



The Numbers Behind Capital Pride

Over **250,000** people attended the annual Street Festival in 2008. Capital Pride is the **3rd Largest Pride Celebration in the Country!**

The annual celebration has **10 days** of different events, from Jun 5 - June 14, 2009.

The annual Capital Pride celebration is covered by major print, television, radio, and online media outlets from **all along the east coast**.

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Capital Pride Announces 2009 Heroes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Capital Pride is pleased to announce its 2009 Heroes. This year's honorees include six heroes and for the first time, two "Super Heroes" who are being honored for their generations of support on the 40th Anniversary of Stonewall.

"This year's heroes are a diverse group of individuals who have and continue to make a lasting impact on the Washington, DC LGBT community," said Dyana Mason, Executive Director of Capital Pride. "They are individuals who do what they may deem ordinary things but which have extraordinary results!"

This year's heroes and super heroes will also be represented at the parade on Saturday, June 13.

Those interested volunteering at the Heroes awards reception or want to learn more about our local leaders, can visit the official Capital Pride website at www.capitalpride.org.

The full list of 2009 Capital Pride Heroes include:

Super Heroes

Frank Kameny

Dr. Franklin Kameny is arguably one of the founders of the modern GLBT rights movement in America. In November 1961, Kameny founded the Mattachine Society of Washington (MSW) with Jack Nichols, a twenty-three year old native Washingtonian. Over the next decade, MSW created and defined gay activism in Washington, DC and much of the nation by pressing for an end to discrimination against gay men and lesbians on the part of the US Civil Service Commission, the US military, the American Psychiatric Association, and reform of sodomy laws. In 1971, Dr. Kameny again set a precedent by becoming the first openly gay candidate for the US Congress. The 1971 Kameny for Congress campaign organization reconstituted itself in April 1971 as the Gay Activists Alliance / DC (later the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance). That same year Dr. Kameny, the Gay Activists Alliance, and the Gay Liberation Front took their protests against psychiatry's classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder to a new level with a

disruption of Attorney General Ramsey Clark's keynote speech at the American Psychiatric Association's convention in Washington, DC. Following the zap of the speech, an homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on December 15, 1973.

Kameny's home at 5020 Cathedral Avenue NW – recently designated as a national historic landmark -- has served as the de facto center of Mattachine activities, a counseling center for those seeking legal assistance with issues of employment and other discrimination, and guest house for visiting gay movement activists. Few sites in Washington, DC have such a long association with the history of local and national gay civil rights activism. The Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress have also placed Kameny's papers and memorabilia on display.

Lilli Vincenz

Dr. Lilli Vincenz' work for gay civil rights, for creating a safe social space for lesbians, and for creating a Community for Creative Self-Development opened new horizons for Washington's gay community. Her films of gay civil rights events have given the local and national gay community an invaluable visual archive of its early years. Vincenz came to Washington, DC as a WAC neuropsychiatric technician doing on-the-job training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1962. Outed by her roommate, Vincenz was given a general discharge, under honorable conditions, from the Army. Referred by the New York Mattachine society to Washington's Mattachine Society (MSW), she joined in the fall of 1963. She participated in MSW's innovative picketing demonstrations here and in Philadelphia. A gifted writer, she wrote for MSW's publications, editing its quarterly *Homosexual Citizen* and later writing a column for *New York's Gay*. In the late 60s she became a filmmaker, filming the 1968 Third Reminder Day picket in Philadelphia for her first film *Second Largest Minority*. In 1970, *Gay and Proud in New York City*, covering the first Christopher Street Liberation Day parade celebrating the first anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City.

A psychotherapist since 1975, she returned to her studies in 1982 and received her PhD in 1990. Two years later, Vincenz and her partner, Nancy Ruth Davis, founded the Community for Creative Self-Development (CCSD), a holistic learning community to empower gay women and men, and all gay-friendly people creatively, spiritually, and psychologically. After twelve years of workshops, classes, conferences, and quality newsletters, CCSD, which became dormant in 2004, remains alive in the yearly reunion of former members and interested friends.

Heroes

Andrew Abell aka "Blair Michaels"

Andrew Abell has been a well known female impersonator and fixture in the Washington, DC community for 25 years. Blair has been one of the first in line to volunteer for community organizations and challenging people to

donate and fundraise for various charities including Food and Friends, Whitman-Walker Clinic, The DC Center, AIDSWalk Washington, Capital Pride, Youth Pride, The Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association, Pediatric Aids Foundation and the annual fundraiser for Grandma's House. Behind all of the make-up there is a man who has been deeply devoted to the LGBT community. Blair has been an active member of the Academy of Washington, Inc. and is a former Miss Capital Pride and has held numerous titles in the Washington, DC pageant scene. Andrew has also been a volunteer and coach to many young women in the Miss USA and Miss America scholarship pageant systems. Andrew and his partner Brad of 19 years reside in Alexandria, VA with their four legged children.

David Lett aka "Lena Lett"

David Lett has been entertaining and engaging the LGBT community for over a decade. He has been instrumental in rallying the community to make a difference. As his alter ego, Lena Lett, he has been a host and activist for many causes over the years. He has been the grand marshal for the annual high heel race on 17th street (with his mother usually helping and applauding in the crowd) and has hosted charity event after charity event after charity event. David is a native Washingtonian and is a graduate of Saint John's College, a Catholic Military School. David has been a DC business owner and was one of the partners that created the first voluntary non-smoking bar called "Halo". Lena Lett has been a recognizable drag queen for over 14 years and has no signs of stopping anytime soon. His activism and his love for the community is more than evident and he has been the full-time emcee at Town Danceboutique since it opened. If there is a cause and money to be raised Lena is always there with a smile to help his gay children know it is important for the good of the community.

Ellen Kahn

Ellen Kahn has been a well known voice in the LGBT community for years. She was a longtime employee of Whitman Walker Clinic as the director of Lesbian Services and paved the way for other lesbian programs across the country and also helped many LGBT families with a program called "Maybe Baby" for gays and lesbians who wanted to start a family or learn more about gay adoptions. Ellen has been a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS and was also instrumental in providing education and support for the transgender community while at WWC. Ellen has been with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation since 2005. Ellen is a tireless advocate for family issues and supporting LGBT family equality. She continues to speak and lend her voice at conferences and work with media for a better understanding of gay parenting and families. Ellen is originally from Philadelphia and currently lives with her partner and two children in Silver Spring, Md.

Margaret Murray

Since 2006, Margaret Murray has been leading the way for the LGBT film community in Washington DC as the executive director of One In Ten. Margaret arrived in DC, by way of Florida, where she served two years as the

executive director for the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Under her guidance, she successfully launched KidFlix, Tampa's first children's film festival. Margaret has quickly taken her roots in DC seriously and has worked with many organizations in DC to provide an outlet for creative and innovative film making. She is the owner of Movies That Move, an award-winning roving cinema showcase that pair site specific film screenings in out of the way and unlikely locales. Her experiences along the way have proven to be a success for the DC community. She worked extensively on a partnership between glass artist Dale Chihuly and the Arts Center to create Florida's first arts-anchored residential development. She is a mother, a wife and an activist in our community since she arrived. She continues to engage and motivate our community and she is also one of the first to recognize individuals who have made a difference, not only for OIT, but the community as a whole.

Donna Payne

Donna Payne has been a pillar of support in the Washington, DC GLBT community and has been serving as the Associate Director of Diversity for the Human Rights Campaign for over 10 years. Donna has used her leadership and her experience to make a difference and working closely with civil rights organizations around the country as well as leaders. Donna has helped increase the visibility of LGBT individuals, organizations and has helped build a bridge of outreach to the religious communities and communities of color. Donna draws on her religious background and her experience to bring people together. She serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors and is a founding member of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC). She was also a past board member of Zuna Institute, a black lesbian advocacy organization. Payne has been a member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, DC since 1989 and has served on the Board of Directors for three years. Payne graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1986 with a degree in Political Science and has served the political community by working with the Young Democrats in Washington, DC, the Political Congress of Black Women, and on Congressional campaigns in the South. She volunteered with the Clinton administration during its national health care reform efforts at the White House.

Bob Witeck

Bob Witeck is a man behind the scenes who has continued to make things happen in our community for decades. His experience and expertise has helped many Washington DC organizations do better business and implement better business practices. Bob Witeck is a Co-Founder of Witeck-Combs communications and serves as the Chief Executive Officer. His experience of more than 30 years has been key to many leaders and organizations in the Washington, DC GLBT community. He has provided numerous hours of volunteer service to organizations such as Whitman-Walker Clinic, The Human Rights Campaign, PFLAG, The Capital Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and Out and Equal. He and his

business partner, Wes Combs have been on the OUT 100 list for the work they have done for the GLBT business community and providing essential information that has created a win-win for corporate America and the GLBT community. Bob was previously Senior Vice President for Hill & Knowlton Public Affairs, a global public relations and public affairs firm. On Capitol Hill for over a decade, he also served as communications director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and as a Senate press secretary and legislative assistant. Bob and his partner reside in Arlington, Virginia. Bob is a mentor, a friend and a trusted leader that makes a difference even when he is not in the spotlight.

Some information included in the above bios courtesy of the [Rainbow History Project](#).

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Capital Pride is produced by the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Capital Pride is a volunteer-based organization that is open to all members, supporters, and allies of the GLBT community. For more information about Capital Pride, including how to make a tax-deductible donation and to volunteer with the organization, please visit www.capitalpride.org.