

Think Pink

Pink Weddings poised to offer same-sex ceremonies in Arizona despite passage of Prop. 102

By Andrew J. Shatinker

Flower arrangements, legal advice and finding venues for commitment ceremonies are some of the many services Pink Weddings will offer Arizona's GLBT community beginning this month.

Gino Meriano, a British native and founder of Pink Weddings, believes Arizona has the perfect demographic and setting for his business to succeed.

"Gay people in Arizona are no different than straight people around the world," Meriano said. "All couples just want to show a form of commitment."

A business idea that began six years ago was created after Gino and future husband Mike were declared civil partners on Dec. 21, 2005, at 8 a.m.

"We are extremely excited for the opportunity to extend our services overseas," Meriano said. "We know Phoenix will benefit."

Meriano, who is a gay rights campaigner for same-sex families, has changed history throughout Britain several times. Because of

Meriano, hotels can no longer discriminate from performing a civil partnership instead of a marriage ceremony.

Pink Weddings will offer numerous services for couples wishing to show their love throughout the Valley and create the ideal day to say the words, "I Do." Meriano, who has always been a strong believer in civil partnership, hopes to spread the message that civil partnerships can bring many benefits.

"My partner and I never wanted marriage — we don't need marriage — a civil partnership will provide the exact same legal rights," Meriano said.

Pink Weddings will be Arizona's first ever gay owned and dedicated wedding service. Meriano plans on appearing at events

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throughout the Valley including 2009 Phoenix Pride to promote his worthwhile trade.

"From the first time I saw Arizona, I fell in love with it," Meriano said. "Even with Proposition 102 passing, we are confident our service will impact the community."

Thanks to Meriano's kind heart and generosity, Pink Weddings will provide free up-to-date legal information.

"It is important gay men and women know their legal rights," Meriano said. "I wanted that part of my Web site to be completely for free."

Meriano has created the perfect day for couples all throughout Britain. He is ready to bring his unique vision to Arizona. When left in charge of planning a marriage, a commitment ceremony or a celebration, no fine detail is ever left out, from flowers to an exquisite venue.

"My weddings have a lot more style and passion," Meriano said

As history has begun to change, and a civil rights movement is occurring before our very eyes, one can only find hope and inspiration from Arizona's first ever gay wedding service.

For more information on Pink Weddings, visit www.pinkweddings.us on the Web. **-E**



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