
JIM REEVES

Jim Reeves, not to be confused with the Singer-Songwriter by the same name, is well known within our community. I first met Jim at a Counter-Protest Rally at Constitution Park here in Visalia. This Counter-Protest Rally was to protest those who were gathering signatures and support for a ballot initiative which became Prop. 8. Proposition 8 defined marriage as only between a man and a woman.

Jim lived near the Rally and joined in to lend his support. My first impression of Jim was that he was a very reserved man. Jim didn't seem shy *but did appear* to be a very observant person. The next time I saw Jim at the first Queer Picnic at Plaza Park. He was being introduced as a member of the Board of Directors of Queer Visalia.com. Whenever I would visit the Queer Visalia site, Jim Reeves usually had something to say and I always found it interesting.

Who knew that Jim Reeves would go on to become the World Renowned Blogger that he is today? Jim has been a blogger for Queer Visalia, Queer Landia, and JimmieJoe.com. However, he is probably best known for his regular blogs in the Visalia Times Delta newspaper and Alternating Currents online. Jim Reeves has many facets and is very multi-dimensional. For example Jim is a 911 Dispatcher which is his job.

Most people will tell you about their Day Job but for Jim, he works nights from 5pm to 3am, which is his preferred hours, because Jim will tell you that he is not a morning person. He blogs about being a 911 Dispatcher in fun, serious and even

enlightening ways. Jim is also a Ham Radio Operator and currently on the Board of Directors of PFLAG.

Jim describes himself as gay and neither radical nor a queen. Jim graduated from Mt. Whitney High School in 1976 and has lived here most of his life. He doesn't smoke, drink alcohol, or do drugs. He may still drink way too much Pepsi that he once called the "*Elixir of Life*". Jim is a Trekie and that means he likes Star Trek – he has all of the Star Trek movies on tapes and DVD's.

Jim admits to having a weird sense of humor. He once wrote that he doesn't care for South Park (most of the time) the Simpsons (most of the time) but no idea if he likes the Big Bang Theory? Jim likes intellectual humor and good word play. In fact he creates his own words because he is a self-proclaimed "Gaythiest". If you follow Jim on Facebook, you will know that he is fun, very witty, very intelligent and always a good read.

Today we want to recognize Jim Reeves in our 3rd Annual Community Leadership Award. Jim's blogs are carried by the National Press. We are so proud of Jim. For 3 years in a row the Visalia City Council issued a proclamation declaring June LGBT Pride Month in Visalia.

It was Jim Reeves who advocated for that proclamation initially. Because of Jim Reeves effort to make that proclamation a reality, Visalia became the first city or county body in the central valley to recognize the LGBT community with such a proclamation.

We are very proud to announce that the "The Heart of a Lion" Award goes to Mr. Jim Reeves.

