Yerba Buena Gardens 2002

Alternative Family Picnic

An Old Fashioned 4th of July

July 4th to 11th
Partners

The Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic is presented by Yerba Buena Garden Festival, The Alternative Family Institute and the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.

Alternative Family Institute is a non-profit, community-based, counseling and support services agency for lesbian, members and children. AFI provides a full-service counseling agency, support groups, for individuals, couples, families and children, as well as an educational and training program. Visit our tables for information or contact our offices. Director: Robert J. Green, Phone: 415 436-9000, E-Mail: info@altfamily.org Website: www.altfamily.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts is a multi-disciplinary performing arts presenter and service organization that supports the artistic, intellectual and social needs of the gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual experience. JSC's overarching goal is to move queer art making from the margins to a central position in the general arena of arts and culture. JSC is committed to generating new art works in multiple disciplines while providing extensive public visibility for traditionally marginalized artists and art practices. Increasingly, JSC is a locus of creative and cultural dialogue, bringing diverse segments of the LGBTQ community together for active exchange. Its resident programs include AIRspace artists' in residency program, Alchemy Emerging Playwrights, Cheer SF, The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, City Swing with Gail Wilson, Might Real Theater, LIT@JSC and SFinX, San Francisco in Exile, Live at the JSC. Phone: 415 554-0402, Address: 1519 Mission St. SF, CA 94103, E-Mail: director@jonsimsctr.org Website: www.jonsimsctr.org

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival 2002, produced by the Yerba Buena Arts & Events, encompasses over 200 artistic, cultural and community events that occur each May through October in Yerba Buena Gardens. The events are all free to the public and range from popular and operatic music series and festivals to dance performances and international music concerts. The Festival also includes Family and Children's programming in the Rooftop and Carousel Plaza of Yerba Buena Gardens. Free Artistic and Cultural Programming in Yerba Buena Gardens is made possible through the generosity of the following supporters: The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Arts International, Zellerbach Family Fund, the San Francisco Foundation, and the KTB Management Group. Address: Phone: 415 543 1718, 760 Howard Street. SF, CA 94103, Website: www.ybgf.org

Program

Emcee: Chaz Martinez

11:00 Sister Kitty Catalyst: Cake Walk
11:30 Sun and Moon Puppets
12:00 Welcome and Intro by Chaz Martinez
12:05 The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Jadine Louie, Conductor
12:50 Chaz Chatter & Games with Tchotchky the Clown
1:20 Dixieland Dykes + 3
2:05 Chaz Chatter & Games with Tchotchky the Clown
2:30 Jackie Jones and the Tap Dancing Cat
2:50 Chaz Chatter & Games with Tchotchky the Clown
3:00 Sun and Moon Puppets
3:20 Chaz Chatter & Games
3:40 Goodbye & Thank You

Community Tables

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)
National Queer Arts Festival/ Harvey Milk Institute
PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
Family Builders by Adoption
Jewish Family & Children's Services
The Employment Law Project
MECA (Marriage Equality California)
The giant puppets and striking wooden masks used by the Sun and Moon Puppets are handcrafted in Denmark by Sidsel Kirketerp and Kirsten Gitz-Johansen, and are works of art in themselves. Sun & Moon Ensemble features talented local performers from around the Bay Area, who play in the puppets and masks. The performances are based on a concept by Maria Lexa, who also created the costumes. Ms. Lexa studied with master teacher Etienne Decroux in Paris and launched her career in Denmark at the Odin Teatret led by Eugenio Barba. She has worked for 20 years at the Forefront of the European arts scene as actress, master teacher, theatre group leader, and international festival Organizer. This is the second year the Youth Arts Festival and Julia Morgan Theatre host productions by Maria Lexa.

Known as "the old world band with the new math problem," Dixieland Dykes + 3 has stomped, rambled and wailed its way through Dixieland tunes around the Bay Area since 1995. Famous for their "Guess Who's the Plus 3" contest, DD + 3 is known for its eclectic artistic stylings, elevating the sounds of washboards, car keys and barnyard animals to a musical genre. DD + 3 is proud to be fiscally sponsored by the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.

Chaz Martinez is a former board member of the Alternative Family Institute and the Jon Sims Center. Chaz has served the gay and lesbian community for over 20 years, including deputy director of development for the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, publicist for Genre Magazine and was the executive director of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. In 1998 Chaz retreated to his home in Pioneer, California, located in the Sierra Mountains, where he meditates, writes, feeds the birds, watches the deer and works as a newspaper reporter and weekly columnist, and looks forward to special events, such as the Alternative Family Picnic. Chaz's motto: Some people live the life they've planned, others live the life that is waiting for them. Trust your heart!

Jackie Jones is a talented multi-instrumentalist who has performed throughout the Bay Area since 1952. She performs as a solo artist on novelty instruments including washboard guitar and musical says, and heads the Vintage Swing Ensemble, playing lead guitar and accordion. She is also an inventor of musical instruments, and built the dancing cat that she performs with at street fairs and other local events. E-mail: jjonesaw@hotmail.com

Tchotchky The Clown comes to this event for the first time. He is a well known Bay Area Clown and we are thrilled he joins us today.

Last weekend, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band marched in its 25th San Francisco Pride Parade, kicking off a yearlong celebration of the Band's 25th anniversary in 2003. Named the Official Band of San Francisco in 1998, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the first openly gay musical organization in the world, inspiring the formation of G/L/B/T performing troupes around the globe. Conducted by Jadine Louie, the Band has made music since 1978 to build understanding between gay and non-gay communities. Along with performing at parades all year long, the Band presents a free, pops-style Community Concert Series and its renowned Dance-Along Nutcracker. You can see them perform next on July 21 at the AIDS Walk in Golden Gate Park and at noon on July 25 at the Grand Opening Ceremony of Union Square. The Band is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.