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Covering Florida's East Coast
from Cape Canaveral to Lake Worth



Issue #038, January 2006

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Issue #038
December 22, 2005

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In My Life

by
Becky Jeffers

Happy 2006 I wish health, wealth, and love to you all. What a busy month December was! There was so much going on everywhere. I have to mention The Christmas Parade Party given by two terrific Womyn in Cocoa Beach. Connie and Liz give a WONDERFUL party each year during the parade. As I understand it they live on the parade route so everything passes directly in front of their house. They invite *all* Womyn not just their group from Brevard Lesbians. Everyone says this is one of the best parties around. Congratulations girls on another great success. I couldn't make it this time, but I sure will next December.

So many of you have contacted me in the past month to say how happy you are to have my column in *Out on the Coast magazine*, that means so much, thank you all. I will certainly do my best to keep our readers informed about events and happenings in our large area. When you contact me with information that's wonderful and I appreciate it, but *please* get all times and dates into me so I can get them in my column before my deadline. I held everything this month waiting on dates I never did get. I must have all information by the 10th to post it. Thank you all for your help on this matter.

I have been meeting so many new Womyn and I encourage all of them to join our two groups. Space Coast Lesbians, a Womyns Support Group, and Brevard Lesbians, a Social Group. Both these groups meet twice monthly and can be joined by attending a meeting or just going on the Internet to Yahoo Groups. All information about both can be found there. There is no reason for any Womyn in our area to be sitting home lonely and bored. Brevard Lesbians can keep you busy socially and

Space Coast Lesbians is a terrific support group, there is never a time when someone is not available.

We have Womyn in our community who are couples long term and short term. We have lots of available single Womyn. All ages and all interest from sexy girlz who offer lovely carriage rides in Cocoa Village to gorgeous Womyn with big bad motor cycles and cute ones who show dogs on a professional level and plenty who love Kittys. What ever you're looking for, lovers or friends, are right in front of you – but you have to come meet them. We are blessed with quality and variety, so keep checking this column for dates and times and come see what you're missing.

I have been thinking of all the Gay and Lesbian business owners in our community and wondering how many of us are using them when we can. I would like to ask everyone to make one of your New Years Resolutions be to start using more family business and services. We must support our own community first. We sell homes, clean homes, repair homes, groom dogs, do hair, are attorneys, doctors, own restaurants and bars and bed and breakfast places and travel agencies, just about everything. Please before calling outside our community try family owned first. I'm guilty of not doing that myself and I have made that one of my top priorities for 2006: Family first. [of course if they'd all advertise in *Out on the Coast magazine* it would be easier to identify them – ed.]

Now let me get down off this box and back to Womyns news.

Penny from Space Coast Lesbians and I talked about *Halcyon*. We both love them and know many of you do too. I will talk



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to Jim and Brian about going ahead and booking them for us. I'll let you know as soon as it's all set up. I'm sure the Rainbow Room will be packed then.

I wish I had news about the Rainbow Rooms move but I don't. The fact that my brother and his partner own it is nice, but it doesn't help in getting a moving date. The boys are doing their best; I know that. I also know red tape and slow people are causing their stress level to be gigantic. So, no news yet.

I have to mention my third-year anniversary. Arlene and I celebrated December 11th at the Nutcracker Ballet. Bill, a family friend, gave me tickets as an early Christmas present. Of course he had no idea it was our anniversary but that worked out great! Thanks Bill, the ballet was wonderful. A nice dinner out afterwards made our evening complete. Thanks Arnie for loving me.

Our friend Jackie who visited from up

north during the holidays and met many of you had a great time. She thinks our group of Womyn are terrific and said to tell everyone bye till her next visit and thanks.

Next month's column should have lots of dates and news. Remember Womyn supporting Womyn what could be better.

Happy New Year — Big Hug from your Lesbian Representative, Becky ▼

Becky Jeffers has been a resident of the Space Coast since 1973. Living in Merritt Island and Cocoa Beach. She has a Gay brother and a Bi sister. She has been involved in the Lesbian & Gay community for years as an out and proud Womyn. She and her partner Arlene have a home in Titusville and started Space Coast Lesbians Womyn's group.

HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

Our New Year starts with Venus in Capricorn going retrograde. Along comes on the 3rd, Mercury in Capricorn, which means we'll all be thinking about foundational plans to get what we truly love. However, when the full moon in Gemini on the 14th comes into play, you might find yourself over analyzing your plans too much. The best way to use this full moon is to communicate your ideas and concerns to get others feedback. Have patience, because when the new moon in Aquarius comes on the 29th, your true path will be revealed.

Aries March 23- April 22 Your focus this month will be on advancing your career; slow and steady wins the race. If you listen to the words of experience and the patterns of the situation, you'll find success. When it comes to romance, there are many facets to be revealed. Live in the now, don't rush into anything.

Taurus April 23 – May 22 You're moving forward from last month's Mars retrograde in your sign. It was there to show you all of the blockages from your past. Now it is time to move forward noting all of the lessons learned. Keep your eye on the end result now and you will achieve it.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 Now that the traveling and parties are over with, it's time to put your nose to the grindstone. Your focus will turn to work. Don't worry as all will turn out the way it should and in the correct time. The dispute you had finalized last month will return again. Don't worry; this is the finalization of the situation.

Cancer June 23 – July 22 You're looking to see if what you are doing for a living is nurturing you. Last month was the proof. You already have your answer. Now it is time to act on it. If it is not serving you,

get rid of it. If it is, dig your heels in deeper. Either way, in the long run you will reap the benefits.

Leo July 23 - August 22 You're coming from a time of additional spending sprees. Don't carry that into this month. It's time to hold onto your finances; it will be to your benefit in the long run. The good part is that your personal life will have an unexpected surprise. Go with the moment and enjoy the ride.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 You'll find this month brings you a take-charge attitude. You have the ability and foresight to know what needs to be done, so act on it. Others will notice and appreciate you for it. When it comes to your love life, enjoy the fantasy, but don't get carried away with it. You'll find out weather it is true or not next month.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Your lesson this month is not conforming to what others feel is normal. Follow what you truly feel is right in every situation even though it may not be politically correct. This month is a time to stand-alone and listen to your own intuition. If you do follow your soul, you won't feel like a salmon swimming up stream.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Friendships and loyalty come into play for you. This is not the time to be the town gossip. Your friends will rely on you to keep their secrets this month. If you do you will be rewarded with their loyalty as a true friend. This is also a good time to make long-term commitments to your hopes, desires, and dreams.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 You're in the spotlight this month. Important people will be watching how you handle stressful situations as well as ne-

gotiations. You are good under fire. Stay with your natural ability. You'll find the notoriety to assist you in the direction you are trying to go.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 Happy solar return! Live in the now; this is your party. Don't try to organize and plan it to the extreme, though. Remember that parties come with surprises. All you need to do is set the environment, relax, and watch the situation unfold, especially when it comes to those romantic settings.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 You will be required to look at the past to learn and understand where mistakes were made. Make sure you don't get stuck in the emotion of the situation. This time is here to allow you to let go and move forward on a better path. Take the time to pamper yourself and you'll find ease in moving through the past.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 It's time for you to make those New Year resolutions. Write them down. Make concrete plans to help you accomplish them. Timing is everything. By doing all the preparation and waiting for the right opportunity you'll be able to reach your goals quickly. If you're not prepared you'll miss the boat. ▼

For those who want to know: Welcome to our New Year! Because our world has agreed upon specific time for our new year to begin, January 1st has become the world's solar return. Your birthday is your personal new year and sets a tone for what will come in that year. That being the case, the world's tone will reflect what is set in this month. Watch the trend and you'll enable yourself the ability to make better decisions throughout the year.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. Listen to Jacqueline on WPSL 1590 am every Thursday from 6-7pm. Offices throughout the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. For more information on Tarot, Astrology, or a Private Reading call: 772) 286-2720

Roosters

photos: Eric & Lee



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Thursday:
\$1 Well and Domestic
A Palm Beach Tradition
9 pm - 3 am

Friday
Hottest Male Dancers In South Florida
11:30 pm

Sunday 10 pm - 1 am
What to you get when you mix
Karaoke & Strippers?
SKARAOKE!

Tea Time

with Miss T

For those of you who are looking for Christmas Services, **East Coast MCC** is having their services on the 24th: in Port St. Lucie at 6 pm at the 24th at the Shriner's Club and in Melbourne at 10:30 pm at the UCC in Palm Bay. They will have no services on Sunday, December 25. They will have services on January 1st, 9 am in PSL and 6 pm in Melbourne.

Family of God Community Church in Cocoa will have Christmas Eve services will at 9 pm and Christmas Day Services will be at 6 pm.

On a different note: nayh, nayh, nayh-nayh, nayh! I kept telling you **Rainbow Room** was moving, *not* closing! So to all who kept insisting differently, just show up at their new place on New Year's Eve and see for yourself and celebrate a new year and a new location! They were going to move to Cocoa Village, but real estate complications forced them to go with their alternate site: 142 N. Atlantic Ave, in Cocoa Beach. It's a beautiful building, sort of a Key West cottage (only a *lot* bigger) complete with a front porch, just north of Minuteman Causeway and just a block from the ocean! In the meantime the **Rainbow Room** will be open at their Merritt Island location until their last show Christmas Eve, so the owners and staff get a special Christmas present: moving the whole shebang to the new place to be ready for opening on the 30th and then New Year's Eve.



DJ Oren Nizri produced the track "BITCH BEWARE", NYC's Pawel Bartoszek co-produced it and DIVA Ebonee Excell did the vocals. Oren, already very well known in South Beach is on the right in this is photo that was in the cover of Wire Magazine. Watch for him to make guest appearances in the Palm Beaches.

I hear there's a salon opening somewhere in the Cocoa area – the stylist spoke with me one night at the **Rainbow Room**. He said he'd send me an email and let me know about it, but, well, you know, I don't have a photographic memory (just an eye for photography) so that's all I can tell you. Perhaps he'll take out an ad in the next issue (nudge, nudge, wink, wink) so everyone can know about the salon.

A stylist who does advertise is **Steve Lewis**. He had moved due to Cosmopolitan Salon closing – long story, building went condo, owner wanted too much. So **Steve Lewis** is now at Leary Hair Design, at 4301 Wickham Road in North Melbourne, just down the street from where he was. Stop in, say hello and get your holiday hair cut. I know that Cosmopolitan Salon will be missed.

If you missed the **2006 Treasure Coast Pride Festival** kickoff benefit at **REBAR** You missed a great time and a chance to meet the writers of the world premiere musical comedy *Knight Life* from the **Riverside Theatre**. What a fantastic time! Watch for more exciting benefits and keep April 30th open for the second annual **Treasure Coast Pride Festival**.

Riverside Theatre is currently nearing the end of the run of another musical comedy, *Sylva*, with the drama *Tru* (about Truman Capote) coming up near the end of January; there are lots of entertainers scheduled as well. Check out their ad on the inside back cover for this month's list.

Were you on the list? Did you get the invite? You didn't need one to attend the **Club**
continued on page 28



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photos: Lee & Richard



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Friday

JANUARY 20

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JANUARY 7

Sybil ANN STORM

JANUARY 14

BRITTANY TAYLOR

Sunday

JANUARY 15

SHEPHERD & GREEN

Sunday:

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BEER BUST & KARAOKE

Wednesday:

MENS NIGHT
2-4-1 Well & \$1 DRAFT
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HEARTS OF LOVE 2/12

MISS Bλrd CAGE 3/20

Monday:

MADNESS
DARTS &
DRINK SPECIALS

Thursday:

PLANETPARTYNET
KARAOKE 8-12

JANUARY 21



TASHA LONG

Friday

JANUARY 27

SHEPHERD & GREEN

JANUARY 28



SUSAN WHITNEY

Tuesday:

LADIES NIGHT
2-4-1 Well & \$1 DRAFT
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Friday:

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Spiritually Speaking

New Year's? Bah Humbug! This time of year as I come skidding around the bases of work, social and family obligations and opportunities I have little enthusiasm for considering the "new" in New Year's. I'm hoping to slide into home, uniform torn and dirty, wrapped presents for all I love, groceries enough for the feasting, just in time to crash after the Christmas Eve and Christmas morning worship services. I've had no interest in celebrating the "new" in New Years, the hopeful, emergent, clean-slate, we-can-try-again kind of attitude that the holiday offers to us all.

Until this morning, that is. Our local newspaper is a place where I expect to find bad news. I expect to read that the Vatican officials of Roman Catholicism have further extended the restrictions that prohibit gay men from the priesthood. I expect to read that the United Methodists, who advertise as having open hearts, minds, and doors have, again, prohibited gay men and lesbians from ordination and church leadership. I expect to read that middle school and high school kids are routinely harassed for being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered; while school officials seek to discipline only the GLBT kids, not the bullies. What I never expected to read was an article from the city of Nova Iguacu near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, reporting their "city council had passed a bill to require night clubs, shopping malls, movie theaters and large restaurants to provide a third type of bathroom for transvestites." (Associated Press, Dec 15, 2006).

There, my precious friends, is something worthy of the adjective "new!" It seems the Rio de Janeiro suburb of Nova Iguacu, population 800,000 has an estimated

28,000 resident transvestites. 28,000 precious children of the holy who expect to be able to use a restroom while maintaining their dignity and sense of worth. Wow! This is not only "new," but this is full of hope.

All too often, we who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered find ourselves vilified, targeted for scorn, or, perhaps worst of all, ignored by city councils and international news services and certainly, providers of public restrooms! Until I read that hopeful article, I hadn't realized how far down my spirits had sunk into cynicism and hurt. The daily struggles had worn me down further than I'd realized. Being called "sir" by cashiers, checking those god-forsaken boxes marked "single" each time I fill out a form, scrambling for which word to use in the box marked "relationship" when I write in my beloved as my next of kin, (we use the language, Life Partner), being called "you girls" by people half my age because we're not married, being prohibited from marrying because we're both women, being asked "Which one of you does the cooking?" knowing full well that more is being questioned than our kitchen habits. It all adds up, these daily humiliations. Over time they undermine my spirit.

I'm ready for a change. I'm ready to live in a world that honors the life I live and who I am. I'm ready for the time when my beloved partner in life and I can share a life that is readily recognized, respected, and even honored for the twenty two years we have walked together in loving partnership. I'm ready for folks who know less than nothing about human sexuality to stop judging me and my life and my loving

because of some twisted, misdirected, so-called religious mandate to promote divisiveness and hatred. I'm ready for something new. And I think, with the help of 28,000 new friends and the city council of Novo Iguacu, Brazil, that new day may be moving toward us faster than I'd thought.

I'm writing with you all in my heart on December 15th. The full moon is tonight. That usually gets my body-self on high alert. I'm one who really feels the tidal pull of the moon; after all, our bodies are mostly water. Last night I stood in the moonlight and soaked in the sense of connection. I am one with oceans and tide. I am salt water and stardust. I belong. I am of this earth; a part of the cosmic whole. All of us GLBT folk, all of us Queer folk, as I'm used to saying, we all are created in beauty, deserving of dignity and respect, just exactly the way we are. Happy, Hopeful New Year to you all. ▼

The Reverend Gail R. Geisenhainer is Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, 1590 27th Ave. Worship begins at 10am Sundays. All are welcome! For more info click on www.uufvb.org and www.uua.org or call 772-778-5880. Gail and her life partner are transplanted New Englanders who make their home with two dogs and lots of books!

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Tickets \$15 in adv. \$20 at the door

2 Shows
11:15 pm &
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1/7: Tiffany McCray
1/14: Tasha Scott
1/21: Leigh Shannon
1/28: BJ Stephens

THURSDAY's Trash Night

Strip Contest at Midnight
Hip-Hop & Dance All Night
by DJ SPIN. \$1 Rum & Cokes
and 50¢ Drafts 9-11

1/5: Leigh Shannon
1/12: Amber Douglas
1/19: Kelli Randell
1/26: TBA

FRIDAY's Illusions In Revue

Leigh Shannon's Dance Party
Free Giveaways, DJ Rising Sun
Playing Hits & Requests from 80s,
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Show Time 11:30

1/6: Special Guest Kelli Randell
1/13: Special Guest Tasha Scott
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1/20: Special Guest Roz Russell
1/28: Special Guest Page King

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REBAR

photos: Lee



Saturday, Dec 31

One Night in Bangkok

New Year's Eve with an Asian Flair!

Doors open 8 pm — This year's colors **Red** and **Black**

Hosted by **Amanda West** with **Mercedes**
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Saturday, Jan. 7 - 80's Night hosted by **Tori Holden**
and **Mercedes** with costume contest!

Friday, Jan. 13 - **Amanda West** and **Mercedes**

Saturday, Jan. 14 - **Shelita Cox** and guests

Saturday, Jan. 21 - **Mona Martin** and guests

Friday, Jan. 27 - **Tori Holden** and **Danielle Starr**

Saturday, Jan. 28 - **Amanda West** and **Shelita Cox**

DRAG NIGHT OFF with **DJ Joshua Atom**

Friday, Jan. 6

Friday, Jan. 20

REBAR

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In Our Past

by Celeste DeRoche, Ph.D.

KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE

Where does our history come from? The fact is, our history is a living thing. We are creating it all the time: Every action, every event, no matter how large or small, forms a piece of our past.

As important as it is that we remember our past, which is what ***Out on the Coast magazine*** tries to do by providing space for this column, it is even more critical that we **save** our past. The primary way a written account of the historical past gets created is by the use of “documents.” A document can be everything from a letter, to an old newspaper (or magazine like ***Out on the Coast magazine***), a journal or diary, or government papers just to name a few possibilities. An historical account about a particular time period or a particular group of people (like GLTB folks!) will not be written completely or accurately if documents recounting our lives, experiences, attitudes towards us, discrimination against us are not preserved.

The start of a new year is a great time to reorganize our lives. Forget New Year resolutions! Just clean out that closet (every pun intended!) and give all your old “Gay Rights Now!” posters or your old journals that document your coming-out story, or all those buttons (my personal favorite: “I’m not a lesbian but my girlfriend is.”) to a GLBT archive!

What is an archive? An archive is a repository for historical documents and artifacts. The Library of Congress in Washington D.C. is a library but it is also an archive. It houses many of the most important documents of our nation’s past. When historians want to study those documents that is where they go.

There are GLBT archivists all over the United States who are in a frantic race to preserve OUR ongoing history before it disappears forever. Members of the World War II generation are rapidly passing away, and those of the Stonewall generation are retiring.

Complicating the natural passages of time and aging is the fact that unlike countries such as Canada and Australia, the United States has no definitive national GLBT archive. Instead there is a mixed bag of far-flung freestanding repositories and university-based special collections.

Thanks to a forwarding-thinking man named Mark Silber, Florida has a GLBT archive located in Fort Lauderdale called the Stonewall Library and Archives. Even better, we all can become members but more on that later!

Why is it so critical that we have GLBT archives? Without documents that describe our lives and experiences we will be left out of the written accounts of the past. We know it happens. We’ve seen it happen time and time again. GLBT archives make it more possible for our past to be written. If historians have the materials they need to study the GLBT past, then it is more likely that our history will be recorded.

One of the leaders in the effort to create GLBT archives is Jean Tretter who is the founder of the Tretter Collection in LGBT Studies, an historical archive at the University of Minnesota. In May of 2006 Tretter plans to co-host the first international conference for gay history collections on the University of Minnesota campus. According to Tretter, “It really will be the first true academic world conference just for GLBT archives, libraries, museums, and special collections, which makes the very nice acronym ALMS.”

Understandably, the makers of gay history are often reluctant to part with their materials. Archivists work hard to establish on-going relationships with people to demonstrate that their materials will be treated with integrity and not sold on eBay.

Individuals and organizations need to give thought to planning for the future, as difficult as it might be. We need to ask now what will



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happen to our papers and collections when we are gone. If we want GLBT contributions to our communities and our world to survive and if we want the world to know what a difference gay people made, we need to make our donations to a GLBT archive.

There are GLBT archives all over the country. But we do not have to travel far. The Stonewall Library & Archives is at 1717 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311. Or take a look at their website www.stonewall-library.org

Their website provides membership information. As a member you have access to the library and archives. Contact them if you have papers or a collection you would like to add to their archives. History is one of the most powerful resources for social, cultural, and political change. Let’s save ours. ▼

If you are interested, other GLBT archives are:

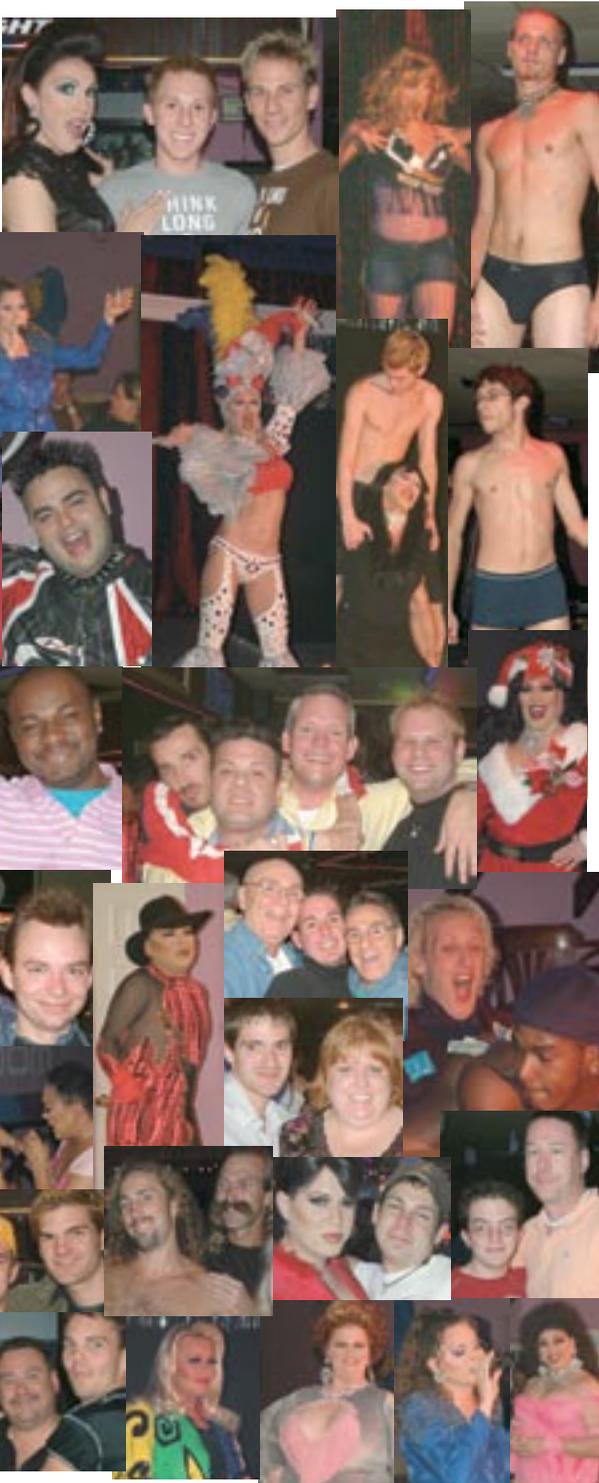
- Black Gay and Lesbian Archive Project, New York www.bgla.stevengfullwood.org

- GLBT Historical Society, San Francisco, www.glbthistory.org
- Human Sexuality Collection, Ithaca, NY, <http://rnc.library.cornell.edu/HSC/> (note: no www before address)
- Lesbian Herstory Archives, New York, www.lesbianherstoryarchives.org
- One National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, www.oneinstitute.org
- Tretter Collection, Minneapolis, www.trettercollection.org
- Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, Chicago, www.gerberhart.org

Celeste DeRoche received her doctoral degree in United States History from the University of Maine. She currently resides in Vero Beach with her life partner. She loves to read. She would welcome any suggestions for historical topics you might like to learn more about. You can reach her at CelesteD@ootcmag.com

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photos: Lee, & Show Your
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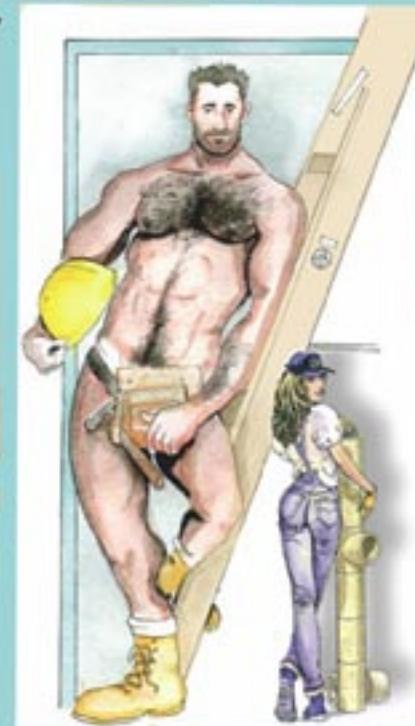
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continued from page 14

Blrd Cage fourth anniversary party! They've got a new paint job and are planning a bunch of changes so make sure you keep stopping in to watch the transformation. Start planning now for the 6th annual **Hearts of Love** benefit for babies with AIDS on February 12 and start sewing those sequins to get ready for the **Miss Blrd Cage Pageant** on Monday, March 20 – call **Kelli Randell** or the bar for info on participating in either event. In the new year, **Club Blrd Cage** and **Kelli Randell** have a couple of benefits for the **Treasure Coast Pride Festival** coming featuring Beverly McClellan and Shepherd & Green – make sure you don't miss either of these events, they're really special. Since **Kelli** didn't have dates yet you'll have to check the bar and watch their ads.



(above) Floks having fun at the **PFLAG Vero Beach Christmas Dance**. (right) **Edward and Santa** at the dance.

Good Times in Ft. Pierce is starting the new year off with bar contests culminating with championships at end of January – a guaranteed good time! Watch for a return jello wrestling match between Mikey and Thomas.

There were jello shots aplenty at Moose's Christmas party. It was great to have an event where I didn't have to take pictures and it was a wonderful way to start the evening with a friend who was visiting from Chicago. Also, thanks to Carl and Richard for their party, always *the* event in Vero Beach. A beautiful home, beautifully decorated and lots of beautiful people, food and Christmas cheer. What a nice way to start the night.

PFLAG Vero Beach started out December on World AIDS Day by disbursing over \$1,200 to needy AIDS sufferers in Indian River County with about \$1,000 still in their World AIDS Day fund available to help cover unmet needs not present on December 1.

Compass in West Palm Beach World AIDS Day activities included an HIV prevention event with free testing and a candlelight vigil where people brought new AIDS quilt panels to be inducted into the Names Project Foundation for official inclusion in the AIDS Quilt. You still have a couple of weeks to catch the **Holocaust Exhibit** at **Compass**, which runs through January 6. It really is worth making the effort to get there and see it.



(top) Attendees at the **Compass World AIDS Day candlelight vigil** (above) Some of the AIDS quilt panels inducted that night into the Names Project Foundation

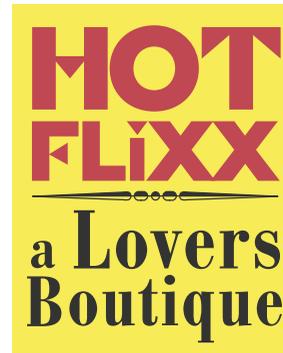
Did you catch Matthew Rush and Zeb Atlas at **Cupids Cabaret** on November 25 and 26? They put on quite a show! The place was packed, and everyone was feeling great! If you've never been there, one of your New Year's resolutions should be to get to **Cupids Cabaret**, the perfect cure for the post-holiday blues.

Once you're over those blues, get on over to **Kashmir** and tie one on on January 21st for a fetish night – you're bound to have fun, if you catch my drift. It should be a very entertaining night!

If you want entertainment, call your local cinema and ask them when they will be showing *Brokeback*

continued on page 33

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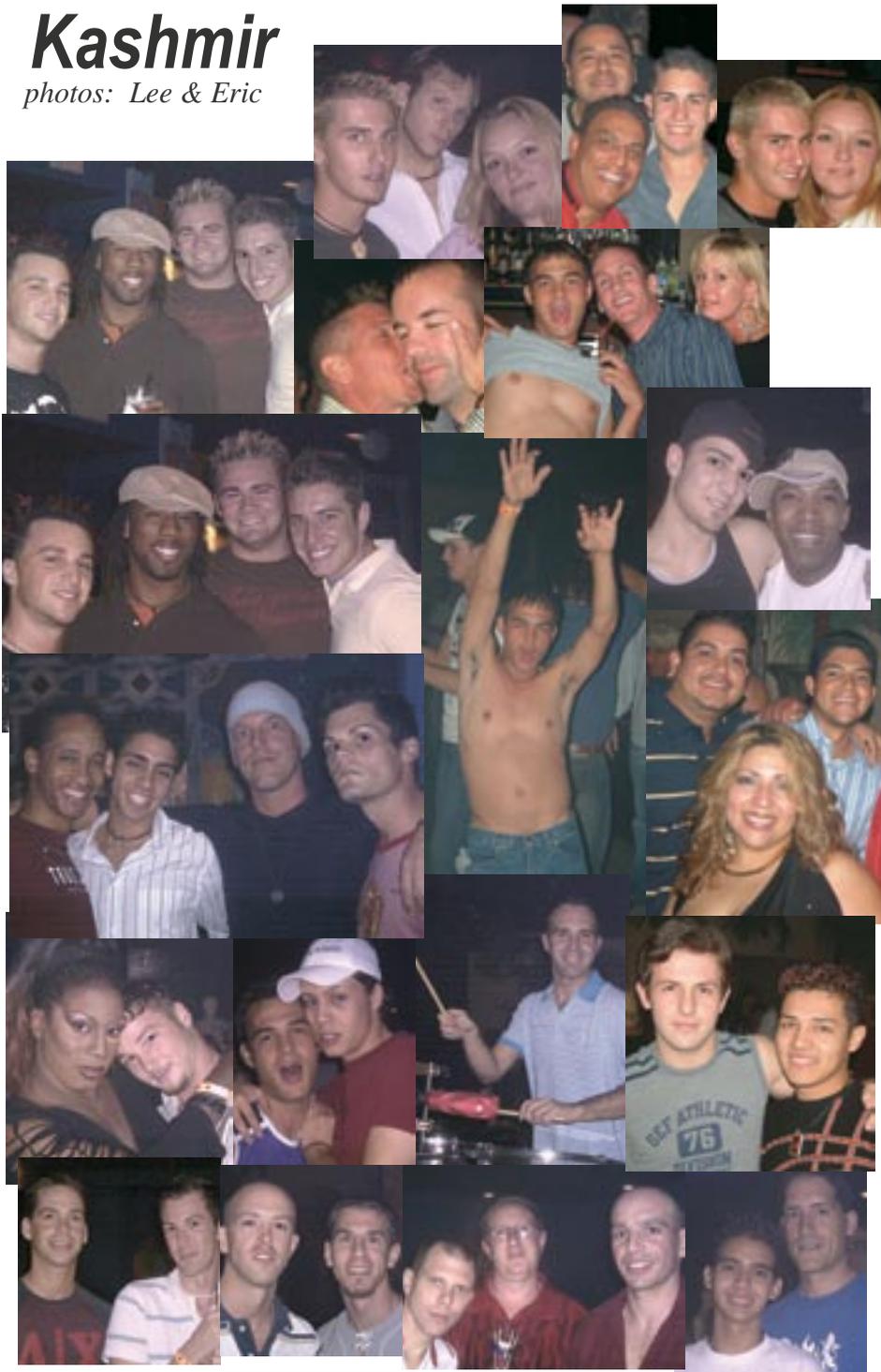
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Cold Keg

photos: Lee



continued from page 28

Mountain. Don't be rude, just insistent that you want tickets. Call often. They'll get the message. Let the theatres know that we want to see *Brokeback Mountain* and they'll soon be showing it for us. Remember, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease!

Gay Rights Tidbits: (from an Equality Florida press release) In June of this year the Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution instructing parents to go after any programs that provide support to gay youth or promote tolerance and diversity on campus. Following that directive, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, of Tampa, delivered about 1,100 petitions in a child's wagon to the local school board.

Bell Shoals has a long history of anti-gay organizing in Hillsborough County including church leaders support for repealing Hillsborough's non-discrimination policy that including protecting gay people from being fired or denied housing or public accommodations. More recently the church tried to rally support for the County Commission's anti-gay policy that bans any county agency from recognizing or participating in anything that portrays gay people in a positive light.

One more reason to join your local Equality Florida group and help fight the continuing efforts of fundamentalists trying to make our lives miserable.

On the positive side, Ford Motor Company met with leaders from the LGBT community, and agreed to continue advertising in LGBT press. Ford worked in good faith, coming to terms with these matters and it is clear that the American Family Association characterized its relationship and influence with the Company in the most cynical and dishonest terms.

It is an unequivocal reaffirmation of Ford's historic commitment to our community and the core American values of fairness and equality. Moreover, it is conclusive proof of what Ford leaders have repeatedly stated – that there never was any deal with anti-LGBT organizations concerning Ford's support for our community. ▼

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