

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts

# OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e



Issue #075, February 2009

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**TRASH NIGHT THURSDAYS**

- Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Velvet LeNore
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup>: Amber Douglas
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup>: Kelli Randell
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Page King

**FLASHBACK FRIDAYS WITH LEIGH & FRIENDS**

- Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: Page King
- Feb 13<sup>th</sup>: ROZ RUSSELL
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: Girl's Night Out with Spikey Dykey
- Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Amber Douglas

**SATURDAY GROOVE: Midnight Showtime with male & female dancers**

- Feb 7<sup>th</sup>: Angelica Kincade
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup>: FIREBALL with Leigh Shannon
- Feb 21<sup>th</sup>: Aysia Black
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: Alexi Leigh

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**Issue #075**  
**January 29, 2009**

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# REBAR

photos: Lee



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Feb 21: Kelli Randell

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Feb 28: Velvet LeNore

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# HOROSCOPE *by Jacqueline*

Love and happiness is the theme of this month. We begin with Venus going into Aries, bringing urgency to our love life. The full moon in Leo on the 8<sup>th</sup> will assist us with the romance in our life just in time for Valentines Day. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mercury will go into Aquarius, look to the future and not at the drama and finally, the new moon on the 24<sup>th</sup> gives us the intuitive ability to know where we are emotionally.

**Aries** March 23 - April 22 Let the celebrations begin! With the Part of fortune and Venus going through your sign this month, you're in the spot light. Like a magnetic, others will attract to your wit, charm and beauty. It's an excellent time to start new business or relationship. The challenge for you will be learning how to balance both your personal and professional lives. Best of luck to you.

**Taurus** April 23 - May 22 Take this month to indulge yourself in your favorite hobby. Now is not the time for you to seek solutions to all that stands before you. Nothing is urgent, nothing is pressing and with the full moon on the 9<sup>th</sup>, little can be solved. Look for alternative ways around instead of your same path and you'll feel less exasperated.

**Gemini** May 23 - June 22 Now is the time for you to seek out a new adventure! With the Sun trining your sign, you'll be looking at long term plans. Seize the moment. However, be careful after the 16<sup>th</sup>, you'll feel like abandoning a project that you've been working on. The best thing to do is set it aside and come back to it later.

**Cancer** June 23 - July 22 Let your work be your outlet and your true source of

inner joy. Others aren't going to give you what you're looking for. Use this time to reorganize your priorities and associates, coworkers, friends and relatives to care for themselves. Find your happiness in your own personal accomplishments.

**Leo** July 23 - August 22 Remain steadfast and prepare for a bumpy ride as situations are deepening this month. After the full moon on the 9<sup>th</sup>, you'll feel like you need to emotionally liberate yourself. Follow those emotions and speak the truth. Venus is trining your sign, drawing you closer to those who love you.

**Virgo** August 23 - September 22 You'll be given a glimpse into your future and you'll feel urgency to race headlong to

*continued on page 8*



Jacqueline  
772.286.2720  
Astrologer/Tarologist

Hot Male Dancers  
Every Week!

Showtime  
11 PM

Kelli Randell  
hosts



Feb. 6 & 20

Shelita Cox  
hosts



Feb. 13 & 27

Feb. 6



Cayla Stargirl & Rianna Lenore

Feb. 13



Faith Taylor & Myesha

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Feb 20

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Feb. 27

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greet it however, slow and steady always wins the race. Relax, enjoy the journey. Start making plans towards your new goals. After the full moon communication may be challenged. Try looking at others in a different perspective.

**Libra** September 23 – October 22 At long last you get to relax and enjoy a sigh of relief. The challenges of the last few months are finally coming to an end as long as you don't get caught up in the drama. You'll find yourself more socially involved. Enjoy the time your spending with others.

**Scorpio** October 23 – November 22 Now is the time for you to put those projects aside and pamper yourself. The obstacles that have been hampering your every effort are still in full effect. Time is the only factor that aids you at this moment so let timework for you use it wisely. You'll be able to go back to them next month.

**Sagittarius** November 23 – December 22 Now that Mercury is direct, you'll get that second breath that you've been hoping for. Life should be moving easily. This month empowers you to start new projects and friendships. You'll also find old friends drawing closer to you.

**Capricorn** December 23 – January 22 With Mars leaving your sign, you'll find that you'll be withdrawing from the public. Now is the time to reorganize your home. You'll also find that you'll want to

try something different in love. Try it! You may just like it!

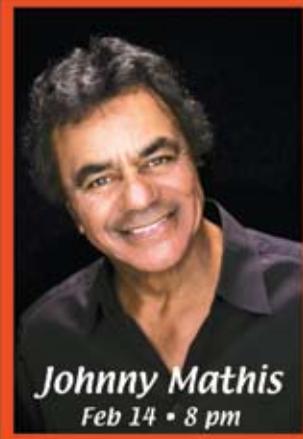
**Aquarius** January 23 – February 22 Happy solar return! You're in the spotlight and life is speeding by. Take a chance, go with your instincts. Don't worry about not seeing the end result yet. That answer will be revealed in time. For now, knowing that it feels right and going for it is all you need to do.

**Pisces** February 23 – March 22 Your new year is coming next month and typical to your sign, you're feeling the change. This next year brings big changes for you. Starting with the new moon in your sign on the 24<sup>th</sup>, you'll emotionally start looking towards a new direction. So look at what you can do right now and let the rest go.

**For those who want to know:** This month the part of fortune travels through the sign Aries. The part of fortune is known as the most popular Arabic aspect and is commonly used by most astrologers because of the luck it brings. It is considered to be like having 2 guardian angels over wherever it is located. Having it in Aries brings luck by accident and suddenly. So this is a good time for all to keep an open mind to unusual things.

**Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline.** She is at B&A Flea Market in Stuart every weekend from 10 to 2. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720

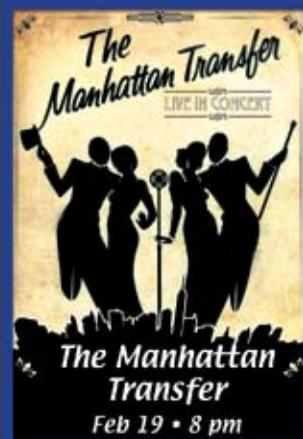
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**Olivia Newton-John**  
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# Tea Time

with Miss T

The rumor mill is going in high gear up in the Space Coast and we wish we could officially put them all to rest. By our next issue we hope to be able to tell the whole story of what's up in Melbourne with the **Cold Keg**. Until the change happens, there's nothing to report except there will be a change that involves us as well. Also, don't expect a huge changes right away – it will take a while people for people to slip into their... roles at the club on 192.

We can assure our public that we are not going away, just moving to a less prominent part of Lee's life while new duties will move to the forefront. We can tell you that you will be seeing new (but not strangers') faces associated with *Out on the Coast magazine* as we engage people to take over tasks that we have not been especially good at and tasks which we can no longer do by ourselves.

Also we want to assure everyone that we will remain independent. Regardless of other associations of our publisher, we will not become slanted toward one area or one business. Lee has worked too hard building this publication to endanger it by turning it into some house rag. We are dedicated to our whole community.

The opposite of ruined is Coffee in the Village, co-sponsored by the **Space Coast Business Guild, The Living Room** and **Ultra Lounge**. With about 100 people showing up in Cocoa Village, Jason and Pete have gone to a weekly event starting in February. So now it is, officially, every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at **Ultra Lounge**. And those reader who have paid attention enough to know that bolded names are advertisers, yes both **Ultra Lounge** and **Space Coast Business Guild** have kicked in for the ad.



From left: Pam of Ultra Lounge, Garrison a board member of The Livingroom, Jason and Pete from the Space Coast Business Guild, Kevin Kappes, President of The Living Room, Jeffrey Civey, Secretary of The Living Room, Jeff and Larry, attendees at Coffee in the Village.

I know **The Living Room** is wondering if the Sun Shoppe will decide to be as supportive. Time will tell and although the crowd is somewhat smaller, only 30 to 50 people each Thursday, it's still a nice addition to their business. I wouldn't be surprised, however, if another business steps up should the Sun Shoppe continue to treat the coffee clutch as just a bunch of people who happen to show up every Thursday. I don't think they would be expected to hang a Gay Pride flag, like **Ultra Lounge**, but the very least would be to make sure the event posters stay up more than 24 hours. Truthfully, we're not holding our breath.

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# Spiritually Speaking

This past week as we watched our new president take office, two themes rang clear. The first was hope over fear. The second is that it is time for change. Real change begins in the mind – with the thinking process. We have to be willing to give up continuing the way things have always been. Sometimes we need to have a mental shift, a change in our way of thinking, before we can be the people we were created to be.

God is always more interested in **WHY** we do something than in **WHAT** we do. Attitudes count more than achievements. There was a king in the Old Testament named King Amaziah (**2 Chronicles 25:2**). This is what the scriptures say about him: He did what was right in the sight of God, yet not with a true heart.

In this time of change, some will probably support change because it is the politically correct thing to do. Others may support change because they see the real need for it. So with our new emphasis on change, what should our attitudes, our patterns of thinking, be?

**We should focus on others, not just on ourselves.**

When we stop only looking at our own needs, we become aware of the needs of others around us. Too

often, however, we only do things to get others to like us or see the great things we do. There are times when we are more concerned with what others will do for us when we do something for them.

**We should focus on the fact that this is God's world and we are only the workers in God's vineyard.**

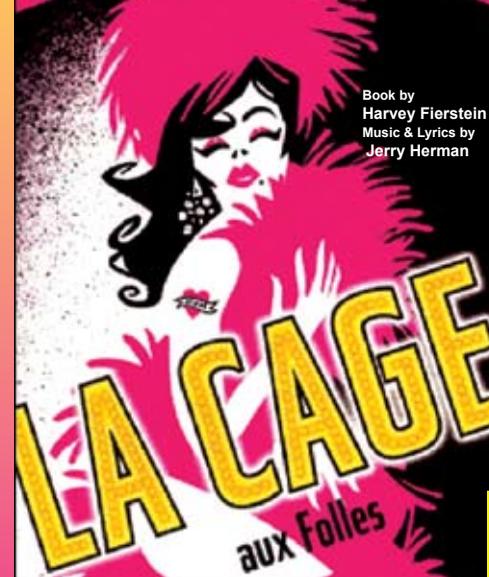
In the Bible, a steward was someone who was entrusted to manage an estate. Getting more ourselves should not be our goal in life. Our goal should be to make a positive difference in our world. Wealth is not a sin, but being more concerned about money than other more important things in life is.

**We should focus on our own work and not be overly concerned with what someone else is doing.**

We are not called to compare, criticize, or compete with other workers in God's vineyard. If we are busy doing our own work, we won't have time to be involved in what others are doing. We are all on the same team but we each have different assignments.

**We should base our identity in who Christ is.**

Jesus knew who he was, and he didn't let the opinions of others interfere with his life. He was not



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ashamed to wash the feet of the disciples. He was not afraid of what others would think.

We don't find our value in how others measure our achievements or worth. We find our value in knowing who we are. We don't have to be name-droppers. We don't find our identity in what someone else might think.

**We should see life as an opportunity, not an obligation.**

If we begin to view life as something to be enjoyed and as an opportunity to do something positive with our lives, we can accomplish more than if we just go along seeing life as something we have to do.

With this new emphasis in our world on positive change, let's strive to

make the changes that really help our world. ▼

*The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay is a former pastor in the Assemblies of God. He became a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Churches in 1989. He and his life-partner of thirteen years, Mike Lufriu, moved to Brevard County to start the East Coast Metropolitan Community Church, which became East Coast Christian Community in 2008. East Coast Christian Community meets in Melbourne at 1603 S Wickham Rd, every Sunday at 5 p.m. for a traditional service and at 6:30 p.m. for a contemporary service. Services in Port St. Lucie/Ft. Pierce are at the Shriner's Club, 4600 Oleander Ave, every Sunday at 10 a.m.*

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You'll be seeing posters soon for the first **Space Coast Pride** benefit. **Cold Keg** will be the venue, February 22 is the date, 7 pm is the time, **Kelli Randell** is the host and there's a star-studded cast including Velvet, Spikey, Angelica, Shelita, Foxxxy, Samantha, Rianna, Lexi, Regie and Dominique. With a buffet, 50/50 and some incredible auction items it will be a night to remember and all the proceeds will go toward the a good cause – think about it, what could be a better cause than a big party for us? Expect to see one for Treasure Coast Pride soon – and I expect that with all the support the Space Coast gets from the Port St. Lucie queens that the Space Coast queens will support them as well. Those that are too grand to lend their support to our community benefits may find themselves too grand to work in it if you catch my drift.



The Boys of Thunder were working it at **Cold Keg** and that's for sure. Funny how the crowds aren't quite as big for the guy's events as they are for the girl's events but that does mean that you can get up close and personal with the boys and feel the... thunder of these hunky guys. With four of the troupe performing there was something for everyone and these boys aren't shy, either. They make men and women feel... appreciated. Oh, and Spikey and the After Midnights are back on Friday, February 20, so it's girl's night out this month in Melbourne.



*The Boys of Thunder were a big hit at Cold Keg in December with four of the troupe showing up to tantalize the crowd.. If you weren't there you missed it! See, the Keg does too do shows for the guys.*

Long time supporters showed their appreciation for Roz Russell at **Cold Keg's** combination New Years Eve bash and birthday party. The First Lady of Melbourne celebrated her 50th by doing two shows! **Kelli Randell** rounded out the cast. A fabulous time was had by all at another one of Sharon's signature events,

she and the staff at the **Cold Keg** know how to throw a party, that's for sure!

Meanwhile, down at **REBAR** Velvet LeNore and company pulled out all the stops in a huge production number including Shelita Cox, Rianna LeNore, two male and a female dancers and five people in the supporting cast. Then Shelita and Velvet each did a number. Amazing kick off for the new year at **REBAR** and the locals know that **REBAR** is the place to party in Port St. Lucie.

PFLAG Port St. Lucie/Treasure Coast had an amazing start with about 20 attendees at its initial meeting including parents, community activists and youth. They will be meeting every month on the first Sunday at 2 pm at St. Julian Old Catholic Church, 7664 S. US 1 (just south of McDonalds, in the house all the way in the back behind the doctor's office and the pet crematorium). The group is being facilitated by Sharon Sisitzky. You can contact the group by calling 772-781-4028. With great plans for events and activities, especially for youth, this is a welcome addition of services for our community. It is significant in view of the PFLAG in Stuart going inactive.



*New Years Eve at Cold Keg admirers presented Roz Russell a rainbow of roses to celebrate her 50th birthday.*

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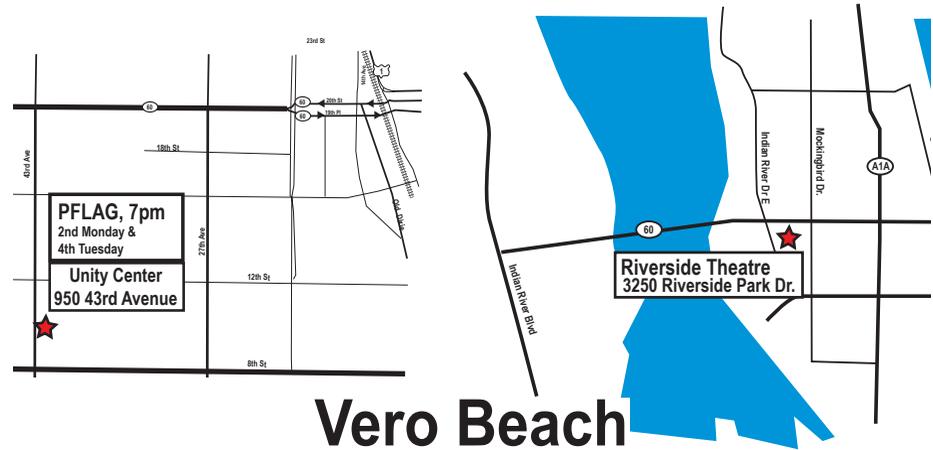
# Space Coast

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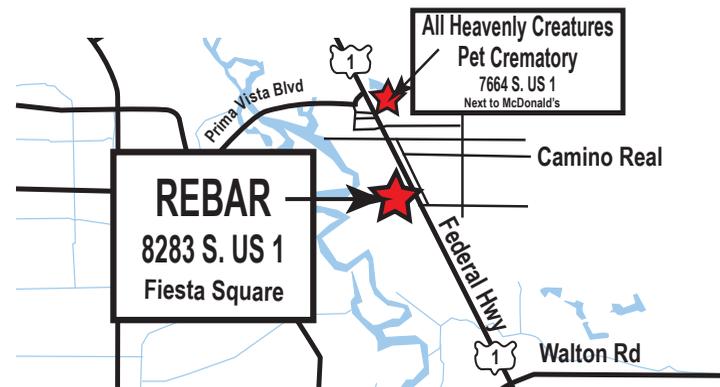
# Palm Bay Melbourne



# Vero Beach



# Ft. Pierce



# Port St. Lucie

# Cold Keg

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Angelica Kincade, Shelita Cox,  
Foxxxy Rocket, Samantha,  
Rianna LeNore, Alexi Leigh,  
Dominique Taylor,  
Regie B. Foxworthy

SpaceCoastPride.org



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*New Years Eve at REBAR, Velvet LeNore put on quite a show – the old splits on two chairs stunt was a crowd pleaser and about the only thing to top the opening ensemble number with a cast of 11.*

**Gay Rights Tidbits:** Following a ruling last month by a Florida judge Cindy Lederman that the state's ban on gay and lesbian adoptions is unconstitutional, a new poll shows the majority of voters side with the judge. It's expected that the state will appeal to the Florida Supreme Court to overturn Lederman's decision.

According to the independent Quinnipiac University poll of 1,370 Florida voters conducted Jan. 14-17, most Floridians -- 55 percent to 39 percent -- want legislators to change the law that bans gay people from adopting children. But voters' opinions on this breaks down along party lines:

Republicans support the law 52-43 percent, as do white evangelical Christians 58-37 percent. Democrats oppose the law 61-32 percent, as do independent voters, 60-34 percent.

The poll sample was split on gay marriage. 31% opposed any legal recognition, 27% backed gay marriage and 35% approved of civil unions.

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# IN THE NEWS

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

GAINESVILLE—The City of Gainesville is under attack and we all are at risk if the far right succeeds.

A group calling itself “Citizens for Good Public Policy” has placed a charter amendment on the City of Gainesville’s March 24th ballot which, if passed, will repeal gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender protections in housing, employment, and public accommodations within city limits.

This threat to Gainesville is a threat to Florida.

Every community in Florida that has stepped forward to denounce discrimination against LGBT people will be in danger if we fail to stop this divisive and mean-spirited initiative.

This campaign is such a high priority that I’ve taken a leave of absence as Equality Florida’s Field Director to be the full-time campaign manager for Equality if Gainesville’s Business, the local effort to stop the repeal of these basic and vital legal protections.

We cannot allow the divisive and mean spirited politics of “Citizens for Good Public Policy” become a rallying cry for local referendums across our state.

We must stop this here and now in Gainesville.

To help, contact Joe Saunders at Equality Florida at 407-497-4986 or check out [www.EqualityGainesville.com](http://www.EqualityGainesville.com)

ORLANDO—An unprecedented number of leaders of local LGBT and allied organizations met in Orlando, Florida Saturday from every corner of the state in an all day session. The meeting was convened by a statewide federation of local organizations created last month: Organizations United Together (“OUT”). “OUT’s first meeting was an unqualified success,” declared OUT spokesperson Karen Doering. “The energy, enthusiasm, and excitement about the

possibilities of what we can achieve together was inspiring.”

The morning portion of the meeting included a networking session where each region of the state networked with other groups from their own region and discussed their local priorities. In the afternoon, participants broke up by interest area, so that political, educational and community-focused groups could network with similar groups and work together to explore how OUT can best assist them in enhancing communication, sharing resources and developing coordinated strategies for the future.

Several statewide projects emerged as priorities from the daylong strategy sessions.

The education-focused groups at the meeting suggested developing a speakers bureau, as well as ways in which the LGBT community can participate in community engagement programs which will garner support from the wider community,” said Orlando Gonzales organizing committee member.

Community-focused groups were excited about the possibilities of working with and learning from each other. “I’m already seeing the benefit of OUT,” said Shirley Herman, with North Palm Beach County chapter of Florida National Organization for Women. “I made three really important connections with other groups in my community that I didn’t even know existed prior to today.”

The political organizations at the meeting described the work they were doing in their local communities and began exploring ways in which they could work together to achieve their common goals. At the end of the meeting, several local groups gave presentations on current projects they were working on to demonstrate the interconnectedness of the work local groups are doing across the state. Equality is Gainesville’s Business, a local organization

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developed to fight a charter amendment that would strip protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity from Gainesville’s human rights ordinance and prohibit the City from protecting any category of person not protected by state law, gave a powerful presentation that was very well received.

“We are grateful for any help we can get from other groups across Florida,” said Terry Fleming, a representative of Equality is Gainesville’s Business. SAVE Dade Executive Director C.J. Ortuno said that “SAVE Dade, like other groups around the state, has decided to do its part to help Gainesville defeat this discriminatory measure. As Dr. King said, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’”

Palm Beach County Human Rights Council discussed a statewide bill it has championed in the Florida legislature for the last two years that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Florida Civil Rights Act. “Our efforts will be strengthened by having local groups in each part of the state supporting these and other LGBT equality bills,” said Rand Hoch, President of Palm Beach County Human Rights Council. “Legislators are more likely to listen to their own constituents.”

Cathy James of Tampa Bay Family Pride gave a presentation on legislation that has been introduced in both houses of the Florida legislature – for the first time in 32 years - to fully repeal Florida’s ban on gay adoption. “It’s great to see our community working together like never before,” said James. “I’m excited by the possibilities OUT brings to enhance these connections.” Tampa Bay Family Pride and other local parenting groups have been working with Securing

Our Children’s Rights (SOCR), a statewide organization founded to repeal Florida’s adoption ban, to support the legislation.

Meeting participants included openly gay elected officials, including the mayors of North Miami and Wilton Manors. Orlando city commissioner Patty Sheehan gave the opening welcome to the assembly. Close to 100 people, representing local organizations from more than half of the counties in Florida, participated. The diverse groups included political, educational, social, religious, HIV/AIDS and community service organizations from across the state.

OUT plans to work with other state and national groups in advancing full equality and justice for LGBT Floridians.

“We are just getting started” said Lisa Livezey Comingore. “Our task now is to build a strong and permanent network of local groups so this cooperation continues year round, resulting in a stronger, more united community.” OUT plans to convene a meeting next month with other state and national LGBT and allied organizations working in Florida to achieve similar objectives. OUT will hold another statewide meeting this summer.

ATLANTA—The author of the federal Defense of Marriage Act now thinks it’s time for his law to get the boot -- but for political reasons, not in support of gays.

Bob Barr represented the 7th District of Georgia in the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003 and was the Libertarian Party’s 2008 nominee for president.

“In 1996, as a freshman member of the House of Representatives, I [Bob Barr] wrote the Defense of Marriage Act, better known by

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its shorthand acronym, DOMA, than its legal title. The law has been a flash-point for those arguing for or against same-sex marriage ever since President Clinton signed it into law. Even President-elect Barack Obama has grappled with its language, meaning and impact.

"I can sympathize with the incoming commander in chief. And, after long and careful consideration, I have come to agree with him that the law should be repealed.

"The left now decries DOMA as the barrier to federal recognition and benefits for married gay couples. At the other end of the political spectrum, however, DOMA has been lambasted for subverting the political momentum for a U.S. constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. In truth, the language of the legislation - like that of most federal laws -- was a compromise.

"DOMA was indeed designed to thwart the then-nascent move in a few state courts and legislatures to afford partial or full recognition to same-sex couples. The Hawaii court case *Baehr vs. Lewin*, still active while DOMA was being considered by Congress in mid-1996, provided the immediate impetus.

"The Hawaii court was clearly leaning toward legalizing same-sex marriages. So the first part of DOMA was crafted to prevent the U.S. Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause -- which normally would require State B to recognize any lawful marriage performed in State A -- from being used to extend one state's recognition of same-sex marriage to other states whose citizens chose not to recognize such a union.

"Contrary to the wishes of a number of my Republican colleagues, I crafted the legislation so it wasn't a hammer the federal government could use to force states to recognize only unions between a man and a woman. Congress deliberately chose not to establish a single, nationwide definition of marriage.

"However, we did incorporate into DOMA's second part a definition of marriage that comported with the historic -- and, at the time, widely accepted -- view of the institution as being between a man and a woman only. But this definition was to be used solely to

interpret provisions of federal law related to spouses.

"The first part of DOMA, then, is a partial bow to principles of federalism, protecting the power of each state to determine its definition of marriage. The second part sets a legal definition of marriage only for purposes of federal law, but not for the states. That was the theory.

"I've wrestled with this issue for the last several years and come to the conclusion that DOMA is not working out as planned. In testifying before Congress against a federal marriage amendment, and more recently while making my case to skeptical Libertarians as to why I was worthy of their support as their party's presidential nominee, I have concluded that DOMA is neither meeting the principles of federalism it was supposed to, nor is its impact limited to federal law.

"In effect, DOMA's language reflects one-way federalism: It protects only those states that don't want to accept a same-sex marriage granted by another state. Moreover, the heterosexual definition of marriage for purposes of federal laws -- including, immigration, Social Security survivor rights and veteran's benefits -- has become a de facto club used to limit, if not thwart, the ability of a state to choose to recognize same-sex unions.

"Even more so now than in 1996, I believe we need to reduce federal power over the lives of the citizenry and over the prerogatives of the states. It truly is time to get the federal government out of the marriage business. In law and policy, such decisions should be left to the people themselves.

"In 2006, when then-Sen. Obama voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment, he said, "Decisions about marriage should be left to the states." He was right then; and as I have come to realize, he is right now in concluding that DOMA has to go. If one truly believes in federalism and the primacy of state government over the federal, DOMA is simply incompatible with those notions."

PORTLAND—On January 01 there was a countdown at Portland's City Hall overnight, but it wasn't to ring in 2009.

*continued on page 24*

About 40 people – including the mother and partner of Sam Adams – were on hand to sip sparkling wine and watch as the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city was officially sworn in at 12:01 a.m. “Although the ceremonial swearing-in is on Monday, I couldn’t be happier or more humble to take the oath tonight,” Adams said in the wee hours. “May 2009 be a very prosperous year for all Portlanders.”

By mid-January it had come out that Adams had lied about having an affair with an 18 year-old aide and at press time he was dealing with calls for his resignation.

INTERNET—The Rainbow Dragon Network has been founded as a network of outreach organizations and individuals dedicated to helping members of the LGBT community through tough times.

“We’ve found that members of the LGBT community have unique issues and concerns and we aim to help by providing a directory of organizations dedicated to helping LGBT individuals and their families. You might find yourself in need of legal advice, adoption resources, employment, financial assistance, etc. There are organizations available for these specific needs and we hope we can connect you with them if you are in need. Our parent site is LezGetReal.com, where you will find real lesbians sharing their perspective of the world. Volunteers from LezGetReal.com created The Rainbow Dragon Network as part of an outreach program developed to help the many lesbians who come to us in need. The program expanded to include the entire LGBT community and thus The Rainbow Dragon Network was born. Our motto is “Don’t Tread on Me”.

“You can find information on organizations in your area here on therainbowdragonnetwork.blogspot.com, or get advice from others in the LGBT community on our social network on Ning. If you are an organization and would like to be included as a resource for the LGBT community please contact us at therainbowdragon@yahoo.com.

PARK CITY—Despite outcry surrounding the role of the Mormon Church in California’s Proposition 8, Queer Lounge returned to Sundance Film Festival.

Queer Lounge is a program of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and presented by ABSOLUT® VODKA

This year Queer Lounge expanded its panels on LGBT films to address film’s role in issues facing the LGBT community, including a panel on the cultural aftermath of California’s anti-gay Proposition 8.

“By hosting Queer Lounge at such a major industry event, we will connect LGBT filmmakers with leaders in the entertainment industry and provide a unique opportunity for them to make our stories heard and enhance the visibility of our community,” said Neil G. Giuliano, President of GLAAD. “Some LGBT advocates have called for withdrawing involvement from these film festivals in the wake of Proposition 8 but we believe we must be there, be visible, and ensure the LGBT community has a place to come together. To not do so would render the LGBT community invisible at this critical entertainment industry gathering, and nothing would make our adversaries happier.”

Launched during the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, about 6,000 people attend Queer Lounge each year. It quickly became a Sundance phenomenon, producing some of the festival’s most talked-about events and attracting celebrities and leaders in the film community from Naomi Watts and Toni Collette to John Cameron Mitchell and Gus Van Sant. The program works year-round to build mainstream audiences and boost box office for LGBT films and filmmakers.

“Our presence in Park City plays an important role in raising visibility for films by LGBT filmmakers and featuring LGBT content,” says Ellen Huang, the founder and program director of Queer Lounge. “These works have the potential to spark dialogue and highlight issues important to the LGBT community. The stories have a ripple effect far beyond the border of Park City and give film audiences a window into the common ground we all share.”

WASHINGTON, DC—According to an article by Deb Price in the Detroit News, distributed by the Palm Beach Human Rights Council entitled “Dynamic House duo may deliver gains for gays”

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If Hollywood made a movie of the last Congress on gay issues, “The Pragmatist vs. the Idealist” would someday play at a theater near you.

The pragmatist was Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat who arrived in Congress in 1981 as a closeted gay man, came out on his own in 1987 and admirably chose to become a voice for gay America in the “people’s house.”

The idealist was Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, a Democrat who carries the can-do spirit of someone gutsy enough to run for Congress in 1998 as a lesbian – and win.

In the fall of 2007, the duo respectfully aired their differences over strategy to pass hugely important legislation.

Frank essentially argued that the votes were there to outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, but not if the bill included “gender identity” to protect transgender workers. Baldwin countered that it was worth pushing for a House vote on an inclusive bill because transgender Americans shouldn’t be left out.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., eventually stepped in. And in an historic first, the sexual orientation-only measure passed the House, 235-184, with 35 Republicans among those voting “yes.”

On the House floor, Baldwin inspiringly promised transgender Americans that “our job will not be finished until you, too, share fully in the American dream.”

Fast-forward to Jan. 6, 2009, when the new Congress convened, and I caught up with Frank and Baldwin.

Both are upbeat about the prospects for

Congress to pass a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), as well as a trans-inclusive hate crimes bill.

Saying they sense more support this year for a trans-inclusive ENDA, both pointed to last June’s first-ever congressional hearing on discrimination against transgender workers and to increased lobbying by trans-Americans and their allies.

“The transgender community is lobbying the way you need to do this,” Frank said. “I always tell our people we should be like the (National Rifle Association) and go member by member and lobby them.

“I am very optimistic we will get hate crimes signed by this summer,” Frank added. “And gays in the military probably next year, after we’ve done Iraq. And ENDA in the fall, depending on how things work.”

Taking a page from the pragmatist’s script, Baldwin thinks lifting the military ban likely will take more time, but added, “The pivotal difference this session is that we’re playing for real now. It’s not an exercise in passing legislation through one or both houses just to have it vetoed by the president. It’s very clear that we have in President-elect Obama someone who will be our partner and ally. ... That makes all the difference.”

Frank and Baldwin also expect progress on extending partner benefits to gay civilian federal workers.

Baldwin, who unsuccessfully pushed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to treat gay Foreign Service officers’ partners equally, hopes the incoming president will take significant steps that don’t need congressional approval. For example, by

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executive order, Obama could ban federal workplace discrimination based on gender identity.

The Senate remains a wild card, especially given the fragile health of gay-rights leader Sen. Edward Kennedy.

But I'll make a prediction House-side on Frank and Baldwin. The movie title for this Congress: "Dynamic Duo Delivers."

INTERNET—Change.org winners of the Ideas for Change in America Competition.

After 656,991 votes for 7,847 ideas, we present the top 10 ideas for change (in no particular order):

- Pass the DREAM Act - Support Higher Education for All Students
- Appoint Secretary of Peace in Department of Peace and Non-Violence
- Free Single Payer Health Care
- Develop & Implement a National Strategy for Sustainability
- Pass Marriage Equality Rights for LGBT Couples Nationwide
- Make the grid green in 10 years
- Legalize the Medicinal and Recreational Use of Marijuana
- Get FISA Right, repeal the PATRIOT Act, and restore our civil liberties
- Save Small Business From the CPSIA
- Health Freedom IS Our First Freedom

INTERNET—A report on Gay Youth News Blog on Tuesday, January 20, titled "Putting The Gay In Game?" explained:

Are games waning behind the times in regards to how they portray homosexual characters and relationships, and what are some, if any, games that have done it right? These were some of the thoughts that came to columnist Brad Hilderbrand's mind after he had played a particular mission in Fable 2.

While playing he had "happened across a random farm in the countryside." and, "Like most regions in Fable, the kindly proprietor of the farm had a task for me, one which I took on with much relish." This particular farmer had a different dilemma than most NPCs, not your typical RPG task, "You see, the farmer was concerned about his son, a strapping young man who had yet to find that special lady with whom he would carry on the family name. Our friend of the earth asked me to go into the city and find a proper date for his boy, a gal who could make the surprisingly eligible bachelor happy. I took on the task, but figured it would be wise to chat with the young man first, as this all seemed a bit odd."

What followed was something quite different, not only in that it was an unexpected twist but also in the way it unfolded, "Sure enough, when I mentioned the task to the farmer's son he immediately got nervous and began to stumble and stammer. This boy had a secret, and I was beginning to understand exactly what it was. I decided to head off into town and woo a villager for this lovelorn soul, and I did exactly that, and he was a fine gentleman indeed. That's right, though the random NPC in the side quest never said the words out loud, the boy was gay, and he had been trapped living a lie for a long, long time. After finding the date and returning to the farm, I witnessed what was a rather tender moment between father and son, as the boy opened up to his dad about his hidden feelings and his father reacted first with genuine shock, then acceptance and understanding."

Hilderbrand further remarked, "While it may be the sort of outing homosexual individuals hope for when they finally decide to break the news, things rarely work out so calmly. All in all, it was a surprisingly touching moment for a game which up to that point had allowed me to wantonly kill villagers; loot and pillage till my pockets were overflowing and generally be all sorts of a \*\*\*\*\*. I had never expected Fable to teach me a lesson in matters of human sexuality, and it got me thinking."



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A national survey commissioned by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) of 2,008 US adults in November found 69% oppose laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children.

While the tide is apparently turning on the gay adoption ban, everyone is watching the challenge of Proposition 8 before California's Supreme Court. The decision may well be a precedent that will ripple across the country affecting bans on same sex marriages in other states, as the arguments for invalidating Prop 8 are based on the premise that the majority cannot take rights away from a minority.

In the last round of an expedited briefing schedule, final briefs have been filed by both petitioners and respondents in the lawsuits challenging Proposition 8. More than 60 amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," briefs filed in the case highlight the extraordinary breadth of support for Petitioners' argument that Proposition 8 is invalid. The supporters represent the full gamut of California's and the nation's civil rights organizations and legal scholars, as well as California legislators, local governments, bar associations, business interests, labor unions, and religious groups.

In amicus briefs the nation's leading legal scholars argued that Proposition 8 is invalid because it seeks to eliminate a fundamental right only for a targeted minority, which cannot be done through the initiative process. Professors from the most prominent universities and law schools in California and the country authored briefs urging the Court to invalidate Proposition 8, including scholars from Harvard University, Stanford University, Yale University, University of California (Berkeley, Los Angeles, Hastings, Davis, Irvine), University of Southern California, University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, University of San Francisco, Loyola Law School, Santa Clara Law School, Chapman University, and Pepperdine University.

A brief authored by Hastings Law Professor Donna Ryu and joined by 20 constitutional law experts, argued: "Proposition 8 represents the first time that the California initiative process has been wielded to abolish a fundamental freedom for an unpopular minority group and to alter the Constitution so as to mandate governmental discrimination against that group. In this way, Proposition 8 attempts to breach some of the most elemental textual and structural promises of our state Constitution. It revokes a fundamental right that, in the words of the Constitution, is "inalienable." It dismantles constitutional equality for a single group of Californians – a group that, because of its history of oppression and stigma, is entitled to the highest level of constitutional protection against discrimination."

Another brief authored by Professor Karl Manheim, one of the foremost authorities on California's initiative process, stated: "Proposition 8 . . . improperly attempts to revise the Constitution by taking the unprecedented step of singling out a suspect class and depriving that class – and only that class – of a fundamental right."

On January 15, 2009, 43 friend-of-the-court briefs urging the Court to invalidate Prop 8 were filed, arguing that Proposition 8 drastically alters the equal protection guarantee in California's Constitution, and that the rights of a minority cannot be eliminated by a simple majority vote.

Other briefs supporting the legal challenge to Prop 8 were filed on behalf of 652 current and former California legislators; dozens of bar associations, legal aid organizations, and numerous California municipal governments.

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



Trish Brown, Vice President of The Living Room, celebrated her birthday at Cold Keg with friends and family last month.

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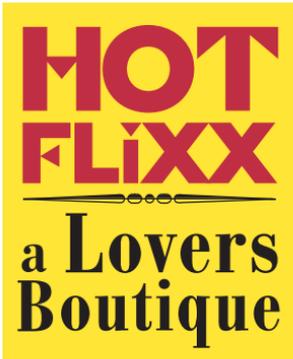
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