

Pre-1970s

Pre-1930s



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

Before the incorporation of Indio (1930) and Palm Springs (1938) as cities in the Coachella Valley, the Cahuilla

Band of Mission Indians have called the area home. With stagecoach routes and the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1867, white settlers began to develop the valley for agriculture, as well as for its healing properties. One early settler was William Pester, a naturist, often referred to as "The Hermit of Palm Springs." Born in Germany, Pester began living in several cabins in the Indian Canyons and Chino Canyon around 1916. An avowed nudist, he greeted people wearing a loincloth, and regaled them with stories about living the simple life. Although never calling himself a 'homosexual', he was arrested and pled guilty in 1940 to '10 counts of sexual perversion' with men, and jailed at San Quentin. The song *Nature Boy* written by eden ahbez (George Alexander Aberle) and recorded by Nat King Cole has been thought to be referring to Pester.

1950s



Photo credit: Joani Presents p. 31

A few bars and restaurants begin attracting gay and lesbian patrons. One bar, Joani's Place, (open 1957-58) was owned by Georgia Joan Waldor Hannan, the drummer in the girl band in the 1959 Billy Wilder film *Some Like it Hot*, starring Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, and Tony Curtis. After leaving Palm Springs, Hannan went on to become a very successful nightclub and restaurant owner spanning four decades.

1967

The Desert Sun prints an article by a local psychologist on "Homosexuality: New Ideas" in which he states, "If the homosexual male is happy, does not want to alter his sexual attitude and seems adjusted to every other facet of life, then many psychologists are advising that they stay the way they are."

1969



Photo credit: LGBTQ Religious Archives Network

Palm Springs Rotarians invite the Rev. John Hose, Asst. Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of West Hollywood, to address the club.

1930s, 40s & 50s

Because Palm Springs was only a short drive from Los Angeles and the movie studios, it becomes the playground for many movie stars, such as Marlene Dietrich [pictured



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

right], Greta Garbo, Tab Hunter [pictured left], Rock Hudson, Liberace, and others, who came to party, vacation, and purchase homes. Here they could have a more carefree gay, lesbian, and bisexual lifestyle away from the prying eyes of Hollywood.



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

1960s

Palm Springs is mentioned in early Gay publications across the county advertising its various bars and lodgings. Some mentioned were: The Amado (263 N. Indian Canyon Dr., Palm Springs); Dave's Villa Caprice Country Club (67670 Carey Rd., Cathedral City); Desert Lodge (74176 Candlewood St., Palm Desert); Oil Can Harry's Spa (68981 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Cathedral City); Queens Attic (67901 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Cathedral City); and Rancho Dandy (Highway 111, Rancho Mirage).



Photo credit: Bay Area Reporter

1969

Palm Springs' first very lesbian friendly hotel was established by Eadie Adams and her partner, Pat McGrath, and for 30 years was known as the Desert Knight (435 E. Avenida Olanca, Palm Springs). In the book, *Palm Springs Babylon*, the Desert Knight is mentioned as being visited by many including Gloria Swanson. From 1999-2012 it becomes the Queen of Hearts Resort for women but currently it is the Little Paradise boutique hotel.

NATIONAL

1924

The Society for Human Rights, the first documented gay rights organization, is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago.

1950

The Mattachine Society is formed by activist Harry Hay.

1952

The American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual lists homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance.

1955

The first known lesbian rights organization, Daughters of Bilitis, is formed in San Francisco.

1961

Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality by repealing its sodomy laws.

1969

Police raid the Stonewall Inn in New York City that leads to an uprising known as the impetus for the gay rights movement in the United States.

1970s

1975

Howard Hughes Villa is purchased by Daryl James and becomes El Mirasol Villas (525 S. Warm Sands Dr, Palm Springs), the first gay hotel in the Warm Sands neighborhood of Palm Springs.



Photo Credit: El Mirasol Villas

1977/78

Briggs Initiative - A ballot initiative that would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching and working in public schools is hotly debated with *The Desert Sun* publishing an editorial against it. A debate on the ballot initiative is also sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union, Unitarian Fellowship, United Methodist Church, and the League of Women Voters at the Palm Springs Public Library. It was defeated in November 1978.

1979

Desert Business Association (DBA), the Coachella Valley's only LGBTQ+ business association, is founded with John Stewart as President.

Gay-owned CV businesses band together

By MARK LARSON
Desert Sun Staff Writer
 A growing economic and political force is fast emerging upon the business landscape of the Coachella Valley — gay-owned businesses.
 The Desert Business Association, started 18 months ago by a collection of gay merchants who wanted to promote their businesses, now boasts a membership over 200 with a 18 percent monthly growth rate, according to its president, Jim Fellbaum.
 Fellbaum, 44, a Palm Springs merchant, says, "You might call it a gay chamber of commerce. It's not supposed to be in conflict with other chambers."
 He estimates there are "well over 15,000" gay persons in the Coachella Valley.
 Advertisements in gay publications such as Blue Boy and Advocate in

San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego are bought by DBA. To attract more clientele to the local gay businesses, according to Fellbaum.
 "There are 18 gay hotels in Palm Springs that have been here for years," he said, adding that six are located on Palm Canyon Drive and Indian Avenue.
 Although the DBA is made up of gay merchants, member Steve Fosen says that only 7.7 percent of those businesses are oriented to gay clientele. She said these include a church in Cathedral City, bars and hotels.
 Ms. Fosen said gay-oriented establishments in Cathedral City are more visible than in Palm Springs and other valley cities because of a fear of an "adverse response" from the "straight" or heterosexual environment.
 Although the group has been in existence for more than a year, it has avoided publicity for fear of a backlash of rejection in the community, said Fellbaum, who said DBA leaders have decided to face their fears.

"We're trying to build rapport with the area so we can contribute to community harmony," said Fellbaum.
 Ms. Fosen added, "For every gay there is a coming out process — when the person finally comes to accept that he or she is gay."
 "The fact that we have to come out is because society has made it that way," she said. "After the personal acceptance, family and friends have to accept it. And a community goes through that same kind of process."
 A DBA member who asked that he be identified by the pseudonym "John" characterized the growing organization.
 "It will never be a militant force, but it will be a political force. We are probably the largest minority group in the area. Politicians will need to recognize that fact."
 (Continued on Page A-6)

Photo credit: The Desert Sun

1976

Christine Jorgensen, the first American woman to publicly announce her gender reassignment surgery, speaks at a Palm Desert Women's Club Luncheon at the Desert Club (demolished and now the site of Fritz Burns Park) in La Quinta.



Photo credit: Transcity.org

1978

The Newly Established
Metropolitan **C**ommunity **C**hurch
 Invites You to the
 Following Meetings
 All Meetings 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.
 April 17 Monday Conference Room of
 April 24 Monday Santa Fe Federal S/L
 May 1 Monday Assn., 68-327 Hwy. 111
 May 9 Tuesday Cathedral City, Ca.
 For further information, call Rev. D. Gendron (714) 685-7904
 or (714) 824-1337

Photo credit: The Desert Sun

Metropolitan Community Church of the Desert is founded with Rev. Deborah Gendron as pastor. They first meet in the Conference Room of the Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan (now demolished) at 68327 Highway 111 in Cathedral City.

1979

Palm Springs Public Library holds a forum on "Talking with Children About Sex" that included a round table talk among clergymen of different faiths, speaking on homosexuality as a sexual choice, along with a representative of the Pro-Life League.

NATIONAL

1970 The nation's first Gay Pride March is held in New York City.

1972

Kathy Kozachenko becomes the first open lesbian elected to public office after winning a city council race in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

1973

Lambda Legal is established to fight for the equal rights of gays and lesbians.

1973/74

The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

1977

Anita Bryant founds "Save Our Children" in opposition to the lesbian and gay rights movement.

1977

Harvey Milk becomes the first openly gay person elected to public office in California. He is murdered by fellow Supervisor Dan White in 1978.

1978

Disneyland hosts its first "Gay Night".

1979

The first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place with an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 participants.

1980s

1980

The *Bottom Line Magazine* began as a bar rag by 'Tackee' David Cobbs (who also published *David Magazine*). Purchased in 1982 by James Suguitan and William Gordon, they expanded their publishing ventures to include: *Pulp Magazine*, *Shore Patrol* (a women's guide to the Dinah Shore Golf Tournament) and *Omega Literary Arts Magazine*.

1984

Desert AIDS Project (DAP) originally located at 610 S. Belardo Rd., Palm Springs, now known as DAP Health, is founded.

1985

Rock Hudson [pictured on the right] dies of AIDS in Los Angeles, his ashes are spread at sea, but a Cenotaph in his memory is installed at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Cathedral City.



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

1986

The first local Gay Pride Day, sponsored by the Desert Business Association, was held in Palm Springs with a variety show, Sizzle, at the Hilton Riviera (now Margaritaville, 1600 N. Palm Canyon Dr.). Mayor Robert Hillery also proclaims the first Pride Day in Cathedral City.

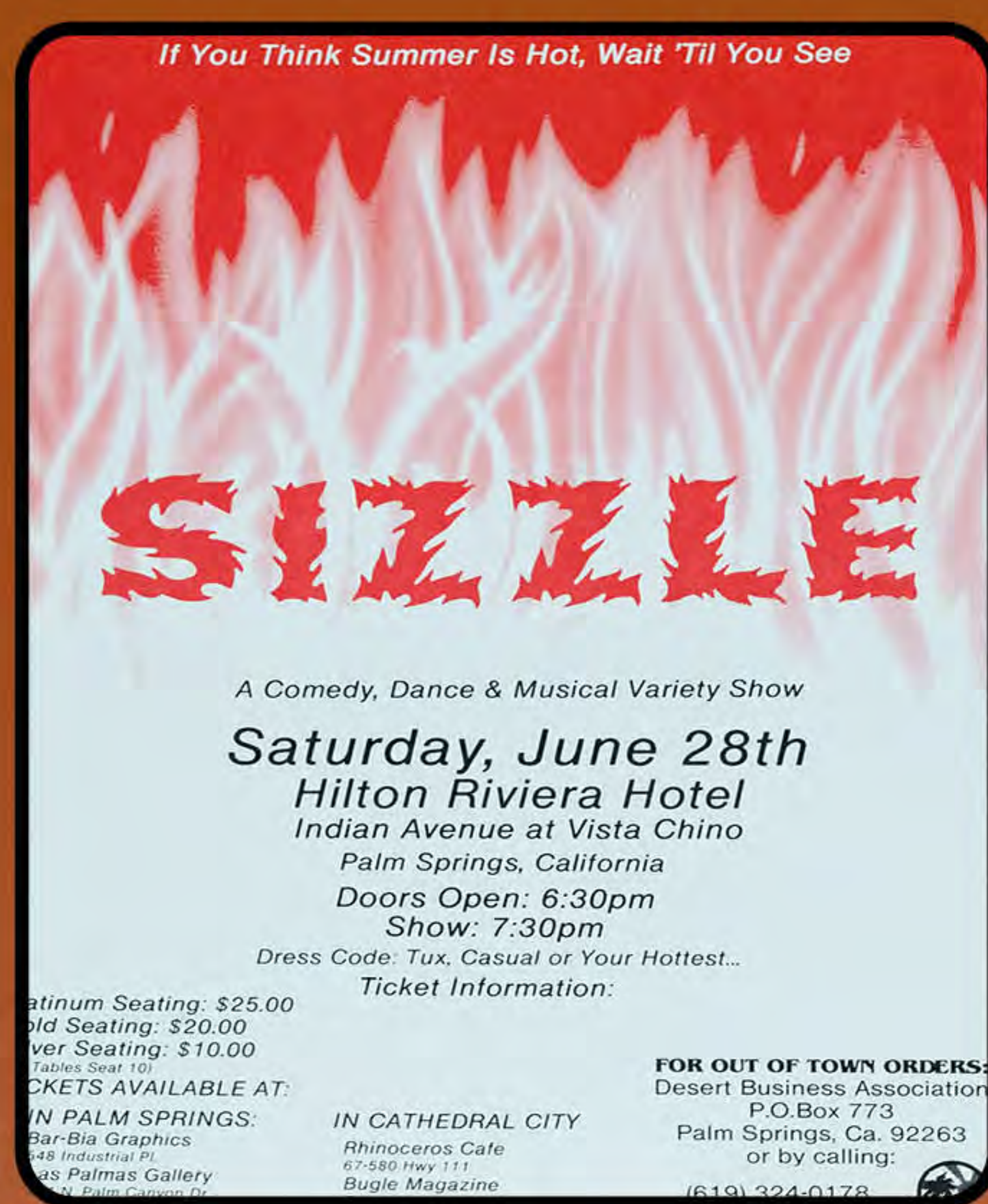


Photo credit: ONE Archives at USC Libraries

1981

Two Cathedral City gay bars, GAF Bar (68555 Ramon Rd., Cathedral City, demolished and now Gentry Plaza) and Dave's Villa Caprice Country Club (67670 Carey Rd., and now an Independent Living Center) are firebombed with minor damage.



Photo credit: The Desert Sun

1984



Photo credit: The Desert Sun

Hardtline Residential Resort (formerly Pines West Guesthouse) at the corner of N. Indian Canyon and E. Camino Monte Vista, Palm Springs, was opened by Fred Hardt as an AIDS Residential Hotel; it was the first AIDS Hospice in the US.

1985

Palm Springs Police carry out sting operations at Ruth Hardy Park; 45 men are arrested for indecent exposure over a two-year period.

1986

Proposition 64 (a.k.a. the LaRouche Initiative) would have classified AIDS as a communicable disease and placed restrictions on those who had AIDS or tested HIV-positive was put before the voters. A protest against it was held at Ruth Hardy Park in Palm Springs. Proposition 64 was defeated statewide.

NATIONAL

1981 First US report on AIDS published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

1982 Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

1984 US Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler announces the discovery of the virus that causes AIDS and the availability of an HIV test.

1980s

1987

California Superior Court awards custody of 16-year-old Brian Batey to Craig Corbett of Palm Springs, the longtime companion of the boy's late father Frank Batey (who had died of AIDS) instead of to his biological mother.

1987



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

Liberace [pictured on the left] dies of AIDS (initially attributed to “anemia, emphysema and heart disease”) at his Palm Springs home (corner of W. Alejo and N. Belardo Rd.). A memorial service was held at Our Lady of Solitude, Palm Springs.

1987

About 35 Coachella Valley residents attend the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the display of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, DC., led by Greg Pettis. [pictured is Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, left, and Greg Pettis, right].



Photo credit: Palm Springs Historical Society

1989



Photo credit: David A. Lee

Jeffrey Sanker holds the first White Party in Palm Springs at the Marquis Hotel (Marquis Villas Resort, 140 S Calle Encilia, Palm Springs).

1989

Triangle Inn (555 E. San Lorenzo Rd., Palm Springs) a clothing optional resort for men, is opened by Matt Robinson and Kevin Rice; it remains open today.

1989

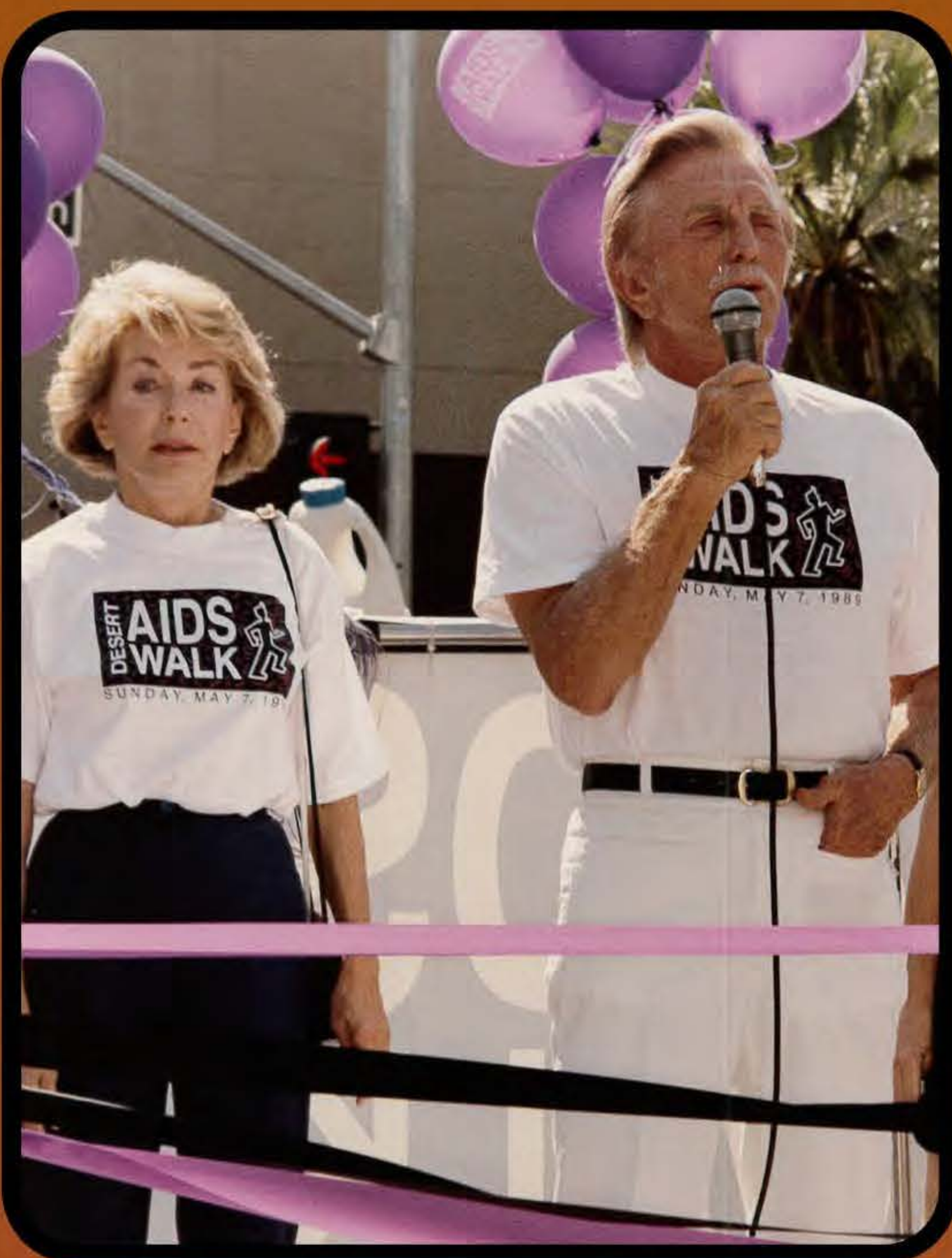


Photo credit: The DAP Health

DAP Health held its first Desert AIDS Walk, a 10K in downtown Palm Springs, drawing the support of high-profile Valley residents such as Kirk and Anne Douglas. Former President and First Lady Gerald and Betty Ford attended the post-walk picnic.

NATIONAL

1987 AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, or ACT UP, is founded in New York City.

1987 The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed for the first time on the National Mall.

1988 The World Health Organization organizes the first World AIDS Day to raise awareness of the spreading pandemic.

1990s

The Second Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival
 World Premieres • U.S. Premieres
 Great American Musicals Tribute • Parties

Eight films of special interest to gay / lesbian audiences
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit
 Great Britain, 1989
 You will be utterly mesmerized by this absolutely brilliant film about a young g if's coming-of-age in England in the 1920's

Coming Out
 Germany, 1990
 The compelling story of Philip, torn between two lovers, Tom, a fellow school teacher and Matthias, with whom a chance meeting leads him into a journey of the highly cloistered world of East German gay bars.

Conrades in Arms
 Great Britain, 1989
 A delightful look at homosexual life in World War II.

Desire: Sexuality in Germany 1910-1945
 West Coast Premiere • Great Britain, 1990
 Another insightful documentary recapturing the progressive gay society developing in turn of the century Germany that was tragically smashed by the Nazi persecution of the late 1930's.

Angel at My Table
 West Coast Premiere • New Zealand, 1990
 A beautiful and poignant story of a blind girl's emotional journey.

Resident Alien
 US Premiere • USA, 1990
 This outstanding documentary will charm your socks off while providing fresh insights into the gay awareness movement through the viewpoint of one of its most noted pioneers.

The Spider's Web
 Germany, 1989
 A tale of intrigue, lust, and a weak man's rise to power in pre-World War II Germany

PASSES
 PLATINUM PASS \$200
 Includes all screenings and parties. Priority seating up to 30 minutes prior to showtime. Entry to Festival Hospitality Suite. Includes to all events. (Seating subject to availability.)
 GOLD PASS \$100
 Includes all screenings and parties. Priority seating up to 20 minutes prior to showtime.
 SILVER PASS \$50
 Includes all screenings and parties. Priority seating up to 15 minutes prior to showtime.
 BRONZE PASS \$25
 Includes all screenings and parties. Priority seating up to 10 minutes prior to showtime.
 GENERAL INFORMATION
 The festival is held at the Palm Springs Desert Museum (now Palm Springs Art Museum) 1600 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92262. For more information, call (760) 325-1111 or visit our website at www.palm-springs-international-film-festival.com. All times are subject to change without notice. All times are subject to change without notice. All times are subject to change without notice.

1991
 JANUARY 9-13

Photo credit: Mega-Scene

1991

Palm Springs International Film Festival screens eight films of special interest to gay and lesbian audiences.

1991

A STREETBAR NAMED DESIRE

Palm Springs' Newest Gay Bar
 Chef Gregg and Vinnie invite you to the
GRAND OPENING NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND
 Special Low Drink Prices Saturday thru Monday
 No Cover Charges - Midnight Hors d'oeuvres

NEW YEAR'S EVE
 MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE
 HATS & NOISE MAKERS
 Buffet Breakfast - \$5.50
 1AM - 3:30AM

LUNCH SERVED DAILY 11:30AM - 2PM
 Burgers, French Dip, BBQ Ham, Soup du Jour

EVENING FARE DAILY 6PM-Midnight
 The Burger Dozen, N.Y. Steak Sandwich
 Streetbar Nachos, Buffalo Wings
 Basket O'Shrimp, Quesadillas

OPEN DAILY
 11AM - 2AM
 224 E. ARENAS
 (1/2 Block Off Indus)
 PALM SPRINGS

HAPPY HOURS
 3PM - 6PM
 MIDNITE - 2AM
 Complimentary Southwestern
 Cock, Cheese & Crackers

Photo credit: Mega-Scene

Gloria Greene opens A Streetbar Named Desire (Streetbar) as the first gay bar on Arenas Rd. in Palm Springs.

1991

Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend, now considered the largest lesbian event in the world, and produced by Mariah Hanson, is held at the Palm Springs Desert Museum (now Palm Springs Art Museum).

THE 1998 DINAH SHORE WEEKEND

COCKTAIL PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!

STARRING
Suzanne Westenhofer
 Join celebrities, political leaders and NOW president Patricia Ireland to honor the historic congressional candidates of three out lesbians

Rep. Jimmy Bakke • Cal Marijuana Commissioner Greg • Councilmember Chris Hecho
 WISCONSIN WASHINGTON CALIFORNIA

1998 Women of Power Award Winners

Friday
March 27, 1998
 Palm Springs Convention Center
 277 North Second California

Reserved Seating and Post-show VIP Reception - \$100
 General Admission - \$55 in advance, \$60 at the door
 (Cash only at 5:00pm, door opens at 6:00pm)

Tickets available through NOW at
<http://www.now.org>
 or (202) 531-0066, 775,
 P.O. Box 1199 • Tallahassee, FL 32304

Proceeds to benefit
 NOW Equality
 Political Action Committee

Help Elect Women Who Support Lesbian Rights

Photo credit: The Bottom Line Magazine

1992

The first Desert Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, hosted by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance of the Desert, took to the streets of Palm Springs. The Parade makes its way down Williams Rd. to Mesquite Ave. and into Demuth Park for the Pride Festival.

1993

The Bee Charmer Inn (1600 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs) is opened by Denise Goolsby and Judy Nelson. At the time it was the only lesbian resort but others were soon to follow. In 2002 it was sold and became Terrazzo Palm Springs, a men's hotel. No longer an LGBT hotel; it currently is the La Maison Hotel, one of Palm Springs boutique hotels.

1994

Greg Pettis is the first openly gay elected official in the Coachella Valley when he is elected Mayor of Cathedral City.

Cathedral City NEEDS Greg Pettis!

Leadership!
Integrity!
Commitment!

A Mayor For ALL THE PEOPLE!

ELECT GREG PETTIS
 MAYOR FOR CATHEDRAL CITY

SEND DONATIONS TO
 COMMITTEE TO ELECT GREG PETTIS
 P.O. BOX 881 • CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92235

TO VOLUNTEER TIME
 OR SERVICES, CALL
 770-7772

Photo credit: David Magazine

NATIONAL

1993

President Bill Clinton signs a military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that prohibits openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military.

1996

Congress passes the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) signed by President Clinton limiting federal marriage benefits to heterosexual married couples.

1996

Hawaii becomes the first state to recognize that gay and lesbian couples are entitled to the same privileges as heterosexual married couples.

1990s

1995

A group of volunteers at Desert Hospital (now Desert Regional Medical Center), led by Guy Lawson, works with the hospital to transform the third floor of the East Tower into an AIDS ward as part of the hospital's Special Care Unit.



Photo credit: The Desert Sun

1997

The Pride Parade in Palm Springs moves to Palm Canyon Dr. with Michael Feinstein as Grand Marshall.



Photo credit: Michael Childers

Members of Desert Chapel (630 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs) march on City Hall to protest the parade being on Palm Canyon Dr.

1997

Cathedral City establishes the first domestic partnership registry in the Coachella Valley.

1998



Photo credit: William Dey

Casitas Laquita (450 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs) opens. Originally built as a motor inn in the early 1940s, Joanna Funaro and Denise Roberson, made it a lesbian hotspot; with the Wine Cellar for entertainment

showcasing the 'Sassy Sisters' and hosting special events like the Lesbian Writers Festival. The resort closed in 2016.

1998

Palm Springs Gay Veterans march in the Palm Springs Veteran's Day Parade for the first time.



Photo credit: Greater Palm Springs Pride

Sidebar:



Many local social organizations were also founded in the 1990s, including Boots & Squares, Caballeros (Gay Men's Chorus), Gay Veterans, FrontRunners,

Desert Stonewall Democrats, Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert, Prime Timers of the Desert, and local chapter of PFlag, etc.



NATIONAL

1997 Comedian Ellen DeGeneres comes out as a lesbian on the cover of *Time* magazine.

1998 Matthew Shepard is tied to a fence, beaten and dies near Laramie, Wyoming.

1999 California becomes the first state to pass a domestic partnership statute (Assembly Bill 26) without the intervention of the courts.

2000s

2000

Palm Springs City Council unanimously passes Ordinance No. 1578 – the Domestic Partnership Ordinance - a policy extending to unmarried domestic partners certain rights afforded married couples. The Ordinance was brought forth by the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission.

2001



Photo credit: David Gray

The Golden Rainbow Senior Center (now the LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert) is founded. Renting space at the Fellowship Hall of the Metropolitan

Community Church (32150 Candlewood Dr., Cathedral City), David Grindstaff was the first Executive Director.

2006

Palm Springs High School *Spirit of the Sands* Marching Band and Visual Corps marches in the Pride Parade for first time.

What started out to be a controversial decision, viewed as anti-Christian and with death threats against the band director, becomes one of the band's most meaningful performances of the year.



Photo credit: Lani Garfield

2009



Photo credit: David Gray

Palm Springs police conducts a four-night undercover gay sex sting operation in the Warm Sands neighborhood of Palm Springs, resulting in 24

arrests and 14 prosecutions. The operation causes a “firestorm of public outcry” that eventually leads to the retirement of Police Chief David Dominguez, as well as new policing procedures.

2001

The LGBTQ Veterans Memorial at Desert Memorial Park (31705 DaVall Dr., Cathedral City) is dedicated as the first Gay Veterans Memorial in the country.



Photo credit: James Darby

2003



Photo credit: Ron Oden

Ron Oden is elected as the first openly gay and first African-American Mayor of Palm Springs. Ginny Foat is also elected as the first lesbian Palm Springs City Councilmember.

2007

Cinema Diverse: The Palm Springs LGBTQ Film Festival begins.

2008

College of the Desert Gay Straight Alliance holds a Day of Remembrance; followed by the COD Board of Trustees proclaiming a Day of Silence on campus.

2008

The LGBT communities in Palm Springs and Coachella Valley are outraged at the passage of the anti-gay, anti-Marriage Equality Proposition 8. Several demonstrations with hundreds of protesters join with the Human Rights Campaign and Equality California to rally against hate and Prop 8.



Photo credit: Ed Emond-Worline

NATIONAL

2000

Vermont becomes the first state to legalize civil unions, a legal status that provides most of the state-level benefits of marriage.

2003

The US Supreme Court strikes down the “homosexual conduct” law that decriminalized same-sex sexual conduct with its opinion in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

2004

Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize gay marriage when the Massachusetts Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples have the right to marry in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*.

2008

The California Supreme Court strikes down California's existing statutes limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples in a 4-3 ruling. Later that year voters approve Proposition 8, making same-sex marriage illegal.

2009

Harvey Milk is posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

2010s

2011



Photo credit: Lani Garfield

Gilbert Baker, who created the LGBT Rainbow Flag in 1978, receives the *Palm Springs Pride Lifetime Achievement Award* and rides in the annual Pride Parade.

2012

The Coachella Valley Transgender Community (the forerunner of the Trans Community Project, Transgender Community Coalition & Transgender Health & Wellness Center) is established. The first National Day of Remembrance is commemorated at The LGBTQ Center of the Desert.



Photo credit: David Gray

2014

Sanctuary Palm Springs is founded to address the needs of transition-aged LGBTQ+ youth in the foster care system. It began accepting residents in 2017.



Photo credit: Greater Palm Springs Pride

2012

The L-Fund is established to provide resources to lesbians in crisis by six lesbians:

Barbara Carpenter, Betty Berrysmith, Ruth Debra, Bobreta Franklin, Sharon Siegel, and Katie Ullman.



Photo credit: L Fund

2014

Stonewall Gardens (2150 N. Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs), an assisted living community for LGBT seniors, opens.



Photo credit: David A. Lee

NATIONAL

2011 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is repealed, ending a ban on gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

2012 Voters (rather than judges or legislators) in Maine, Maryland and Washington approve constitutional amendments permitting same-sex marriage.

2012 Tammy Baldwin becomes the first openly gay or lesbian politician to be elected to the US Senate.

2010s

2015

First LGBT Days are held in Cathedral City. The three-day celebration of events celebrates the city's diversity.



Photo credit: City of Palm Springs

Geoff Kors and JR Roberts, along with gay Mayor Robert Moon, to become the first all LGBT Council in Palm Springs history.

2017

Palm Springs elects its first transgender and bisexual City Councilors, Lisa Middleton and Christy Holstege, who joined gay City Councilors

2015

LGBTQ Community Activist George Zander, and his husband Chris, are attacked after

leaving a bar on Arenas Road in Palm Springs. George dies six weeks after being assaulted and is honored in 2016 with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars (205 S. Palm Canyon Dr.).

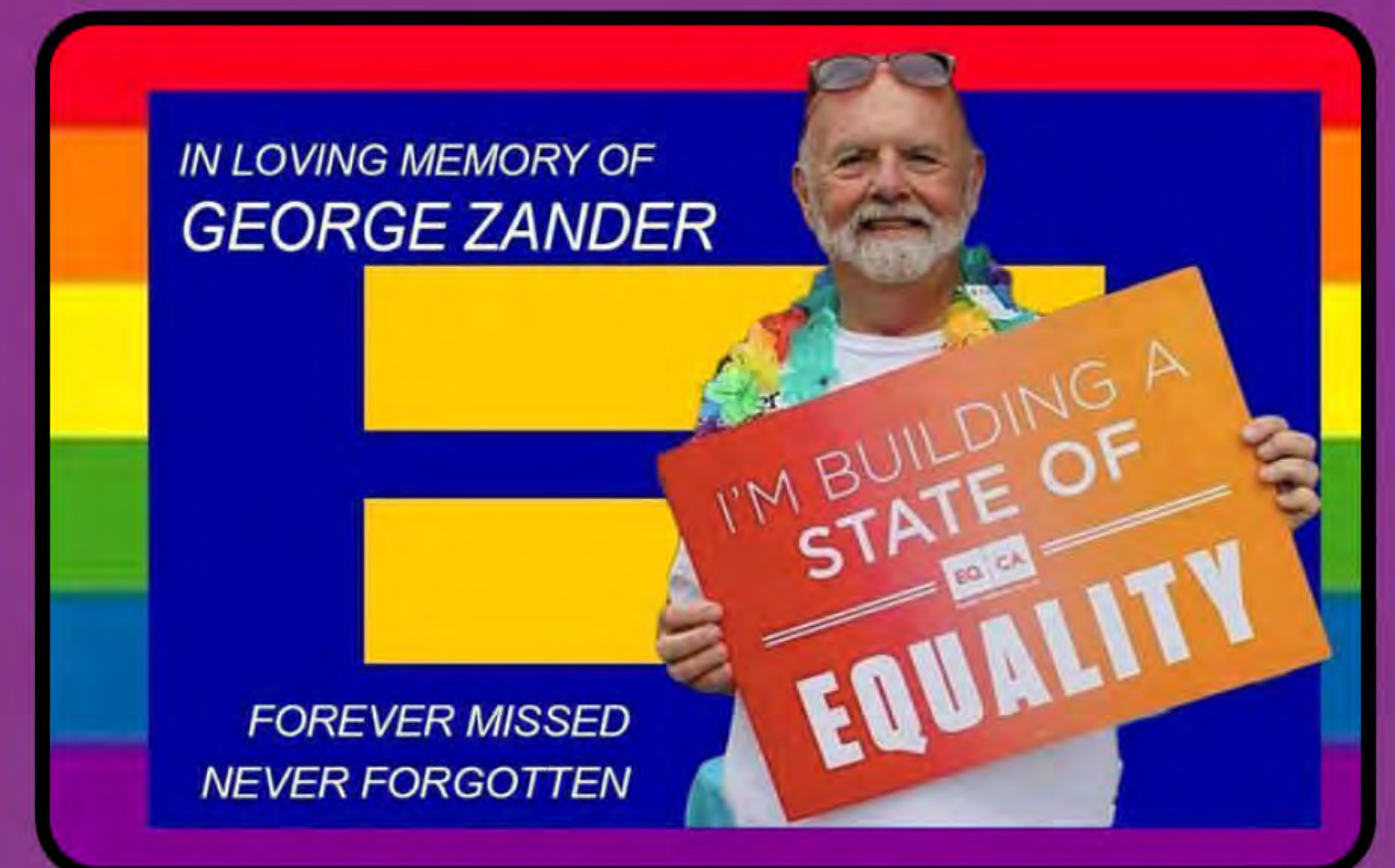


Photo credit: CV Independent

2017

First Desert Hot Springs Pride is held at Cabot's Pueblo Museum and the first East Valley Coachella Pride is held at Veterans Park in Coachella.



Photo credit: DHS Pride

2019

The LGBTQ Veterans Memorial in Cathedral City is recognized as an official California State Memorial.



Photo credit: David Gray



Photo credit: East Coachella Valley Pride

NATIONAL

2013

In *United States v. Windsor*, the US Supreme Court strikes down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, ruling that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits.

2015

Conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy sides with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan and votes in favor of same-sex marriage rights, ultimately making gay marriage legal across the nation.

2016

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announces that the Pentagon is lifting the ban on transgender people serving openly in the US military.

2016

President Obama announces first national monument to LGBTQ rights, The Stonewall National Monument in New York City, the site of the 1969 uprising.

2019

2019 The Trump Administration announces a new policy that bans most transgender people from serving in the U.S. military.

SHARING OUR DESERT'S LGBTQ+ HISTORY

This exhibit is a chronological history of events, organizations and individuals that have helped to make the greater Palm Springs area the welcoming place that it is for LGBTQ+ individuals today.

Taken from a much more detailed historical timeline, the information presented here is some of what the Founding Committee has deemed of interest. In no way is this a comprehensive list of all the LGBTQ+ historical events or individuals that have contributed to our local history, but an attempt to show some of the most significant.

It is hoped that future exhibits will focus on more specific areas such as guest houses, bars and restaurants, politics, organizations, individuals, etc.



**HISTORY & ARCHIVES
OF THE DESERT**

MISSION:

To collect, preserve and make accessible the LGBTQ+ History of the Greater Palm Springs Area and within the Coachella Valley.

VISION:

To focus on documenting and preserving the history of the LGBTQ+ community of the Greater Palm Springs area, and sharing that history with LGBTQ+ individuals, organizations, allies, and the public.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Look for important documents and items that reflect our local LGBTQ+ history and reach out to the committee to evaluate and determine donation or loan of items.
- Donate funds to support the cause. Help the Archive get established and be a part of our history.

LGBTQ+ History & Archives of the Desert

Email: lgbtqpshistory@gmail.com | Phone: (760) 459-7835

Follow us on:  @LGBTQPSHistory