

# OUT ON THE COAST m a g a z i n e

Covering Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts

Issue #063, February 2008





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January 31, 2008  
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# REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard & Ashley



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# REBAR

The Treasure Coast's  
Music Video Bar

February 2

Tori Holden with  
Alexis de la Mer  
Tia Milan



February 9

Nikki Adams with  
Crystal Chambers  
Kamden Wells



February 16

Kelli Randell with  
Faith  
Velocity Xtreme



February 23

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# HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

Welcome to the not-so-loving Valentines Day month. The focus this month is not so much about finding love, but clearing a path to be able to allow love to find you. The full Moon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Leo is hitting Saturn in Leo, which brings lessons in romance. With Mars in Capricorn, the key is to move slowly. Mercury goes retrograde on the 13<sup>th</sup> and it will allow you to let go of what doesn't serve you any more. The New Moon being void-of-course between Aquarius and Pisces will open you to what you truly want in your life and how to get there. Trust and all will end well.

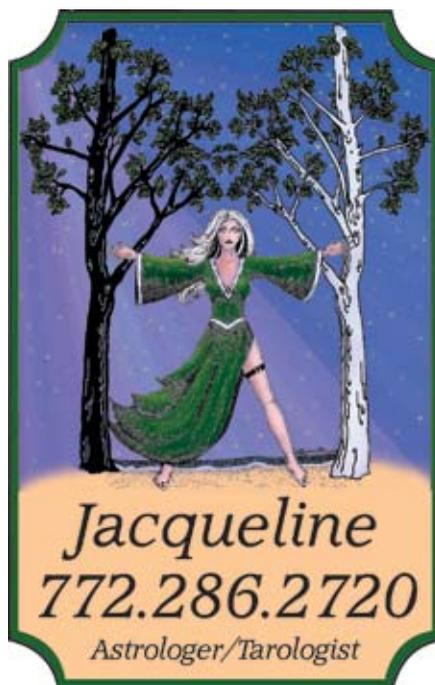
**Aries** March 22-April 23 Boundaries and limits are not your thing, but others will attempt to reel you into their narrow way of thinking. Don't fall into their trap. Look at how it will be in the future and stand your ground. By the end of the month, this will draw your friendships closer.

**Taurus** April 22- May 22 With Mars in Capricorn trining your sign, spring cleaning will come early. This is the perfect time to organize your life. You'll be able to set a budget and stick to it. Think of this as the beginning of your year. What you set into motion now will dictate how

your year will evolve.

**Gemini** May 22 – June 23 Time comes to a screeching halt for you this month. Nothing is urgent. If it appears urgent then you know it's wrong. Do more investigating. What the universe is trying to get you to do is stop and reassess your long- term goals so that next month you'll know which direction you're heading.

**Cancer** June 22 – July 23 Don't give up this month; you need to try





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harder to get your point across. Try a different approach. Be open with how you feel and you'll be surprised at the results. Know that it's not that they don't care; they're just not understanding your approach.

**Leo** July 22 – August 23 Do you feel like you've hit a brick wall yet? Communications are skewed now. Sit back and observe. The truth will come out, the walls will drop and you'll be back on your way. The important thing is that this month will reveal who your friends are ... and who is not.

**Virgo** August 22 – September 23 This month brings a time for finishing those projects you've let go by the wayside. You'll be able to see what direction you want to go and you may be surprised at what you perceive. All of the obligations from the past will only hold you back. The sooner you finish them, the sooner you'll get what you want.

**Libra** September 22 – October 23 This would be a good month to take a vacation or just get away

from your day-to-day routine. If others appear to be cold to you, it's not their intention. The universe is showing you what and who needs to be changed in your life. Be patient, your decisions will come slowly, but they'll be right.

**Scorpio** October 22 – November 23 Your passions will be energized this month. Use them wisely! Don't try to fulfill them with half-hearted attempts as you'll only be disappointed. Instead, set a long-term plan to get exactly what you want and stick to it. You'll find it will pay off better than you ever planned.

**Sagittarius** November 22 – December 23 'Think before you speak' should be your motto this month. You have clear thoughts, but with Mercury retrograde, it'll come out in the wrong way and you'll find yourself with a lot of explaining to do. Wait to find the right wording and you'll be loved for your thoughtfulness.

*continued on page 8*

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**Capricorn December 22 – January 23** No one can stop you this month. You're a force to be reckoned with; use this power wisely. You know where you need to go. Plan and go both slowly and consistently in that direction. Don't wait for others and don't take it personally. They'll understand and catch up later.

**Aquarius January 22 – February 23** Happy Solar return! You'll have an interesting Birthday with unusual opportunities coming up after the new Moon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Be open to what it's revealing. Your friends will want you to play mediator. Don't come to any conclusions until you've heard the whole story. Then you'll be able to solve the problem.

**Pisces February 22 – March 23** You're putting a lot of energy out and not getting it back. Don't you think it's time to change your approach? This month you should stop, take some time to pamper yourself and reflect upon what you want. Once

you've seen what makes you happy, you'll realize how easily it can be achieved. ▼

**For those who want to know:** The best word to describe Aquarius is 'dramatic.' With Uranus as its ruler, something is always happening. The good part about Aquarians is their ability to see the end result of a situation once they remove the drama in their mind. They are ruled by air, but their symbol is the water barer. This gives them the ability to be great humanitarians, especially for the underdogs. So this month is a good time to look into the future, see the end result and be compassionate to others until they can see as well.

*Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. Visit Jacqueline at B&A Flea Market in Stuart every Saturday and Sunday from 10AM to 2PM. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720*

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**Friday:  
Special Show**

**Saturday Show  
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## NEW DATE

THE PEOPLE CARE CENTER PRESENTS:  
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SATURDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2008  
6 PM TO MIDNIGHT

THE COURTHOUSE EXECUTIVE CENTER  
2145 14<sup>TH</sup> AVE., VERO BEACH

Tickets: \$35 individual  
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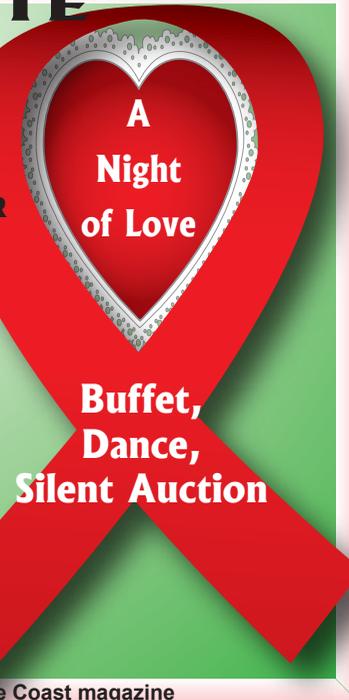
Cocktail attire required



People Care Center

772-321-9394 or peoplecarecenter@aol.com

Proceeds benefit People Care Center, Inc. a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization created to help people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in Indian River County.



A  
Night  
of Love

Buffet,  
Dance,  
Silent Auction

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# Tea Time

with Miss T

The fate of **The Living Room** LGBT Community Center in Melbourne's physical space has been decided. Although generous donations have allowed **The Living Room** to provide some programming, services and a place for groups to meet, lack of sufficient funding means that the center will have to close. This isn't the end of **The Living Room** as it will just go back to what it was before the center opened and continue to offer what it can. The major event in planning is **Space Coast Pride** which will be held on Sunday, May 25, at Wickham Pavilion. If you're interested in getting more information or being a vendor go to [www.SpaceCoastPride.org](http://www.SpaceCoastPride.org) for contact info and registration forms. Oh, and Silvio has nothing to do with the event, aside from providing much drama.

**East Coast MCC** will be obtaining a new space for their services and will make it available to the groups that currently are meeting at **The Living Room** center. The center is expected to be closed by the end of February (unless an angel appears, or a flock of angels or just a bunch of do-gooders with \$2,000 a month or so to save the place – hope springs eternal, don't ya know). Watch [www.TLRbrevard.org](http://www.TLRbrevard.org) for the rummage sale to get rid of all the furnishings.

The center isn't the only thing that is going away. Treasure Coast Pride Fest has been called off. The fate of the organization is not clear at present but their event with Josh Zuckerman has been cancelled as well. What a shame. After such a promising start for a popular three-year-old event to stumble is sad. Again, lack of community involvement is sited for the cause. Never fear, however, **REBAR** is stepping up to put on a Pride celebration on April 20 at the bar. It won't be as extensive but it will be a celebration and the profits will go to **Vero Beach PFLAG**. Of course **Kelli Randell** and Danny Tobias are back working with Jim and Jerry to keep the celebration they started going. We hope everyone from Treasure Coast Pride will join in the spirit of the event and celebrate the vitality of our community. Sure we sometimes stumble, but we're only human. One thing is for sure: we do know how to party! For information on the **REBAR** event contact the bar only – no one else, just **REBAR** can give you the real info on the event.



*Matt Martin (from the photo shoot when he was on our cover several years ago).*

**REBAR** is known for is the excellent way it treats its employees. Jim and Jerry look after their loyal employees *and* ex-employees. So when they heard that Matt Martin, former bar tender now living in New Orleans, had been diagnosed with a serious form of leukemia they immediately scheduled a benefit. Matt is going through very difficult times with massive medical bills and no insurance. He just had a fairly routine procedure go wrong on January 21st and nearly died. Last word was that he is stable but will be hospitalized for at least a month. The benefit is scheduled for Sunday February 10 at 8 PM and it's a turn-about party. Everyone in the show will be opposite-drag and the audience is encouraged to get in on the fun! So join **REBAR** on February 10 to raise money to help Matt. Come out and show your love!

**Vero Beach PFLAG** shows its love in so many ways. One of the lesser known one is that it offers \$500 scholarships for not just higher education, but trade schools as well. They're currently accepting applications. To get an application call 772-778-9835 or email contact@VeroBeachPFLAG.org. If you aren't familiar with all they do check out [www.VeroBeachPFLAG.org](http://www.VeroBeachPFLAG.org) then attend one of their meetings. It's one more way to get involved and feel good by doing good things.

In Brevard, Melbourne PFLAG is starting their new year with some new people and looking forward to building themselves into a strong and dynamic group. They sure have some great role models such as **East Coast MCC** which has pot luck dinners and seminars of public interest as well as their popular services. Speaking of which, starting in February, the time of the Port St Lucie service will change from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and still at the St Lucie Shrine Club. See the maps for info.

Change is in the winds, all right. Up in Cocoa, Pastor Mark has taken leave from the responsibility as Pastor of Family of God Community Church. In this instance it's job obligations and some health issues that have caused Mark to step down.

Again, it's not the end, just the beginning of something new. As Pastor Mark said, "The church is NOT the pastor nor the building, but the people of faith inside that building who gather out of love for a God who loves each of us and our love for each other in this our journey of life."

The FOG Board of Directors is now serving as the Pulpit Committee to evaluate the past, plan for the future, and seek ways to realistically meet the needs of our church. Vice Moderator Rae Abell has accepted the position of Pastoral Associate and will step forward to assume the position of Moderator of the Board and oversee the spiritual and administrative needs of the church on a daily basis.

The Family of God Community Church has gone through a change of leadership before and shown that it is strong enough to survive and grow. And they are in much better shape now than when Mark came in.

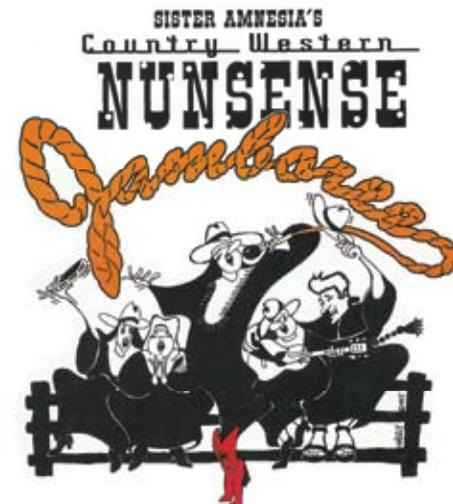
The weekend worship schedule of Saturday Mornings at 10:00 am and Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. will remain unchanged at this time. There may be a bit of schedule shuffling for the events that take place during the week at the church. Check [www.FamilyOfGodBrevard.org](http://www.FamilyOfGodBrevard.org) for updates on schedules, or just give them a call at 321- 632-3767

And another change: **People Care Center** had to change the date of their Night of Love fund raiser dinner dance to March 22nd (the location stays the same: Courthouse Executive Center in Vero). Seems a schedule conflict was the culprit here but Lourdis, Bonnie and the rest of their board just took it as an opportunity for

*continued on page 13*

**Dinner Theatre**  
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# Rainbow Tonic

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to  
1AM



Starting February 17



Opening Night  
join DJ Wade,  
Alexi Leigh  
and  
Amber Douglas  
for  
Vero's Gay Nite!



*continued from page 11*

more time to sell more tickets. If you haven't gotten yours yet call 772-321-9394, it's \$35 each or \$60 a couple for a buffet, dance and silent auction. **People Care Center** is the only agency serving individuals and families impacted by HIV/AIDS in IRC, so what they do is very important.

To complete our list of changes are a couple of *new* events in Vero: DJ Wade is putting on **Rainbow Tonic** Sunday nights at Tonic nightclub, 2019 14th Ave, in downtown Vero. Here's another example of someone who's intent on providing a place for us. DJ Wade worked the Undertow event and even tried for a while at a Tuesday night event in northern St. Lucie County. Now instead of working other people's gigs he just doing it, and starting off right with Alexi Leigh and Amber Douglas at the kickoff February 17. Doors open at 9PM. Check it out (BTW Tonic is the old Bombay Louies where Elton held Bliss on Sundays for a couple of years).



*Leigh Shannon is celebrating her birthday at the Cold Keg on Feb. 1*

And finally there's now a Sunday dinner theatre at **Coppertop's** in the Best Western Hotel on Route 60 out near I95. They're currently running *Nunsense Jamboree*. A western musical at the Best Western Hotel. Get it. LOL, and you will be if you take them up on their \$30 deal of dinner and a show! See their ad on page 10.

Now that *In Our Past* column is gone we brought back In My Words as a public forum: write your story, tell us about what you think, what you've experienced, what you've created (yes, photo essays will be considered). Here's your chance to get published. Sorry, you won't get dollars but you will get to show all your friends, and if you're in a progressive school we'll work with you to see if you can get credit for it. Just send your submission to [editor@ootcmag.com](mailto:editor@ootcmag.com)

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# Spiritually Speaking

Everyone's life is driven by something. The verb drive is defined as "to guide, to control, or to direct." What is the driving force in your life? Many of us are driven by a problem, a pressure, or a deadline. Some are driven by a painful memory, a haunting fear, or an unconscious belief. There are hundreds of circumstances, values, and emotions that can drive our lives. Five of the most common drivers in our lives are:

Some people are driven by guilt. They spend their entire lives running from regrets and hiding their shame. Guilt-driven people are manipulated by memories. They allow their past to control their future. They often punish themselves by sabotaging their own success. They wander through life without a purpose. We are the products of our past, but we don't have to be prisoners to our past.

Some people are driven by resentment and anger. People hold on to hurts and never get over them. Instead of releasing their pain through forgiveness, they rehearse it over and over in their minds. They keep on playing the same old tapes over and over. Some people "clam up" and internalize their anger while others "blow up" and explode it onto others. Both responses are unhealthy and unhelpful.

Resentment always hurts you more than it does the person you resent. While your offender has probably forgotten the offense and gone on

with life, we often continue to stew in our pain, perpetuating the past. Those who have hurt you in the past cannot continue to hurt you now unless you hold on to the pain through resentment. Our past is past. Nothing will change it. We only hurt ourselves with our bitterness. We should learn from our pasts and then let it go.

Some people are driven by fear. These fears may be a result of a traumatic experience, unrealistic expectations, growing up in a high-control home, or even a genetic predisposition. Regardless of the cause, fear-driven people often miss great opportunities because they're afraid to venture out. Instead, they play it safe, avoiding risks, and trying to maintain the status quo. Fear is a self-imposed prison that will keep us from becoming what God intends for us to be. We must move against it with the weapons of faith and love.

Many people are driven by materialism. Their desire to acquire becomes the entire goal of their lives. This drive to always want more is based on the misconceptions that having more will make one more happy, more important, and more secure, but all three ideas are untrue. Possessions only provide temporary happiness. Because things do not change, we eventually become bored with them and then want newer, bigger, better versions.

It is a myth that if I get more, I will be



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more important. Self-worth and net worth are not the same. Your value is not determined by your valuables. God says the most valuable things in life are not things.

The most common myth about money is that having more will make me more secure. It won't. The more one has, the more fear one develops that they will lose their wealth. They invest in more burglar alarms, security systems, weapons, and even security guards. Wealth can be lost instantly through a variety of uncontrollable factors. Real security can only be found in that which can never be taken from you – your relationship with God.

Many people today are driven by the need for approval. We allow the expectations of parents or partners or teachers or friends to control our lives. Many adults are still trying to earn the approval of unpleasable parents. Others are driven by peer pressure, always worried by what others might think. Look how many TV shows we have that try to teach us to dress according to the opinions of others. Those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it.

We might not know all the keys to

success. I do know that the number key to failure is trying to please everyone. Being controlled by the opinions of others is a guaranteed way to miss God's purposes for your life.

There are other forces that can drive our lives, but they all lead to the same dead end: unused potential, unnecessary stress, and an unfulfilled life. We need to discover how to live a life filled with purpose – a life guided, controlled, and directed and God's purposes. Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction, and events without reason. Without a purpose, life is trivial, petty, and pointless. ▼

*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 10 a.m.*



# COLD KEG NIGHTCLUB

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 Friday, February 1st: Leigh Shannon's Birthday Bash  
 "The Showgirl Must Go On" with Special Guests Roz Russell,  
 Margo Davis & Roxxy.

- Feb. 8: Kelli Randell
- Feb. 15: Roz Russell
- Feb. 22: Roseanne DeShanaro & Tia Milan
- Feb. 29: Melissa Mason

## SATURDAYS: "GROOVE"

The Hottest Dance Party On The Space Coast

- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lady Pearl with Dancers Andrea & Primo
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: Dee Ranged with Dancers Dalani & Valo
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Crystal Chambers with Dancers Ivy & Primo



**MONDAY, MARCH 10TH 2008 AT 9PM**  
**REGISTRATION 2PM**  
**ENTRY FEE \$100**

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# In My Words

## a personal viewpoint

### Keeping on Keeping on

By Lee A. Newell II

In high school I was involved in various clubs, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Order of the Arrow, etc. Sometimes I was a follower, sometimes a leader. In college I was rush chairman and an officer of my fraternity. After college I had moved to Chicago and wanted to meet gay people. Not being a party-boy, I figured that I would volunteer at Gay Horizons, the social service agency and meet people that way.

I was welcomed and put to work on the switchboard program answering the help line at 929-HELP. You can't imagine what it was like in 1975 to spend 4 hours a night, several times a week, answering a phone by saying, "Good evening, Gay Horizons, how may I help you?" Even today I think most GLBT people would have to take a deep breath before answering the phone with the G word. It was liberating in a very personal way. You learned that most of the time the people on the other end were relieved to reach someone who was gay and open about it. We answered around 10,000 calls a year and most of them were bar referrals (this was Chicago and so you quickly learned which bars were neighborhood, dance, leather, women's, drag, western, suburban, etc.). We also had several thousand hang-ups each year. It would be years afterward when I would meet people who would relate that they had called and couldn't bring them-

selves to speak and hung up. After several calls they could finally speak, but it was crucial to their coming out that they heard someone say the G word. Often these callers would end up in a coming out group.

But I was only a switchboard volunteer for two weeks. I was elected Chairperson! I didn't stop volunteering but took on the additional responsibilities. It was a difficult time for Gay Horizons as Howard Brown Health Clinic had just broken away (at that time Howard Brown was an STD clinic as this was pre-AIDS). Howard Brown had a revenue stream from their clinic and Gay Horizons had the help line, counseling and a youth group. Howard Brown had income and Gay Horizons had expenses. There had been a difficult split over the medical clinic supporting the social work. So the new board was presented with months of arrears on the rent and phone bills.

We initiated fund raising and were modestly successful in raising money and were able to pay off all our arrears in a couple of months. Just as everything seemed to be succeeding disaster struck: there was a fire in the electrical distribution closet and we had to close.

Now was a time of decision for the board: what would we do? We had a few hundred dollars and no place to operate. We were all stressed from what we had just gone through, now we looked at the huge task of finding a new location. The question was posed to the board, "Do we go on, or

do we just close up?"

It was decided to go on. This meant that everyone on the board and the head of the counseling service pledged to do whatever it took to find a new space and keep Gay Horizons alive. The phone line was forwarded to a north side group called the Rogers Park Gay Center, counselors held session at their homes and the youth group had to stop as there was no place for them to meet.

Joe Loundy, the head of the counseling group and I looked and looked and argued and argued. We had had three rooms now we could only afford one sub-basement room. Eventually we rented it and built a partition for counseling. Joe was never pleased, as it was too noisy for counseling sessions, especially when there were social activities going on in the center, especially the bridge club! And the constant phone ringing was disturbing as well. Unfortunately the youth group did not reform as they felt it was necessary to have a private room to meet in.

So the following year Joe ran for Chairperson and won. I took a few months off then returned to answering phones. Joe stayed on for 9 years leading Gay Horizons through incredible growth: a new home, a peak of 19 programs – including Gerber-Hart Resource Center and Library, which eventually went on to be a separate organization and is now a leading GLBT library and archive. I served as co-director of switchboard (as the phone line was called), PR chair and peer counselor through my 10 year association.

Gay Horizons, after Joe left, dropped the Gay and became Horizons Social

Services and moved away from the gay area, gained many grants and became a professionally staffed organization. It is now known as The Center on Halsted and last June moved into a 20 million dollar home.

So when times are hard and difficult decision have to be made it doesn't have to be the end of an organization. With perseverance and community support the organization can go on, start over and grow to unbelievable success. It means that when there are disagreements about how things are done, when there are personality conflicts, that the answer is to work things through, to step up and provide answers and show a willingness to lead in a different direction.

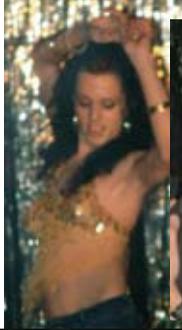
It's 30 years later, but I find myself in similar circumstances with The Living Room. Based on my past experience this is far from the end, but actually represents a new beginning. How it will turn out depends on whether professional level members of our community are willing to step forward and get involved or not. One thing is for sure: The Living Room will produce Space Coast Pride 2008 on May 25 at Wickham Pavilion. I hope to see you there although I'd love to see you at one of our board meetings volunteering to work on funding or programming or coordinating volunteers or whatever you can do to help build your community center.

Oh, and the area code has changed from 312 to 773 but you can still dial 929-HELP (4357) to get help in Chicago although they don't answer with the G word today. ▼

*In My Words* is open to reader submissions. Got something to say? Send it to editor@ootcmag.com For photos contact the editor before submission for format requirements.

# Cold Keg

photos: Lee



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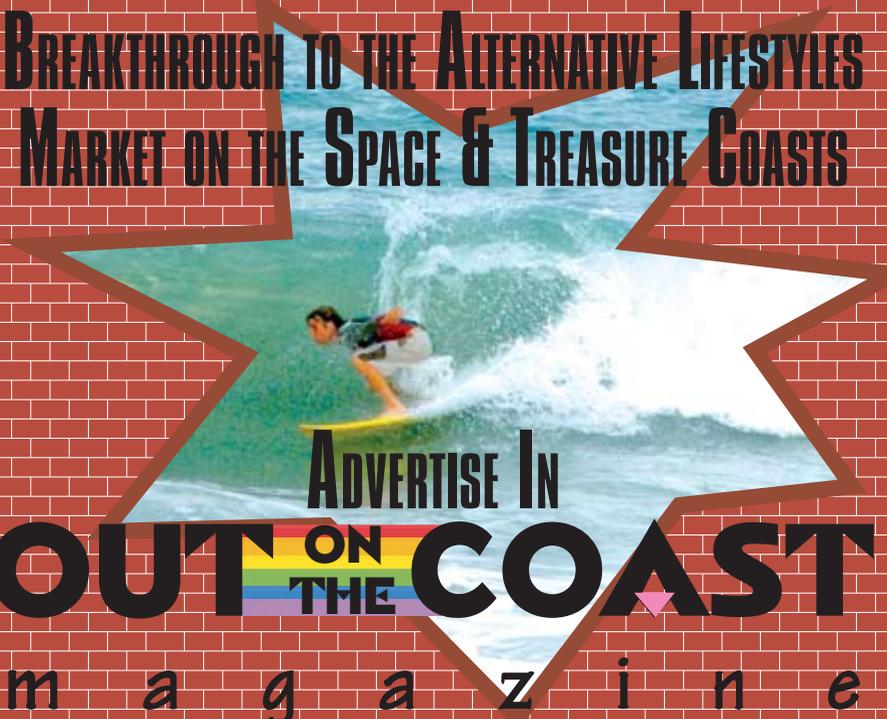
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# IN THE NEWS

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WASHINGTON—Friday, January 25, Rep. Dr. Dave Weldon, R 15, announced he would be retiring after serving seven terms as one of the most conservative of Florida's Congressional delegation. Speculation was rife as the announcement came the day after Katherine Weldon, Rep. Weldon's daughter was arrested at County Line Bar in Melbourne for an alleged unprovoked attack on security guard with a high heel shoe. Weldon's seat had been targeted by Democrats in this election cycle.

BREVARD—Steve Blythe, Democrat, has been running for Congress Florida's 15th District. Now that Weldon is out of the race he will be involved in a race against an opponent without a Congressional record and perhaps an opponent in a primary as well. Blythe has met with this magazine and is not afraid of gay people and when talking about moral values does not mean discrimination against GLBT people.

Blythe's web site describes him as a "Melbourne Family Physician... running to represent the people of Florida's 15th District in the US Congress. Steve is not a slick politician or party insider - he never dreamed of going into politics. He is simply a capable, smart, sincere, concerned American - concerned about the future his children - and yours. He brings strong moral values, a strong sense of outrage, and a strong sense of duty to his run for congress." You can find out more about him at <http://www.blythe2008.com>

BREVARD—Tony Sasso, former Cocoa Beach City Commissioner and Democratic candidate for State Representative, District 32 (the seat vacated by disgraced Rep. Bob Allen) attended the January meeting of the Space Coast Business Guild at Beach Place Guest Houses to discuss issues important to him and members of the Guild, which consists of GLBT and GLBT-supportive business owners.

Sasso is facing one opponent in the primary

on January 29. Find out more about him at <http://www.electonysasso.org>

TALAHASSEE—Equality Florida has called the 2008 Legislative Session historic.

"Over the last several months, Equality Florida has worked with our legislative champions to introduce bills that, when passed, will provide much needed benefits and protections to millions of Floridians. To support the effort, Equality Florida is planning our first-ever Lobby Week, beginning March 17.

"March 17 & 18 - Safe Schools Lobby Day. March 19 & 20 - Adoption Lobby Day. March 20 - Civil Rights Lobby Day (tentative date)."

The legislation includes Safe Schools, Adoption, Equal Rights, State Employee Domestic Partner Registry and Florida Companion Registry.

For more information, to participate or to support Equality Florida go to <http://www.EQfl.org>

TALAHASSEE—A Palm Beach county Human Rights Council news release announced that Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum's Office has implemented a policy that allows his employees to use sick leave to care for their domestic partners.

"With this pro-family policy, Attorney General McCollum has become the second constitutional officer in Florida history to recognize the needs of non-traditional families," said Rand Hoch, President of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council.

The Palm Beach County Human Rights Council is a non-profit organization that has been in the forefront of domestic partnership issues in Florida for more than 15 years."

At the Council's request, Florida CFO Alex Sink instituted a policy permitting her office's employees to use sick leave to care for domestic partners.

On October 17, shortly after Sink's policy went into effect, Hoch wrote to Attorney General McCollum asking him to consider implementing a similar policy.

By letter dated December 17, Cathy Christensen, McCollum's Human Resources Administrator, notified the Hoch that the Attorney General's sick leave policy would not specifically address domestic partners per se, it would "provide enough latitude" for employees to use their sick leave to care for their domestic partners."

The Palm Beach County Human Rights Council has not yet heard from Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson, who also was asked to revise his office's policy.

WEST PALM BEACH—Compass received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Organization Leadership Award at Palm Beach Community College's 9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast on January 17, 2008 among more than 600 attendees to the event.

The event's keynote speaker was Nikki Giovanni, author, professor and activist. Ms. Giovanni spoke for more than twenty minutes to the crowd. With her dynamic personality she connected to the audience speaking about the effects of racism, the accomplishments and challenges to black women and mothers, and chastised some black leaders for being too divisive. Ms. Giovanni also strongly voiced her opinion in support of gay marriage which drew a large applause from the audience.

WEST PALM BEACH—MCC of the Palm Beaches has announced that tickets are now on sale for their 2008 Rainbow Ball to be held on Saturday, March 1st at the P. B. C. Convention Center Ballroom (across from City Place).

The theme this year is Night of the Golden Dragon and will feature entertainment including Dragon dancers and a live DJ. Tickets are \$125.00 per person, inclusive of door prizes, hors d'oeuvres reception, silent auction, dinner, dancing and table favors

To reserve your tickets call Chairperson Michael Trueblood at (561) 691-9124 office

& fax, or email [Michael@rainbowball.com](mailto:Michael@rainbowball.com). Visit their website for more information [www.rainbowball.com](http://www.rainbowball.com)

WASHINGTON— According to a press release from the American Psychological Association "New research finds equal level of commitment and relationship satisfaction among same-sex and heterosexual couples." The press release states:

Same-sex couples are just as committed in their romantic relationships as heterosexual couples, say researchers who have studied the quality of adult relationships and healthy development. Their finding disputes the stereotype that couples in same-sex relationships are not as committed as their heterosexual counterparts and are therefore not as psychologically healthy.

These results are from two studies featured in the January issue of Developmental Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association. This issue includes a special section that examines sexual orientation across the lifespan.

Both studies compared same-sex couples with opposite-sex couples on a number of developmental and relationship factors. The first study examined whether committed same-sex couples differ from engaged and married opposite-sex couples in how well they interacted and how satisfied they were with their partners. Evidence has shown that positive interactions improve the quality of relationships in ways that foster healthy adult development.

Researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign compared 30 committed gay male and 30 committed lesbian couples with 50 engaged heterosexual couples and 40 older married heterosexual couples, as well as with dating heterosexual couples. All the partners responded to a questionnaire that documented how positively they interacted with one another on a day to day basis. The couples were also observed during a laboratory task and were monitored for distress by skin conductance and heart rate.

Results showed that same-sex relationships were similar to those of opposite-sex couples in many ways. All had positive views

*continued on page 24*

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continued from page 23

of their relationships but those in the more committed relationships (gay and straight) resolved conflict better than the heterosexual dating couples. And lesbian couples worked together especially harmoniously during the laboratory tasks.

The notion that committed same-sex relationships are “atypical, psychologically immature, or malevolent contexts of development was not supported by our findings,” said lead author Glenn I. Roisman, PhD. “Compared with married individuals, committed gay males and lesbians were not less satisfied with their relationships.”

Furthermore, said Roisman, “Gay males and lesbians in this study were generally not different from their committed heterosexual counterparts on how well they interacted with one another, although some evidence emerged the lesbian couples were especially effective at resolving conflict.”

In the second study, researchers from the University of Washington, San Diego State University and the University of Vermont wanted to examine how sexual orientation and legal status affected relationship quality. To do so, they followed 65 male and 138 female same-sex couples with civil unions, 23 male and 61 female same-sex couples not in civil unions and 55 heterosexual married couples over a three-year period. One member of each heterosexual couple was a sibling to a member of a civil union couple.

The researchers found that same-sex couples were similar to heterosexual couples on most relationships variables, and that the legalized status of a relationship did not seem to be the overriding factor affecting

same-sex relationships.

Despite the legal status of their relationships, the civil union couples showed no differences on any of the relationship measures from the same-sex couples who were in committed relationships but not in civil unions. “This may be because those couples in Vermont who sought out the legal protection of a civil union might have legalized their relationship more for symbolic value than for commitment reasons, which did not affect their day-to-day interactions,” said lead author Kimberly F. Balsam, PhD.

However, the same sex-couples who were not in civil unions were more likely to have ended their relationships compared to those couples in same-sex civil unions or heterosexual marriages. This suggests that the protections afforded by a legalized relationship may impact same-sex relationships, something the study’s authors plan to follow up on in future research, said Balsam.

The findings also showed that same-sex couples, regardless of civil union status, were more satisfied with their relationships compared to married heterosexual couples. Same-sex couples reported more positive feelings toward their partners and less conflict than heterosexual married couples, said the authors.

This was the first study to follow same-sex couples in legalized unions over a period of time. This type of design allows the researchers to monitor changes in the relationships and compare them with changes experienced by both same-sex couples not in civil unions and heterosexual couples. All the couples were comparable with respect to race/ethnicity and age at the

time of the study.

CENTRAL PA—As reported by The Patriot-News reporter Carrie Cassidy, the plight of a gay teen moved a school to act.

“The teenager, an openly gay boy described by friends as kind and compassionate, said he was constantly harassed, though he never reported it to anyone, not even his friends.

“Finally, when classmates told him to ‘go kill himself’ to ‘make the world a better place,’ the teen decided he’d had enough. He said he left school in the middle of his senior year because he could no longer bear the torment.

“His departure inspired a petition by about 300 of his classmates calling for district administrators to prevent the same thing from happening to others.

“After talking extensively with the boy, his mother and an advocate for the family and with the school’s Gay Straight Alliance group, Superintendent David Volkman put together a group to examine everything from the teaching of tolerance to changing policies. “

“I think the petition ... speaks volumes about this student and about the majority of students in this school,” Volkman said. ‘This is a pretty big issue, and it’s an important one that we need to start talking about.’

“Meanwhile, administrators developed a plan for him to graduate that was acceptable to his family and to the boy, and he will be able to attend the prom and graduate. But Volkman said he knows the student is missing out.”

LOS ANGELES, CA—Point Foundation (Point), the nation’s largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBT students of merit, announces the opening of its 2008 application season. Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2008-09 school year are eligible to apply for the prestigious, multi-year scholarships. The application deadline for this year’s scholarships is March 1, 2008.

Point’s rigorous selection process for its prestigious scholarships is highly competitive and requires demonstrated academic excellence, leadership skills, community involvement and financial need. Particular attention is paid to students who

have lost the financial and social support of their families and/or communities as a result of revealing their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The selection process begins with on-line applications and concludes with face-to-face interviews with selected finalists in April.

For information on how to apply for a Point Scholarship, please visit: <http://www.pointfoundation.org/apply.html>.

HOLLYWOOD, CA—Singer Cher and her lesbian daughter Chastity Bono are to co-host a new reality television show aimed at helping people to come out of the closet, according to a report published in the UK.

Chastity, whose late father Sonny Bono was Cher’s husband and musical collaborator and a former member of the US House of Representatives, is a leading LGBT rights activist

She was outed by a tabloid newspaper in 1990 when she was 21 years old and initially denied her sexuality.

Cher reportedly “went ballistic” when her daughter came out to her.

Despite her initial reaction, Cher has become supportive of Chastity, and in the show ‘Coming Out With Cher and Chas they will help gay and lesbian people come out to friends and family.

NEPAL—Nepal’s top court has ruled that the government must create new laws to protect gay rights and change current ones that might be tantamount to discrimination.

The Nepalese Supreme Court was acting on a petition by gay activists. It will be up to the government to figure out how to implement the ruling.

MONTEVIDEO—On January first, Uruguay became the first Latin American country to recognize gay civil unions, after President Vazquez signed a law granting certain legal rights to cohabiting couples of any gender.

The new law guarantees heterosexual or homosexual couples who have lived together continuously for more than five years social benefits enjoyed by married couples such as joint property ownership and hereditary rights. ▼

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201 Cape Ave, Cocoa	
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### Melbourne & Palm Bay (Brevard County) & Vero Beach (Indian River County)

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PO Box 120748, W. Melbourne, FL 32912-0748	
Eclectus .....	772-567-4962
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<b>Hot Flixx .....</b>	<b>321-752-8805</b>
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<b>King Center for the Performing Arts.....</b>	<b>321-242-2219</b>
3865 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935	
<b>Steve Lewis/Leary Hair Design .....</b>	<b>321-258-8258</b>
4301 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne	
<b>The Living Room of Brevard GLBT CC .....</b>	<b>321-505-0077</b>
165 N. Babcock, Unit B, Melbourne mailing: PO Box 60910, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0910	
PFLAG Melbourne.....	www.PFLAGmelbourne.org
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Drive NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905	
<b>PFLAG Vero Beach.....</b>	<b>772-778-9835</b>
PO Box 650533, Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533	
People Care Center.....	772-978-0044
<b>Riverside Theatre .....</b>	<b>800-445-6754/772-231-6990</b>
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<b>Shark Pest Control .....</b>	<b>321-872-0214</b>
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PFLAG Martin County .....	561-758-4094
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<b>REBAR.....</b>	<b>772-340-7777</b>
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Ultimate Barbers at Tradition.....	772-345-9955
10474B SW Village Center Dr., Port St. Lucie	
Weatherbee Villas 1221 Weatherbee Rd., Ft. Pierce .....	772-359-0360

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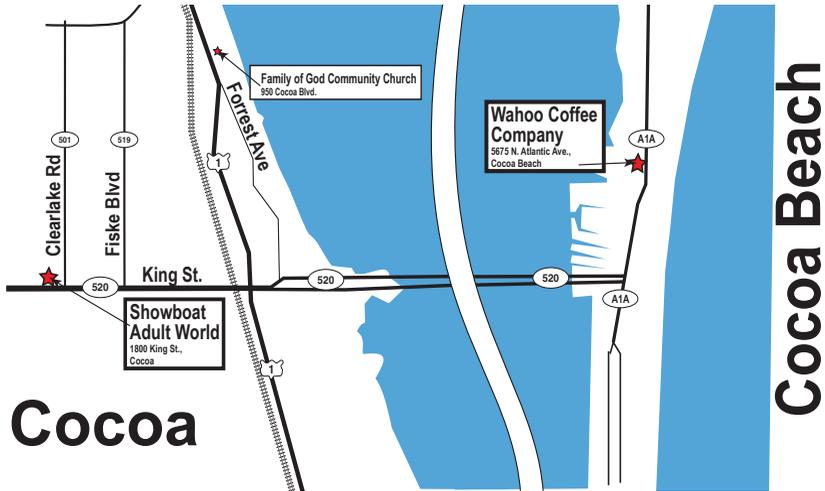
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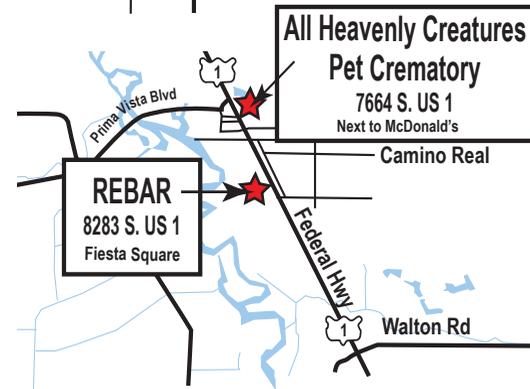


Vero Beach

Melbourne



Ft. Pierce



Port St. Lucie



Stuart



Charles celebrated his birthday last month by working is normal Thursday shift at **REBAR** and here he is with a few of those that showed up to party with him

(if you have a photo submission, please just email first so we can contact you about resolution and format requirements and FTP instructions for sending the files). DO IT NOW! We need to fill that space!

**Gay Rights Tidbit:** State Senators Dave Aronberg and Nan Rich have joined Senator Ted Deutch in sponsoring legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

If your State Senator has not yet signed on as a co-sponsor, please contact your legislator's office and ask if your State Senator will sign on as a co-sponsor to S. 572 today. To access the membership roster for the Florida Senate, go to: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Legislators/index.cfm?Tab=legislators&CFID=83646646&CFTOKEN=96101173> (you can view this on line

for the active link or just got to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) and search for your State Senator).

Links from that page that will take you to the web pages of each State Senator, where you will find contact information.

For background read *Working in the Shadows* (an ACLU report on ending discrimination for GLBT Americans) available at <http://www.aclu.org/lgbt/discrim/31848prs20070917.html> (again if you're not view this on line just go to [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org) and search for *Working in the Shadows*).

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@ootcmag.com](mailto:MissT@ootcmag.com)

Since I have some space left, here's some pics from **Cold Keg** a couple for the guys, one for the women and some for both!



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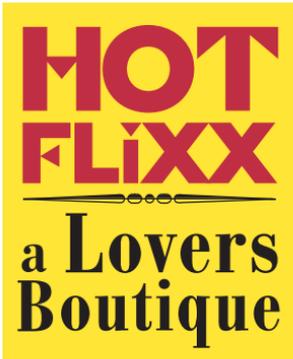
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