

in the spotlight

Party Thanks Gay Easter Parade Sponsors for Helping Raise \$15,528.75 for Food For Friends

The Board of Directors of the Gay Easter Parade (GEP) hosted its annual Sponsors Thank You Party at **Ambush** Headquarters December 11. Sponsors and their guests, along with members of the **Ambush** staff, numbering some 170, were greeted in the downstairs **Ambush** offices. The receiving line running from 8-8:30pm included Easter Grand Marshals X Marcy Marcell and Tony Leggio, NO/AIDS Task Force Executive Director Noel Twilbeck, Food For Friends Director Glen Kahman, and GEP Board members Rona Conners, Opal Masters, and Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain. GEP Board members Electra City and Tittie Toulouse were unable to attend due to the loss of one of their dearest friends in Lake Charles. The sponsors were being thanked for helping raise the most money of any previous Gay Easter Parade. After expenses, \$15,528.75 was presented to Food For Friends, also the highest donation on record from the parade. Total parade charity donations now exceed \$63,643.

Miss Billy served champagne, wine and beer in the **Ambush** offices. Many of the artwork pieces the couple has collected over the years are on the walls of the office, and works of art appear throughout the three story mansion. Here also guests were treated to Rip and Marsha's famous Debris Gumbo with Wild PigTurDuckKen. Yes, there was roasted wild boar, smoked turkey, roasted duck, rotisserie chicken, smoked pork sausage, and okra in this original Cajun creation.

Going down the hallway, guests entered Rip and Marsha's home leading up the sweeping three story staircase to the second floor landing housing Belle Lain's Magnolia Bar. Along one wall of the staircase are the individual portraits of the King Cake Queen Royalty Club. Miss Ashlee of Corner Pocket fame was the celebrity bartender on duty serving cocktails, soft drinks

and juices.

Guests then entered the hallway leading to the formal Victorian parlour featuring many antiques from Marsha's grandmother's estate in Baton Rouge. The furniture covered in pink and mint green velvet, were highlighted with an entire wall of hanging royal purple fabric, and a baby blue Oriental rug. All of the Victorian tables are topped with white marble.

In an alcove of this room is the altar and prie dieu with the couples' religious icons, statues, and relics collected on their travels in Europe and the United States. Another highlight in this room was the carved pedestal featuring the monstrance the couple obtained in Rome which was blessed by the late Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square.

There were several holiday pieces on

display including the whimsical miniature pink lighted Christmas tree which the couple won with the highest bid at one of Good Friends past Christmas Gala's. It was created by Pet Asylum adorned completely in miniature pet ornaments.

Going past the parlour, guests headed towards the end of the hallway lined with many antiques which led into the formal dining room. This was the largest room on this floor which has a huge Victorian curio cabinet housing many of the couples collectibles including Faberge' Eggs, ornate eggs, jewelry pins, crystal, silver, porcelain and crowns. One corner has the baby grand piano which is topped with a maniquin displaying Marsha's King Cake Queen Coronation gown, mantal and crown. The Duncan Phyfe dining room table, buffet and china cabinet were also from Marsha's grandmother's estate. The china cabinet houses Marsha's grandmother's Dolly Madison china and crystal, Rip and Marsha's Royal Albert Old County Roses china, and a collection of Menefee's plates won at a fundraising auction.

Here guests were treated to the Naquin-Delain Holiday Feast including Antipasto de Maison, Cajun BBQ Meat Balls, Mama's Oyster Cornbread Dressing, Pickled Vegetables, Tamale Cream Cheese Pyramid with Chorizo, and both mini red velvet and carrot cakes from The Decadence Shoppe.

The large holiday Christmas tree in



Easter Grand Marshals X Marcy Marcell & Tony Leggio

the dining room was adorned with ornaments collected by the couple over the past 35 years with many purchased at Art Against AIDS. Past the Christmas tree, guests entered the World famous Ambush balcony overlooking legendary Bourbon Street, which features the one of a kind spinning mirror covered fleur de lis.

10th Gay Easter Parade Sponsors include:

PRESENTING: **AmbushMag.COM**, **QueenFashions.COM**;

PLATINUM: Bobby Connell/Phoenix, Harrah's H.E.R.O.'s (Harrah's Employees Reaching Out);

GOLD: Lord King XXVI Gary Vandeventer & Lord Consort XXVI Bruce Orgeron, Krewe of Amon Ra, Jack Saucier & the late Glenn Timpe, In Memory of Steve Mettner, John Vignone & Paul Chiriaco/JohnPaul's, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli;

SILVER: 16th King Cake Queen Coronation/Tami Tarmac, EGM VIII Tom "Rona" Conners & Bob Boler, Stephen Murrell & Elizabeth Bouvier, David & Rhonda Roget, Krewe of Petronius, EGM IX Safonda Peters & Stuart Nettles, EGM VIII Michael Elias & Jay Sewell/The Corner Pocket, Darwin Reed & EGM VII Opal Masters, Nick Olivares & Roy Smith, Wood Enterprises, FourPlay, Oz;

BRONZE: Dawn C. Leggio, Jill E. Dolese, EGM X Tony Leggio, Michelle Calachino, Mike Cookmeyer & Matt Giglio/700 Club, NACE (National Association of Catering Executives), Bebe Scarpinato & Chris Linwood, Jay Cooper & Gizelle Bouvier, HENA (Hospitality Education & Networking Association), Dwain Hertz & Al Dugas, Thomas Schoonenberg, Nicole DuBois, French Quarter Festivals, Inc., Glenn O'Berry & Roger Copenhaver, EGM IX Orlando Aloe/Society Page, Ron Dewhirst, Charlie Hooper, Larry Miller, Lee Worrells, Mona Lisa Restaurant, King Satyricon IV Todd Blauvelt;

VENUE/IN-KIND: 4 Seasons, 700 Club, Billy's, Double Play, JohnPaul's, Starlight By The Park, **GrahamStudioOne.COM**, Mardi Gras Productions, Glazer's Companies of LA: Tito's Vodka & Barefoot Bubbly Wines.

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sappho psalm ...from 14
and Marsha. And maybe I'll pole dance again.

Coming up next is Joe and Julie Thompson's family party. They (the other family members) don't know I'm not family because Julie adopted Courtney Sharp and me years ago. It is always a good time that is followed the next afternoon with Joe and me watching the Saints on Sunday and then all of us getting together again on Christmas Day. This has become my holiday go to place since I lost my family members.

If I can stay up, I'll be attending MCC's midnight service on Christmas Eve. Of course, it starts at 11pm so why do we call it Midnight Mass. I'll be back at Church of Christ the Liberator on Sunday.

My Christmas wish is the same as in years past – good health, peace and happiness to all. For my non-Christian friends, please know that I respect your beliefs and wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

If you are a member of FaceBook, you can send thanks and blessed wishes to service personnel in Iraq. When you get to the main page, look to the right for the connection. Just click and follow the instructions. It is worth the minute it takes to send a card. I may hate the war but I love the men and women who are willing to die for my freedom. Don't forget them.

Happy Holidays!!!
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12:45AM

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THURSDAY
New Years Eve
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1-5-10 @ CAROLINA NOON

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
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Party Starts 9pm

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celebraZZi (celebrations-paparazzi)



Easter Grand Marshals X Tony Leggio and Marcy Marcell are joined by Food For Friends Director Glen Kahrman and NO/AIDS Task Force Executive Director Noel Twilbeck in the receiving line welcoming guests to the Gay Easter Parade Sponsors Thank You Party at **Ambush** Headquarters in New Orleans. This year's parade raised \$15,528.75 for Food For Friends. Visit **GayEasterParade.COM** for information on the parade.



The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center of New Orleans hosted it's Founder's Day Awards Gala celebrating the Center's 17th anniversary at JohnPaul's in New Orleans. Center Co-Chair Crystal Little is joined by Business of the Year Award recipient American Aquatic Gardens' Richard Sacher, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Toni Pizanie, Juan LaFonta accepting the Political Activism Award for Larry Bagneris, and Center Co-Chair Darrin Duplissey. Visit **LGBTCCNO.ORG** for more on the Center.



The cast of the 15th annual Christmas Gala hosted by Good Friends Bar in New Orleans, raised \$1,266 for Belle Reve. Chacha, Poodle, Cherry Farms, LeShaya Monroe, Jo Linda, and Miss LSGRA Elizabeth Bouvier join emcee's Barbara Ella and Rikki Gee (front).



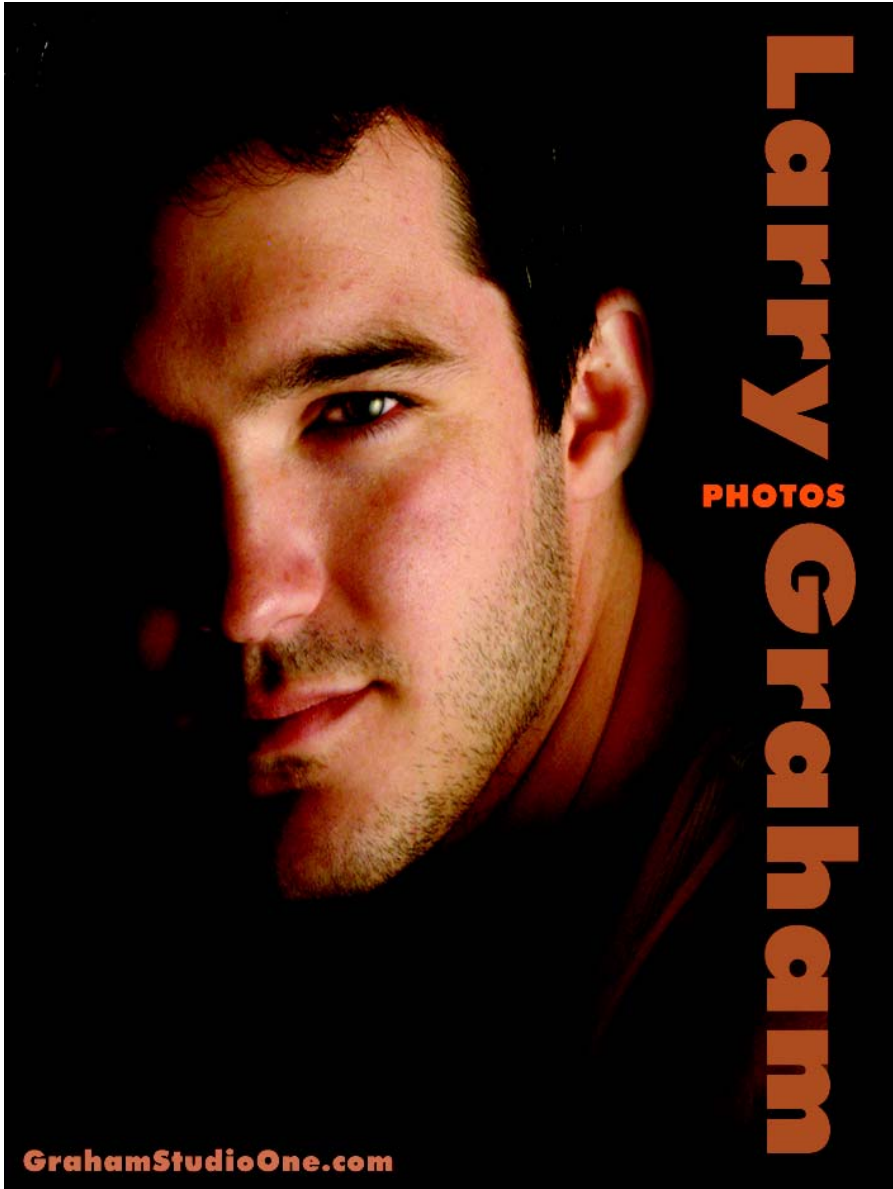
NO/AIDS Task Force Executive Director Noel Twilbeck (right) presents outgoing Director of Fund Development Heidi Nagele Chapman (left) with an award at the 23rd Art Against AIDS Gala hosted at the Shops at Canal Place. One of the largest fundraisers for the organization, visit **NOAIDSTaskForce.ORG** for more information.



Miss Tubby's Golden Lantern 1st Runnerup Vanessa Carmichael and winner Passion Armani Cassidine join outgoing queen Miss D following competition at The Official Home of Southern Decadence, Tubby's Golden Lantern in New Orleans.



Miss Louisiana Leatherette Cathy Fox and the Lords of Leather hosted "Divas Among Us" raising over \$1,500 for St. Anna's Food Pantry at Show Bar of the Year JohnPaul's in New Orleans. To find out more about the Lords, visit **LordsOfLeather.COM**.





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GEP Boards Tony Leggio, Opal Masters, Marsha Naquin-Delain, Tom "Rona" Conners & Rip Naquin-Delain



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Easter Grand Marshals X Marcy Marcell & Tony Leggio flank Gold Sponsor Quartermaster's Misael Rubio



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Ray Bates, EGM X Marcy Marcell, Ambush's Toni Pizanie, Zsa Zsa d'LaHor & Danny



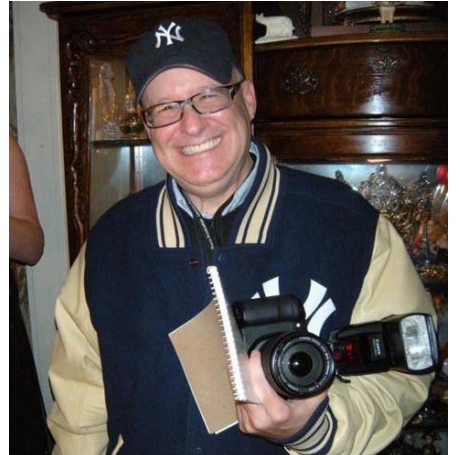
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