ballot per person is allowed. Installed spam filters will delete any cheating ballots thus disqualifying those participants from receiving an award.

Sponsored by **Ambush Mag**, the awards thanks those in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community who are often not recognized for the outstanding services and efforts they perform. These individuals and businesses have made the LGBT Community into the viable, successful and powerful community it is today.

The 29th GAA Gala is set for Saturday, July 23, 7-10 pm, at Oz, 800 Bourbon Street. This year will feature the new "Walking the Red Carpet" from 7-7:45 pm emceed by Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Tony Leggio, Felicia Phillips, Jeffrey Palmquist and Derek Penton-Robicheaux. Dress to the nines in your fav 2016 Southern Decadence color: purple, red, blue or white, or a combination. The SDGMs will choose the "best dressed" which will be awarded the Red Carpet Oscar Award during the Gala.

The gala runs from 8-10 pm and the 2015 winners are announced at this event. VIP Tables with four seats are \$200 and are very limited. Proceeds minus expenses benefits Southern Decadence 2016. Contact Rip Naquin for table reservations at ripna@ambushmag.com or 504.522.8049. Door admission is \$10.

Award categories up for public voting include:

- Circuit Party/Event of the Year
- Gay Mardi Gras Ball of the Year
- Hair Salon of the Year
- Neighborhood Bar of the Year
- Buzzy Fanning AIDS Award [organization/individual doing outstanding service in the AIDS arena]
- Bitch of the Year
- Show Club of the Year
- Donnie Jay Performing Arts Award [play, chorus or theatrical group/no individuals]
- Restaurant/Deli/Coffee House of the Year

- Dance Club of the Year
- Bartender of the Year
- DJ of the Year
- Leather Bar of the Year
- Cheridon Comedy Award
- Fly Fashion Glamour Award
- LGBT Business of the Year [no bars/restaurants/delis/hair salons]
- Leather Person of the Year
- Transgender of the Year
- Lesbian of the Year
- Gay Man of the Year
- Marcy Marcell Entertainer of the Year: [female/male impersonator/drag star or entertainer]

In addition, the Board of Directors presents the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Board of Directors includes Lisa Beaumann, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, and Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain.

The Top 5 Finalist in each category will be announced in the next edition of **Ambush**. One of those 5 is the winner which is announced at the GAA Gala on July 23.

LGBT+ Archives Project to Hold its Annual Membership Meeting on June 16

The LGBT+ Archives Project will hold its annual membership meeting on Thursday, June 16 at the Marigny Opera House. The keynote speaker will be Janet

Allured, Professor of American History and Women's Studies, at McNeese State University. Professor Allured is writing a book on Second Wave Feminism in Louisiana and her keynote address is drawn from her research for that project. The title of her talk is "Hidden Histories of the 'Lavender Menace'." According to Allured, the address will be "about the difficulties of documenting lesbian history, since lesbians sought the protection of invisibility, and about how some of that history has begun being recovered. In other words, it will also be a call to action for archival documentation of 'the lavender menace,' and the ways in which lesbians found community in event spaces that they created as alternatives to bars."

The LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and encourage the protection and preservation of materials that chronicle the culture and history of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender community in Louisiana.

The meeting is free and open to the public. The event begins at 7 pm at the Marigny Opera House located at 725 St. Ferdinand Street in New Orleans.

NOLA Pride: The Whole Gay Weekend

New Orleans celebrates Pride beginning on June 12 with Pride weekend itself June 17-19. Congratulations Pride Grand Marshals Sandy Sachs, Robert L. Camina, The Big Easy Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Breakout, Celebrity Pride Grand Marshal International singer/songwriter Debby Holiday, and Mr. and Miss Pride Eros Guillen and Vanessa Carr-Kennedy. Catch all of the events here or throughout this issue of **Ambush Magazine**, your "Official Pride Guide!" Links to all of the events are available only at www.NOLAPride.org.

Sunday, June 12th...

10am-1pm, First Family Equality Day celebrating the LGBT parenting and family community in New Orleans, on-site activities include a bounce house, crafting and insect discovery for children, while adults can mingle with other parents, learn about educational offerings at Longue Vue and speak with representatives from organizations providing resources to the LGBT community, complimentary snowballs will be provided, free with online RSVP @ Longue Vue House and Gardens

Friday, June 17th...

By Appointment, Gay New Orleans Walking Tour, call 504.568.0717 for reservations, \$30, departs from 638 St. Ann @ Crescent City Tour Booking Agency
5pm until, Pride Karaoke @ Joann's Kajun's Pub

8pm, New Orleans Pride Kick Off with Bianca Del Rio, Chris Harder, Cherry Brown and More! @ The Joy Theater
10pm, An Evening with Bianca After Party with Mrs. Kasha Davis, Darienne Lake, and Aggy Dune @ Four Seasons
10pm, Clorox Bleachman's The Lady is a Tramp one-woman show @ GrandPre's
10pm, Illusions "Gay Icon" Drag Review with DJ Mike Bryant & GoGo Boys from Montreal @ Bourbon Pub & Parade
10pm, Pride Dance Party with DJ Grind @ Dance Club of the Year Oz New Orleans
10pm, 34th Anniversary Weekend with special Pride New Meat Amateur Dance Contest with \$100 cash prize with MC Lisa Beaumann @ Neighborhood Bar of the Year The Corner Pocket
10pm, The Dollhouse Revue hosted

by Nicole Lynn Foxx @ The Golden Lantern
10pm, The Return of Rocco Steele @ The Phoenix
11pm, Dominique's Cabaret starring Dominique DeLorean @ Four Seasons
Saturday, June 18th...

By Appointment, Gay New Orleans Walking Tour, call 504.568.0717 for reservations, \$30, departs from 638 St. Ann @ Crescent City Tour Booking Agency
3-7pm, Official Pride Block Party, meet Chris Harder, Nigel March, Jon Pitcher and more before the Pride Parade rolls @ The Phoenix

4-8pm, Girl Party New Orleans: The Official Pride Dance for the Ladies with DJ Taner @ Bourbon Pub & Parade

5pm, Balcony opens to view Pride Parade set to roll at 7pm @ Dance Club of the Year Oz New Orleans

5pm until, Pride Karaoke @ Joann's Kajun's Pub

7pm, New Orleans Pride Parade led by Pride Grand Marshals Sandy Sachs, Robert L. Camina, The Big Easy Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence & Breakout, and Celebrity Pride Grand Marshal International singer/songwriter Debby Holiday, begins at Washington Square Park, rolling down Decatur, Canal, and Bourbon Streets
7:30-9:30pm, Vanessa Carr Band live @ The Golden Lantern

10pm, 34th Anniversary Weekend All Boy Pride Revue with 15 boys dancing til dawn @ Neighborhood Bar of the Year The Corner Pocket

10pm, Divas R Us Female Impersonators @ The Golden Lantern

10pm, Exotique with Taze Ya Ballz @ Four Seasons

10pm, Lords of Leather Who's Your Daddy Contest @ The Phoenix

10pm, Pride Dance Party with DJ Tracy Young plus a performance by Chris Harder's "Boylesque" Show @ Dance Club of the Year Oz New Orleans

10pm, Pride Dance with DJ Kidd Madonny with Boys on Parade "Pride" Edition @ 12midnight hosted by Billy Francesca, plus cash balloon drop @ 1am @ Bourbon Pub & Parade

10pm, The Return of Rocco Steele @ The Phoenix

10pm, The Southern Barbitchuates starring Coca Mesa, Monalot Fontaine, Sable Nicole Starr & Gia GiaVanni @ GrandPre's

Sunday, June 19th...

By Appointment, Gay New Orleans Walking Tour, call 504.568.0717 for reservations, \$30, departs from 638 St. Ann @ Crescent City Tour Booking Agency

2-5pm, PrideFest 2016 presented by Dance Club of the Year Oz New Orleans & Bourbon Pub & Parade starring Debby Holiday and Jai Rodriguez, plus many performances from local acts, hosted by Persana Shoulders & Billy Francesca @ Corner of Bourbon and St Ann Streets

3-5pm, Vanessa Carr Band live @ The Golden Lantern

4pm, Official Pride T-Dance with DJ Whitney Day @ 4pm & DJ Sean Michael @ 9pm @ Bourbon Pub & Parade

4-9pm, Trash Disco @ Cafe Lafitte in Exile

5pm until, Pride Karaoke @ Joann's Kajun's Pub

5pm, Jubilee starring Miss Golden Lantern Reba Douglas with MC Mr. Golden Lantern Bradley Latham @ The Golden Lantern

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Happy PRIDE Month!



THE FOUR SEASONS
and
PATIO STAGE BAR

Miss Gay
Four Seasons
LA USofA

Presentation:
A Night in Rio!
June 10, 2016

Doors Open at 7:30pm Pageant at 9pm

New Orleans PRIDE Presents

An Evening with Bianca
AFTER PARTY
June 17, 2016



ALWAYS SIZZLIN LINEUP!

Thursday June 9 10:30PM
The Carnival Kings!

Friday June 10
Miss Gay Four Seasons LA USofA

Saturday June 11 10:PM
**The Glitter Girls Starring
Countess C Alice**



ALWAYS SIZZLIN LINEUP!

Tuesday June 14 9:30 PM
Lesbian Drag Queen Review!

Thursday June 16 10:30PM
It's SHOWTIME w Kitty D Litter!

Friday June 17 11:PM
Dominique's Cabaret!

Saturday June 18 10:PM
EXOTIQUE W Taze Ya Balls

Open 7 Days a Week!
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Over 30 Years! Metairie's Oldest Gay Bar!



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lez talk

by Misti Ates
Email: Mistimichelleates@gmail.com

Christine Johnson

It has been my wish for this column to throw the spotlight on some members of our LGBT community. Maybe you already know them. Maybe you do not. Hopefully by the time you get through each column, you will feel like you know them a little bit better. I enjoy finding out new things about the individuals I interview and for the opportunity of sharing them with you.

What started as an idea tossed around among some friends in 2006 has blossomed into a wildly successful monthly get together called, GRRL Spot. It was February 2006, some 6 months after Katrina, people were trying to relocate back to New Orleans, while others decided to start over in other cities. Christine realized there was a need to not only bring everyone back together, but to perhaps change things in how the bar scene is perceived. That was how GRRL Spot was launched. The first event that was more of a get together with about thirty (30) people at Pals Lounge. The concept was to meet in a different bar each month, while reaching out not only to the lesbians, but to make the event comfortable for everyone in our community to attend. It was time to rebuild and instead of waiting on someone else, Christine stepped up and made the change.



Christine Johnson
@ May's GRRL Spot event

Christine is no stranger to planning and strategizing to reach her goals. Her position as Senior Media Buyer for CPX Interactive has helped turn the internet advertising based business into a major success boasting of some very sought out accounts. Using her skills of advertising

and organization, GRRL Spot has grown into an almost monthly event, attracting 100 to 150 attendees. The idea of mixing the LGBT community into predominately straight bars, has proved to be a success. GRRL Spot donates some of its proceeds to Women with A Vision and the Dyke Bar History project.

GRRL Spot's annual Southern Decadence event has evolved into an attendance of around four hundred (400). Last year's event was the biggest one ever, with some of their biggest stars ever headlining an amazing show at Eiffel Society in New Orleans. Ben DeLaCreme of RuPaul's Drag Race fame, Bella Blue, the head mistress of New Orleans School of Burlesque and the internationally known Burlesque couple, Kitten and Lou all brought the house down with their amazing performances. I was honored to be a special guest of the event, as Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLI, along with the missus and other members of my entourage. We enjoyed the performances very much and loved it when we were taken backstage and got to meet the entertainers in person.

Christine's vision is to have GRRL Spot's Decadence event be the catalyst and model that will usher in the new era of the lesbian bar. Due to the dwindling number of actual lesbian bars nationally, this idea of a floating "bar" within a different host establishment will no doubt increase attention and attendance at each event. She hopes to expand GRRL Spot into different cities in the near future, especially in areas that do not have a predominately LGBT scene. Be sure to go to the GRRL Spot facebook page and hit "like" to be informed of all future events.

One has to admire Christine for her determination and tenacity to change how the LGBT bar scene is perceived. She saw a need in this area and instead of wishing that things would change or hopefully get better one day, she set out and made her dream in to a reality. Christine says "You have to realize as an individual, that you can do anything that you set your mind to do. If you see something in our community that needs to be better or changed, then get the mindset to be the one to change things."

So, if you have never been to a GRRL Spot event before, mark your calendars for June 18 at the Jazz Café on Decatur Street in their upstairs bar. They will be celebrating Pride weekend with their very own Rouge party. You will be able to party the night away with music from two awesome DJs, DJ Gage and DJ Jenna. Christine Johnson will definitely be there, sipping on her favorite drink an Old Fashioned, dressed in the party's theme of the color red, smiling and knowing that anything can be success, if you put your mind to it and take that first step in making your own community a better place.

shelves for authors serving a critical need in our society."

In 2015, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom recorded 275 challenges to books, with the list including books with GLBT content.

They included "I Am Jazz, by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, a picture book based on the life of a transgender girl that faced a number of challenges, among them a proposed reading of the book in Wisconsin that led to threats of a federal lawsuit.

"Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic," by Alison Bechdel, which received the 2007 Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Stonewall Book Award, was challenged as recommended reading for incoming freshmen at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, because some students objected to the novel's "depictions of lesbian sexuality, arguing that the book is borderline pornographic and they shouldn't have been asked to read it." It was also challenged at the College of Charleston, prompting state lawmakers to threaten defunding the summer reading program. Both the college and the University of Utah stood by the book, which relates the story of a lesbian coming to terms with her own sexuality and discovering that her distant father is gay.

Challenges involving GLBT books have even been accompanied by anti-gay slurs, such as when Wasilla, Alaska's public library transferred its entire young adult non-fiction to the adult stacks in response to a complaint about James Dawson's sex education book, "This Book Is Gay." A number of Wasilla residents attacked the book at a city council meeting, accompanying their attacks with such remarks as "they didn't want 'gay books' or books about gay people in the library at all." During debates on the issue, the library director was called a pedophile.

"Libraries are about everyone," said ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) Chair Peter Coyl. "We can create a welcoming environment for all by having a diverse collection of materials of varying viewpoints. It is important for our users to be able to find books that match their lives and their experiences. GLBT Book Month is not just

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the "official" dish ...from 8

6pm, 34th Anniversary Weekend Pride Sunday Zingo with Opal Masters pulling balls @ Neighborhood Bar of the Year The Corner Pocket

8-10pm, 34th Anniversary Party & 9th Annual Sugar Daddy of the Year Contest with food & refreshments with contest hosted by Barry Bareass @ 10pm @ Neighborhood Bar of the Year The Corner Pocket

8pm, Lipstixx "Ladies of Pride" Show @ Bourbon Pub & Parade

Visit www.NOLAPride.org for additional information.

Bourbon Pride Selects LGBT+ Archives Project as Pride Charity

Bourbon Pride has chosen LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana for its Pride 2016 charity! According to Joseph Hart, "They do such amazing work and I ask each of you to come by and donate to their cause or purchase one of our items where a percentage of the proceeds will go to them. Donations began June 1st and go through June 30th. Small charities doing great work need our support. Small LGBT charities are often forgotten."

Four times a year (Mardi Gras, Pride, Southern Decadence and Xmas) Bourbon Pride chooses a different charity of their choice to support. "Thank you for any support you can give!"

Bourbon Pride is not affiliated with any of the New Orleans Pride organizations.

Next Deadline

Tues., June 14 - 504.522.8049

New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation Launches LGBT Travel Sweepstakes

Heralded as one of the most romantic cities in the world by CNN and other travel publications, New Orleans is the perfect place to spend some quality time with loved ones.

In a recent survey conducted by Community Marketing, Inc., a majority of LGBT travelers who had not visited New Orleans viewed it as a party destination and only somewhat romantic and friendly. In response, New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation (NOTMC), along with partner agency Communify, launched the #LoveNOLA campaign, which includes a sweepstakes featuring a romantic trip for two that highlights New Orleans' vibrant LGBT community.

"New Orleans (NOLA) is a romantic outpost of love, diversity and acceptance," said Mark Romig..... "For almost 300 years we have welcomed citizens from across the globe to experience one of the most unique, authentic and delicious destinations in the world, and I urge you to follow your NOLA this year and beyond. "

The #LoveNOLA Sweepstakes runs through July 20, 2016 and has a generous prize package including a two-night stay at the new Ace Hotel and roundtrip air to New Orleans. People can enter the sweeps by visiting www.LoveNOLA.com where they can also sign up for NOTMC's monthly LGBT newsletter.

While targeted to LGBT travelers, the sweepstakes is open to anyone who meets the eligibility requirements. See Official

Rules for details.

Additionally, NOTMC will use the hashtag #LoveNOLA across its social media channels to promote and inspire user-generated content about LGBT couples experiencing love in New Orleans.

Libraries Stand Firm in Support of GLBT Books

In a year when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) communities are facing divisive "religious freedom" and "bathroom privacy" legislation, libraries are working against legislating discrimination by fostering acceptance through the power of books.

The American Library Association (ALA), and hundreds of libraries will celebrate June 2016 as GLBT Book Month™, a nationwide celebration of the authors and books that reflect the GLBT experience.

The celebration is consistent with ALA's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and mutual respect for all human beings, as well as recognizing the significant contributions of GLBT authors, with the Stonewall Book Awards, the first and longest-enduring award for GLBT literature, as well as its Office for Intellectual Freedom's response to the threat of censorship.

"We are pleased to continue our celebration of GLBT Book Month," said ALA President Sari Feldman. "Libraries play a vital role in connecting people with information and resources, and librarians serve a critical need by making the works of authors and publishers of GLBT books available to the public. It is important that these voices be heard, and libraries not only provide a safe space for consumers of GLBT fiction and non-fiction, but a safe place on the