

First gay marriage memorialized at Niagara Falls State Park

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, along with Niagara Pride, on Friday unveiled a new interpretive panel on Goat Island commemorating highlights in New York state's LGBTQ+ history, including the first legal wedding that took place in Niagara Falls State Park.

Kitty and Cheryle Lambert-Rudd became the first LGBTQ+ couple to marry in New York, on July 24, 2011, following the enactment of the Marriage Equality Act in June 2011, making New York the sixth state in the U.S. to legalize same-sex marriage. The law took effect July 24 and, at the stroke of midnight, the Lambert-Rudds were married on Luna Island by then Niagara Falls mayor Paul Dyster, becoming the first legally married LGBTQ+ couple in New York.

New York State Parks Commissioner Pro Temp Randy Simons said, "New

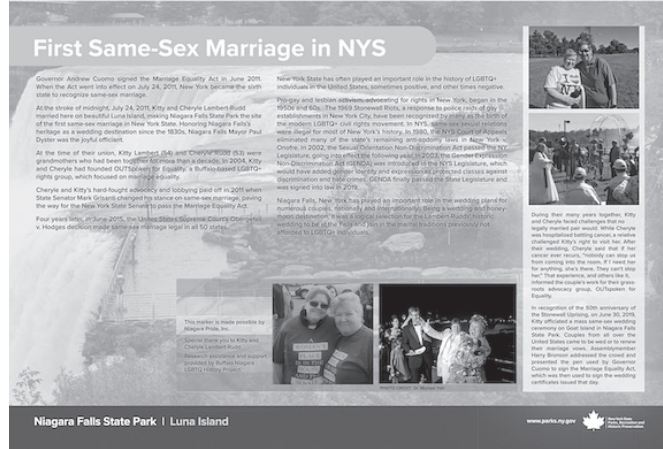


Image courtesy of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

York state is home to so many significant events that paved the way for equal rights for so many people, but especially the LG-

BTQ+ community. We are proud that New York State Parks has played such a significant role in this history, and this panel is just one example of how we can educate our visitors to our parks about the special history that took place here."

The sign was conceived and paid for by Niagara Pride, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit serving LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Niagara County and WNY by providing a variety of programs and services.

Research and writing for the panel was provided by the Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project, an activist organization whose goal is to preserve and share local LGBTQ his-

stories. In addition to the marriage, the panel outlines LGBTQ+ history including the Stonewall Riots and other legal precedents that took place in New York over the past several decades.

Niagara Pride President Ronald Piaseczny said, "People often don't realize that significant historical events may have occurred in the spot where they are standing. And for many of us in the LGBTQ+ community, we often forget that LGBTQ+ history is not something that occurred in New York City, but rather, right here locally in WNY. That's why our organization felt it was important to work with the NY State Parks to create a panel that honors the momentous achievements of Kitty and Cheryle Lambert-Rudd and the importance of not taking for granted rights, like the freedom to marry the person you love."

IN THE NEWS

Catholic Health lung cancer screenings

Catholic Health Press Release
Lung cancer is the deadliest

cancer in the U.S. Since lung tissue has no nerves, people may not experience pain or symptoms until the cancer has reached an advanced stage. However, if lung cancer is diagnosed early, the cure

rate can be over 90%. That's why adults who are at high risk should undergo an annual lung cancer screening, which includes a low-dose CT scan.

In recognition of National Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November, Catholic Health is participating in National Lung Cancer Screening Day on Saturday, Nov. 9, as part of its ongoing lung cancer screening program that operates year-round. The cost of the screening is covered by most health insurance plans for individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Age 50 to 80 years old
 - Current smoker or former smoker who has quit within the past 15 years
 - A 20 or greater "pack-year" history of cigarette smoking (pack-years are calculated by multiplying the number of packs smoked per day by number of years smoked)
- Participating sites include Ken-

more Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo and its St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga, Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park, and Lockport Memorial Hospital, a Campus of Mount St. Mary's Hospital.

"Lung cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers, but the good news is, if caught early, there is a much greater chance of survival," said Dr. Mark Jajkowski, thoracic surgeon with Mercy Hospital's cardiothoracic surgical associates. "We encourage everyone who is at high risk for lung cancer get screened. It will help us save lives."

Registration is required. To schedule an appointment, call Catholic Health's lung cancer screening program at 716-314-8200. Individuals who qualify for the lung cancer screening, but are not available for the Lung Cancer Screening Day, will be scheduled at a later date. To find out more about lung cancer screenings, visit www.chsbuffalo.org/lung.

Hall on the NU campus. The summit was organized to ensure Niagara County residents are educated and prepared to respond in critical moments such as an emergency or disaster. The workshop is free, and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

During the session, representatives from the Department of Homeland Security will discuss the Center for Prevention programs and partnerships, and how community members can help recognize and prevent targeted violence. Speakers from the National Weather Service will address emerging man-made and weather-related threats to our local community, including the increased number of confirmed tornadoes in Western New York and throughout New York state. Other speakers will discuss cybersecurity, current frauds and scams, and evolving nuclear threats.

Preregistration is encouraged. RSVP to slahrache@niagara.edu.

The summit is sponsored by Border Community SERVICE at Niagara University as part of its contract with Niagara County to provide emergency preparedness education and training to all residents of the county.

The mission of Border Community SERVICE is to provide emergency preparedness education and training to citizens and to encourage their participation in opportunities that enhance regional emergency readiness. BCS celebrates its 20th year of offering emergency preparedness information to Niagara County residents.

Citizen Emergency Preparedness Summit

Niagara University Press Release
Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University invites the community to attend the WNY Citizen Emergency Preparedness Summit from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, on the fourth floor of Glynn

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