

## WHOSE RALLY IS IT ANYWAY?

by Michael Lavelle, NYC LGBT Pride Rally Director

The New York City LGBT Pride Rally is arguably the oldest continuously held civil rights event in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. The first Rally occurred one month after the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Washington Square Park. In the following years, the Rally has had many homes including Central Park and Union Square. After outgrowing Union Square, we moved to beautiful Bryant Park in 1997.

2008 marks the 40th Rally, and our 12th year in Bryant Park! Sadly, this 4 hour free concert in the park is not attended nearly as well as it used to be. Maybe it's because it usually coincides with Father's Day. That is not the case this year. The Rally will be on Sunday, June 22nd, one week later. We're anxious to see if that helps bring in a bigger crowd.

Please understand, the Rally is a gift that HOP gives to the community. There is no charge, no business sponsorship, no income. It is our free speech, civil rights event. We want you there to participate and accept this gift.

Why is this important? Well for one thing, the Rally showcases LGBT talent – singers, comics, rappers, spoken word. We try to cover all styles and tastes. This is not an amateur hour; we bring you professional, successful artists who happen to be lesbian, gay, bi and transgender – or at the very least, our straight allies. These talented members of our community donate their time and deserve our support.

More importantly, in between the entertainers, we have wonderful speakers from every part of the LGBT community. Last year, they collectively addressed marriage equality, anti-gay violence, gay/straight families, religious support for gays and lesbians, youth, AIDS and other issues. We're getting activists and experts to come and talk to you for free. They deserve our eyes, ears and hearts.

So, this is a call to give us your time for four Sunday afternoon hours in a beautiful park. It's free, it's fun, it's food for your soul. It's YOUR Rally.

For more information about the Rally, contact rally@hopinc.org or call 212-807-6424

Happy Pride! **HOP**



Photo credit: Joseph T. Barna

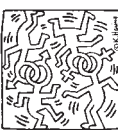


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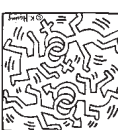
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Lavender Line Winter 2008  
c/o Heritage of Pride  
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New York, New York 10014

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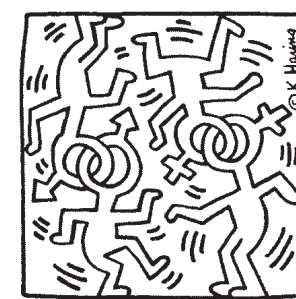
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# Gotta Dance!

Tickets for Dance 22, Heritage of Pride's largest fundraiser, go on sale May 1st. Dance 22 will be held on Sunday, June 29th. In May only, tickets are \$45. Once June rolls around, you'll pay \$55. Mark your calendar, make a note in that Palm Pilot you're always fussing with and otherwise remind yourself to get down to one of our ticket outlets to take advantage of our early-bird price. The fine people at Universal Gear at 140 8th Ave; Wear Me Out at 353 West 47th Street; and Village Apothecary at 346 Bleecker Street will be able to set you up. All tickets are also available at [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com).

There are a very limited number of tickets available for \$75 on June 29th. If you like the adrenalin that goes with waiting until the last minute, these tickets will be available only at Universal Gear.

Beginning May 1st, all our outlets will have those magical Dance 22 VIP tickets for \$150. In addition to an enlarged VIP area and a huge viewing platform, your \$150 gets you an *open* bar, fresh fruit and premiere view of the fireworks.

Tickets for Rapture 5, the dance on the pier for women, also go on sale May 1st. Rapture 5 will be held on Saturday, June 28th. General admission to Rapture is \$30. This event has been growing by leaps and bounds, and has become a staple event for women during Pride Week in New York. Rapture 5 starts at 6:00pm, and is the perfect place to celebrate after the Dyke March. A very limited amount of VIP tickets will be available for \$40. This VIP ticket will secure you admission into Rapture 5, as well as Lover Girl's Pier Pressure dance party at Chelsea Piers, which follows our event. Tickets for this event are available at all of the locations listed above for Dance 22.

Dance 22 and Rapture 5 take place on Pier 54 just opposite 13th Street on the West Side Highway. This years DJ's for Dance 22 are the fabulous Tracy Young and the wonderful Joe Gauthreaux. The DJ for Rapture is still under negotiation, and will be announced on the HOP website. New York City's weeklong Pride celebration and the Dance will end with our world-famous fireworks show over the Hudson.

The Dances on the Pier are Heritage of Pride's largest annual fundraisers. Proceeds benefit New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Events including the March, Rally and PrideFest. **HOP**



Photo credit: Joseph T. Barna

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Welcome to a New Year, and what an exciting year it's going to be!!! We are proud to announce that Pridefest will be back at a new location! The Rally is working on great talent for your entertainment. The March has great Grand Marshalls lined up and will be Honoring the 30th anniversary of PFLAG and the 25th anniversary of New York's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center. Last but not least, the Dance on the Pier and Rapture are planning events to remember. Volunteers are need for all events so please contact us to help with what promises to be one of the best Prides ever.

There is another event that requires our community's attention this year, the elections in November. While the various candidates are busy fawning for our affections we need to consider the issues that affect our lives and community. Regardless of your political affiliation, we must take a hard look at the men and women who claim to have the blueprint to lead our country. While our community has made much progress over the years, there is still work to do. The lyric from the band Lynyrd Skynyrd, "None of us are free if one of us is chained," best describes the state of our nation, and the fact many members of the LGBT community continue to struggle for rights that for most are "self evident." Now is the time to choose a candidate who will work with us towards equality and justice for all.

I encourage each and every one of you to take part in this most American process.

In Pride,  
Heather E. Hendelson  
Co-Chair, Heritage of Pride **HOP**



Photo credit: Joseph T. Barna

## What is HOP?

Heritage of Pride is a 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 for and on behalf of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered 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 the participation of all, regardless of age, creed, gender, gender identification, HIV status, national origin, physical, mental or developmental ability, race, religion or sexual orientation.

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## THE MARCH: TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

by Maurice Michaane, March Committee Outreach Coordinator

The March Committee has been off to a roaring start! With about five months to go until June, the March Committee already has wonderful news to report. First, our committee outreach efforts have been going exceptionally well, and we have added almost two dozen new members to the committee, several of whom have become new voting members of HOP. Of the many goals for the March Committee, nurturing community participation is key, and we welcome these new volunteers with open arms and look forward to working with them towards ensuring an amazing Pride March.

Speaking of the Pride March, we are pleased to report that our 2008 Grand Marshalls will be Gilbert Baker, gay rights activist and creator of the LGBT rainbow flag, and Candis Cayne, transgender actress and New York City personality. The March Committee and Heritage of Pride are honored to have them join us in celebrating our community's diversity, creative spirit, and leadership.

Be on the look out for the incredible energy coming from the March Committee over the next several months as we move closer to the 2008 Pride Events. We are working on several important projects and need for your help – it's not too late to get involved with the March Committee! Email us at March@hopinc.org **HOP**



Gilbert Baker, activist and creator of the LGBT rainbow flag



Candis Cayne, transgender actress and New York City personality

## PRIDEFEST: A NEW BEGINNING

by David Schneider



Photo credit: Steve Rosen

The planning for the 2008 street festival known as Pridefest has been a difficult task throughout this past autumn and winter. HOP's leadership has been negotiating with the city on a location for Pridefest and has run into a number of road-blocks along the way. As many of you remember, in 2007 HOP wanted to both move the festival to Chelsea and the date to Saturday instead of Sunday. During this recent round of talks, the city has once again refused to even consider a festival in Chelsea (or other alternative locations that we suggested) or a Saturday date.

The city has offered one viable location for the street festival. This location is along Hudson Street, from approximately Bethune to 14th Streets. Given a choice of our old space, which did not work because of accessibility and narrowness, or Hudson Street, which is problematic due to the lesser length, HOP has decided to go for Hudson Street. We do not want to be caught like last year with having to cancel the festival because of the city's last minute decision not to give us the Saturday date and the Chelsea location. Hence, HOP is moving forward with this new location.

Pridefest will be held on Sunday, June 28th on Hudson Street from Bethune to West 14th Streets, times to be announced.

So what is HOP doing now? The Pridefest Committee is trying to adapt Pridefest to its new location. If you'd like to help – and we can use your help – email David at david@hopinc.org. **HOP**

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