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Issue #059, October 2007

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# HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

**With the Sun and the New Moon on the 11<sup>th</sup> in Libra, all will be looking at their relationships with others. In love, you'll be looking into the commitment-part of it. Be careful, with Mercury going retrograde on the 12<sup>th</sup>, as communications will become challenging. Wait until after the 24<sup>th</sup> when it goes back into Libra to understand where your mate is coming from. The Taurus full moon on the 26<sup>th</sup> will help you look into your own personal values. After November 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Mercury goes direct, will you know the truth. So sit back and ask questions this month.**

**Aries March 23 - April 22** You'll find opposition where usually there is none. Don't defend your position; use this challenge to listen and understand the point of view of others, as it's to your benefit. You've been working hard, now is the time to focus on where you're going and what's around you. It'll make this month go by with ease.

**Taurus April 23 - May 22** Opportunities arise early this month. However, you'll have to work for them. This is a time to find out which ones are worth working for and to let the others go. The New moon on the 26<sup>th</sup> in your sign brings a good time to start new habits and patterns that you'll stick with. It's your choice as to what you want to accomplish.

**Gemini May 23 - June 22** Last month kept you on the go. This month will slow you down. Your natural charm just won't work now. Take the time to ask more questions before you act or you'll find yourself chasing your tail and some of the things you wanted may not be what you thought.

**Cancer June 23 - July 22** The key word for you this month is change. The things

you've put off changing over the summer you must now address. With this Mercury retrograde, it's time for action, not words, as you'll find others won't get your point. So, it's time for you to do it yourself. Start that nest egg and think about what is best for your future, then act on it. All the rest will fall into place later.

**Leo July 23 - August 22** Your hands are tied this month, which will make you take both patience and a step back, then wait and see what happens before you act. You'll find others will reveal information they wouldn't normally divulge, in turn that you would usually overlook. This compaction will go far and you'll find a clearer path to what you want.

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**Virgo August 23 - September 22** This is a phenomenal month for friendship and improving your social life. Go with the flow. Time will reveal to you those who are true. This is not the time for snap decisions. Learn to go with the flow and enjoy the now without analyzing it to much and you'll have a fun month.

**Libra September 23 - October 22** Happy Solar Return! Those closest to you will put unrealistic demands upon you. You'll find it is not the time to do things for others but, instead, to tell them what they need to do. They'll appreciate your sympathetic ear and feel empowered. You on the other hand can use the free time to nurture yourself and have some fun!

**Scorpio October 23 - November 22** With this Mercury retrograde in your sign, you'll feel others misunderstand you. This is a time for you to ask more questions; use your actions and not your words to communicate. Remember this is a time for you to clean things up that you've set aside. Also, take care of your health as you're vulnerable to colds.

**Sagittarius November 23 - December 22** New projects and ideas will arise this month. You have the power to make them happen, just not in the time line you'd like. Take the time to make it the quality work that you do and you'll find time will pass quicker. Remember; haste makes waste!

**Capricorn December 23 - January 22** Projects are slowing down now. Take this time to relax. Don't stress out about the

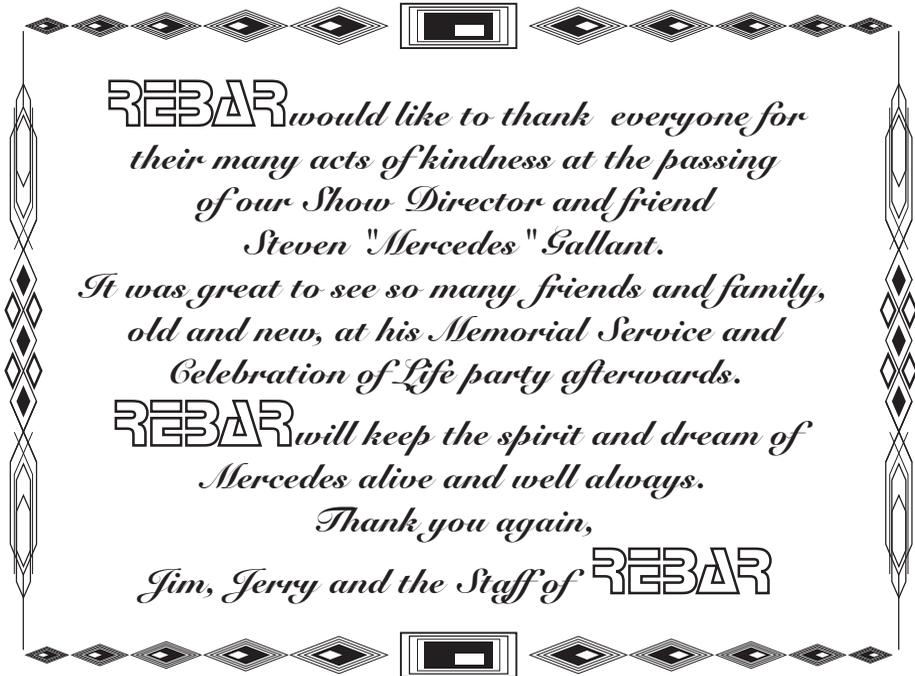
timing; it's giving you time to look toward the future and plan for what is coming next. All the stress will do is weaken your already frail immune system. So work on your health in your down time instead.

**Aquarius January 23 - February 22** Your creative and intuitive powers are heightened this month. Use them to advance your career; you'll be happy with the results. However, your compassion for others will be detached. Don't try to meddle in others business even though you may know how to fix it because your great advice will not be well received.

**Pisces February 23 - March 22.** You feel a change coming on but it's not this month, so relax. With this Mercury retrograde trining your sign, misunderstandings with others will be plentiful. Think before you speak and you'll find smother communications. Take this month to pamper you and enjoy the water. The change that is coming has been long-awaited and will be rewarding. ▼

**For those who want to know:** Since Neptune is retrograde as well as Mercury, I thought I'd tell you about it this month. Neptune rules the last sign of the zodiac, Pisces, which is the intuitive part of us. With Neptune in Aquarius right now all will have a stronger intuitive ability to see the future of our lives, or at least feel it, especially under this Mercury retrograde. All we have to do is listen.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720



**REBAR** would like to thank everyone for their many acts of kindness at the passing of our Show Director and friend Steven "Mercedes" Gallant.

*It was great to see so many friends and family, old and new, at his Memorial Service and Celebration of Life party afterwards.*

**REBAR** will keep the spirit and dream of Mercedes alive and well always.

*Thank you again,*

*Jim, Jerry and the Staff of* **REBAR**

## Mercedes Memorial Service



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# Tea Time

with Miss T

Everyone knows you cannot proof your own work, so mistakes happen and we have to extend a huge apology to Oren Nizri, last month's cover boy for misspelling his name in the credits. Sorry, Oren.

The next thing all you eagle-eyed readers have noticed is that Palm Beach County is gone. Yup, gone. After two years and the best efforts of 5 people, there were not enough ads to pay for the number of issues we distributed down there. While it was great fun to go down, I mean travel down for a weekend a month, fun does not pay the bills. The Treasure and Space Coasts can be proud that with just two bars and a handful of businesses and organizations you can support this magazine. We do want to thank those wonderful businesses from the Palm Beaches that did advertise with us and a few have assured us that they will be back from time to time but we will now be concentrating on bringing you more local information and building our business close to home.

A couple of final Palm Beach items: Temple Sinai in Delray Beach is conducting an outreach to the alternative lifestyle community. This program has been in the works for many weeks and will begin with an open house Saturday, October 27, 2007 4:30pm-6:30pm. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine while you meet and greet the Rabbi and officers of Delray Beach's Lifestyle Friendly Reform Synagogue and enjoy a special "Havdalah" service at 6:00pm. Temple Sinai is conveniently located about 1/2 mile west of I-95 on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. Please RSVP : Temple Sinai 561-276-6161

Remember Cupid's Cabaret, the full-liquor, full-nude male stripper bar closed a few months ago and reopened as Lifestyles, a gay club? Well it's changed again! According to the grand opening announcement, Cupids Sports Bar opened Friday Sept. 21. The announcement described Cupids Sports Bar as something completely new and it certainly isn't what I think of as a sports bar! It seems they have a DJ and the Cupid dancers with several intimate stages for you to sit around along with lap dances, Billiards, Darts and two private Bottle rooms. Even with no mention of nudity, it seems like this place features sports of a different flavor! They'll be open Sunday thru Thursday 4pm till 2am or later with no cover, Friday & Saturday 4pm till 5am or later.

On the Treasure Coast the big event last month was the memorial service for Mercedes in Port St. Lucie. What an amazing event! Hundreds turned out and most everyone was dressed for the occasion, even Mr. D.J. Smith appeared as we had never seen him, in a suit and tie. The Reverend Dr. Jerry Seay, pastor of **East Coast MCC**, officiated and set the tone with the comment that God had called Mercedes to heaven to help Tammy Fae with her makeup. Mercedes' family, both biological and community, spoke to share fond memories plus Jerry Granada, co-owner of **REBAR**, delivered a magnificent sax solo. The poignant service concluded with DJ Joshua Atom cueing up The Chipmunks' *La Bamba* for the recessionary bringing up fond memories for everyone of Mercedes renowned baby routine. The celebration of Mercedes life at **REBAR** afterward featured a buffet, a slide show of pictures from Mercedes' performances and, of course, a Mercedes special shot for everyone. It was another example of Jim and Jerry's class act, showing that **REBAR** takes care of it's own and keeps on giving to our community.

Our community is getting itself organized down in Port St. Lucie. The Florida GLBT Democrats have formed group. Jeff Callahan, Regional Director, has announced the formation of the St. Lucie/Martin County chapter. The group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Exodus Café, 1352 SW Bayshore Blvd, in Port St. Lucie. For further information contact Jeff at eclecticjeff@aol.com.

Equality Florida is looking for a new leader for their Port St. Lucie Meet Up group. Equality Florida's Meet Ups are organized to fight Florida's anti-gay adoption ban, secure equality for our families, prevent a constitutional marriage ban, ensure safe schools, workplace anti-discrimination laws, and end the increase in hate violence. The group has 35 members and due to other obligations the founding leader has had to step down. Anyone interested in this organization can contact Tobias Packer at [tobias@eqfl.org](mailto:tobias@eqfl.org) or go to their Meet Up page at [www.gayrights.meetup.com/306](http://www.gayrights.meetup.com/306) or from [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) put "gay" in the interest field and 34984 in the zip code and click search.



John Scott, center, celebrating his birthday at **REBAR** with friends thought he's miss getting recognized on stage -- yeah, right! You should have been there.

Another note on the political front was that HRC got Jim and Jerry from **REBAR** along with a representative from Treasure Coast Pride into a meeting with Representative Tim Mahoney (Dem, 16th District) about ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) Introduced as H.R. 2015 on April 24, 2007, ENDA is a proposed U.S. federal law that would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill provides employment protections similar to those of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (also known as "Title VII"), but specifically directed to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees. The bill is different from Title VII in that it contains exemptions for religious organizations and specific provisions about employer dress codes. After a frank discussion

Rep. Mahoney is reported to have decided that regardless of the political fallout he would back ENDA. It just goes to show that all the intellectual arguments in the world don't change minds like one-on-one discussions. We'll all lucky to have people willing to step up and engage their representative in Congress and persuade them that we all deserve equal rights.

On the social front, the new GLBT Meet Up group has already had a couple of successful get-togethers. The group is growing rapidly and has plans for a wide variety of outings. To join them or for further information check out their Meet Up page at [www.socialnetwork.meetup.com/692](http://www.socialnetwork.meetup.com/692) or from [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) put "gay" in the interest field and 34994 in the zip code and click search.



Kelli substituting for Mona ran the Friday shake your booty contest, one of the Twisted Fridays Contests at **REBAR**.



Carolyn Marshall, above with friend, will perform with Pat Grant at the **East Coast MCC's** Melbourne Services on

October brings **East Coast MCC** celebration of its Fifth Anniversary. On Sunday, Oct 14, a celebration brunch will be held at Austin's California Bistro in Melbourne. The following Sunday, Oct 21, Carolyn Marshall and Pat Grant from Atlanta will be special musical guests at the Melbourne Service at 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct 28, Jane E. Lee and Emma Burnett will be presenting a special concert of music at the Melbourne Service.

Political activity is stirring on the Space Coast, too. Fairness For All Families Coalition held a Brevard Leadership Reception on September 30 at the home of Dr. Bob Brogna and Phil Ramsey to raise funds for the fight against the upcoming so-called "marriage protection amendment" which will be on the ballot in 2008. Fairness for All Families Coalition is a broad-based statewide coalition seeking to defeat this anti-gay, anti-alternative family amendment by educating the public about the true effect of this amendment would have. Support this group! [www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org](http://www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org).

**PFLAG Vero Beach** is doing more and more outings for their membership. *continued on page 26*

# REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard & Ashley



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By William Randall Beard

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# Spiritually Speaking

Do you remember where you were five years ago? Recently, I have found myself reflecting a lot over what has happened during the past five years.

Five years ago, a new organization was born in our area. The East Coast MCC started in October, 2002. Over the past five years, there have been many changes in our organization and in our lives. We are not the same individuals we were in 2002. We have experienced several hurricanes. We have seen the real estate market grow and then collapse. We have seen a war started in Iraq, with almost 4,000 Americans losing their lives. Our community is represented on almost every television show in a positive way. Times have changed.

We have seen some new organizations formed. Community centers either have been started or are in the process of being organized in Brevard and St Lucie County areas, The Living Room in Brevard and Gateway Project in Port St Lucie. Clubs have come and gone. We have said good-bye to too many people who are no longer among us.

The people involved in some organizations has changed. Some have moved on, some have died, and some have moved to other places in their lives, either willingly or otherwise.

We are often uncomfortable with change. We don't like conflict. We don't like for our comfort zones to be messed with. But change and conflict is a normal part of life. How we deal with change is what is important.

Personally, I have not always welcomed change in my life. Over the past five years my body has been letting me know that I am not as young as I used to be. I feel aches and discomforts I never felt before.

Some changes we experience provide an opportunity for new growth and positive improvements in our lives. Recently, I left a job I had held for five years. The job situation was starting to interfere with the positive quality of my life. It was a difficult decision to make. I left my comfort zone and paycheck to look in a different direction for my life. It was not an easy decision to make. But I also realized that the change was needed in order for me to be able to continue to do what I need to do in life.

In the five year life of our church, we have said goodbye to individuals who left for various reasons. It hasn't always been easy. But as each individual left, and we sometimes wondered what would happen, we saw growth in the change. Each time we say goodbye, we move on to new relationships and leadership. It is not easy, but the challenge to grow and mature in new areas is important.

The Jewish celebration of Rosh Hashanah has just taken place. This is the Jewish New Year, a time of new beginnings. It is also a time to do more than just make resolutions for the new year. It is a time to reflect on the past. It is a time to identify weaknesses and failures. It is a time to make amends with those we might have offended during the past year.

Even though I am not Jewish, I love the concept of Rosh Hashanah. I like the idea of reflecting on what has happened during the past few months, reviewing what has worked and what has not worked. We are presented with the challenge to make needed changes in our lives and in our organizations.

In the writings of Paul in the Bible, we read that those who believe in Christ are re-created, they move beyond the mistakes of the past and have a chance to not make the same mistakes over again. It is a chance to make needed changes and move beyond the mistakes of the past. It is an opportunity move into a new experience, a stronger life, and being a more mature person.

Five years ago I was a different person. Our community was different. Our nation was different. A lot of changes have occurred. In another five years, I wonder how many more changes we will experience? Will our beliefs change, will our community centers be here, will we have legal gay marriage and adoption in Florida?

Don't be afraid of change – while all of it may not be comfortable, it can bring us many great opportunities. ▼

*The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay is a former pastor in the Assemblies of God. He has been a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Churches since 1989. He and his life-partner of thirteen years, Mike Lufriu, moved to Brevard County to start the East Coast Metropolitan Community Church. East Coast MCC meets in Melbourne at The Living Room, 165 N. Babcock, Unit B, every Sunday at 6 p.m. Services in Port St. Lucie/Ft. Pierce are at the Shriner's Club, 4600 Oleander Ave, every Sunday at 9 a.m.*

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# In Our Past

by Celeste DeRoche, Ph.D.

## BARS, CLUBS, AND RESTAURANTS

For many LGBT people their first introduction to a safe and gay-friendly place was often a bar. Throughout LGBT history bars, clubs, and restaurants have played complicated yet also critical roles in our developing cultural expressions. The LGBT community is no different than the larger national culture in that our communities are often just as divided by sexism, racism, and class oppression. LGBT people have come together and remained apart in bars, clubs, and restaurants. Examining these sites for our gatherings can help us understand ourselves better and potentially help us prepare and create a more just future together.

The late nineteenth century saw the beginning of a steady growth in commercial establishments specifically created for a pleasure and leisure culture. Taverns, saloons, dance halls, and other nightspots expanded the range of possibilities in urban America. These places created new opportunities for people considered to be gender and sexual outsiders.

In towns and cities throughout the U.S. there could always be found a nightclub owner who were either indifferent toward or tolerant of "fairies," mannish women and their partners. These places began to serve as centers of LGBT social life. Often these places overlapped with straight culture and vice culture.

The 1920s and 30s saw the increased use of Times Square and Greenwich Village in New York City; Chicago's South Side, and San Francisco's North Beach neighborhoods, as home to a considerably more visibly LGBT population. Most people learned about "gay society" by word of mouth but many nightlife guidebooks began to list establishments known for their LGBT clientele. Special attention was often given to popular show clubs where drag queens performed. One of New York City's best-known establishments

was the Black Rabbit, while San Francisco's included Finocchio's and Mona's.

The Prohibition years – 1920-1933 – aided the growth of LGBT drinking establishments. Urban nightlife was often forced underground. Systems of police payoffs drew a protective shield around LGBT and straight bars alike.

It was in the large metropolitan areas like New York and San Francisco that a large and complex LGBT bar social scene developed most easily. Each of these cities supported dozens of popular LGBT establishments. But smaller cities and towns by the 1920s had bars, cafeterias and restaurants that served as meeting and cruising places of local out-of-town gay men, with lesbians often sharing the space with them.

For example, from 1925, Washington, D.C.'s Allies Inn was well known as a gay friendly restaurant. In Seattle, the Casino Pool Room was a popular gay spot in the 1930s. While neither place started out as gay, both proved over time to be tolerant of a homosexual clientele. In most larger cities and many small cities and towns, class, race, and gender differentiated LGBT bars, clubs, and restaurants.

Some establishments attracted predominantly or exclusively white middle-class men, while others attracted predominantly or exclusively African American, female, or working-class clientele. In regions of the country marked by legal and extralegal racial segregation, access to LGBT commercial establishments was restricted.

The 1940s saw the development of a distinct lesbian bar culture. This culture was largely independent of gay men and heterosexuals. This occurred not just in large cities but in smaller ones as well. The abundance of well-paying jobs for women during World War II and the absence of men, all helped generate a growing acceptance of women traveling out for a night of fun unescorted by men. This benefited lesbian women

in securing public places and a public presence. By the early 1960s, there were multiple published gay guides that included dozens of lesbian establishments among the hundreds of LGBT bars, clubs, and restaurants listed for locations throughout the United States.

There are commentators both inside and outside of the LGBT communities who predict the future decline of LGBT bars, clubs, and restaurants. They will note that as more LGBT people become parents, as LGBT baby boomers age, as more LGBT people move to the suburbs, and as LGBT people win greater acceptance in mainstream cultures, the need for LGBT bars, clubs, and restaurants will concomitantly decline. This has certainly been true for some LGBT commercial establishments. But at the same time other LGBT bars, clubs, and restaurants are flourishing; their significance to the LGBT cultures remain strong. ▼

*The primary source for this column was the article on "Bars, Clubs, and Restaurants", by Elise Chenier in LGBT: Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America. Thomson & Gale, 2004. If you are interested in learning more about the cultures described in this column there are several excellent books available which focus on specific cities. The list includes but is not limited to: Wide-Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965 by Nan Alamilla Boyd, University of California Press, 2003; Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Makings of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940 by George Chauncey, Basic Books, 1994; Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis. Routledge, 1993; "A House Where Queers Go": African-American Lesbian Nightlife in Detroit, 1940-1975." In Inventing Lesbian Cultures in America. Edited by Ellen Lewin. Beacon Press, 1996.*

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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# IN THE NEWS

For current headlines see our website: [www.ootcmag.com](http://www.ootcmag.com)

**TALAHASSEE**—Fairness For All Families (FFAF) plans to gather stories from every corner of Florida and can use your help. So if you or someone you know can provide assistance with videotaping in your local community, please contact [media@fairnessforallfamilies.org](mailto:media@fairnessforallfamilies.org).

Right now, the Fairness for All Families campaign must raise \$10,000 to complete production on the first in a series of ads and PSAs to help Floridians understand just how damaging the so-called marriage amendment could be to our families. Help them produce this important piece by making a donation at <https://secure.ga4.org/01/fairnessvideo>

One of the best ways to change hearts and minds on the issue of marriage equality is to have real conversations with people we care about and those who care about us. Creating an educational resource like this video will be a great tool to help us start these important conversations.

Our video will show real people who currently rely on domestic partner protections and benefits and who will be harmed by this discriminatory amendment. FFAF is looking for long-term unmarried partners willing to tell their story. If interested email [Contactmedia@fairnessforallfamilies.org](mailto:Contactmedia@fairnessforallfamilies.org).

**TALAHASSEE**—(Boca Raton) At the request of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, Senator Ted Deutch (D-Boca Raton) and Representative Kelly Skidmore (D-Boca Raton) will file legislation next week to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

“The time has come to update Florida’s civil rights laws to ensure that discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression is prevented,” said Skidmore.

If enacted into law, the Deutch-Skidmore civil rights bill will amend both the Florida Civil Rights Act and Florida’s Fair

Housing Act.

“Throughout the state there are some counties and cities that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity,” said civil rights attorney Rand Hoch, President of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council. “However, because there is no statewide law, more than half of all Floridians who face discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity have no legal recourse.”

Ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation are in effect in Broward, Leon, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties, as well as in the cities of Jacksonville, Gulfport, Gainesville, Key West, Lake Worth, Miami Beach, Orlando, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tampa, West Palm Beach and Wilton Manors.

Monroe County and the cities of Gulfport, Key West, Lake Worth, Miami Beach and West Palm Beach also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity.

“It is critical that Florida’s civil rights laws be uniformly applied statewide,” said Skidmore.

In the past few weeks elected officials in the City of Gainesville and Palm Beach County began the process to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in their communities.

Efforts are also under way in Broward and Pinellas Counties to convince elected officials there to do the same.

Enacting prohibitions against discrimination based on gender identity became a legislative priority for Florida civil rights activists after the Largo City Commission fired its city manager last spring after 14 years on the job. The action was taken after the *St. Petersburg Times* revealed the city manager intended to transition from male to female.

“What happened in Largo could happen to any of the transgender people living and working in Florida,” warned Hoch.

“In the 2007 legislative session, Senator Deutch and Representative Skidmore introduced bills to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” said Hoch. “However, since insurance and taxes were at the forefront of the legislative agenda, the bills did not move forward.”

The Deutch-Skidmore civil rights bill was not given a public hearing in either the Senate or the House during the 2007 legislative session.

Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres) and Representatives Mary Brandenburg (D-West Palm Beach), Susan Bucher (D-West Palm Beach), Faye Culp (R-Tampa), Keith Fitzgerald (D-Sarasota), Richard Macheek (D-Boca Raton), Ari Porth (D-Coral Springs), Scott Randolph (D-Orlando), Elaine Schwartz (D-Hollywood), Priscilla Taylor (D-West Palm Beach), Shelley Vana (D-West Palm Beach) and Jim Waldman (D-Coconut Creek) joined Senator Deutch and Representative Skidmore in co-sponsoring the civil rights bills.

“The Council hopes that all of these legislators -- and many more -- will co-sponsor the Deutch-Skidmore bill in the upcoming session,” said Hoch.

Since the upcoming session’s bill includes both sexual orientation and gender identity, activists expect more progress to be made in the 2008 legislative session.

“During the last legislative session, few GLBT activists and organizations assisted Senator Deutch and Representative Skidmore in their efforts to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” said Council Vice President Deidre Newton.

“Now that we have a more inclusive bill, we are hopeful that organizations such as Equality Florida will finally realize that enacting a statewide anti-discrimination law should be a legislative priority,” Hoch added.

Since no action was taken by the legislature this past session, Governor Charlie Crist did give an opinion about extending the state’s civil rights laws.

Even so, some activists are optimistic.

“Governor Crist has been a leader on civil rights throughout his career,” said

Newton. “We hope he will consider this an issue of fundamental fairness.”

Earlier this year, the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council asked Governor Crist to issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination in state employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, or marital status. However, no action has yet been taken on the Council’s request.

Across the nation, thirteen states (California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington) and the District of Columbia have enacted laws prohibiting discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

Seven more states (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York and Wisconsin) have laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Polling data for the past thirty years has consistently shown that Americans overwhelmingly support legislation protecting gay men and lesbians from job discrimination in employment and housing.

In May, 2006, the Gallup organization asked 1,002 randomly selected adults aged 18 and above whether gay men and lesbians should have “equal rights in terms of job opportunities.” 89 percent of Americans favored equal employment rights. Only 9 percent disagreed.

464 (92.8%) of the Fortune 500 companies have written policies prohibiting workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In addition, more than 230 major corporations have established policies prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity.

**WEST PALM BEACH**— (West Palm Beach) Equality Florida condemned the “slap on the wrist” sentence given to an 18 year old who viciously beat a transgender woman last year.

According to police reports, the teenager brutally assaulted a transgender woman with whom the he had sought to have

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sex until he realizes she was transgender. The attacker then left, only to return again to continue beating the victim, slamming her head into a lifeguard stand, knocking out her teeth and covering her in blood.

Palm Beach County Juvenile Court Judge Peter Blanc, handed down the nominal sentence of four and a half months probation and agreed to withhold adjudication, meaning the attacker will serve no jail time and will not have a conviction on his record.

“At a time when hate violence against gay and transgender people is an ignored epidemic in our state, Judge Blanc’s ruling send a disgraceful and dangerous signal that the lives of transgender citizens are held in less regard,” said Nadine Smith, executive director for Equality Florida.

The four and a half month sentence was handed down August 31st, approximately one year after the brutal assault committed against a transgender woman with whom the young man sought to have sex until he realizes she was transgender.

According to the Florida Attorney General’s Hate Crimes Report, physical assaults against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Florida have increased in 6 out of the last 7 reported years. In 2003, Attorney General Crist described anti-gay hate crimes as increasing “relentlessly over the past 5 years.” The following year saw an additional 21% increase in the number of physical attacks against LGBT people.

During 2005, the most recently reported period, 62% of hate crimes against LGBT people were in the most violent categories. No other group came close.

According to the National Coalition of Antiviolence Programs, national hate crime statistics show dramatic increases in assaults against LGBT people in 2003 and 2004, years that saw “the all-out assault on lesbian and gay relationships through anti-same-sex marriage initiatives across the country.” Florida will likely be facing an anti-gay marriage ban initiative on the November 4th ballot in 2008.

CAMBRIDGE, NOVA SCOTIA—Two students at Central Kings Rural High School fought back against bullying recently, unleashing a sea of pink after a new student was harassed and threatened when he

showed up wearing a pink shirt.

The Grade 9 student arrived for the first day of school last Wednesday and was set upon by a group of six to 10 older students who mocked him, called him a homosexual for wearing pink and threatened to beat him up.

The next day, Grade 12 students David Shepherd and Travis Price decided something had to be done about bullying.

“It’s my last year. I’ve stood around too long and I wanted to do something,” said David.

They used the Internet to encourage people to wear pink and bought 75 pink tank tops for male students to wear. They handed out the shirts in the lobby before class last Friday — even the bullied student had one.

“I made sure there was a shirt for him,” David said.

They also brought a pink basketball to school as well as pink material for headbands and arm bands. David and Travis figure about half the school’s 830 students wore pink.

It was hard to miss the mass of students in pink milling about in the lobby, especially for the group that had harassed the new Grade 9 student.

“The bullies got angry,” said Travis. “One guy was throwing chairs (in the cafeteria). We’re glad we got the response we wanted.”

David said one of the bullies angrily asked him whether he knew pink on a male was a symbol of homosexuality.

He told the bully that didn’t matter to him and shouldn’t to anyone.

“Something like the color of your shirt or pants, that’s ridiculous,” he said.

“Our intention was to stand up for this kid so he doesn’t get picked on.”

Travis said the bullies “keep giving us dirty looks, but we know we have the support of the whole student body.

“Kids don’t need this in their lives, worrying about what to wear to school. That should be the last thing on their minds.”

When the bullied student put on his pink shirt Friday and saw all the other pink in the lobby, “he was all smiles. It was like a big weight had been lifted off his shoulder,” David said. No one at the school would reveal the student’s name.

Travis said that growing up, he was often picked on for wearing store-brand clothes instead of designer duds.

The two friends said they didn’t take the action looking for publicity, but rather to show leadership in combating what they say is frequent bullying in schools.

HOLLYWOOD, CA—A much-anticipated biopic of Harvey Milk, the first prominent American political figure to be out of the closet, will star Sean Penn.

Two Hollywood directors are to make biopics of Milk and Penn is to star in the Gus Van Sant version. They will start shooting in San Francisco in December.

X-Men director Bryan Singer is to make his own Milk movie in collaboration with The Usual Suspects writer Christopher McQuarrie.

Van Sant directed My Own Private Idaho, Drugstore Cowboy and Only Cowgirls Get The Blues.

Harvey Milk was probably the first out gay male politician in American history.

Known during his lifetime as “The Mayor of Castro Street,” he is regarded as a political icon amongst gay activists for his ability to build the LGBT community into a grassroots political force.

Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. In his 11 months in office he sponsored a gay rights bill and helped to defeat a proposition that would have seen openly gay and lesbian teachers sacked.

Dan White, a disgruntled former Supervisor, gunned him down at City Hall on November 27th 1978. It is reported that Matt Damon will play White in the Van Sant biopic. White also killed the city’s mayor in his gun rampage.

Milk was recently honoured with a bust on permanent display in San Francisco City Hall, a rare accolade for someone who never held the position of Mayor. It will be a permanent reminder of the unique place the city of San Francisco had in forming a new, politically active gay identity in the 1970s.

Milk had foreseen his own untimely death, and made several audiotapes to be played if he was assassinated. One had recorded upon it his most famous statement, “If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet

destroy every closet door.”

When White only received seven years in jail for Milk’s murder, San Francisco’s gay community rioted. More than 160 people were injured.

Many gay and lesbian community institutions are named in his honor, among them the Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Democratic Club, and the Harvey Milk High School in New York City.

HOLLYWOOD, CA—According to GLADD a new daytime court show features the first openly gay judge. Syndicated courtroom programs become a little more diverse starting the premiere of Judge David Young, the first courtroom show with an openly gay sitting judge.

The half-hour show is produced by Sony Pictures Television, producers of Judge Hatchett and Judge Maria Lopez, and has been picked up by stations in most major markets.

While Sony has made no secret of Young’s sexual orientation, they are distinguishing the quick-witted judge as “confrontational, caring and always entertaining” and as a man “known for his fierce intelligence and occasional bursts into show tunes.” But the fact that he is openly gay does distinguish Young from other television judges. “I don’t tolerate bigotry, because as a gay man I’ve witnessed bigotry firsthand,” Young recently told The Advocate.

Judge Young came to national attention in 2005 during the high-profile trial of two America West airline pilots, whom he sentenced to jail time for attempting to operate a plane while intoxicated. Young’s history of being tough on alcoholics and addicts has garnered him three Awards of Distinction from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Young attended Tulane University and the Miami School of Law, and went on to serve as Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County under Janet Reno. He was later elected to three terms as a circuit court judge.

Young currently lives in Miami with Scott Bernstein, a fellow judge and his partner of 12 years. ▼

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Their first annual membership picnic was a wonderful time and their fall meetings are holiday themed. It's a great group to get involved with and for all those Indiana River folks who bitch about there being nothing to do should check out this group for social activities *and* community service activities.



*PFLAG Vero Beach held their first annual membership picnic at Jaycee Park in Vero Beach and ended up needing two pavilions for all the food, um, people!*

And a PFLAG chapter has been formed in Melbourne. The former one had been inactive for several years. They meet on the fourth Monday of each month at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Drive NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. Their first fund raising event was a "Scoop-a-Thon" at The Oaks Ben & Jerry's in Melbourne. For further information on the Melbourne PFLAG go to [www.PFLAGmelbourne.org](http://www.PFLAGmelbourne.org).

**The Living Room of Brevard** is facing growing pains. It was remarkable that in the first year over \$18,000 was raised on the promise of a center but now that it's open contributions have slowed to the point that a plea has gone out for 100 people to pledge \$20 a month to pay rent and utilities. Then fund raising can be used to improve the center. To date, the response has been tepid – less than 10 people have responded. In order to conserve their fast-dwindling reserves



*What's missing from this picture? YOU! The Living Room considering cancelling Gay Sakte due to low attendance.*

**The Living Room** is considering eliminating the monthly Gay Skate as it has not had sufficient attendance to cover the cost of renting the rink for the past few months – so the October Gay Skate theme is "Use It or Lose It" if turnout is still fewer than costs the program will not be able to go on as a monthly activity. While **The Living Room** hates the thought of eliminating any programs, they will do what they must to survive. With plans underway for their second anniversary dinner in November and a Space Coast Pride Fest next year the group will continue on but the existence of the physical center is by no means guaranteed. Look at your budget,

can you find \$5 a week for them? Come on! \$5 a week! Go to [www.TLRbrevard.org](http://www.TLRbrevard.org) and donate. One-time donations will help, but they really need you to print out the pledge form and commit to a monthly amount. Do it today! It would be a shame to see such a promising start falter and have to start over.

A special note to those who told the board of **The Living Room** that once the center opened they would see to it that the funds would be there to keep it open – where are you now? What are you waiting for?

The **Cold Keg** in Melbourne is slowly but surely adding more and more special events. There's always been Trash Night on Thursdays and now there's poker twice a week and in November they'll be starting a Tea Dance on Sunday afternoons.

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*Texas Hold 'em on Tuesdays & Saturdays at the Cold Keg draw a good crowd. Watch for Mike & Jeff's next promotion: a Tea Dance!*

**Gay Rights Tidbit:** Ally Week is October 14th – 20th, 2007 Who can help the most to end anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in your school? ALLIES! Sign-up for your participation on [www.dayofsilence.org](http://www.dayofsilence.org)!

GLSEN is continuing to encourage students to end anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in K-12 schools with our 3rd annual Ally Week! Ally Week is about identifying and supporting allies in your school and asking them to sign the Ally Pledge to intervene in bullying and harassment throughout the school year. Your Ally Week activities will be most successful if you help support allies in learning how to intervene, and by making them feel proud to be allies!

Don't see your event mentioned? Did you tell me about it? I'm a fairy, not a seer, silly! Send your news, gossip and tidbits to [MissT@outcmag.com](mailto:MissT@outcmag.com)

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Fairvilla Adult Megastore .....	321-799-9961
500 Thurm Blvd (500 Tower on mapping pgms)	
Family of God in Christ Church .....	321-632-3767
950 Cocoa Blvd (US 1), Ste. 104, Cocoa	
Maplewood Village Mobile Home Park.....	321-636-6061
201 Cape Ave, Cocoa	
<b>Showboat Adult World .....</b>	<b>321-633-5588</b>
<b>1800 King St, Cocoa</b>	

### Melbourne & Palm Bay (Brevard County) & Vero Beach (Indian River County)

<b>The Cold Keg Nightclub.....</b>	<b>321-724-151</b>
<b>4060 W. New Haven, Melbourne</b>	
<b>East Coast MCC Melbourne: .....</b>	<b>321-759-5588</b>
<b>165 N. Babcock, Unit B, every Sunday at 6 p.m</b>	
<b>PO Box 120748, W. Melbourne, FL 32912-0748</b>	
Eclectus .....	772-567-4962
2045 13th Ave, Vero Beach, FL	
<b>Hot Flix .....</b>	<b>321-752-8805</b>
<b>3369 Sarno Rd., Melbourne, FL 32934</b>	
<b>King Center for the Performing Arts.....</b>	<b>321-242-2219</b>
<b>3865 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935</b>	
<b>Steve Lewis/Leary Hair Design .....</b>	<b>321-258-8258</b>
<b>4301 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne</b>	
<b>The Living Room of Brevard GLBT CC .....</b>	<b>321-505-0077</b>
<b>165 N. Babcock, Melbourne</b>	
<b>PO Box 60910, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0910</b>	
PFLAG Melbourne.....	www.PFLAGmelbourne.org
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<b>PFLAG Vero Beach.....</b>	<b>772-778-9835</b>
<b>PO Box 650533, Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533</b>	
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<b>Riverside Theatre .....</b>	<b>800-445-6754/772-231-6990</b>
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<b>Party Town U.S.A.....</b>	<b>772-465-5255</b>
<b>6829 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie FL</b>	
PFLAG Martin County .....	561-758-4094
First Monday of every month at 7 pm at Treasure Coast UU, 21 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, FL	
<b>REBAR.....</b>	<b>772-340-7777</b>
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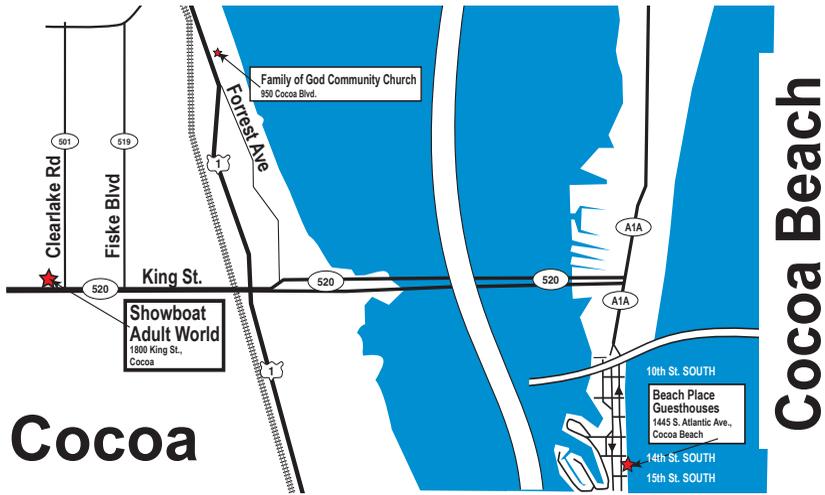


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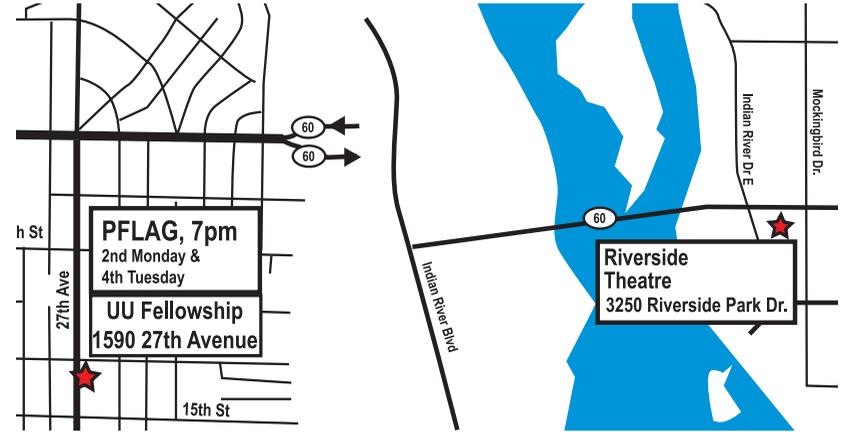


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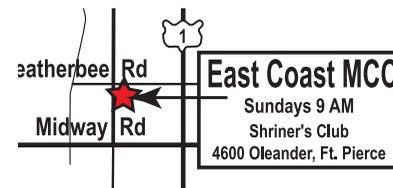
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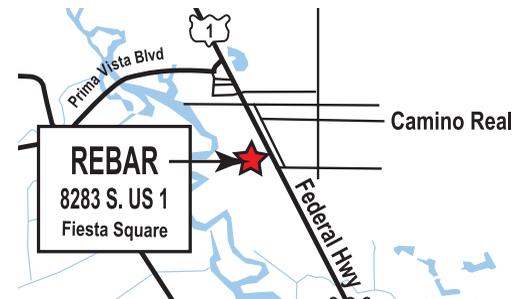
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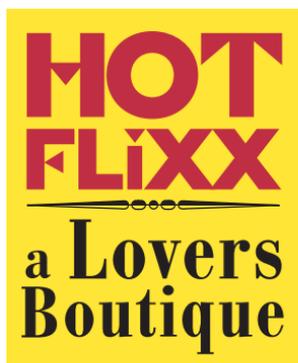


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