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NITE LIFE

A Great Adventure

Play water sports — and rides, too — when we take over Great Adventure. Or hit the high seas with Susan Morabito. This weekend, Alegria & Junior replace the GOP.

Friday, September 03, 2004

Labor Day may be considered the traditional end of summer, but as the last several years have proven, September yields some of our city's most gorgeous weather. So don't pack up those shorts and sandals just yet. Instead, make the most of the true final weeks of this sultry season with some serious outdoor partying.

On Friday, Sept. 10, head over to the heart of New Jersey (yes, Jersey!) for Fairgrounds, a "gay evening" at Six Flags/Great Adventure exclusively for us and our friends. The park will be closed to the general public from 6 p.m. to midnight, for a soirée featuring DJ Randy Bettis and performances by Zhana (aka Inda Matrix), Quentin Elias, Brian Kent and Axis Danz. Oh yeah, all rides will be open as well, including Nitro, Superman-Ultimate Flight and 11 other roller coasters.

The "family affair" is being organized by Heritage of Pride and Mark Nelson Events with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the former. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 9 (\$50 day of event), and can be purchased online at HOPInc.org, MarkNelson.biz and CentaurMusic.com, or around town at Heartbeat Records (107 W. 10th St., 212-255-5260), or Wear Me Out (353 W. 47th St., 212-333-3047).

It wouldn't be summer without at least one sailing on the riverboat Queen of Hearts. New York's only gay floating tea dance, the ship sets sail on the Hudson River from Pier 40 every Sunday night throughout the summer between 7:30 and 10 p.m.

On Sept. 12, DJ Susan Morabito will be at the helm of the dance floor helping raise money for the Gay Men's Chorus. The following weekend is the Eagle Cruise featuring DJ Reed McGowan. The final voyage of the season takes place on Sept. 26 honoring Fire Flag/EMS and the Gotham Volleyball League with the music of legendary Saint DJ Robbie Leslie.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate, and can be purchased through TicketMaster and PayPal. Visit SeaTea.com for more info. The price includes a buffet dinner and breathtaking views of New York Harbor, the skyline and Lady Liberty.

Later this month, Billboard magazine and its dance and electronic-music editor, Michael Paoletta, will examine the state of the industry with a series of panels and parties spanning three days. Beginning on Monday, Sept. 20, an international assembly of artists, executives and journalists will converge on the



Laura Hartstein and Jay Pagano worked the front table at Zenith, a benefit for Whyte Hall, the proposed new Pines community center. Wayne G spun a happy end-of-season set at Beau Clarke and Tony Morans' beautiful bayfront home. Once again, the party was the capstone to the season, with a gorgeous crowd and even more beautiful bartenders.

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Union Square Ballroom to kick off the annual conference.

Luminaries slated to participate in a series of discussions ranging from royalty rights in the digital age to the ever-changing landscape of club culture in America include Ultra Naté, Joi Cardwell, Victor Calderone, Paul van Dyk, Tiësto, Frankie Knuckles, Giorgio Moroder, and others. Parties include an informal DJ Meet-n-Greet, the Dance Music Hall of Fame's First Annual Induction Ceremony, a Hot Sauce Records Happy Hour and the official closing party on Wednesday night.

Pre-registration is a reasonable \$275 before Sept. 10, but jumps to \$375 afterwards, or \$399 for last minute walk-ups. Visit BillboardEvents.com for more details.

This weekend, the big event is Alegria. Once again, Ric Sena brings the crowds to Crobar for an all-night, all-day affair. This one will be held before and during Labor Day. Go to [Wear Me Out](http://WearMeOut.com) or alegriaevents.com for tickets.

If you still want more after that, go to Junior's birthday bash. The party will get going early in the morning on Labor Day, but count on it still going strong well into Monday evening. And it's conveniently located across from Crobar, so you don't even have to take a taxi from Alegria!

Finally, a farewell to Laura Branigan. She may have been a two-hit wonder, but she will be missed. "Gloria" in excelsis!

Until next time: Be Smart. Be Safe. Be Yourself.

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