

ON

MAGAZINE

the glbt connection to the bay area

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BAY AREA PRIDE 07

- SF PRIDE GETS A WOMAN'S TOUCH
- BUILDING PRIDE YEAR-ROUND
- YOUTH ACTIVIST'S EMPOWERED
- GLBT ARTISTS UNLEASHED

PLUS:

- SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY ACTIVIST
- PLANETOUT STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE
- OUTLOOK VIDEO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

WHAT'S HOT AT FRAMELINE

HOLLYWOOD LEATHER

PRIDE: WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

The Stonewall Riots of 1969 in New York City marked the beginning of our Pride celebration in June. Millions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, family and friends have

gathered during this month to celebrate our lives. ON Magazine caught up with a variety of people in the San Francisco Bay Area to find out what Pride means to them.



LIZETTE ALVAREZ

Co-chair, San Francisco LGBT Center's Latino Forum (sfcenter.org/latinoforum.php)

Pride to me means a special time set aside for recognition and celebration for the LGBT community and its supporters. It's a time of awareness of our struggles and most importantly our achievements. From LGBT laypeople speaking up against hate, violence and discrimination in our community to achievements and coming out stories from public and prominent figures such as John Amaechi a gay man of color former NBA player. I feel that there is an absence of gay Latinas in the public eye whether it's in the following industry entertainment or education and with power to make decisions such as with legislative issues and policies. I think visibility is key for our gay community. Visibility can help pave the path for other Latina gay women to come out, and if out to become more involved in the gay community.



MAZEN NASSAR

Positive Force Program Manger, STOP AIDS Project (stopaids.org)

As a 27-year-old, HIV-positive Arab American, Pride is a time for me to reflect on my journey — from living through war in Lebanon to facing the constant struggles of racism and homophobia here in my new home in the United States. All those experiences have shaped me into a strong person who can stand up with PRIDE, for all of who and what I am. Pride allows me to connect to my queer Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Intersexed and Questioning (LGBTQI) family and celebrate the diversity in our communities. I also honor those in parts of the world that are in states of chaos due to war, those who are standing in the face of many adversaries of queer rights: HELEM (an LGBTQI group in Lebanon), ASWAT (a lesbian group in Palestinian/Israel) and queer rights groups in Iraq and Afghanistan. You are my inspiration; keep your head up with Pride.



LANNIE ROSE

Author, "LANNIE! My Journey from Man to Woman" (lannierose.com)

This year I have to miss the Santa Cruz Pride parade. I'm bummed, because 2001 was my coming out as a transgender person. A friend and I planned to walk inconspicuously with the Santa Cruz Trans contingent, but somebody grabbed us, said, "You're tall!" and thrust flags into our hands. And there I was, marching up Pacific Avenue, proudly waving a Transgender Pride flag. I'm still out and proud: proud of the dignity I maintained as I went through my gender transition, proud of the life I've built as an openly transsexual woman, and proud of all the wonderful, courageous lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, queer, asexual, autosexual and allied people I get to call my community. But this year, I'll have to miss the parade because June 3 I'll be at Book Expo America in Manhattan, debuting my new memoir.



SCOTT SHAFER

Host and reporter for The California Report, 88.5 FM, KQED (kqed.org)

It's easy to understand why young people coming out today might take their rights and visibility more or less for granted -- the way young women assume their right to an abortion. But all that progress wouldn't have come without hard work and risk-taking by those who came before us. That's why to me, Pride is a time to remember the work and sacrifice of people like Harry Hay, Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Harvey Milk, Cleve Jones and so many others who laid the groundwork for the relative freedom, openness and political clout we have today.

Of course there is still a very long way to go until LGBT folks gain full legal equality. But as Gay Pride approaches, let's remember the people who've helped take us this far.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 65