

THE BILLYS: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

**CONNECTION
deepens our
RELATIONSHIPS**

**CONNECTION
strengthens the
COMMUNITIES
to which we
BELONG**

the
HEART
of
COMMUNITY
is
CONNECTION

**CONNECTION
and
COMMUNITY
have remained
CORE VALUES
of the Billys
for 30 YEARS**

creating
CONNECTION
and maintaining
COMMUNITY
**ENRICHES OUR LIVES
and the
WORLD**

feeling
DISCONNECTED
leads to
ISOLATION

Only Connect!

Creating Connection and Maintaining Community

**A GATHERING Co-Coordinated by
Kris Shanks and Lewis Nightingale**

March 1 - 4, Saratoga Springs

*Only Connect!...and human love will be seen at its height.
Live in fragments no longer.*

E.M. Forster, Howard's End

CONNECTION

Today, most of us feel "connected."

Virtual groups, chat, texting, and social media promise contact and inclusion
but may actually increase feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Connection and Community have remained core values of The Billys for 30 years.

They deepen our relationships, unite our families, and strengthen all the communities to which we belong.
In gathering together, we will experience and examine the ways in which we connect or fail to connect,
our expectations of community, and the crucial role of real-life engagement
in creating and maintaining true connection and lasting community.

IS THE HEART OF

This is no ordinary gathering.

Only Connect! is a 3-night event, beginning with Dinner Circle on Thursday at 5 p.m. and ending with Closing Circle on Sunday by noon. We highly suggest that you plan to attend the entire gathering.

We ask all Billys to fully commit to participate in a structured schedule and experiential activities.

We will explore Connection and Community in interpersonal interactions, small groups, Heart Circles, ritual, music, movement, dance, and playfulness. We'll also have downtime to allow us to integrate, socialize, relax, enjoy great food, and explore Saratoga's beautiful grounds and hot tub.

Thursday evening: Connect through Interplay and Paired Games

Friday evening: Connect in Community at our Sing-Along (bring instruments and songs!)

Saturday evening: Enjoy Community at our Gender-neutral Contra and English Country Dance

Sunday morning: Take Connection and Community out into the world

COMMUNITY

For more information on the gathering, contact the Gathering Co-Coordinators:

Lewis: lewgo@sbcglobal.net Kris: shanks@sonic.net Billy office: 707-545-1044 or office@thebillys.org

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Only Connect! MidWinter Gathering March 1-4, 2018

Scholarship Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, February 7 at the Billy Office

Regular Registration Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, February 14 at the Billy Office

Name:	Faerie name/AKA:
Address:	
Phone:	Email:

The information above will be included in the printed directory distributed at the gathering. Check the box next to any information you DO NOT wish to be included in the directory. Want to have your picture included as well? Please email a picture to office@thebillys.org

I am a person of color (we ask as part of an initiative to increase diversity of the Billys)

Emergency contact:	Auto License#	Housing request:
I NEED a ride from:		Food allergy/restrictions:
I can OFFER a ride from:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I can help transport items TO the gathering	<input type="checkbox"/> I can help transport items FROM the gathering	I want to offer a workshop:

OVERNIGHT (\$100-\$135 sliding scale)	OR	DAY USE ONLY (\$50-75 sliding scale)	Registration Fee (Multiply the number of days or nights by what you can pay on our scale)
			DISCOUNT: subtract \$50 for all three nights
	Thursday 3/1		Richard Locke Scholarship Donation
	Friday 3/2		Billy Emergency Support Fund Donation
	Saturday 3/3		General Fund Donation
We are departing Sunday 3/4 by 2pm			(Your donations are tax deductible)
Mark the days OR nights you plan to attend. SPECIAL FOR THIS GATHERING: attend all three nights for a \$50 discount.			SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST amount <i>Please read the back page!</i>
			TOTAL

Pre-registration is required! Full payment is due prior to the start of gathering. No free drop-ins. Gathering starts at 3pm, Thursday March 1.

Liability Release

I am a responsible adult and will try not to harm myself, anyone else, or any property during the gathering. I understand there are no guarantees given or expressed to assure my safety, or the safety of my property at the gathering by the Billy Foundation, and I have read the policies on the back page. Parking is at my own risk. Falling trees and other acts of nature are unlikely but possible. Be aware that neither the Billy Foundation nor the facility we rent will take responsibility for damage to your vehicle. By signing below, I therefore release the Billy Foundation from all liabilities caused by my, others or the Billy Foundation's actions and/or inactions during the gathering. Thank you!

Signature

Date

Please sign your check and mail it with this completed form to : The Billy Foundation, PO Box 12205, Santa Rosa, CA 95406-2205
Phone: 707-545-1044 Email: office@thebillys.org Register and donate online: www.thebillys.org

Housing and other special concerns:

We desire to accommodate and support people of varying physical abilities, yet our gathering site has inherent access and use limitations. Let us know any special needs or concerns you have. Camping is available and encouraged at Saratoga Springs. All indoor housing is shared, with priority for those with special health needs. Please indicate in your housing request if you are requesting indoor housing, wish to share a room with someone special, use a CPAP, or have other concerns. Feel free to attach additional pages if the little tiny box does not meet your needs.

Photo and Video Policy

The full Billy Foundation Photography policy is available on the Billy website at <http://www.thebillys.org/documents/policies/PhotographyPolicy.pdf>

Please do not take or share photos or videos without the express permission of everyone in the image.

Your Tax-Deductible Donations

The Richard Locke Scholarship Fund is used to help reduce financial barriers that make it difficult for some to attend our gatherings.

The Billy Emergency Support Fund supports all Billys and HIV+ non-Billys in northern CA counties, and pays for emergency needs like rent, utilities, etc.

The General Fund supports all the activities of the Billy Foundation.

Scholarship Policy

Scholarships awarded from the Richard Locke Scholarship Fund are solely based on need as expressed by the applicant, and are not granted after the scholarship deadline. We strongly encourage you to pay a minimum of \$15 per day. Your scholarship request will be honored if we have the funds. In the event scholarship requests for a gathering are greater than available funds, a reduced scholarship may be offered. It is the goal of the Billy Foundation to assure that everyone has the opportunity to attend at least one night.

Late Registration Policy

Any registration received after the regular registration deadline is considered late registration. Late registration is available at an increased rate (\$110/night or \$55/day) and is subject to availability of housing and food. Please contact the Billy office to confirm there is space available before registering.

Refund Policy

Refunds must be requested within two weeks of the close of the gathering. Registration fees, minus a \$25 handling fee will be refunded. After two weeks, the registration fees will be considered a donation. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case by case basis by the Board President and the Resource Coordinator.

Billy Food and Drug Policy

Those needing supplemental food for their special dietary needs should bring it with them. We will make every effort to provide space for storage and preparation. Billy Gatherings are alcohol/recreational drug free. Please continue to take your prescription medication if you need it to remain stable throughout the gathering.

The mission of the Billys is to foster community, intimacy and personal exploration among gay, bi and queer men through shared values and heart-centered brotherhood.