



HOP NEWS

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PrideWeek: June 20 – 28, 2009

All Event Release

New York City really gets its pride on come June! Here in the city where it all began, you can sit on a lawn and listen to a variety of speakers and performers, strut down America's main street, stroll through a street fair or dance yourself silly under the stars.

The theme for this year's events is: "**Paint the Town Rudy – Stonewall 40**". David Schneider, Co-Chair of Heritage of Pride explains the meaning of this year's theme as thus, "The theme is being used to mark the historic milestone, the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The 40th anniversary is also the ruby anniversary and rubies have a special place in our community. Judy Garland, who wore ruby slippers in the Wizard of Oz, passed away shortly before the Stonewall Riots. Some of the veterans of the riots feel that her death was a major contributing factor in the riots."

Pride Week 2009 begins with the annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Pride Rally. In the past we had the Rally on Sunday, but this year we are changing things up and starting the celebration on Saturday, June 20th. A variety of amazing LGBT singers, spoken word artists, dancers, speakers and comedians will lead us through a great afternoon in the city. And this - we promise – is only the beginning!

For the sixth year, Heritage of Pride presents Rapture on the River, dance on the pier for women on Saturday, June 27th. This event is one of the largest women's dance parties in the nation and this year we are thrilled to be welcoming back the phenomenal DJ Susan Levine.

Make sure to get rest after Rapture because Sunday, June 28th, will find you ready to step off with the 40th Annual LGBT Pride March. Leading the March will be our Grand Marshalls Anne Kronenberg, Cleve Jones, Dustin Lance Black, and Governor David A. Paterson. We are honoring these individuals because of their past and continuing dedication to changing the face of our community through activism, art, and progressive political action.

Before or after The March, make your way down to Pridefest, the annual LGBT street fair. Our street fair seeks to bring together local residents and families, community leaders, and area business owners to celebrate in the street. We will combine vendors, entertainers, and community activities for a day of fun celebration of LGBT Pride in the name of equality.

The closing event of Pride Week is Dance 23, the Dance on the Pier. This year's dance opens with a DJ battle between DJ Phillip Kimball and DJ Jack Reina. The powerful beats of DJ Corey Craig will close the event and lead into the annual NYC LGBT fireworks display at 10:30PM. This wonderfully splendid combination of experienced and talented DJs will make this a night to remember. The Dance on the Pier is Heritage of Pride's largest fundraiser of the year and one of the only two Pride events for which a ticket is needed — Rapture being the other one. Make sure you don't get shut out of the Dance – Tickets for both events go on sale May 1st. You can visit our website, NYCpride.org for ticket outlet information.

Heritage of Pride is the wholly volunteer-managed, non-partisan, tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride events in New York City to commemorate and celebrate the Stonewall Riots. These events are organized on behalf of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and groups, and all others who support the struggle for the liberation of these communities. In the Spirit of Stonewall, Heritage of Pride welcomes participation of all, regardless of age, creed, gender, gender identification, HIV status, national origin, physical or mental developmental ability, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Organizer & Producer of New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride
March, Rally, Dances & PrideFest